



## Doctor Who and the Web of Fear

*Terrance Dicks*

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## **Doctor Who and the Web of Fear** Terrance Dicks

Forty years the Yeti had been quiet. A collector's item in a museum. Then without warning it awoke — and savagely murdered.

At about the same time patches of mist began to appear in Central London. People who lingered anytime in the mist were found dead, their faces smothered in cobwebs. The cobweb seeped down, penetrating the Underground System. Slowly it spread...

Then the Yeti reappeared, roaming the misty streets and cobwebbed tunnels, killing everyone in their path. Central London was gripped tight in a Web of Fear...

## **Doctor Who and the Web of Fear Details**

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## **From Reader Review Doctor Who and the Web of Fear for online ebook**

### **Ken says**

An iconic story in Doctor Who's history, the yeti return atmospherically through the London Underground. It also sees the introduction of Lethbridge-Steward (as a colonel) and UNIT to the series.

Dicks benefits with the knowledge that Lethbridge-Stewart will become a series regular, so he's introductions handled better.

It's a great base under siege adventure, I really like the great intelligence and Anne Travers is such a great character.

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### **Jerry Landry says**

A nice novelization of one of the lost Doctor Who serials. Very interesting to 'see' the Brig make his first appearance in the Doctor Who mythos, though at the time the serial was originally filmed, I doubt that they knew how big of a role he would play on down the line. I have to admit getting a little confused in the descriptions of their journeys through the tube system. Of course, having never been to London, I wouldn't know Goodge Street from Adam. Still, a fun, quick read.

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### **Wilde Sky says**

An old foe re-emerges and threatens London.

The story was good, but the narrative jumped around a bit too much for me.

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### **Bernard O'Leary says**

My first time reading one of the novelisations of a classic story. It's pretty half-arsed, being mainly just dialogue and very basic prose. Good story though.

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### **Daniel Kukwa says**

It was my first 2nd Doctor experience...and I much prefer the novelization to the surviving episode & soundtrack. I find the titanic reputation of this story somewhat over-rated, but I have no quibbles about the quality of Mr. Dicks' prose at this early stage in the Target range...and I'm a big fan of the 1980s reprint cover.

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## **Sarah says**

This was a fun little, enjoyable read

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## **Michael says**

In a World War Two deep level shelter a special military unit tries to protect a team of scientists working on combating an alien menace. London has been evacuated. I really loved Patrick Troughton's era on Doctor Who during my childhood even though I was born too late to see a single episode. The only Second Doctor serial I saw while still a young lad was The Krotons which was part of the Five Faces event. So it was up to the Target books to deliver up the goods. And they did. Base under siege stories I thrilled to and king among them was The Web of Fear. Some might argue that it's just a bunch of folk wandering about in some tunnels but the script by Mervin Haisman & Henry Lincoln is never boring. It's probably no exaggeration to suggest that without Terrance Dicks work for Target the series would have taken far longer to complete. He was invaluable. But the downside was that some of his novelisations were basically the script dialogue dumped onto the page with the barest amount of narrative possible. Not so with Web of Fear. It's obvious throughout that he didn't rush this one and gives it the polish it deserves. There's a great sense of us dropping into a story that is ongoing. The soldiers really seem like they've been through the mill together. They've already suffered losses. They seem like a proper unit rather than being faceless cannon fodder. Captain Knight, Staff Sergeant Arnold, Corp Lane, Corp Blake, Craftsman Weams and later Private Evans (Driver I am).

Dicks makes quite a lot of the first appearance of the Brig (still a Colonel), this time on screen so to speak, stressing how deep the association will one day become, which rather undermines the plot-line that places him as a prime suspect in the mystery of the hidden spy. The whodunit works well providing a strong paranoiac edge for first time readers. It's also fun spotting the clues for us repeat visitors. The broadcast plot is pretty much untouched with only the extra cliff hanger from the previous serial being written out to give the book a cleaner stand alone beginning and some minor tinkering with the conclusion. He also gives the Doctor alternative ideas about the nature of The Intelligence's manipulation of the revealed spy. I was surprised at how little Dicks makes of the big episode four pitched battle. One page. The mission always did seem pretty senseless I admit and Dicks tries to suggest alternative objectives to the one stated in the broadcast version along with the Colonel's reasons for such a suicidal venture. And a U.N.I.T. shaped light-bulb brightens in the Colonel's head.

