



Doctor Who and the Dalek Invasion of Earth

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The TARDIS lands in a London of future times - a city of fear, devastation and holocaust ... a city now ruled by Daleks.

The Doctor and his companions meet a team of underground resistance workers, among the few survivors, but after an unsuccessful attack on the Dalek spaceship, they are all forced to flee the capital.

A perilous journey through England finally brings them to the secret centre of Dalek operations ... and the mysterious reason for the Dalek invasion of Earth!

Doctor Who and the Dalek Invasion of Earth Details

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From Reader Review Doctor Who and the Dalek Invasion of Earth for online ebook

Sean LeBeau says

This is the story where we lose Susan as a main character, and the growing distance between Susan and the Doctor is presaged at the beginning of the book (which suggests that even though she calls him “grandfather,” he may not be) and throughout where Susan mostly refers to him as “the Doctor.” There is a slight suggestion of a romance between Barbara and Ian here. The best part of this story is that the Doctor is portrayed as intelligent, resourceful, and clever, instead of the tottering old man we often get for Hartnell’s Doctor. This is probably Terrance Dicks’ best novelization and even though it’s based on the original serial and not the 60s movie starring Peter Cushing, it has all the drama and tight screenplay of a feature, in fact more so than the underwhelming movie itself had. We’re given a classic piece of dystopian sci-fi with the Daleks in their second ever Doctor Who appearance. Although, there is a real lack of explanation as to how they went from the menacing, yet trapped and mobility-limited creatures from Skaro in the original story to these intergalactic invaders. The Doctor and Ian pose a few theories, but Barbara and Susan don’t mention their previous encounter with them at all. Which is odd, since this is one of those stories where, like The Web Planet, all the characters are separated and each have their own adventure which leads to an exciting meeting and resolution. I was hoping the novelization would bring more insight into Susan and David’s relationship. Her desire for a more stable life is mentioned in the novelization of The Sensorites, but her choosing to leave the TARDIS here could do with more explanation.

Jennie Rigg says

This was my first ever Doctor Who book, when I was 8, and I therefore cannot view it with any kind of objectivity. I read and reread it obsessively - this was in the days before video recorders, never mind the ubiquitous classic Who these days - so target paperbacks were the only way to get your fix between series.

Picking this book up again flooded me with warm happy feelings. Terrance has a characteristic tone and style which is like a comfort blanket to me. I’m sure that there are flaws in this book - other people who have reviewed it certainly seem to think so - but I am utterly incapable of seeing them.

Ken says

After the massive impact that The Daleks had on their first appearance, it’s no surprise that they instantly returned for Doctor Who’s Second Season.

I’ve always enjoyed this serial and Dicks wonderfully manages to include all the main plot points from the 6 part story, without the sense of feeling rushed or losing any of the key moments.

Andy Hickman says

“Doctor Who and the Dalek Invasion of Earth” by Terrance Dicks

A pioneer story in the Whoniverse!
Dalekenium!

Tyler scratched his head. 'I'll say one thing, Doctor, life with you is never dull!' They passed into the Dalek Base. (p130)

Daniel Kukwa says

As a novelization, it pares down the story enough to leave all the fantastic, nostalgic, and emotional elements intact...while wiping out those moments that, for lack of a better term, saw this epic TV six-parter's reach exceed its grasp (hello pie-tin flying saucer). It also opens with one of the best intro sentences to be found in any Target novelization. Mr. Dicks comes up trumps once again.

Michael says

One of the most memorable first Doctor stories gets a fairly standard adaption for the printed page. Part of that is the fact that this six part William Hartnell story has some stunning visuals of Daleks gliding through the streets of a deserted, invaded future London. And part of that is that Terrance Dicks struggles trying to compress a six part story in to the 128-page count mandated by Target novels at the time it was published.

This re-telling of the story combines elements from the television and movie version. This was one of the Hartnell stories adapted in what I call the middle period of the Target novels, when they didn't so much as enhance or deepen what we saw on screen but merely compressed the events onto the printed page without any flourishes or additions. Dicks does manage to make the Slither a lot more sinister than it appears on screen, but the rest of the novel is, unfortunately, rather a bland experience.

