



Doctor Who: Voyager

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Classic comic strips from the pages of Doctor Who Magazine!

The Sixth Doctor, Peri and their shapeshifting penguin chum Frobisher take a madcap journey through space, time and magical realms in this first volume of their comic strip adventures from the pages of Doctor Who Magazine!

This book features the following digitally restored stories, reprinted in their original episodic format for the first time: THE SHAPE SHIFTER, VOYAGER, POLLY THE GLOT, ONCE UPON A TIME LORD, WAR-GAME, FUNHOUSE, KANE'S STORY, ABEL'S STORY, THE WARRIOR'S STORY and FROBISHER'S STORY!

Tasked to retrieve a set of stolen stargates by the awesome and terrifying Voyager, the Doctor must pursue the insane Time Lord Astrolabus across the universe, across world of fantasy and imagination, far-flung planets, and even the pages of a children's storybook.

Along the way there are reunions with the eminent Professor Ivan Asimoff and the despicable Dogbolter, a run-in with a sentient house, swordplay with a Draconian Overlord, and even a quick trip to New York!

Featuring astonishing artwork from the legendary John Ridgway (Judge Dredd, Hellblazer) plus scripts from Steve Parkhouse (The BoJeffries Saga) and Alan McKenzie (2000 AD).

AN ESSENTIAL COLLECTION FOR FANS OF DOCTOR WHO AND CLASSIC BRITISH COMICS!

Doctor Who: Voyager Details

Date : Published December 11th 2012 by Panini UK Ltd (first published December 1985)

ISBN : 9781905239719

Author : Steve Parkhouse , Alan McKenzie , John Ridgway (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 172 pages

Genre : Media Tie In, Doctor Who, Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Comics, Science Fiction, Graphic Novels Comics, Fiction

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: Voyager for online ebook

Otherwyrld says

2 1/5 stars

I picked this up on a whim from the library, mostly because it was by artist John Ridgway. I'm not a huge fan of his very distinctive black and white work, but he has done a lot of really good stuff for 2000AD in the past, so I was curious to see what he could do with some Doctor Who material. For the most part he does quite a good job. His portrayal of the Sixth Doctor and Peri is very well done, they are instantly recognisable. His work is very crisp and clean here, and benefits from the oversized pages in this book.

Pity the same can't be said of the stories by Steve Parkhouse that he has to illustrate. I found them to be silly and childish for the most part, certainly not helped by the addition of a shape-shifting alien that decides to become a talking penguin called Frobisher for no apparent reason. At times the Doctor acts in a most un-Time Lord like way that does the stories no favours. Given that the Sixth Doctor is often considered to be one of the weakest of the Classic Who Doctors, and the evident hatred that the BBC had for the series during this period, these stories do little to endear itself to any loyal readers out there.

Occasionally there are glimpses of a darker story to be seen, and the artist clearly relishes these parts more than the rubbish he otherwise has to illustrate at times here. It's a pity that the whole thing was played for laughs because a dark and gritty Doctor Who might have been much better received.

There are quite a few of these books around, which I should mention reproduce stories that were originally printed in the Official Doctor Who Magazines. These days they are little more than curiosities, a reflection of a low point in the long running history of a certain rogue Time Lord. The book does have some charms, I just wish it didn't poke such fun at loyal fans who should have had richer fare than this to feast on.

Sarah Crawford says

This graphic novel uses the Colin Baker doctor and a very interesting character called the Whifferdill who can change shape into almost anything. He seems to get the best of the Doctor at first, but ends up joining with him and helping on a series of adventures.

There's a lot of humor in the stories, and there's also a very serious, very dark-seeming character that appears, searching for some star maps that a crook had managed to steal.

The individual stories are quite good and vary enough from each other, particularly the way the last story is done. An interesting addition to any Doctor Who collection.

