



Doctor Who: Divided Loyalties

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To most, the entity known as the Celestial Toymaker is an abstract pan-universal force, whose powers, origins and intentions are unknown. To a select few the Toymaker is a god, a being to be worshipped, without whom there would be no existence. But to others, the Toymaker is the embodiment of evil, a force to be thwarted at every possible juncture. Aeons past, the Time Lords of Gallifrey tried to comprehend the Toymaker, and the role this force played in the cosmos. To one group of young Time Lords centuries later, understanding the Toymaker represented a goal, a mission.

Doctor Who: Divided Loyalties Details

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: Divided Loyalties for online ebook

Robert Smith? says

consults manual

How do you make this thing give a zero rating again?

Daniel Kukwa says

The framing story is actually quite enjoyable; being a fifth Doctor fan I like seeing the TARDIS crew dealing with their demons and learning to be a family. But the rest of it? Oh dear...this is just too much fanwank, even for this rabid fanboy. It's bad enough to try so hard to make a stepping stone between "The Celestial Toymaker" and the unmade story "The Nightmare Fair" when it really wasn't necessary...but the story of the Doctor's younger days on Gallifrey just stretches my tolerance to breaking point. It's not quite as bad as its reputation, but there's a lot you have to stomach in order to reach the good stuff.

Sophie says

The Good:

- Great insight into the Tardis team (Adric, Nyssa, and Tegan)
- Great villain!
- Plenty of interesting information about the Doctor's academy days & Gallifrey.
- Complex plot that is well delivered & memorable.

I honestly have nothing bad to say about this book. I got everything I was looking for and more.

Doug says

Okay, not especially good. But hardly the utter catastrophe that some folks make it out to be. It's still better than most of Eric Saward's prose.

John Wilson says

:Cue Graham Chapman in a general's uniform: "I'm afraid this book is getting quite silly..."

Angela says

The Doctor goes up against the Celestial Toymaker. This time its the 5th Doctor with Adric, Nyssa and Tegan. There's not many books written with that team and that made this enjoyable. Yes, it is slightly bogged down with continuity in the Doctors flashback to his academy days. It's also decent on character plots, particularly Adric. A good read.

Charles Berman says

One star but marvelously entertaining in its so-bad-it's-good way.

Syrdarya says

This is the first BBC Past Doctor Adventures which I've read. I picked it up because I love the Fifth Doctor and the Celestial Toymaker. The book started out really well but towards the end was bogged down by all the main characters having their own separate experiences, complete with a full set of secondary characters for each story thread. I will probably reread this book when I've rewatched some of the Fourth and Fifth Doctor episodes, because that might help me sort through a lot of the extra material in this book.

Kate Sherrod says

This should have been great, because HELLO CELESTIAL TOYMAKER, but the author was way more interested in imposing the world's longest and most tedious flashback, to the Doctor's student days (yawn), devoting over a third of the book to it, than in doing anything much with this fantastic villain.

What stars it gets are largely due to Tegan. Which, no one it's as surprised as I am about that!

David Layton says

Many readers really dislike this book. I was not quite that put off by it. The book is basically in three parts. Part 1 is the set up, where Doctor 5 and his first crew get caught up in a situation involving a planet being guarded by a space station on which no one in the crew really cares. Russell spends quite a bit of time getting into characters' heads, showing us what he thinks the TARDIS crew really think of each other, and most of it is not nice. The Celestial Toymaker is hanging about, but his exact relationship to what else is happening is somewhat elusive. At this point, the novel is fairly straightforward Doctor Who fair with a few of Russell's typical revisionist tendencies. Part 2 is a long flashback to the Doctor's time at the academy on Gallifrey, meant to explain how he became familiar with the Toymaker who shows up in The Celestial Toymaker first Doctor episode. The Gallifrey sequence is probably the weakest part of the novel, mostly because here Russell lets loose his penchant for feeding red meat to the fans. Thus, we find out that pretty much all of the various rogue Time Lords the Doctor later encounters - The Master, The Rani, The Meddling Monk, Drax, and so on - not only went to the same school (no surprise there as we have only ever heard of one academy

on Gallifrey), but were all part of the same collection of misfits who hung out together and got into trouble together. They were all friends of some kind. This is really wholly unnecessary other than to save Russell the trouble of having to invent new characters. All of this slowly leads up to The Doctor's first encounter with The Toymaker. Part 3 returns the reader to the "present" and a showdown between The Doctor and The Toymaker. So, the novel is really dragged down by Russell's desire to throw into his story as many Doctor Who references as he can, not just to prior Doctor Who TV episodes, but also to prior Doctor Who novels and to his own Doctor Who novels and dramas. Had Russell bypassed all of that and stuck to the story, "Divided Loyalties" would have been a much better book than it is.

N says

Essentially two books in one: a snarky, fun adventure featuring the Celestial Toymaker, and a history lesson about the Doctor's Academy days.

The book gives lot of attention to Adric, Tegan and Nyssa, really getting into their heads. The humans-of-the-week are nice as well, if just a little bit cardboard.

The extended Gallifrey flashback, prompted by Fivey taking drugs (again), stars not only the Doctor but also Borusa, the Master, the Rani, the Monk, the War Chief, Drax, Runcible, and... Vansell! I've spent the past five years wondering why the Doctor was so uncharacteristically callous towards him in Neverland, and this book finally explains what happened between them.

The story has delicious world-building, some really daring insights into the Doctor's past, lots of skin colour diversity (hello, black President of Gallifrey!) and some good nightmare fuel to boot. Really happy that I read it — essential reading for Doctor Who lore nerds.

Jamie says

Wow. What a book. Giving more of an insight into the Celestial Toymaker, the Rani and many more. Plus exploring something of the Doctor before we originally meet him in *An Unearthly Child*. Some Doctor Who Books can struggle halfway through, but not this one

Travis says

Another big, cosmic story where someone tries to tie together a bunch of Doctor Who history and make it form a whole.

The Celestial Toymaker is a godlike character (similar to Star Trek's Q) that likes to play games with people and planets. A great character that should have been used more.

The main story is a bit weak, but I didn't mind as I love the Toymaker, the use of Who history was clever and there was some nice characterization of the Doctor and company. They felt like a bunch of people thrown together who are having some friction as they learn to live with each other.

The flashback/interlude featuring the young Doctor and friends as students on Galifry was mildly

entertaining but went on too long and was a bit annoying as most of the Time Lord Renagades don't have names, just titles.

an uneven book, but it has enough good parts to get you through the rough ones.
