



Doctor Who and the Creature from the Pit

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Tom Baker, regarded by many as being the definitive Doctor Who, narrates this novelization based on a serial from the original TV series. The planet Chloris is very fertile, but metal is in short supply, and has therefore become extremely valuable. A huge creature, with most unusual physical properties, arrives from an alien planet which can provide Chloris with metal from its own unlimited supplies, in exchange for chlorophyll. However, the ruthless Lady Adrasta has been able to exploit the shortage of metal to her own advantage, and has no wish to see the situation change. The Doctor and Romana land on Chloris just as the creature's alien masters begin to lose patience over their ambassador's long absence. The action the aliens decide to take will have devastating consequences for Chloris, unless something is done to prevent it.

Doctor Who and the Creature from the Pit Details

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Author : David Fisher

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From Reader Review Doctor Who and the Creature from the Pit for online ebook

Leela42 says

Fourth Doctor, Romana (II), K-9. Conveys the show well and clarifies some obscure points. In fact in many ways it's an improvement on the show, although from time to time the word count limitation gets a little TOO tight. Don't read a single word of the back cover if you don't want the entire plot given away!

Becci says

A metal free planet - and a tyrannical warlady...

Simon says

I wasn't a big fan of this story when it was on TV but I wanted to read the novelization to see if it had anything else going for it. Unfortunately, it didn't.

Min says

The thrill of a Tom Baker story is the irreverence folded into the dramatic urgency of the moment. "73,384, 338 just happens to be my lucky number" as he narrowly misses a neutron star. As he offers the wisdom that what point is it to be grown up if one cannot act childish, sometimes, goes hand in hand with the ability to keep a sense of humor in a tight situation. He has also said in previous stories that it does no good to wallow in fear as we become paralyzed, and cannot act.

This story is on the lighter side, until the end when the solar system is under attack. Or, in other words, diplomatic relations have broken down.

I enjoyed yet another tale of power play. In this instance, how a ruler holds power by making a needed commodity scarce by owning the only supply of it. With that, keeping the population under control with fear of execution for displeasing the ruler on the most trivial matters.

I also can appreciate that the perceived monster was the more civilized one. The great differences in appearance and communication exacerbating the difficulty. In the end, being used as a tool of dread against the people. Furthermore, pulling out of the mold that only dictators are male, the two highest positions, leader, and captain of the guard, are female. It would have been nice if the thieves had also been equally represented as female, but it doesn't take away from the enjoyment.

Another afternoon spent happily with Tom Baker reading.

Nate Rawdon says

A surprisingly interesting read, I had never previously read a novel based on a television series (or an actual

episode), and I only found myself reading this particular novel having received it for free. Despite this, it would inevitably turn out to be a page-turning story that I found myself thoroughly enjoying. Knowledge of the show is not entirely required to properly understand the story, though it would make the read easier to understand. The length of the book makes this a perfect novel for a short read, and will surely hold your interest until the end. There are certain drawbacks, one in particular is that you often feel as though you could have better worded particular sentences. Being a fan of the show, though having always decided not to read based upon novelisations, this particular novel enthused me to inevitably consider reading the 'New Series Adventures'.

Adam Duclos says

This was great to listen to!

The good: It was one of my favorite Doctor Who serials, and it was read by Tom Baker himself! There were parts that were embellished (for example, the thoughts of the main characters, or little asides about what they were eating, or the point of view of the creature), but those were pretty good too! Also, Tom Baker's Fourth Doctor impression was spot on, and he had some pretty awesome voices for some of the other characters too, so that they were immediately recognizable.

The neutral: Tom Baker's Romana voice was, sadly, just his regular voice, with no variations.

The bad: The voice of K-9! Just awful. I guess it was just Tom Baker's voice through a synthesizer instead of an impression. Also, the creature's voice when it spoke through another was sometimes a weird double voice over (and sometimes not). Luckily that doesn't come up for most of the book!

Mike says

Not the best Doctor Who story. I Remember reading this as a kid and it was better then. Tom Baker read it well though but needed more sound effects.

Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nhw.livejournal.com/1051656.html#cutid3>[return][return]As with Fisher's other novelisation, Doctor Who and the Leisure Hive, he has bulked out the narrative with more background and characterisation; and unlike his other book, this one scores by being able to describe what the author imagined rather than the exceptionally naff special effects that were seen on screen. And I love the footnotes. Definitely one to look out for.

