



## The Red Skull

*Kenneth Robeson (House Name) , Lester Dent*

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## WHO IS DOC SAVAGE?

To the world at large, Doc Savage is a strange, mysterious figure of glistening bronze skin and golden eyes. To his amazing co-adventurers - the five greatest brains ever assembled in one group - he is a man of superhuman strength and protean genius, whose life is dedicated to the destruction of evil-doers. To his fans he is one of the greatest adventure heroes of all time, whose fantastic exploits are unequalled for hair-raising thrills, breathtaking escapes and bloodcurdling excitement.

## THE RED SKULL

Into a subterranean world of red-hot lava, Doc Savage and his fantastic five descend -- to face the most fiendish foe of his career. Awaiting Doc is an irresistible power that can level mountains... that can enslave the world... and that threatens to make Doc's most dangerous adventure his very last...

## The Red Skull Details

Date : Published May 1967 by Bantam Books (first published 1933)

ISBN : 9785053033878

Author : Kenneth Robeson (House Name) , Lester Dent

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## **From Reader Review The Red Skull for online ebook**

### **Craig says**

The first Doc Savage story appeared in 1933 and the series ran in pulp and later digest format into 1949. Bantam reprinted the entire series in paperback with wonderful, iconic covers starting in the 1960's. Doc was arguably the first great modern superhero with a rich background, continuity, and mythos. The characterizations were far richer than was common for the pulps; his five associates and their sometimes-auxiliary, Doc's cousin Pat, and the pets Chemistry and Habeas Corpus, all had very distinctive characteristics and their byplay was frequently more entertaining than the current adventure-of-the-month. The settings were also fascinating: Doc's Fortress of Solitude, the Hidalgo Trading Company (which served as a front for his armada of vehicles), and especially the mysterious 86th floor headquarters all became familiar haunts to the reader, and the far-flung adventures took the intrepid band to exotic and richly-described locations all over the world. The adventures were always fast-paced and exciting, from the early apocalyptic world-saving extravaganzas of the early days to the latter scientific-detective style shorter works of the post-World War Two years. There were always a few points that it was difficult to believe along the way, but there were always more ups than downs, and there was never, ever a dull moment. The Doc Savage books have always been my favorite entertainments... I was always, as Johnny would say, superamalgamated!

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### **Forrest says**

A straightforward but entertaining Doc story, sixth in the original series (August 1933). Less fantastical than many, it's more of a mystery with only a few speculative-fiction elements. There are several good characters here, especially Monk's secretary, Lea Aster—a fun, feisty female who I wish had become a regular in the series.

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### **Ronald says**

reread SOMETIME in 2007

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### **Michael Sigler says**

Marty Stu/Mary Sue unlikable Doc Savage strikes again!

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### **Frank says**

Another good Doc adventure that I read back in the 70s.

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## **Douglas says**

Doc and his pals accept a mission to foil a plan to undermine a dam construction in Arizona. And that is pretty much it. Nothing special about this tale, that is unusually mundane in comparison with other Doc exploits.

The aforementioned "Red Skull" is just a rocky formation, not a villain. Perhaps naming the story "Nick Clipton" would not be so spectacular and ominous.

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## **Ronald says**

possibly read in may 1967

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## **Arlomisty says**

The writing is not the best in the world (it was only written for the old pulp magazines in the 1930's)but a lot of fun. really entertaining... similar to Indiana Jones except that Doc Savage is a genius....

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## **Tim says**

Most of the early Doc Savages are great, but occasionally Lester Dent produced a decent but rather uninspired one, understandable considering the rigors of monthly releases. "The Red Skull" pales mostly in comparison to the gold that surrounds it. But it was early enough (1933) that the extreme pulpiness of the first few Docs isn't in this case offset by a great and colorful story. Not bad, though.

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## **Phil says**

Doc Savage is hired to investigate a criminal conspiracy and incidents sabotage involving a dam being built by the Desert Mining Construction Company.

