



Doctor Who: The Time Meddler

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When the TARDIS materialises on an apparently deserted Northumbrian beach, Steven disputes the Doctor's claim that they have travelled back to the eleventh century. The discovery of a modern wristwatch in a nearby forest merely reinforces his opinion.

But it is 1066, the most important date in English history, and the Doctor's arrival has not gone unnoticed. Observing the appearance of the TARDIS is a mysterious monk who recognises the time-machine for what it is. He also knows that the Doctor poses a serious threat to his master plan - a plan which, if successful, could alter the future of the entire world...

Doctor Who: The Time Meddler Details

Date : Published April 17th 1988 by Target Books (first published April 17th 1987)

ISBN : 9780426203124

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Format : Paperback 144 pages

Genre : Media Tie In, Doctor Who, Science Fiction, Fiction, Audiobook

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Steve says

A fantastic serial made even better by an excellent novelization that fills in some plotoles and makes a few minor but excellent changes (such as letting Steven and Vicki see inside the Monk's Tardis after its dimensions were destabilized). One of the best Targets I've read so far.

Julian White says

A charming retelling of the script with a few additions, especially in the epilogue. It's a pity that the Monk pictured on the cover looks almost entirely unlike Peter Butterworth...

Wsprag says

Great account of a great episode of Doctor Who! Easy to read, alot of fun. Highly recommend!

Travis says

A classic bit of 'Who' history as it's the very first time we encounter another Time Lord. Wanting a break after the events of the 'Chase' story, the Doctor and Vikki take their new traveling companion to earth. It looks like they've landed during the time of the viking invasion, but Stephen has his doubts when they find a very modern watch on the ground.

The monk is a great character that should have been used more. He's more shifty and greedy than evil and the scenes between him and the Doctor are a lot of fun.

Lots of chases, people getting locked up and a bit of history make this a very light weight story, but a fun read and an important part of Doctor Who history.

Michael says

I'm not really sure why I skipped Nigel Robinson's adaptation of "The Time Meddler" during my Target novel collecting days. Whether it's that the relatively recent release date came with a higher price tag or that I didn't really appreciate the serial during my teenage years, I don't quite recall.

But this gap in my collection allowed me to come to Peter Purvis's reason of the story without my memory cheating on the relative merit of the original novelization.

Coming at the end of the classic series' second season, "The Time Meddler" is a pivotal point in *Doctor Who* history.

The four-part serial is a pivotal one for classic *Doctor Who*. Until this point, the series had maintained a clear distinction between the sci-fi stories and the historical ones. With "The Time Meddler," the line begins to blur a bit with another time traveler trying to interfere in the natural course of Earth history.

In this case, it's the Meddling Monk, a fellow time traveler who shares the same home planet as the Doctor, who has decided that he'll tweak English and world history a bit by using atomic bazookas to ward off the Vikings at Stamford Bridge on 1066. With Harold's troops not weary from the battle there, followed by a march to Hastings, world history will unfold in a slightly different pattern. The Monk is also filling the time period with historical anachronisms from a record player to give the illusion he's not alone in the monastery to a toaster and electric griddle for preparing food.

Adapted from the original four-part serial by Dennis Spooner, Robinson's adaptation is fairly faithful to the original script. Robinson inserts a few scenes that weren't possible on the budget of the time as well as confirming a few things that the original production was a bit more cautious in addressing.

As an audio book, "The Time Meddler" is a lot of fun. Purvis is clearly having a great time bringing the story to life and his take on the various participants is a delight. He does a good impression of the first Doctor and Vicki as well as captured some of the mischievous elements of Peter Butterworth's performance as the Meddling Monk.

Martin Milhomme says

Another fun adventure featuring the first doctor. One day, I will read all 100+ target novelizations.

