



Doctor Who: The Faceless Ones

Terrance Dicks

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Doctor Who: The Faceless Ones Terrance Dicks

In the summer of 1966, thousands of young people are taking their holidays with Chameleon Tours. And not one of them is coming back.

When the TARDIS lands at Gatwick Airport the Doctor is drawn into a web of intrigue and deception. To add to his troubles, Polly mysteriously vanishes.

Or does she? The girl at the Chameleon Tours desk looks like Polly, and even sounds like her, but she claims she comes from Zurich.

Who is she really? Who is behind these abductions? And for what sinister purpose? Soon the Doctor and Jamie must face a desperate group of faceless aliens - the deadly Chameleons...

Doctor Who: The Faceless Ones Details

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Author : Terrance Dicks

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: The Faceless Ones for online ebook

stormhawk says

Every Doctor Who story contains unlikely elements.

Many Doctor Who stories stretch the boundaries of imagination.

A good many Doctor Who stories grab your credulity, twist it about a bit, and then snap it like an over-stretched rubber band.

The Faceless Ones is one of those stories, that even amongst the alien hordes that are bipedal humanoids and speak Royal Shakespeare Company English, stands out in it's absurdity.

But that doesn't make it any less fun ... particularly when half of the broadcast episodes are missing and the only way to experience the story is through the medium of the Target Novels, and nobody wrote them better than Terrance Dicks, who remains my favorite Doctor Who author (although Gerry Davis is running a close second).

The TARDIS materializes and discharges The Doctor, Jamie, Polly, and Ben on the end of a runway at Gatwick airport. As usual there is a alien plot afoot, but not with the usual end of world domination. The ending is a bit weaker than most Who stories, but whether this is a fault of the original script or expediency resulting from the reconstruction of the story is unknown, to me, at least.

But that doesn't make it any less fun.

Leela42 says

Second Doctor, Polly, Jamie, Ben. Novelisation of a season 4 story of which only part has been recovered. A wholly unremarkable novelisation. Much of it seems to have been written in a hurry--for example the first two chapters. Cameos by the sonic screwdriver a year before it first appeared.

Andy says

NO. 116 IN THE DOCTOR WHO LIBRARY.

Leah says

I think the Chameleons are one of the better enemies of the Second Doctor, so far.

Daniel Kukwa says

On TV, "The Faceless Ones" was an attempt at creating a creepy and unique moral dilemma...but at 6 episodes, it dragged considerably. Terrance Dicks take the opportunity to shred the fat, and transform the story into something that flows more elegantly, resulting in a far more enjoyable adventure. Another first rate rescue effort by the efficient Mr. Dicks.

Steven says

A great novelization of a classic Doctor Who episode, not all that surprising considering the author. The Doctor and his companions scramble to find the alien menace between a string of disappearances at a London airport in 1966.

Kerry says

Well, it was better than "The Macra Terror". That's damning something with faint praise, isn't it?

This is solid and workable, but without that kind of spark you get from something the author was enjoying writing and wanted to add his own touches to. I think Dicks found writing this book a chore, and it shows.

Also, what's with all the heavy handed fore-shadowing. It was like a big, pointing finger rather than a subtle touch. Subtle, this book is not.

But I did like getting to read the actual story of the episodes that are missing. I always knew the basics of it, but if I'd read this in the past, I have no memory of it and the gaps are filled. In a solid and workman like way.

Travis says

Fun adventure set in an airport.

Aliens are snatching travelers as part of their plot to take over.

The Tardis accidently lands on a runway, there's lots of running around the airport as they try and solve the mystery while saving all the missing people.

Only gripes, is that this is the story that writes out Ben and Polly and they get a bit of a raw deal, spending a lot of time off stage and then a very quit leaving scene. Shame as I liked them as companions and there are so few shows with them still around they get ignored when people talk about companions.

The 'new girl' that gets introduced is obviously a try out to see if she'd work as a companion, but she's a good character, so you wonder what it would have been like if she'd stayed.

The aliens are a bit bland. I've never seen this TV episode and the description of them is vague, so you never really get a good feel for them. Maybe they should have used a known old villain.

Not an earth shaking or really famous Who story, but a solid, fun read.

Adam James says

The more Target novelizations one reads, the more difficult it is to find anything clever to say about them. Terrance Dicks is a genius at writing efficient, children's fiction. Digestible sentences, concise descriptions, *just* enough difficult words to make it challenging for a 10 year-old.

Terrance Dicks is a gangster.

In terms of lost *Doctor Who* stories, *The Faceless Ones* is pretty high-up on my list of Please-God-Let-Ian-Levine-Find-This-One-in-the-Middle-of-a-Third-World-Country's-Delapidated-TV-Station. This story is always great fun with lots of dashing about, and terrific Doctor / Jamie slapstick hi-jinx.

Please, Ian Levine. At least pay some of your bizarrely large fortune to have this story animated. You can even dub your own voice over for Ben. Nobody will notice. Or care.

Sarah Sammis says

Doctor Who and the Faceless Ones is a novelization based on a mostly lost (taped over) second doctor episode, "The Faceless Ones." The Second Doctor, Jamie, Polly and Ben end up landing on the runway at Gatwick Airport. If that isn't enough, people are known to go missing from here. Somehow the disappearances are tied up with Chameleon Tours. Can the Doctor sort everything out, get his TARDIS back and save his companions?

As someone who has traveled without my family as a teen, I connected with the promise of adventure and the fears older family members must have of something happening. The opening scene with the plane nearly landing on the TARDIS got my attention. Airports are exhilarating and potentially dangerous. Other reviews have complained that it would be easier to just move the TARDIS than scattering in all directions. Given the TARDIS's unreliability and propensity to breakdown, I'd run too.

My only complaint is with the way things wrap up. After so much build up of mystery and misdirection when things are finally sorted out the doctor and his companions fix things very quickly. I think this is more an affect of the mandated novel length than of the original plot but I can only guess.

bluetyson says

isbn,original

Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nhw.livejournal.com/1028417.html#cutid5>[return][return]Another valiant effort here - Dicks actually makes a decent fist of a confusing and incoherent story, featuring the quiet removal of Ben and Polly, and

also one of the greatest companions-who-never-was, Samantha Briggs. Dicks has Jamie somewhat intimidated by Samantha's sexuality, which contrasts with what I remember from the original version. He also introduces the sonic screwdriver several stories early, and yet again finishes by promising that the next adventure will be better (though in fairness, each time he does this he is right). But in contrast with even some of Dicks' own less inspiring efforts, it's not bad.

Paul says

33 works, 33 primary works

See also Virgin New Adventures and Virgin Decalog.

A series of novels from Virgin Publishing based on the British science-fiction television series Doctor Who, featuring stories set between televised episodes of the programme. The novels featured the First through Sixth Doctors (with the Seventh Doctor appearing in one novel). Like all spin-off media, their canonicity in relation to the television series is open to interpretation.

In addition to original novels, the Missing Adventures series also ...more
(edit)

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Paulo "paper books always" Carvalho says

One interesting script of a lost episode. Sincererly it was a mistake to cut two characters short so soon. Polly was an good character even if Ben was a weak one. For what I heard/read Polly left Doctor Who after the directors choose to let go of Ben.

I really enjoy Jamie the scottish boy. A charming and interesting character from the past. In my opinion that's a point in his favor since somethings are unknown to him.

The story is simple but leaves a big question in the end. A bit rush scene...