So why pick up the audio adaptation, you may ask. For one thing, it's read by William Russell, who's done a superlative job on his previous entries for the Hartnell era stories. This alone makes listening to "The Dalek Invasion of Earth" worth the price of admission. The other is that while it's not a great adaptation, the story is still interesting and familiar enough to me that it serves as just enough of a distraction while jogging to allow me to work a bit harder but not so much that I'm not aware of what's going on around me (traffic, animals, etc.) or that I miss a critical detail of the plot that could be important later.

Travis says

Classic Doctor Who Dalek story.

The First Doctor and company land in a strangely deserted London, only to find the Daleks have invaded and they won.

Our heroes are then scattered across occupied London and have to struggle to stay alive, find the others and help the human resistance to win back their planet.

Big epic feeling story which also has the very first 'companion leaves' moment. Really sweet scene between the First Doctor and Susan.

Nice example that they were doing big epic Dalek stories and 'lonely Doctor' moments long before Russell Davies showed up.

Skyler says

None of these DW books were well written, but my significant other and I went on a candy-like binge of them in 1983.

Nicholas Smith says

This is another great entry in the Target books range, Terence Dicks has a good grasp of the Who universe and is able to provide lots of nice characterisation without detracts from the pace of the book. Recommended.

Alejandro says

The Daleks find Earth!

This is a novelization of the serial of the same general title. Since this serial was also adapted as a film starring Peter Cushing, the novelization, including the cover, uses some merged elements taken from the TV serial and the film, to make a better paced overall story.

WHO

The Doctor:

The First Doctor

Companions:

Susan Foreman, Barbara Wright & Ian Chesterton

WHERE & WHEN

London, England. Year: 2176.

WHAT

The Doctor thinks that finally took home to Ian and Barbara, however they soon enough realized that while they are indeed in London, it's not the one that they knew, not the least, they are in a time period totally different that the one of Ian and Barbara, and the worst of all, the Daleks have invaded Earth!

Daleks! An Invasion to Earth! The Departure of a companion!

Certainly this story contains several “firsts” that became “staples” in the franchise of *Doctor Who*.

Nowadays we always are expecting a Dalek adventure with each reincarnation of the Doctor, but this story was the first time that a villain(s) returned. The Daleks appeared on the second serial and due its popularity, they returned on this story marking the first time that a villain ever returned, opening the road to future recurring villains such as Cybermen, The Master, etc...

And certainly this was the real first step (out of their first appearance) to become the favorite “bad guys” in *Doctor Who* and a whole social phenomenon, mainly in England, making them to win the honor of being included on the Oxford Dictionary.

Again, each reincarnation of the Doctor has faced invasions to our beloved planet Earth, but this was the first story that Earth was the target of a massive invasión by alien forces, and therefore, opening the road to this very recurring element in the franchise of *Doctor Who*.

And finally, nowadays it's common ground to expect that after a while, some companion or more than one, left the Doctor due diverse reasons (including death!), but it was certainly something quite relevant the departure of Susan Foreman, the Doctor's granddaughter. First, one could think that from the three current companions (at that moment), Susan would be the most unlikely to left the Doctor since she is supposed to be family (behind the scenes, it was a mutual trouble, since production never understood the real potential of Susan Foreman, and for the side of the actress, well she never did a measurable effort in her acting skills to deserve better lines or more scenes).

In any case, the departure of Susan Foreman was a **HUGE** event since thanks to that, now it's limitless the possibilities about the companions for the Doctor that certainly they are key elements about the dynamics of the stories. Now, may it seems no big deal, but you have to realize that until then, the main cast had been that one. It's like if you'd expect that a main cast character of any TV series would be just killed off (now it's like a rule in certain TV shows, but back in the 60s, it was unheard of).

Since the Daleks aren't the most versatile beings in the universe, about move to a place to another and manipulating things, they forced recruited human being and transformed them into “Robomen” (basically human being with mind-control helmets), that I would't be the least shocked that it was the first fire in the eventual conception of the Cybermen, easily the second most popular recurring villains of the franchise.