While not without merit, this is probably the blandest entry in the Doc Savage series so far. There are some nice action scenes and Monk's secretary Lea Aster, the sole female character, shows a great deal of ingenuity in getting word out to Doc Savage after she is kidnapped by hoods. This volume was also completely absent of dated racist stereotyping, but this is probably because the book takes place entirely within America's borders. Exotic locations are a big draw for me when it comes to pulp fiction, so their absence in this story was a definite negative. While physically present for most of the story, another weakness is the fact that Savage's five companions also do not have much dialogue.

The criminal conspiracy at the heart of the story is interesting, as is the fact that Doc Savage spends a great deal of time surrounded by people who may or be secret saboteurs. However, once again the masked mastermind is dramatically revealed to be...a minor, unobtrusive supporting character who we are given no

prior reason to suspect. This seems to happen frequently in the Doc Savage stories. A little foreshadowing would go a long way when it comes to adding some impact to the final reveal. All in all a C effort.

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### **Timothy Boyd says**

Of all the pulp era heroes few stand out above the crowd, Doc Savage is one of these. With his 5 aides and cousin he adventures across the world. Fighting weird menaces, master criminals and evil scientists Doc and the Fab 5 never let you down for a great read. These stories have all you need; fast paced action, weird mystery, and some humor as the aides spat with each other. My highest recommendation.

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### **Russell Grant says**

I liked this one. It's not as fantastic as some of the other Doc novels, but the plot moves quick and the mystery mostly works. Good enough for me!

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### **David says**

In August, 1933 Street & Smith released *The Red Skull* and it was a doozy! One of the best Doc Savage novels to date, Doc and the Fabulous Five face off against a Western villain in Arizona whose identity is revealed only at the very end. His chief henchman, the evil Buttons Zortell, is one of Dent's best characters to date. It was also nice to see Renny actually do some engineering, ably assisted by Monk, Johnny and Long Tom. Doc's escapes, while hair-raising, at least make sense and don't leave you saying "Oh come on! He could never have predicted that!"

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### **Greg Pettit says**

My first experience with a Doc Savage tale. It was a typical pulp action-adventure, not particularly well-written, but with fun characters and set pieces, and of course Savage as the prototypical superhero.

It's not hard to see why Savage has recently gained the nickname of "the first superhero." Later comic writers clearly borrowed *a lot* from him. A nearly perfect physical form, enhanced hearing and sight, even a Fortress of Solitude located at the North Pole, all point to Superman. A hugely wealthy orphan, supreme powers of observation and deduction, and unique vehicles, gadgets, even a utility belt, all point to Batman.

This particular story was more pedestrian than others, from what I understand. Doc Savage crosses paths with some unscrupulous businessmen who will stop at nothing to gain control of a dam construction project. Kidnapping, chases, gunfights, and intrigue ensues. Nothing too speculative or fantastical involved.

I enjoyed it enough, I suppose, but the writing lacked the dynamism of the works of Robert E. Howard. It was filled with plenty of 1930's gangster slang, which was both amusing and educational. I was also fascinated to see umlauts placed over the second vowel whenever two were consecutive, e.g. reënter or coöperate. That's a typesetting trick I'm a little sorry we've lost.

Overall, not a bad little read. I'm glad I picked it up for a quarter, and I'd be happy to try another some time.

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### **Kara Jorge says**

A man falls dead on Doc's doorstep after surviving several attempts on his life. Then the killers go after Monk in his laboratory, kidnapping his pretty blonde secretary, Lea Aster. Doc and the boys follow the kidnappers to a doomed dam-building project in the desert wilds of Arizona, where sabotage has bedeviled the project at every turn. Someone is trying to bankrupt the Mountain Desert Construction Company, and it's up to Doc to find out why—and save pretty blonde Lea from her captors!

Even though the Doc Savage novels were obviously written well before modern attitudes had taken hold, I am continually impressed by the way women are handled in these books. They're no shrinking violets, and Lea Aster is particularly feisty and unflappable. Never once do her captors so much as throw a mild scare into her, and she outwits them often, aiding Doc and his men in rescuing her.

As usual, I highly recommend another classic Doc Savage tale.

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