



Steven Moffat's Doctor Who 2010: The Critical Fan's Guide to Matt Smith's First Series

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At over 75,000 words, this is the most comprehensive analysis of Doctor Who series 5 produced so far. Steven Moffat's first series as showrunner for Doctor Who deserves such a thorough examination, as it is arguably the most intricate ever produced. Indeed, there were many innovations in 2010, with the successful introduction of the youngest Doctor ever (Matt Smith), and the contentious redesign of both the Daleks and the TARDIS. Steven Cooper and Kevin Mahoney discuss both these developments and the complex plotting in depth, drawing on their many years of Doctor Who knowledge. Their aim has been to provide constructive criticism of the 2010 series, giving praise where it is due while also pointing out the less successful aspects of the production. In addition to this, they examine the controversies surrounding the series, such as the complaints about the 'sexiness' of the Doctor's new companion, Amy Pond, in the British media. They also critique 'A Christmas Carol', and Russell T Davies' take on the Eleventh Doctor in The Sarah Jane Adventures. So much happened during series 5, with the overall threat posed by the cracks in the universe, that you really do need this indispensable guide to fully grasp the implications of all the events, and to discover the many obscure details that the authors bring to light.

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Date : Published March 20th 2011 by Punked Books (first published February 8th 2011)

ISBN : 9780953317295

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Format : Paperback 224 pages

Genre : Media Tie In, Doctor Who, Nonfiction

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From Reader Review Steven Moffat's Doctor Who 2010: The Critical Fan's Guide to Matt Smith's First Series for online ebook

Leilani says

A detailed look at season 5 of the new Doctor Who by 2 fans who are knowledgeable and enthusiastic about both the new and old shows. The reviews alternate between just-after-viewing and in-retrospect, and include entertaining trivia and links to classic stories. Highly enjoyable - I hope they do this again for future seasons!

Jen Schiller says

Steven Cooper and Kevin Mahoney play dueling banjos in both this and their second title on Matt Smith's second series in "Doctor Who". The format of the book works very well as each episode is treated to two critical reviews/breakdowns--one by each author in turn. Steven's are presented first as he reviewed each episode as they aired, and Kevin has reviewed the show from the vantage point of having seen the entire series. These separate perspectives assure that neither of the men repeat what the other is saying often, but when they do it is to highlight or expand upon an important theme or motif.

Included with the reviews are "classic Who" recommendations from both men, as well as wider context facts and trivia. This places each episode in a much larger picture of the history of "Doctor Who" and popular culture at large, making the book more than a simple recap of the newest seasons of this science fiction classic.

Highly recommended.

Ken says

A must for any Doctor Who fan. Interesting reviews on each of Matt Smith's first season as The Doctor.

Ellie says

Perfect for a whovian who can't get enough time with the doctor . Probably good that I'm no expert so I could sit back and enjoy the discussions of these two reviewers without the stress I'd probably feel if I could join in the occasional argument.

~Geektastic~ says

This overview of the entire first season of Steven Moffat's Doctor Who overhaul is really excellent, especially for people like me who love to catch all of the tiny details and trivia inherent in such a complex and long-running show. Rather than simply being a compilation of one individual's reviews, the book is a collaborative effort that gives two perspectives for each episode covered. While I like this dual set-up, it's worth noting that there isn't a great deal of differing opinion between them, except for a few minor observations mostly concerning musical arrangement and CGI effects (yes, it's that detailed). However, the

analysis is thorough and demonstrates both a profound love for the program, as well as a realistic perception of that same program's weaknesses; it is a very good example of how the things we love are often given the harshest judgment specifically *because* we adore them so much.

I think Steven Moffat has produced the most magnificent season thus far in the show, and the fact that this segment of episodes has warranted such an in-depth examination is further proof of it's success, in both a commercial and more personal sense. Steven and Kevin, our tour guides through the complex and dynamic structure of the 5th series, bring a wealth of experience from the Classic Series to bear on this new reincarnation, as well as comparisons to the previous seasons under Russel T. Davies (also brilliant, but in a very different way from his successor). Moffat is a more complicated structuralist than Davies, and every tiny detail counts, and our two critics seem to miss nothing. I have watched this season multiple times, back-to-back, and they have produced threads of continuity and tiny glimmering gems of dialogue that I have continually missed. Steven and Kevin also have signature closings for each of their reviews, with Steven providing Classic Series examples to tie to each episode, and Kevin giving us a little nugget of delightful trivia in closing.

Needless to say, I breezed through this book in much the same way that I have watched the episodes: breathlessly and occasionally with my jaw on the floor.

(I suppose the only negative I can give is that the book is e-format only, and is not available in book form.)
