



Doctor Who Series 2 Volume 1: The Ripper

*Tony Lee , Andrew Currie (Illustrator) , Richard Piers Rayner (Illustrator) , Tim Hamilton (Illustrator) ,
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The Eleventh Doctor era begins here Join the eleventh incarnation of the Doctor and his latest companions, Amy Pond and her husband Rory Williams, as they travel to the far reaches of space - a planet populated by holograms - and the distant past - where they become embroiled in the Jack the Ripper murders in Victorian London

Doctor Who Series 2 Volume 1: The Ripper Details

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From Reader Review Doctor Who Series 2 Volume 1: The Ripper for online ebook

Andy Hickman says

DOCTOR WHO: SERIES 2. VOL. 1 – THE RIPPER

“Doctor Who Ripper's Curse #1 (Doctor Who: The Eleventh Doctor Archives #2)” by Tony Lee, Matthew Dow Smith (Illustrator)

It was an ok series. Fun to observe the engagement of the Eleventh Doctor, Amy and Rory with others in their references to pop-culture figures, literary characters, and historical people. The aliens were rather ghastly!

“Doctor Who Ripper's Curse, Issue #1
The Eleventh Doctor is initially accused of being Jack the Ripper!

“Doctor Who Ripper's Curse, Issue #2
“September 1888! The start of the FOOTBALL LEAGUE! ... beginning what becomes a national pastime!”

“Doctor Who Ripper's Curse, Issue #3
“A POINTY STICK? What is this man, a WIZARD?”

“Doctor Who Ripper's Curse, Issue #4
“Botheration.”

- - -

Cornerofmadness says

As a side note, it's amusing to know that growing up all my friends were huge Dr. Who fans but I never cared for the 1960-1970's Who. The twenty-first century Who sees the reverse of that. Anyhow, this is the eleventh Doctor, Amy and Rory in graphic novel form. The sad truth is I've been out of the comic book collecting for a couple years now and I'm not sure if there is a monthly comic or if this graphic novel is the only form but I suppose it doesn't matter.

It opens with a short story, that's quite amusing. Rory tries checking his email inside the Tardis causing all of the various 'characters' in his spam folder to come to holographic life (like all the various 'princes' who need your help to get their money out of their beleaguered countries). This causes the Tardis to shut down for repairs just in time for intergalactic pirates to show up.

The bulk of the story (self contained, no cliffhanger thankfully), is as the title promises, Dr. Who visits London during the height of Jack the Ripper's active period. They get bonus points for working in the misspelled note written on the wall and giving it a reason for being misspelled.

What happens if Jack is not a doctor or royalty? What if Jack isn't even human? That's the problem facing

the Doctor, Amy and Rory went they realize what time period they're in. Worse, after a spirited debate over changing history, Amy knows she can not just let Mary Kelly become the Ripper's last victim. Too bad for her, this desire brings her to the Ripper's attention.

It was fun. It could easily have been an episode. It felt true to the characters. The art was done by several people with several different takes on how to draw the characters. I thought it was well done. I enjoyed this graphic novel.

Megan says

This was my first time reading a book/graphic novel about Doctor Who, which I've recently become slightly obsessed with. It wasn't as funny or exciting as watching an episode (probably because I couldn't watch the amazing actors bring the story to life) but it was entertaining nonetheless. There were several collaborating artists so I didn't love all of the illustrations but most of them were pretty cool. Also, I'm not super familiar with Jack the Ripper history, but if you are I think you'd really enjoy this super nerdy sci-fi explanation of events. If you want a nice Doctor Who break at work, this definitely fits the bill. And now I have the theme song stuck in my head... :)

Roger Royer says

Let's see here, The Doctor, Rory and Amy chasing spam email on a planet of holographic people and then chasing an alien shapeshifter that is really Jack the Ripper? What could be better?

True to form, as Doctor Who graphic novels go, you get two rather decent stories and some good art. None of them could work on television but oddly enough they're great in the graphic novel format.

Sarah says

Even though I am significantly more fond of the Tenth Doctor than I am the Eleventh Doctor, I have got to say I enjoyed this comic so much more than the Tenth Doctor Comics series. The art was better, the characters were consistent, the stories were funny and interesting. I honestly have not one bad thing to say about this.

The first story is a hilarious spin on "spam" email, filled with laugh-out-loud characters and situations. My favorite aspect of this story is the helpful, upbeat stapler which constantly follows around Amy, Rory, and the Doctor asking if they need assistance like the beloved/hated Clippy from old school Microsoft Word. The ending was a little cheesy, but the overall story was so good that it didn't bother me one bit.

