



## Doctor Who and the Crusaders

*David Whitaker*

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## **Doctor Who and the Crusaders** David Whitaker

The first Doctor meets Richard the Lionheart in the Third Crusade, in a new fascimile edition of the long out-of-print original 1960s edition. When Barbara is captured by the Saracens and later kidnapped by the monstrous El Akir, Ian appeals to Richard for help, but despite having achieved a splendid victory over Saladin at Arauf the English King has his own troubles and cannot assit. So Ian sets out to rescue Barbara alone while the Doctor becomes involves in the intrigues of the English court.

## **Doctor Who and the Crusaders Details**

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# From Reader Review Doctor Who and the Crusaders for online ebook

## Emilou says

This was kind of a boring episode. The Doctor didn't even do anything. Most of the action came from Ian and Barbara. I'm also getting a little sick of how all Barbara seems to be is a pretty face and a damsel in distress. It seems all the episodes are centered around rescuing her.

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## Pam says

I was hoping to read about one of the lost Doctor Who stories by reading this book. I love Hartnell and I love when Doctor Who goes back in time so I was excited to start it.

I hadn't gotten very far into the book when I got very sick with bacterial meningitis and ended up in a coma in the hospital. My aunt came to stay with me and found this book on my bedside table at home, so she brought it to the hospital to read to me.

I can remember her reading sections of the book to me after I woke up from a coma, but I was still struggling to get fully back to reality. She would read it while holding my hand, and I would lie there with my eyes closed trying to focus on Doctor Who and my breathing.

Needless to say, I don't remember much of the plot, and I can't bring myself to try to read it again. I just take heart that the Doctor and my aunt were with me in the hospital, during probably the worst time of my life.

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## Nathalie says

Leuk boek. Een echt eerste Doctor Who.

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## Andrew says

This is a really enjoyable book.

A the information at the back of the book states, it does differ in many ways from the televised version, and was also one of the first three Doctor Who novels ever published.

So what makes it so good? Well, the first thing is that, apart from our lead characters and their method of transport, this is not a Science Fiction story at all. Once the characters are enmeshed in events, there are no gimmicks to help them out. It is a story about how the character deal with the situation they are in.

Well, actually, to be really honest it's a story about Ian and Barbara. The Doctor and Vicki appear at the start and at the end, and for one chapter in the middle. The reason that this works is simply this: Ian and Barbara are great characters and you really feel for them. The story does suggest that they are in love in a way the TV show never did (although reading between the lines the actors clearly thought it ought to go that way, especially the way they play a certain scene in the opening episode of The Romans!) but even on TV the

subtext was always there.

The historical characters are interesting, Richard the Lionheart is especially believable, as are Saladin and Saphadin. In fact the only person that is a bit of a cartoon villain is El Akir, with his mad cackling and harem and scarred face. But what ultimately happens to him is rather gratifying, and he never gets quite as far as being a moustache twirler!

This is definitely one of the better books in the range of novelisations, a shame David Whittaker only wrote a couple, it would have been nice to see more from him.

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### **Nicholas Whyte says**

<http://nhw.livejournal.com/1022168.ht...>[return]Doctor Who and the Crusaders is the only one of the 1960s Who novels to have been drawn from a four-part rather than seven-part story, and Whitaker makes full use of the extra space this gives him to expand on his own original material. His opening paragraph is pretty memorable:[return][return]*As swiftly and as silently as a shadow, Doctor Who's Space and Time ship, Tardis, appeared on a succession of planets each as different as the pebbles on a beach, stayed awhile and then vanished, as mysteriously as it had come. And whatever alien world it was that received him and his fellow travellers, and however well or badly they were treated, the Doctor always set things to rights, put down injustice, encouraged dignity, fair treatment and respect.* [return][return]Despite the solecisms of 'Doctor Who' and 'the Tardis' (which are fortunately not repeated later in the text), it's a good start, and the whole story feels more embedded in an ongoing narrative than does Doctor Who and the Zarbi. This is partly because Whitaker makes the Ian/Barbara relationship even more explicitly romantic than in his previous book. But it's also because there is a good sense of geography, of this Palestine, despite its rather implausible woodlands, being a place with real towns filled with merchants, robbers and warlords.[return]The biggest loss from the TV version is the rhythmic, indeed iambic, structure of some of the set pieces; but I guess that would not read as well as it sounded. However, Ian's humanistic discussion with Saladin, and the decency and chivalry of the Saracen leaders, remain high points of the story. Well worth hunting down if you can find it.

