



Doctor Who: Apollo 23

Justin Richards

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'For a few moments this afternoon, it rained on the moon...' An astronaut in full spacesuit appears out of thin air in a busy shopping centre. Maybe it's a publicity stunt. A photo shows a well-dressed woman in a red coat lying dead at the edge of a crater on the dark side of the moon - beside her beloved dog 'Poochie'. Maybe it's a hoax. But as the Doctor and Amy find out, these are just minor events in a sinister plan to take over every human being on earth. The plot centres on a secret military base on the moon - that's where Amy and the TARDIS are. The Doctor is back on Earth, and without the TARDIS there's no way he can get to the moon to save Amy and defeat the aliens. Or is there? The Doctor discovers one last great secret that could save humanity: Apollo 23. This is a thrilling, all new adventure featuring the Doctor and Amy, as played by Matt Smith and Karen Gillan in the spectacular hit series from BBC Television.

Doctor Who: Apollo 23 Details

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Author : Justin Richards

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: Apollo 23 for online ebook

Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nwhyte.livejournal.com/1443025.html>

Justin Richards has written more Doctor Who books than anyone except Terrance Dicks, and those I've read have included more hits than misses. However, this isn't one of his more memorable contributions to the quasi-canon; at first it seems like an Eleventh Doctor rehash of The Seeds of Death but in fact the resolution is much closer to The Faceless Ones. Lots of stuff thrown in here without quite gelling - quantum wormholes, aliens just happening to take over a secret moonbase, and worst of all Not Enough Amy. Still, the target age group will probably enjoy it.

Em says

I could barely finish it. No, it wasn't very good, although I did enjoy the reference to the classic episode "Frontier in Space."

If you love the Doctor, you might be able to finish it like I did. Barely.

Megan says

I listened to the audio version of this book. It was read by James Albrecht and I thought he did a great job. I loved all the different voices he did, though a few of them (some of the American ones) seemed a little off but still I like that each character had a distinct voice.

The story itself was pretty interesting. I loved how, for the most part, the story took place on the moon. Amy and the Doctor seemed almost exactly as they are on TV, with a few things that seemed off for both of them. All in all, this was a good addition to the DW Novels and I'd recommend it to any Whovian.

Jenna (Falling Letters) says

Originally posted 25 October 2010 on Falling Letters.

Normally I don't purchase these kind of things: novelizations of movies, books based on television shows, etc. But I may have a tiny obsession with DW and there is such a long wait between July and the lone Christmas episode and then finally another season in April and I had a Chapters gift card and it was only \$12 and I thought I would just buy one to see what it's like. The Doctor Who novels are not just book versions of the television series; they're original stories. DW is a big franchise, I suppose, comprised of three television series, audio dramas and novels that are all part of the official canon (I believe that's how it works). So choosing to read one of these isn't stretching the fandom tooo far...;P

There isn't too much to say about this book. I enjoyed it, but that's because I'm a fan and it was fun reading a story, hearing my favourite characters again. I especially liked this one because it was a 'space base' kind of story and I love those stories. Would you enjoy this if you aren't already a DW fan? Probably not. But if you are, and you're looking for more DW, I'd recommend giving this a shot.

Terri says

The Dr. and Amy are at a food court when a man in a spacesuit just appears out of nowhere. Turns out the US has a top secret lunar project that is malfunctioning. But when they investigate there is more - much more to the story. Fun romp.

Branwen Sedai *of the White Ajah* says

"You're either very brilliant or completely mad," she told the Doctor.

"Both, actually. But veering toward the brilliant."

An astronaut appears in a burger restaurant in a mall. A lady and her dog appear on the moon. What do these two extraordinary events have in common? Incidentally, a lot. On a secret base housed in the dark side of the moon, there is a group of researchers who have no idea they are being targeted by a hostile alien force. And it's up to the Doctor and Amy to save the day before the whole of Earth is invaded.

I basically have just come to adore anything that Justin Richards writes in terms of his Doctor Who stories. Not only are they really well written, thought provoking, and just downright interesting and engaging storylines, but there is a deep-seated love and knowledge of the characters that really shines through his work. Everyone is completely true to character, so much so that while reading this it often felt like I was watching an episode of the series! I really enjoyed this story especially because it was action packed and also a bit creepy, which I loved.

Mary Jo says

This was a really interesting book! I'm a big fan of the Doctor Who tie-in novels and this one did not dissappoint. I chose it because of the title, as I'm a huge NASA geek and I love reading about the Apollo program. This was an intriguing story involving a base on the moon and a mystery for the Doctor to solve. I won't give away the full story, it's a great one to read. Justin Richards captures the Eleventh Doctor's voice just as well as he did for the Tenth, so well that I could hear Matt Smith's voice in my head delivering the Doctor's lines. Definitely a must read if you are enjoying the new series of Doctor Who!