Daniel Kukwa says

Finally got around to this, one of the few Target novelizations I never had a chance to read. I'm sad to say it's the most disappointing of Nigel Robinson's four early-years adaptation...primarily because of its lack of ambition. His novelizations of "The Edge of Destruction" and "The Sensorites" display a gorgeous talent to broaden & deepen both plot and character; his novelization of "The Underwater Menace" turns a piece of B-movie shlock into something exciting and fun. But "The Time Meddler" is primarily a straightforward transcription, with a few bits and bytes thrown in. Perfectly readable and professional, but it doesn't reach for the glory of the other Robinson novelizations.

Iain Hamilton says

Really enjoyed the Doctor's this first encounter with another Time Lord. That said you are left wondering

what happened to the Monk. Sure someone has covered it off somewhere else and I have just missed it, but surely he has re-generations too?

Equally, it's extremely unlikely that a Time Lord who left Gallifrey fifty years after the doctor had used all of his isn't it? Although appreciate that with time travel it is quite possible possible. Sure someone will fill me in.

Denis Southall says

Typical plot where Dr and companions get split up and separated from the Tardis. The Monk is an interesting character and the story is set in Northumberland in 1066. Not the strongest plot but fairly well written. Lots of nice historical and contemporary cultural references.

stormhawk says

The Doctor's first encounter with another Time Lord is a rollicking adventure in a small Saxon village in England. The internal musings of a Saxon housewife seem as out of time, though as our travellers. Vicki, Steven, and the Doctor unravel a mystery and seek to set the timeline back in place ... will they succeed? It's not really a spoiler to say that The Doctor will triumph, is it?

Nicholas Whyte says

[http://nhw.livejournal.com/1024712.html#cutid3\[return\]\[return\]](http://nhw.livejournal.com/1024712.html#cutid3[return][return])I have been underwhelmed by Robinson's previous efforts, so I wasn't especially looking forward to this. But in fact Dennis Spooner's script is irrepressible, and for once Robinson rounds off a few corners without grinding the story down. Unexpectedly enjoyable.

Matthew Goode ? says

Okay read, though a bit violent. There is some quite extreme sexual violence, for a Doctor Who book (not explicit), and no one seems to actually care about the woman affected (in the sense of giving her support for the horrors she has just been through), just to seek revenge for "damaging the goods" - I know it's a patriarchal society (of 1066 England), but at least the Doctor could be more compassionate, and not so interested in mead. Don't worry, some violent vengeance is served toward the end! Hoo raa! (sarcasm). Otherwise, enjoyable.

Mel says

This was another good target novelisation. Nigel put a lot of effort into what everyone was thinking and their motivations to round out the characterisation. I thought he did a particularly good job with Vicki and I

enjoyed how much she was exasperated with Steven! I liked this story as it was an interesting mixture of historical and shadowy figure. More like a modern pseudo-historical with people from outside the time causing trouble. I'd come across the "meddling monk" before in later Big Finish audios but I liked the fact that he wasn't really evil just kinda naive. I thought it was also quite shocking to have a Doctor Who adventure with rape and murder! (Though done in such a way that you could overlook what happened to the poor Saxon woman if you weren't aware of such things).

Andy Simmons says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It's yet another classic Hartnell era story which seems to consist of the characters running around, getting split up and captured and so forth. The writing is pretty good though and the character of the Time Meddler himself shone through quite clearly. He was a very interesting character and came across as larger than life. However, I do remember the original episodes and Peter Butterworth's performance was very good so that may have influenced my reading.

This is the first of the stories Dr Who stories to feature new companions after the departure of Ian and Barbara and is set in 1066, where the Meddling Monk is intent of changing history to ensure that King Harold won the Battle of Hastings. Interestingly, this is the first instance of the Doctor encountering another member of his own race and I liked the way they avoided explaining exactly who/what the Doctor and the Monk were as this had obviously not been written at that point.

All in all this is a well written story of a rather mediocre plot but the characters are very well presented and it's well worth reading if you enjoy the early Doctor Who's.
