



Doctor Who: Plague City

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The year is 1645, and Edinburgh is in the grip of the worst plague in its history. Nobody knows who will be the next to succumb – nobody except the Night Doctor, a masked figure that stalks the streets, seeking out those who will not live to see another day.

But death is not the end. The Doctor, Bill and Nardole discover that the living are being haunted by the recently departed – by ghosts that do not know they are dead. And there are other creatures lurking in the shadows, slithering, creeping creatures filled with an insatiable hunger.

The Doctor and his friends must face the terrifying secret of the Street of Sorrows – that something which has lain dormant for two hundred million years is due to destroy the entire city...

An original novel featuring the Twelfth Doctor, Bill and Nardole as played by Peter Capaldi, Pearl Mackie and Matt Lucas.

Doctor Who: Plague City Details

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: Plague City for online ebook

Nicholas Whyte says

<https://nwhyte.livejournal.com/2906821.html>

The only Who novel this year to feature Nardole as well as Bill, here we are in Edinburgh in 1645, with plague stalking the streets, the dead not staying dead, and horrors lurking in the night, while the authorities (led by the provost, the historical Sir John Smith) are deeply suspicious of strangers in strange clothes. The claustrophobia and horror of the plague-run capital is well conveyed, though of course the core plot concept was done very early in New Who with The Unquiet Dead. The banter between the Doctor and Nardole is caught well, and Bill also gets plenty to do. Solid stuff.

Carl says

Very enjoyable, with a particularly strong and tightly-plotted ending. There's a nice Back To The Future joke, and some incongruous fluffy slippers which, in context, are quite heart-warming.

Neil says

This may be my favourite Doctor Who novel so far, my joint Doctor, possibly my favourite Companion after Rose, ghosts, plague, gothic grimness but with two beautiful love stories of different kinds that left me in tears and rather choked up at the end. This is wonderful writing that I would love to see on screen but is completely satisfying as a novel.

Khara says

This has so far been my fav Doctor Who book.

I'm a huge fan of Twelve and LOVED him with Bill and Nardole.

This story keep them true to how they were portrayed on the show.

This book takes place in 1645 Edinburgh. There's the plague, ghosts, a creepy Night Doctor in hat and raven mask with the long beak. Grief leeches and other alien life forms.

We get to see our grumpy Doctor who does care for others, and will always try to help. We also get Doctor Disco with his guitar and shades :)

This is a good story that's quick paced and also a good read. Not to mention the cover is fantastic!

So far there's only 3 books available with Twelve, Bill and Nardole. I really hope they write more.

Connor Whittle says

A story that has an interesting, albeit watered down setting and a nice mystery makes for a decent Doctor

Who story--definitely something on par with the T.V series.

However, the ending was made quite predictable and the secondary characters failed to interest me in the slightest even when it was obvious Morris wanted you to like them they were often unlikable.

Still, it's a short read and Morris does a good job at capturing Capaldi's Doctor and Bill's character, so it's worth the time spent.

Emily Ross says

The plague, leeches and ghosts, what more do I want from a Doctor Who novel? I much preferred this novel to its predecessor, Diamond Dog. I found it much easier to get into and it was fast paced with a small group of secondary characters, who were simultaneously well characterised and one sided. Two women who help Bill are hiding a secret and two parents are grieving the death of their daughter with the Doctor, and what exactly is going on on Mary King's Close, and what does that have to do with the Night Doctor that is creeping around town? This book answered all of the questions it posed, and it was just brilliant.

Paul says

This was an interesting story which was similar to an earlier TV episode and the book even referenced it towards the end. Some of the treatment towards Bill did make her appear a bit simple at times, though at others it does heighten her sense of street smarts. At times you can almost predict what the characters say and do. I did find some of the local Scottish dialect difficult to follow but the author has a sense of humour and even makes references to it in his acknowledgements. If you've been to Edinburgh then the book does allow you to picture the situation quite vividly. What the book doesn't do is reveal the past of The Doctor, but instead focuses once again on his God complex. I did enjoy the doctor's choice of music and even found myself looking up the songs on YouTube. It's also a great explanation as to what happens in Edinburgh in the summer.