Tessa says

Etant devenue complètement accro à la série Doctor Who, je n'ai pas pu passer à côté de ce premier tome! J'avoue que je misais pas mal sur ce livre car je comptais dessus pour me faire patienter jusqu'aux prochains

épisodes. Malheureusement, je ressors un peu déçue de cette lecture.

Quoique un peu court, on retrouve quand même le même rythme que dans la série: aucune longueur, les actions s'enchaînent et comme le dirait Jenny: on court très souvent.

On retrouve aussi les petites remarques humoristiques du Docteur mais cela ne suffit pas, il me manque le jeu de l'acteur. J'avais beau m'imaginer les scènes, j'étais un peu frustrée de ne pas avoir vraiment les images, les mouvements de caméras, les mimiques des personnages. Le style d'écriture y est probablement pour quelque chose car même si j'ai su me représenter certaines scènes, le côté parfois trop simpliste de l'écriture nous empêche de réellement tout visualiser.

En soit, le thème de cet "épisode" est totalement dans la continuité de la série. On voyage sur la lune, on a affaire à des extraterrestres, on répare le déplacement quantique et on nous parle de sandwich. Normal. Mais encore une fois, il manque un petit quelque chose pour me faire réellement adhérer à l'histoire.

Au final, je ne pense pas continuer la saga. Je crois que la frustration de ne pas avoir les images est trop grande et le style d'écriture ne permet pas complètement de visualiser les scènes. Du coup, ça ne me permet pas d'intégrer totalement l'histoire et surtout de retrouver mon Docteur préféré.

Matt says

Although I was nervous about how well the Doctor Who novelists would be able to capture the personality of the Eleventh Doctor in the new series of novels, I am happy to report that Justin Richards knows his Doctor Who, and some how knows the Eleventh Doctor. It is really easy to read "Apollo 23" because it feels like an episode of the show, with strong characterization of the main character. Amy comes across as pretty generic, but that doesn't seem so much a fault of Richards as a compliment to Ms. Gillan's portrayal on screen. Its hard to pinpoint a character after so short a time, and its remarkable he manages to do it for the Doctor.

The story is pretty simple, and is pretty close to a previous Doctor Who serial from the Second Doctor's run, "The Seeds of Death." The majority of the story takes place on a moon base operated by the United States government. A two-way portal from the Texan desert to the moon base is something like T-mat, but not quite, and it has been sabotaged. Everyone knows something is wrong when an astronaut appears in a shopping mall, and the bodies of a woman and her dog appear on the surface of the moon. Conveniently, The Doctor and Amy are there to step in and figure things out.

"Apollo 23" starts out very strong, and manages to maintain interest throughout although it does get a little slow towards the middle. It is an overall fun story, though it could have used a few more "character" moments for the Doctor and Amy. These are new characters and for many of us, the books are here for us to get a better view of their personality. Perhaps both the greatest strength and the greatest weakness of "Apollo 23" is that it is just like an episode of the show. It won't blow any minds but it is certainly fun, and a very quick read.

Kevin says

Being a Doctor Who fanboy, I enjoyed this book.

I had no problem staying in the story when there were aspects to the plot like mind-control, secret moon bases, and even balloon-like alien creatures known as Talerians. All fine and dandy.

What always gets to me in these stories, though, are the little things. An alien race files away things using a filing system built around our alphabet and numbering system...? They speak to each other in our language...? Meh. I know it's fiction and purely entertainment, but it still seems to bug me no matter how many of these books I read. Ah well.

It was nice that this series takes place (somewhat) in the United States. I can't wait for the next television series to start up with the Doctor in America, as well.

Daniel Kukwa says

A solid read, but more concerned with keeping a tight plot than letting loose & taking risks. A bit of a clinical read, spiced up by a strong command of the 11th Doctor & Amy. I think of it as a bit of a modern update of the 2nd Doctor story "The Moonbase"...without the pithy Cybermen.

Jennifer Walters says

I love Doctor Who and this book was entertaining. My only issue was that the author was writing about Houston, TX (which is where I grew up) and got it all wrong. The book describes it as being the heart of Texas, dry, hot, and desert like. The only thing correct in that statement is the hot part. For some reason, he thinks that we launch NASA rockets from Texas as well. It would have been nice if he had done just a little bit of research. A quick Google search could have fixed that little problem.