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### **Mel says**

This was another wonderful historical for the team of the first Doctor, Ian and Barbara. After reading the "modern" novelisation of the first Doctor it was so much better to go back and read one of his actual adventures. To be fair though this was really an Ian and Barbara adventure rather than a Doctor who adventure. The Doctor and Vicki had very minor roles and mostly it was Ian and Barbara (who were in LOVE!) who had most of the action and adventures. What was great about this was that they portrayed the Arab characters as equally just (if not more so) than the English ones. They were quick to point out all the vaults of the English kinds, and the way both groups treated their women. It felt like it was going out of its way to be a balanced historical, which was very impressive. Definitely one I'd recommend.

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### **Ken says**

The Crusades is one of the few First Doctor historical's that just doesn't seem to click with me.

As this is the third and final novelisation from the 1960's it's quite telling that this was written before the

main Target range was launched.

Whittaker is allowed to tell he's story without the restricted page count. Even though I'm not a big fan of the story, this does lead to some wonderful descriptive prose.

It's just a shame that they didn't novelise more around this time, as I would have loved to have read more from Whittaker.

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## Hiram Lester says

*Doctor Who and the Crusaders* is the novelization of the Hartnell story, *The Crusade*, a story which is partially missing. This is the last of the original three pre-Target novelizations which also included *Doctor Who in an Exciting Adventure with the Daleks* (later renamed to *Doctor Who and the Daleks*) and *Doctor Who and the Zarbi*.

I fairly recently watched the serial *The Crusade*, so I was able to compare it somewhat with this novelization, which was written by David Whitaker who also wrote the novelization *Doctor Who and the Daleks* and they share many similarities. Both were intended to be standalone novels before it was decided to do a whole series of novelizations. Both novelizations also had a romantic interest between Ian and Barbara. While *Doctor Who and the Daleks* is completely standalone and even offers another origin story for how Ian and Barbara started travelling with the Doctor, *Doctor Who and the Crusaders* at least **acknowledges** the rest of the series and mentions several other televised adventures both in the prologue and also when Barbara is talking to Saladin (as she does in the serial). Interestingly enough, this serial takes place immediately after *The Web Planet*, and the novelizations were released in the same order as the serials, which is rare for the Doctor Who novelizations.

Compared to the serial on which it was based, the story is essentially the same, but many of the events are rearranged: for instance, Ian doesn't get staked out in the sand until much later in the story. There are also a number of events which occur differently in the book and in the serial: for instance, Ian never meets Saladin in the serial. The book is also much more philosophical: there is a whole discussion in the prologue about how the Doctor can change history on some planets, but not on Earth (they're really referring to **our** version of recorded history). Ian also has a discussion with Saladin about Christianity versus Islam versus Buddhism, etc. Some of the events in the book are probably more graphic than what would have been allowed on TV: Barbara actually gets whipped (to the point of needing salve on her wounds) in the book while she's in El Akir's harem.

This book is one of several that have been reprinted recently by BBC Books. In these, they add a celebrity introduction and a section called "Between the Lines" which compares and contrasts the serial with the book. These make interesting reading as well, although the celebrity introduction in this one was not as good as the one in *Doctor Who and the Daleks*: the author admits he's never read any of the novelizations.

In all, an enjoyable book. These three pre-Target novelizations were reprinted as the first of Target's line of novelizations in 1973, after which they started producing new novelizations in 1974 which continued until 1994 and they novelized almost all of the original stories. A dozen of these have been reprinted by BBC Books recently (6 last year and 6 this year), and I believe they have plans to reprint more. I certainly hope so as I'm enjoying them and buying them all as ebooks.