The second story in this volume is yet another take on "Jack the Ripper". I really liked that the volume mixed a very light-hearted story like the spam emails with a very serious story like the Ripper. The contrast was fantastic and matched the different art styles perfectly. The first story was more traditional comic book art, whereas the art in the "Ripper" story looked almost like water colors. This felt fitting for the story setting, reminding me of old paintings and the past.

The plots and character dialogue of both stories felt consistent with the situations, personalities, and speech patterns from the show, and the art very accurately portrayed their likenesses. The only exception to this would be some panels of Rory, which in my opinion look nothing like him.

Overall this was a nice, quick, diverse collection of Eleventh Doctor stories and art. I loved the contrasting tone and art of the two stories. I hope this is the start of a pattern, and the rest of the comics in this series are just as good!

Kaethe says

This has two completely different kinds of stories. The first has a problem onboard the TARDIS when Rory and Amy try to check the email on their phones: their spam appear as holograms. The tone is light, quite silly. The second has the same group traveling to Victorian London to deal with Jack the Ripper. Natasha and I were both amused by the first, but I enjoyed the second more than she did. Well, I have been reading up on Ripper Lore for thirty-some years. Although there is violence in the second story, the identity of the killer as an alien monster removes the usual difficulties with the tale, and makes it much "cleaner" and more suitable for younger readers.

Entertaining stuff, fun for the whole family. Fans of Doctor Who will appreciate how very like the actors the characters sometimes look, and how true their voices remain. Those who are not yet fans will enjoy the accessibility of the graphic novel set up.

Library copy.

Trisha says

Enjoyable and easy to read. :)

Interesting take on Jack the Ripper, plus you can never go wrong with doctor who. :D

Brendon Schrodinger says

This collection proved to be a great little distraction when putting in long hours in the lab this week. I could dip in and out of these stories in between various tasks.

The first story is a fun little romp where Rory gets his hands on that mobile phone that works throughout space and time and downloads spam into the TARDIS. The situations are quite hilarious.

The second story deals with the Jack the Ripper murders. In the outset this annoys me as it has already featured twice before in Doctor Who print and will probably come up again and again. By the way, I think "Birthright" did the Ripper murders best.

So this story doesn't feature the best of plots, but again, it fits in with the TV series well as each character is consistent and the words that come out of their speech bubbles seem entirely plausible.

So while this is a slight dip in quality for the IDW Who comics, I'm still a convert and a fan.

Chris H-C says

It was fine. Nothing too special. The initial story was cute, the longer thread about the Ripper was beautifully drawn.

Neither story revealed anything about the world, the characters, the canon. It just seemed to be stories "with" the characters instead of stories "about" the characters.

usagi ?? says

Oh, Rory. Never change (though I am quite pissed about how I got spoiled re: his future on the show, but don't mind me). The idea of Rory checking his email and letting in all of his spam as holograms had me in stitches. We honestly need an episode like that since the ones in season six so far haven't been the happiest of episodes as of yet. Regardless, I love these two (semi-new) companions and the fact that they're (technically) the first husband and wife to be companions on the TARDIS. This story (since I was only sent the first issue out of the four or five that are going to be in this collection when published) is definitely reinforcing that love.

Well, now that we've seen the contents of Rory's spam inbox in the form of holograms (I can't decide which is better – the talking stapler (which is supposed to be the MS Word talking Paperclip) or the bellowing bittorent demon (probably supposed to be a sendup of demonoid), we know what kind of internet habits he has. Even though most people still get those emails for the little blue pills and whatnot. I love that all of the spamograms turned into actual monsters/demons and threatened to eat all of our heroes. But most of all, I love how the spamograms turn into actual beings with feelings and thoughts and desires, not unlike humans. Just, you know, not entirely solid of body.

But of course, as with nearly every episode of the series, there's the Moral Dilemma. Or Moral Problem. Or Questionable Moral of the Day. Here, it's whether or not Holograms are sentient enough beings so that they can be free and have their own planet and live their own lives, not being subject as servants to the whims/orders of others. I think the author here definitely has an interesting point that we all need to think about, especially with the advent of Watson (the new chess-playing supercomputer) – do AI entities have enough sentience to be given and treated as beings with 'free will'? It's not something explicitly brought up (aside from the Stapler's plea for the Doctor to do something), but it's still given as a take-home for all of us to think about long after we're done reading this issue of comics.

And again, this is why I love "Doctor Who" – it manages to NOT stuff the Moral of the Day(tm) down our throats, but introduces it in a sometimes so roundabout way that we don't even notice until we're done watching that particular episode, or that entire season. It gives us something to ponder on afterward, and for us to work out the answer for ourselves.

This is a great volume definitely not to be missed if you're a fan of Eleven, Amy, and Rory. And I guarantee that you'll want to be facebook friends with the Stapler, afterward. I know I do.