Meagan says

I really enjoyed this book. It was different as the aliens were basically the human's who just happened to be under control of the aliens. The Alien's were unique and I was glad that they didn't show up until the end other wise it probably would've ruined the story. I liked that the Doctor wasn't really sure that his plan would work, the plan he had about combining all of the stored minds in the water system did really seem that it wouldn't work. At least that was voiced otehr wise I would've been a little annoyed. The book fit in the series with Amy and Eleven and shows just how much Amy depends, respects and have faith in the Doctor after such a short 'time' of knowing him. [Even though she's known him since she was seven.:] Unlike the other book that I read with Amy & Eleven this didn't have any refrences to where this would fit into the time line. But this book was really good and had a nice story line that fit perfectly into the book form. You weren't really sure what was going on until later which was interesting because the first part of the book I didn't know how alien's or what the story would continue into. But it was a nice read.

Kimberley doruyter says

i found it rather boring.

Amy Hawthorne says

This book was so cute and fun and I loved how Matt Smith's Doctor and Karen Gillan's Amy Pond were portrayed as they are in the show. Even when the storylines become prolonged on TV the books are the adventures that I want, with monsters and bad guys and good guys and a resolution at the end, that makes sense, not a sequel or a two part finale.

As much as I enjoyed this read I have to give it 3 stars because these books are consistent in quality to me and I wouldn't give them all 4 or 5 stars, or re read them.

Hilary says

Aliens, weird goings on, and the Doctor and Amy are smack in the middle of it. No surprises there, and plenty of escapades, technology puzzles and general brokenness for the Doctor to fix.

The narrator does a good job of handling Matt Smith's speech patterns without the high speed drawback of MS himself, and does a decent Amy too. It was unfortunate he had so many American accents to do, because those weren't as strong, but honestly, I didn't care as long as I knew who was talking!

Kerry says

And so my first read for 2012 ends up being a Doctor Who novel.

I saw this on a stand at the library last week and grabbed it just as I was about to leave. It sat on the shelf with the other library books and I forgot about it. I saw it there yesterday and thought I'd pick it up.

It's been a hard couple of weeks for me, with my 7 year old with ADHD at home for the summer holidays and my CFS dragging me down. I don't think I could read anything complicated if I tried. I'm slowly rereading Susan Dexter's The Ring of Allaire, which I'm enjoying, but it's usually only a few pages or a short chapter at a time.

Therefore a Doctor Who novel, the first for the 11th Doctor, which I knew was aimed at family audiences, seemed a perfect option.

This is, indeed the first novel for the 11th Doctor, and I suspect that very little (or possibly none) of Matt Smith's interpretation of the role had been seen by the author at the time he was writing. He does his best, and there are moments where the Doctor does seem something like the Doctor, but he just doesn't quite get it right. I don't blame him for this - I've had 2 full seasons and 2 Christmas specials of Matt Smith's Doctor and love him inside and out (which is why I grabbed this when I saw it in the first place).

The thing that jarred was mainly his portrayal of the Doctor self-consciously telling jokes and having them fall flat. Maybe that was an idea that fell by the wayside as the 11th Doctor developed, but it doesn't feel right now. Otherwise, both the Doctor and Amy felt kind of generic. But as I said, I don't think the author can really be blamed for that.

As for the story, it was a fun read. Not earth-shattering or mind-boggling, but that wasn't what I was looking for. The idea of the poor people dying of asphyxiation in the park as it linked to the moon, combined with the astronaut appearing in the shopping mall trailing moon dust made for a great start. A solid, enjoyable story followed, leaving me glad of my impulse borrow from the library.

I've request the next few 11th Doctor novels from the library and I plan (within borrowing limits) to keep them around for when a light read is required. I'll also be interested to see if the characterisation of both the Doctor and Amy improve as they become more familiar to the authors. (Also, bring on Rory as a charcter in the novels, because I totally love him.)

B.M.B. Johnson says

Started with a good idea, but quickly devolved into standard fare. Good, but more for fans of licensed works.

Al says

I've never read a Doctor Who novel before, but I picked this up on a lark. I worried that it would read like some adolescent fan fiction. But instead I was wonderfully surprised. It reminded me of the 1950s and 60s pulp sci-fi that I consumed as an adolescent.

It's quite full of the humor (should I say "humour"?) of the new Who. Take this description of the first time we see the moon base: "The whole thing looked like it had been made out of enormous egg boxes for some children's school project." Not a bad description of the special effects during the Tom Baker years.

Reija says

Amy Pond, Doctor and Moon and yet it was just a mess.

"I've seen him working the last day. Never mind six impossible things before breakfast, he'll get through sixty and still have time to make the toast."