Jason Koivu says

I want to give this 5-stars so bad, but I'm using great restraint in not allowing the bias of my childhood joy to cloud my critique. You're welcome.

Seriously, I absolutely loved watching Dr. Who when I was growing up. Back then (we're talking the early 80s) my local PBS station would play the show's reruns from the 70s, which meant the Tom Baker version of the Doctor. Because of this he would become, and still is, my favorite of all the actors whoever played the kooky timelord. So, when I saw this audiobook was narrated by him, I knew I'd be moving this to the front of my queue.

The book in question, *The Creature from the Pit* also happens to be one of my favorite episodes of the show. I loved the jungle planet setting with its wolf-like tumbleweeds, the hairy bandits and their love of metal, the evil queen whose costume and makeup reminded me of her counterpart in Disney's Snow White, and then of course there was the creature from the pit, a massive worm monster that haunts the subterranean world.

The Doctor is in fine form here, and with the assistance of his capable sidekick Romana (she was smart and didn't constantly scream and cry like Sarah, so I loved her) and the show's Cousin Oliver character (or perhaps Scrappy Doo is a more apt comparison) K-9, our heroes navigate a very sticky situation and come out on top...as of course we knew they would, but still, it did seem a bit touch-and-go there for a moment!

Tom Baker's narration is great!...Oops, I let slip some of that childhood bias. Sorry, it's very good for the purpose of this particular book. Sure, it's a bit camp/over-the-top on occasion, but rarely! Let's just say that Baker's reading acts this out with a myriad of characterful voices, as you might do if you were a saintly parent with enough energy at the end of another trying day to read a bedtime story to your bratty child.

If you're a Whovian or if any of what I just said made you gurgle and push your glasses back up your nose, go out there and find this audiobook! And when I say "go out there", I mean open another tab on the computer you're hiding behind and seek this out...probably on Overdrive or Audible.

Debra Manskey says

I thoroughly enjoyed this audiobook, part of the fourth Doctor Who universe. The story is quite well executed but what always makes it wonderful is Tom Baker's fabulous narration!

Cory Eadson says

As a fan of the TV story, this is even better. Fleshed out and endlessly amusing, Fisher was a tremendous writer.

April says

Really fun Tom Baker reading of an adaptation of the episode and it was a surprisingly good episode; though I did find myself hoping for a bit more explanation at the end about what came next and it loses a star for me because there is NEVER mention of what the heck all those metal-obsessed folks plan to DO with the metals they are so desperate to hoard...and their obsession is a huge plot point so that's very strange.

The Doctor and Romana land on a planet where metal is precious and a huge metal something in the "place of death" mystifies everyone. The woman in charge of the area is very "throw everyone in the pit with the monster!" but the monster may not be a "monster". There are hints of the classic Frankenstein story: "who is

the real monster" and some good sci-fi alien work with different means of envisioning alien beings rather than simply "biped in a mask" so that was great. Tom Baker's reading is also fun and many of his voices are delightful and add to the story.

Daniel Kukwa says

The story remains preposterous...but once again, David Fisher brings buckloads of wit and imaginative back-story (complete with footnotes) to bear on his script. The result is a wonderful novelization that completely belies its source material.

Kirsten Simkiss says

I love Doctor Who, but I never had the privilege of seeing this episode. My father gifted me the book as a stocking stuffer for Christmas.

The book is an easy read, but, as I usually find with books based on movies or shows, it just doesn't carry the same energy as the real thing. It sounds like, from other reviewers, the audio book with Tom Baker reading it is more compelling, which makes sense. That's not to say the book is bad though! Not by any means! It's a fun little story about an alien world and the creature stalking their mine.

Nothing struck me as out of character in the book, which was great. Still, I think I'd have had more fun watching the actual show.

Bronwen says

I don't read novelisations very often, but Alex got a free copy of this with an issue of Doctor Who magazine and since it's one of my favourite stories from the TV show I decided to read it. It was okay! Pretty much what you'd expect from a novelisation, but with a few cute facts about the planet Chloris thrown in (that weren't in the TV episodes). It was also cool to compare the Creature from the show with what the writer originally had in mind. (David Fisher wrote the TV episodes as well as the novelisation, so I imagine he included in the book everything the budget wouldn't allow for in the show.)