F.R. says

It's an incredible tight-rope trick to try to write a frothy DOCTOR WHO story set in plague-besieged Edinburgh.

After all, the actual details of plague are so horrendous, something straight out of Cronenbergian body horror, and these are books written for kids.

There's a lot of death and suffering that's unavoidable here, and to be fair, Morris does his best not to flinch from it.

But there are limits.

The reality is so horrible that it's impossible for DOCTOR WHO to truly engage with this part of history. As such it becomes a novel where The Doctor and Bill and Nardole kind of skate around on the surface. This is not going to be a story where everyone lives. But it is a book where, by necessity, The Doctor dances

around at the periphery, and it all feels a bit incidental.

At the start of his association with DOCTOR WHO, Jonathan Morris wrote the excellent FESTIVAL OF DEATH. There's nothing so timey-wimey or self-consciously clever in PLAGUE CITY. There's not much to show his taste for Douglas Adams sci-fi absurdity. Apart, that is, from one moment where The Doctor emerges from the fog performing – both playing and apparently singing – HOW SOON IS NOW? by The Smiths and LOVE WILL TEAR US APART AGAIN by Joy Division.

Now, the guitar was over-used in Series 9, and had fortunately been dialed back by Series 10. But this was such a bizarre and over the top idea that it actually made me genuinely laugh out loud. The result being a chapter in a book, which as a whole I fear won't be particularly memorable, that I might never forget.

Jessica says

Pretty darn good

The Doctor novels can be hit or miss, but this was one I was sad wasn't an episode. Interesting story, revealed some interesting quirks about our heroes, and truly felt like meaningful edition to the Bill/Nardole/12th canon. Definitely worth a read.

Thomas Jackson Jr says

Can the Doctor solve the mystery of the Chatty Ghosts ?

Our heroic 12th doctor returns in book form , this time with help from Bill & Nardole ! The TARDIS has landed in Edinburgh, Scotland...just not the Edinburgh we know. The year is 1645 and the plaque has struck the town of Edinburgh and anyone who is visited by The Night Doctor is due to die from the plaque and then is the matter of ghosts showing up....chatty ghosts that is. This is just one of the many thing that the doctor and his companions must deal with in this story and try to solve the mystery of these chatty ghosts and why are they here ?

What I love about these Doctor Who books is that the authors are able to write it so that you actually hear that doctor and his companions voices in your head as you read.

These books are fun and worth reading for anyone who is a whovian !

Garrett says

Very Black Plague, very Scots, very entertaining. This is the only one of this set of three to feature Nardole, and to be honest, this story seems like the spiritual payoff for Tennant saving the family from Pompeii and 12 ending up with Capaldi's face - his actions during the last days in 1645 darkly mirror that and also redeem the face-change. It's a shame this one wasn't an episode; it has the feel of an early 10 or a late 9. Good stuff, and fun.

Tony says

I really enjoy Jonathan Morris prose and this book does a difficult task well, it gets over the lovely series 10 dynamics of the Tardis crew at the same time as plotting an adventure in plague ridden Edinburgh. The Doctor brandishing his guitar to great affect did make me smile. I really do adore 12, Bill & Nardole

Gabriel Mero says

Absolutely perfect! My only nitpick is that this story is set during series 10 when the Doctor has his new blue sonic screwdriver, the author describes the sonic as giving off a green light, which the sonic from series 5-9 did.

Ken says

The historical story out of the recent batch of BBC Books.

The Twelfth Doctor, Bill and Nardole find themselves in 17th century Edinburgh besieged by the plague. It's a fun creepy read that will appeal to fans of all ages.

Daniel Kukwa says

It's an incredibly quick & easy read...but I really wanted something more demanding and substantial...something more akin to Mr. Morris' previous novels, such as "Touched by an Angel" or "The Tomorrow Windows". All the ingredients are here, but apart from the Doctor, Bill & Nardole, I simply couldn't muster up enthusiasm for the supporting characters, or the situation. This should have been darker, creepier, and more horrific...but it feels like Jonathan Morris holding himself back. I would like to read a version of this novel where the author let's loose.