The First Doctor finally is getting the knack of being a hero, and not just the old guy who controls the TARDIS, while obviously Ian still do a lot of the action stuff, but the First Doctor is more likeable, less grumpy, and certainly you “feel” his hearts (Time Lords have two, but it's very likely that even the production didn't imagine that yet) when he has to say good-bye to Susan but trusting that it's for the best of her to remain on Earth in that time period.

Sadly, Susan didn't do anything useful in this story, she got hurt a leg, limiting a lot her participation in the adventure, so while to the franchise was pivotal to conceive the possibility that a companion can leave the time-travelling party, it's a bummer that she didn't leave without fanfare or doing something memorable.

Barbara's interaction with Dortmun (Human Resistance's leader) was wonderful and it's a shame that the Doctor and Dortmun never met during the adventure.

And quite again Ian is relevant in many of the action scenes due the apparent age of the First Doctor (where obviously the actor was indeed an old man, but the production kept forgetting that he was supposed to be an alien and therefore not as fragile as he seemed).

The Dalek Invasion of Earth is an entertaining story where the Daleks are great as villains and not only for their invasion but also since they have an ambitious secret plan to our world. The Doctor is consolidating a little more to become not only the leader of the time-travelling party but a sci-fi hero. And the story also shows the potential of the franchise of not only making time-travelling stories but also science-fiction tales using aliens interacting with humans.

stormhawk says

Doctor Who made a lot of changes in how episodic television works, including changing the idea of constancy ... you have expectations that your core characters will remain together through the run of the show. The Dalek Invasion of Earth breaks that pattern ... leaving behind one of the companions, which would ultimately become part of the show's charm, that the cast would change, but the adventures continue.

There are a couple of expected moments in the book ... turncoats, explosions, and The Doctor winning through at the end, but the innovativeness of the series shines through and past those elements.

Camille says

I don't read Target books very often, but when I do I generally watch the TV story first and proceed to carry out a scrutinous examination of the corresponding book. This time I decided to try something different and go '70s style' - I dug straight into the book despite the fact that it had been over a year since I last saw *The Dalek Invasion of Earth*.

At first, the story failed to impress me. It was nothing but a boring retelling of the TV version, with seemingly little effort put into enhancing each scene with the characters' thoughts or including little descriptions and details that can't really be portrayed on screen. See my status update for a key example.

But gradually it got better. Heavy action scenes were well-described and kept me on the edge of my seat, even though I already knew the outcome. The story gradually incorporated the descriptions and insights I'd been craving, and they helped me appreciate each scene more. Ultimate I believe the book did a better job of helping the audience to understand the story's structure than the TV version.

Overall, I feel this book takes a bit too long to warm up, but eventually becomes an exciting tale in it's own right that enhances the TV story. Persevere and you will be rewarded.

Felicia Allen says

The year is 2164 and the Daleks have invaded earth. They have robotized human beings to be their army. The Daleks and the Robomen have captured the human race and forced them to work in the mines. When the Doctor, Susan, Ian and Barbara land, London has been destroyed. They join up with a team of freedom fighters to save Earth.

Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nhw.livejournal.com/1019617.html>[return][return]Doctor Who and the Dalek Invasion of Earth was the first Dicks novelisation of a Hartnell story. It leans a bit on the Peter Cushing film as well as on the originally broadcast version. Its most remarkable innovation, and improvement on the screen, is the Daleks pet monster, the Slyther, which is much more terrifying on the page. But unfortunately a lot of the good bits of the TV story the desperate chase across a deserted London in episode 3, and even the Doctor s farewell to Susan at the end are truncated and lose their effect. It s still a good story but this comes across rather in spite of than because of Dicks efforts.

Norman Styers says

OK, this is not great literature that will be studied two hundred years from now. But it is set two hundred years from now! Terrance Dicks is one of the better Doctor Who writers when it comes to adapting scripts into novels. And with the long hiatus before the next series starts on the BBC, this is a fun way to stay plugged in to the DW mythos. In this particular title, the First Doctor defeats a Dalek scheme against the earth. This is also the storyline in which his granddaughter Susan stays behind.