Stephen Theaker says

Previous volumes in this series - the Tom Baker and Peter Davison ones - hit me like hammer blows from the past, but this first Colin Baker collection is even better: like the Paul McGann volumes this was all brand

new to me. Before I get onto saying why it was brilliant, I should cover the two things that are slightly annoying about it. Like all of these Doctor Who books from Panini it has the words "Graphic Novel" on the front cover, when it patently isn't. A graphic novel is a lengthy comic book conceived as a single piece of fiction. At a push it might cover a single storyline pulled out of an ongoing series, but this is a collection of short serials. The other thing is that on the back it says "The Complete Sixth Doctor Comic Strips", when the Colin Baker-penned special, "The Age of Chaos", doesn't appear in this volume and isn't scheduled for the next either (maybe they'd argue that as a graphic novel itself it doesn't qualify as a comic strip). Those minor irritations aside, this is a glorious book. John Ridgway's art is magnificent (and reproduced beautifully) - pages 26 and 51 being particular examples of his talents being given free rein - and the storytelling retains the cosmic scope of the Fifth Doctor stories while reining in the more confusing elements. None of the television stories in which the Sixth Doctor appeared could stand even the slightest comparison to these stories, and it isn't often you can say that about a tie-in.

Sarah says

Doctor Who: Voyager sees the end of Steve Parkhouse's five-year run on the DWM comic, and he certainly goes out...well...even weirder than he came in. The Voyager storyline, encompassing four separate stories, abandons the pretense at science fiction seen throughout most of his Davison strips and parades a real science-fantasy sensibility. Thankfully, that works, even if the results are pretty mind-boggling. Parkhouse's interpretation of Colin Baker's Doctor is roughly the same as his Davison - no bad thing, and possibly more appropriate here - and his introduction of the shape-changing companion Frobisher is sheer genius (bringing in some welcome levity to the strip). It's too bad that he chose to leave the strip when he did, but the timing was right and certainly not rushed.

Unfortunately, the second half of the graphic novel is where things start to get - at very least - less good. Editor Alan McKenzie's stab at the writer position is perfectly serviceable, and his Doctor is closer to what we saw on screen, but but his one- and two-part stories barely make any sort of impact with the reader. His attempt at an "epic" storyline spanning the four installments of Kane's Story/Abel's Story/The Warrior's Story/Frobisher's Story is interesting, but it just doesn't go anywhere - there's not enough time before the heroes simply have to get down to the business of fighting the fight and saving the day. And it doesn't seem especially Doctor Who-ish, either. It's more like a transplanted Star Trek storyline, as is McKenzie's earlier "War Game"; both have some strong similarities to Klingon-centric plots that TNG and DS9 would feature in the coming decade.

Fortunately John Ridgway's art is a real high point, bringing consistency to the strip for the first time since Dave Gibbons (and the last time for roughly a full ten years afterward). His work is looser and sketchier than Gibbons', but there's a lot of great detail worked in; you can really see it in stories like "Polly the Glot" and "Once Upon a Time Lord."

This is a great graphic novel for the collection, and I'm pleased to finish off the run of Parkhouse strips. I just wish the other included material didn't feel quite so much like filler.

Sarah Crawford says

This graphic novel uses the Colin Baker doctor and a very interesting character called the Whifferdill who

can change shape into almost anything. He seems to get the best of the Doctor at first, but ends up joining with him and helping on a series of adventures.

There's a lot of humor in the stories, and there's also a very serious, very dark-seeming character that appears, searching for some star maps that a crook had managed to steal.

The individual stories are quite good and vary enough from each other, particularly the way the last story is done. An interesting addition to any Doctor Who collection.

Nicholas Whyte says

Reprinted from Doctor Who Magazine #88-#107, Voyager contains the adventures of the Sixth Doctor and his alien companion Frobisher, a shape-changing alien Whifferdill who prefers to look like a penguin, all illustrated by John Ridgway who gets a two-page interview at the start. The first half of the book has stories by Steve Backhouse, which are visionary and surreal and take the Doctor to strange places in inner and outer space, swirling around the sinister magician Astralabus, but including of all things a Rupert Bear pastiche. The second half, by Alan McKenzie, is a little (though not much) closer to the TV series, even bringing in Peri for the last story, but is still rather better than the TV show was at the time. Ridgway's art is superb as well. It is well established that I am not a Sixth Doctor fan but I recommend this volume.