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## **Paul Tokarski says**

I couldn't put the book down

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## **Viola says**

I liked the televised version of this story so I was excited to read it in book form. Sadly it didn't work out too well: I found myself bored and even ended up skimming some parts. And it's only 163 pages!

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## **Jeff Correll says**

Not much of the Doctor in this one.  
It was an OK read, actually more of a 2.5 star book.

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## **Michael says**

In the early development of the world's longest running Sci-fi tv series the producers set out to educate as well as entertain. So every so often the monsters and alien planets made way for a purely Terran historic story that usually involved the Doctor and crew getting separated from the Tardis early on, followed by a tricky entanglement in established history. The BBC excelled at this sort of thing. Unfortunately most kids preferred the weird worlds, ray guns and Daleks to Marco Polo, The Aztecs and massacred Huguenots. Schooling was for weekdays. Saturdays were for dreaming. I'll admit that I didn't see the original broadcast of The Crusade but I did have problems as an 8 or 9 year old with David Whitaker's novelisation of his own script. I made several attempts to start this one before abandoning it, but eventually I persevered, got into it and indeed enjoyed it. Perhaps it was the weighty prologue that balked me... I don't know. More likely is that it was just slightly ahead of my years. Even today the long conversation the Doctor has, (not present in the original script) trying to get to grips with the immutability of time is still pretty hard going and not a little confusing with its rock climbing analogies accompanied by Clive of India, Rasputin, Kennedy, Lincoln, Hitler and Napoleon. I'm still confused how it all ties in with how certain Earth history can't be changed due to what is right and wrong, and how it all ties in with wondering what would happen in a situation where two historic figures opposed each other, both for their own right reasons.

As a whole though I can look at the book today as something quite brilliant. In the entire Target range I don't think there is another title that expands the script so much. Whitaker does a great job of bringing Richard the Lionheart, Saladin and a host of supporting characters to life, with enough tangled scheming, adventure, richness of description and sparky dialogue to keep any student of history with a yearning for adventure happy. Perhaps there are a scene or two which are a little too protracted but I think it just underlines how much Whitaker was enjoying the chance to explore the subject matter. Half of the episode are still lost, episode one having been found in 1999, so reading this is a great way of filling that season 2 gap. This new edition includes an introduction by Charlie Higson, original artwork, a feature on author David Whitaker and between the lines article about the script to novelisation process.

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## Daniel says

I enjoyed the story quite a bit. The setting of the Crusades was a great one. The book had some dated terms for certain races/peoples, but it was not overall too dated or racist when dealing with both sides of the Crusades. I think this is because it is a Doctor Who story and is hopeful about humanity similar to Star Trek's general outlook.

The Crusading Christians and Defending Muslims both had strong good characters and bad, evil characters. Just like any normal sample of random people.

The characters were built well enough and felt like they had depth even without pages of exposition.

It was a good read overall!

**osoi says**[illegible][illegible][illegible]

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annikeh.net

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## Arrun says

Doctor Who and the Crusaders was originally published in 1965 as part of a trilogy of books by Frederik Muller Limited (other books were "Doctor Who in an exciting adventure with the Daleks", "Doctor Who and the Zarbi"). The whole trilogy has recently been rereleased, however this time by BBC Books in the style of the 60s originals.

In terms of faithfulness to the much sought after originals, BBC books has done a marvellous job. They are very good reproductions indeed. Right down to the spine and rear cover details. This is about as close to the originals as you can get without spending a hundred or so pounds for the genuine copies. Not to mention being able to read them happily without fear that the spine might crack in half and ruin your investment!

I had always liked the televised version of the crusade and this was my first time reading the novelisation of that story. It differs slightly from the broadcasted version but mainly in ways that simply add to the story in ways that probably were not possible for the BBC budget to realise at the time on screen or things that may not have been allowed to be shown to younger viewers. In the book for instance, El Akir uses physical violence against Barbara, which is only implied in the TV story.

On the whole the book is a great treat for anyone who is keen on 60s Doctor Who or simply the historical Stories from that period.

Its a great shame that the BBC decided to cancel the purely historical stories, as there is so much left that could have been explored.

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