My conclusions on why this one works so well are; atmosphere, it feels like the old Quatermass serials crossed with the Gothic eeriness that Hammer excelled at, base under siege with believable soldiers, camaraderie, good dialogue, a sequel that refines the errors of the previous story, time travellers meeting folk at later stages of their lives, a strong female role in Anne Travers who trounces any and all sexism that dares to come within fifty paces, and how can you not like a story that has Yeti battling the army in the claustrophobic tunnels of the London Underground. It remains one of my favourites of the novelisations. Ten year old me would have given this 5 stars, so that remains my rating.

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## **Nicholas Whyte says**

[http://nhw.livejournal.com/1028958.html?#cutid5\[return\]\[return\]](http://nhw.livejournal.com/1028958.html?#cutid5[return][return])it's another good one, again from the time when Terrance Dicks was still taking it seriously. He wisely strips out a lot of the chasing up and down bits of the Underground, but actually puts in a couple of crucial scenes that weren't in the original story - most importantly, the first meeting between the Doctor and the future Brigadier, but also the sinister initial encroachment of the Web on central London. It's rare that I will say this, but Dicks has actually improved a

good original story here.

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## **Christian Petrie says**

The base under attack theme continues, this time in the London Underground. Not sure if my opinion of Terrance Dicks will be the same once I hit the Fourth Doctor books, but he has written a decent book.

It falls under the Target series of writing of cramming the story into the set number of pages. However, Dicks has been able to still bring the show to life in the pages. He even gives a proper introduction between Lethbridge-Stewart and the Doctor, which occurred off camera in the original series.

Overall the story moves at a good pace and the plot of the base under attack is given a good twist again. Though while reading you are relying I found myself just imaging the locations from the images left from the TV episode to get through the story, since there is not much description give to the characters or locations.

So a quick book to read to wet your apatite for the Doctor, but enough to help you "see" this story that is one of the lost stories.

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## **Tom says**

A quick paced, enjoyable, adaption, that ensured this story was already a firm favourite of mine long before I got the chance to see the episodes.

There are a lot of very visual sequences of the story, that still work well on the page. The opening chapters especially manage to convey an eerie and spooky atmosphere, in what might otherwise have been dull descriptions of bland scenery (the concrete and cables of the London Underground, and the mundanity of stations, are hardly the most stunning of vistas) ladling on shadows and making the most out of the spectral webs and fogs spreading through London.

The private museum, especially, benefits from a Hammer-esque atmosphere, that remains taut, even as great heaps of backstory are ladled onto us, with all the subtlety of a JCB.

The alien nature of the Intelligence is effectively portrayed, with the question of who can, and can not, be trusted, and who might be under the influence, a much more effective menace than the physical dangers of the robot yeti.

It is not a perfect story, but it is well written, and although some characters are drawn in broad strokes, and a little stereotypical, some effort is made to make them feel well rounded, and believable, if not realistic. The action rattles by at such a pace, that the flaws are more likely to be noticed after you have stopped to think, than during the reading.

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## **Taylor says**

Boring

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## **stormhawk says**

Rollicking Doctor Who adventure, sequel to Doctor Who and the Abominable Snowmen. The Yeti return, and The Doctor meets up with a future friend and companion.

There are a couple amusing stereotypes ... the singing Welshman and Victoria's expecting that her role in helping the efforts against the Yeti will be relegated to test tube washing and tea making.

I'm sure she makes a lovely spot of tea.

There are elements of misdirection that keep you guessing, I kept expecting the wrong person to be in league with the villain.

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## **Wealththeow says**

The Doctor, Jamie and Victoria encounter killer robot Yeti again--this time with the added bonus of killer fungal growths! I love when time travellers meet people they knew at some other point in time.

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## **Alys says**

Definitely one of the weirder Doctor Who stories (robotic yetis teaming up with alien spider webs and roaming the London underground???) but enjoyable all the same. Some of the characters were fantastic but I felt I didn't get a handle on all of them as I usually do. Nice UNIT stuff in there.

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## **supreme commander says**

One of my all time favourite doctor who books and tv serials. Everything about this screams gothic. I love the London Underground, I love the cobwebs and mad scientists (and women in science represented properly in the 1960's). I love Brig left bridge - Stuart and his introduction to the doctor. I love Jamie and the yeti's and the GI (when it really knew how to do things). The writing of the book is fantastic with just enough background to the abominable Snowman to make sure you know what's happening and why, but not over clumping the beginning.

Onwards we get insight into the characters and the book follows the plot faithfully. No complaints, a good starter for anyone not versed in who. A true classic.

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