Justin K. Rivers says

Poetic, surreal, punchy, and funny. Parkhouse's writing really elevates this material, although there is a letdown towards the end. It needed a stronger denouement that was less abstract. But Frobisher, a character I was deeply skeptical about, won me over. And I appreciate the ambition of the whole creative team on this one, pushing a story past the traditional confines of a Doctor Who script.

Angela says

Some of the stories are brilliant and atmospheric. Others are forgettable. Frobisher shines, and can still change shape. Peri really isn't in it much, so don't buy it for her comic adventures.

C S says

Clever and subversive tales featuring Colin Baker's Sixth Doctor and shapeshifter Frobisher the Penguin are brought to life by Alan Ridgway's stunning art.

Rich Meyer says

Surprisingly good graphic novel/newspaper comic strip collection. The Sixth Doctor stars in this collection

of stories that introduce his shape-shifting companion Frobisher and sets the Doctor on a journey where he doubts his own perceptions at every turn. I'm not the biggest Colin Baker fan, since he was never really allowed to develop his character properly on the TV show, but I enjoyed these stories immensely!

Craig says

A collection of stories that ran in several issues of Doctor Who Magazine, this book starts out with the introduction of a new companion. A shape shifting alien, that for personal reasons (never explained) takes on the appearance of a penguin and goes by the name of Frobisher. Seeing the Doctor travel around with a talking penguin is rather silly. I kind of liked Frobisher's original alien form and he never does use his shape shifting abilities after taking the penguin form. I guess this was done because such use of his abilities would have been such an easy way out of so many situations.

The stories pit the Doctor up against another Timelord, who has stolen many things during his travels, including some special astronomical charts belonging to a very powerful being. The being threatens the end of the universe if the Doctor does not recover the charts from his fellow Timelord.

Not bad over all, though I do find stories from the Doctor Who Magazine tend to get a little goofy. This has such moments, but as a whole makes for a decent tale.

Travis says

Shame that Colin Baker's Doctor never got a TV episode as good as some of the comics/novels featuring his Doctor. I liked the sixth Doctor a lot, but he was unfortunately caught in a bad period of the shows history and got a bit of a raw deal.

This graphic novel is a wild story that walks the border between sci-fi and fantasy, as the sixth Doctor and his sidekick, Frobisher the talking penguin, is caught up in the plots of two cosmic beings, an eccentric thief/inventor that may or may not be a renegade time lord and the mysterious Voyager.

Loved the scenes in the arctic and at the light house. The whole story has a wonderful dream like quality to it that makes you wonder what is real and if the Tardis actually ever landed on earth.

Hunter R. says

Penguin is the CUTTEST!

Ken says

A great collection of Sixth Doctor comic strip adventures which were originally published in DWM during the mid-eighties.

Most notable for the introduction of Frobisher, the shape shifting penguin who travels with the Doctor.

I'm not the biggest graphic novel reader, but I really enjoyed this collection.

Frobisher is such a great character, it would be impossible for him to appear in the TV show.

It's always nice to have more Sixth Doctor stories!

Would recommend!

Kristina Brown says

I like surrealism and out-of-this-world fantasy but it simply wasn't suited here. No explanation is given for Frobisher joining the Doctor instead of turning him in for the whole ransom. Why does he sometimes shape-shift and sometimes not? Astrolabus' manner of speech is insane. Overall there was simply a sense that the artists were revelling in free imagination and the unlimitless budget.

One point of interest was the story 'Funhouse'. A strange alien house that tried to absorb the energy of the TARDIS. It felt like the idea behind "The Doctor's Wife".