(posted on shelfari, librarything, goodreads, and witchoftheatregoing.wordpress.com)

Nicole says

I was initially disappointed when I found out I missed this at my local comic shop. IDW made this available through NetGally, which I appreciate, (but only 1/4 of the whole thing, which means that I cannot give you my opinion of the WHOLE thing because my review copy was so short).

Through only one story, it's a fitting and necessary take in the Who-verse. Strange things are happening on the Tardis, thanks in part to Amy's husband, Rory. His cell phone is linked to the Tardis. While trying to access his email he inadvertently downloads some spam into the Tardis.

Spam emails actually materializes into the Tardis. The Good Doctor is busy trying to deal with some scroungers who won't leave him alone.

It's a very cute story that I could see translating well into an episode or a short. I recommend it to fans of all ages, but I don't think you have to be caught up on the show in order to enjoy it.

Kierra says

As a fan of Doctor Who I always expect a lot from any episode or graphic novel or even tiny youtube video. And this is because I am never disappointed in it. And when I looked at the first few pages of *the Ripper*, I thought that the illustrator was a mess. Doctor looks like Doctor, Rory looks exactly like Rory and Amy is a bit weird, but still looks more or less like Amy. But the style of this artist? No, I didn't like it at all, because I expected so much more.

But in the end, when you start reading *the Ripper*, everything from the shows comes back - the humor, the characters, the style of storytelling. And, honestly, as long as all the characters look like the actors from the series, Hamilton's style of drawing doesn't matter at all.

So I guess it's <4.5> stars for this one.

Great read.

Emily says

So I thought this would be good and ended up being mostly disappointed. I'm not sure why it starts out with a completely different story then the Ripper arc, something about landing on a planet where people are just projected holographic images of what is essentially email spam? I have no idea, it made very little sense, even for a DW plot. I was also not excited that the angle the author/author's (seriously, like 23 people worked on this graphic novel which explains why the plot made little to no sense and the art style changed about 10 times) decided to take by making Jack the Ripper a giant reptile monster thing, throwing in the same idea of image masking used in Vampires in Venice with the fish people. I don't think the monsters were meant to be related, I think it was just super lazy writing in this case.

I also don't understand why the art style changes midway through the story. I liked the first style much better than the style used on the Ripper angle, which just looked like a painting gone runny half the time. I don't

know how you can make Karen Gillan unattractive but that artist did it. Also her shirt changes from red to blue in the first two pages which no explanation and it bothered me through the entire story. C'mon, one of the half a million artists/writers working on this couldn't catch that? That's just bad editing.

The story itself was basically ridiculous. A giant fish type monster disguising itself as a human and preying on women for their adrenal glands? What? And they all just happened to be prostitutes? I didn't realize ladies of the night had the best adrenaline in town but whatever. I would have much preferred to see a human angle taken instead of going down the lazy, atypical Who writing point of 'Oh it was an alien the whole time!' I mean I know this is a science fiction story about a time traveling alien but it doesn't always have to BE about aliens. It was lazy plot development in my opinion.

At one point near the end of the novel, the Doctor and Rory jump forward in time to ask a Jack the Ripper tour guide how many women in total were murdered in the event that Amy (of course) gets abducted and her name gets re-written into history as being one of the Ripper's original victims. So they jump back in time (How the TARDIS actually got these time points correct is beyond me) to save Amy. Which...ok, really? Isn't that just lazy time traveling? You have to jump forward to find out the end and then go back to re-write it? And isn't that kind of against everything the Doctor stands for as far as 'spoilers' and 'events that are supposed to occur' and all that other time traveling Rule Book mojo? It just was not well thought out. At all.

Basically a disappointment all around for my first ever Doctor Who graphic novel journey.

Elizabeth (Miss Eliza) says

I will start with a mini rant, which may go longer, we'll have to see. I've never thought that the concept of THE DOCTOR works for comics. The authors are given an infinite canvas and just go all silly. They can do anything and this just ends up being dumb. A show like Doctor Who needs some restrictions. There needs to be boundaries. For the show it's what is possible to do in under an hour for the television. For comics it's anything goes. So, here we get a dopey little story about the TARDIS being infected by 3-D holograms of spam email. Yes, that is all there is, because for some reason the part I really wanted to read about Jack the Ripper wasn't included in this electronic galley. So instead I got a stupid little story that made me not want to pick up the rest of the book, good job IDW, seeing as you just lost Angel, you might want to try and step up your game. Also, the little talking stapler was cute, but very dated... how long ago did word kill him?

Travis says

The Doctor, Rory and Amy travel to Victorian England and get involved in the Jack the Ripper murders. (Spoilers) it was an alien.

Nice mix of mystery and sci-fi and Tony Lee does a nice job of giving all three characters something to do.

This would have made a good TV episode.
