



Doctor Who and the Curse of Peladon

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Again, the terrifying cry rang out. The Doctor quickened his pace along the gloomy tunnels of the castle. Suddenly, from the darkness lumbered the mighty Aggedor, Royal Beast and Protector of the Kingdom of Peladon!

The Doctor fumbled in his pocket. Would the device work? As he trained the spinning mirror on the eyes of Aggedor, the terrible claws came closer and closer...

What is the secret behind the killings on the Planet of Peladon? Is Aggedor seeking revenge because the King of Peladon wants his kingdom to become a member of the Galactic Federation? Will the Doctor escape the claws of Aggedor and discover the truth?

Doctor Who and the Curse of Peladon Details

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Author : Brian Hayles

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From Reader Review Doctor Who and the Curse of Peladon for online ebook

Daniel Kukwa says

I have one complaint about this otherwise excellent novelization: it all but ignores the romantic tension between King Peladon & Jo Grant that helps to make "The Curse of Peladon" so special on TV. It's an author choice I just don't agree with; it robs the story of an extra level, and I can only imagine that Brian Hayles didn't want to have to explain to the contingent of younger readers what might have been sparking between the Doctor's companion & the King in the story. It's the only black mark on an otherwise memorable work from the first generation of Target "Doctor Who" novelizations from the mid 1970s, but it's a significant one...at least, for me.

Alan says

A short fun read ?

Mel says

This has to be one of my all time favourite Doctor Who episodes. There are interesting aliens, lots of plot twists, the bad guys who aren't the bad guys, diplomacy and the idea of freedom over religious superstition. There is also Patrick Troughton's son in tights. Jo being totally amazing, climbing mountains in high heels, attacking monsters with torches, brokering intergalactic peace, rescuing herself and not screaming or needing the doctor to save her once. The book must be based on an early script instead of the shooting script as it has some extra scenes and dialogues that aren't in the show. The good of these include Jo going to the King's champion and pleading her case for him to let the Doctor win their battle, and the Doctor discussing weapons with the Ice Warriors. The bad included Arcturus firing his laser when you first meet him, which makes him seem more like a bad guy and reveals too early his offensive capabilities. The description of Alpha Centauri is lovely, instead of an awkward penis type thing in a cloak s/he's a lovely shimmering octopus creature changing colour with moods although they don't have the line about him/her being gender neutral. Hayles also does a better job of getting inside the characters and their thoughts than Terrance Dicks usually does. All told a very nice adaptation of the story.

Richard Noble says

I enjoyed the audiobook of this more than the text version. the narration, music and sound effects were all excellent.

Sarah says

Not much to say about this one. It's original writer Brian Hayles' perfectly good novelization of his own perfectly good TV serial - and, because it's one of the earliest novelizations, he's taken the opportunity to flesh out the backgrounds of the characters and the situations a little bit. I'm not sure Peladon comes over as a more realistic society, but King Peladon himself carries a bit more weight when you learn some of his childhood, his relationship with his mother, and so on. The big change - the one that everyone remembers - is that here, Hayles is free to depict Alpha Centauri without the limitations of budget. He has fully-functional tentacles, a "watery eye," and the ability to change color depending on his emotions. He's a walking mood ring!

David Troughton reads the book well; his Ice Warriors are excellent and his high-pitched, modulated Alpha Centauri is certainly very funny.

Christian Petrie says

To be up front, Peladon is another setting I have not been to interested in. I know it is another classic planet in Doctor Who, but I have just never clicked with it. So in starting the Curse of Peladon, I was not looking forward to it.

The major issue is the continuity error at the start. I thought this was due to the novelization, but it was in the TV show. The Doctor managed to work the TARDIS. He is in his exile by the Time Lords, how is this possible? Of course I did read in the TARDIS Wiki page that it is later hinted that the Time Lords were behind it.

Okay, that is the major issue out of the way. So how was this book? Not bad. The best way to describe this story is medieval politics set in a science fiction setting.

It is interesting to see this being plotted out. For once we don't have aliens taking over a world by force, but negotiations between one planet to join a federation. You see why it is important, but also why others are opposed to it.

Also, seeing the return of the Ice Warriors, not as bad guys is an interesting twist as well. This story has some parts that do make it interesting.

The downside is it is all superficial. There is not more exploration into this. Granted it is due to being limited in time on what they could on TV.

From my memory, I think that is why I remember the book Legacy being good, the depth of intrigue. My opinion on Peladon is revised where I don't hate it, but it is interesting to see the groundwork laid for the future stories to take place there. A decent book overall.

On a side note during the reading of this I listened to the Big Finish Audio, The Bride of Peladon which sees the 5th Doctor returning to Peladon. Interesting to see some later effects of this story while reading at the same time.

Julian White says

pdf of 1980 reprint, 1974 sbn and 159 pages (but no illustrations)

I see that I wasn't too impressed with the novelisation of the sequel - this is better though there are some slight differences from the televised version (noted at the end - which mentions the illustrations, sadly missing from this pdf).

Travis says

I love the Peladon stories from Doctor Who. The idea of an alien world at a medevil level of technology being asked to join a galactic federation and having a bunch of alien ambassadors visit is cool enough, but then you add in the Doctor and it's just that much better.

A fun sci-fi romp. Wish they'd done more with Peladon.

Joni says

What can I say? I've never actually seen the actual episode, but this made me laugh like novelisations rarely do.

Nick says

While there were minor flaws in the story, they seem to have been in the original script, so they were not added by Brian Hayles in the fleshing out of the story.

What made this story interesting for me is that it was an attempt to show a future in which humans and the Ice Warriors of Mars more-or-less co-existed peacefully. The aliens were not all good or all evil, and Peladon is clearly an old Earth colony of some odd sort, since they are apparently cross-fertile with Earth humans.

Since he had written an earlier story of the Ice Warriors, this helped to flesh them out, and the new species he created for this story were interesting as well. The culture of Peladon was actually the weakest part of the story, since we see so little of it. The king, his advisors and the guards were about it.

Questions came up in my mind, such as why the king lives in a wildly isolated setting, in a culture where rapid communications ought to be difficult. That sort of cuts down on the ruling and control parts of your job as king.

It is a pity that Brian Hayles died so young, because he might have contributed other interesting stories beyond the few that he did write. Now I will have to track down the others that he wrote, as well as the obscure Doug McClure SF movie that he wrote shortly before his death.

Nicholas Whyte says

[http://nhw.livejournal.com/1037395.html#cutid2\[return\]\[return\]](http://nhw.livejournal.com/1037395.html#cutid2[return][return]) Hayles adapted his own TV script again; and it is generally a good version of a good story, with the excellent point that Alpha Centauri is much less silly on the page than on the screen. I felt that Hepesh, the high priest, was a little more three-dimensional in the original but basically it is a good effort.

Keiran Thegreat says

This is the soundtrack of the television story Monster Of Peladon from the Doctor Who television programme. To some extent this story works better as audio because the ambitious character design and plot is not restricted by budget if imagination replaces props and costumes (to be fair though this story did work very well on television). Katy Manning narrates wonderfully and has some lovely comments to add in a short interview included on the second CD.

The plot revolves around the king of a medieval style planet fighting traditionalism to try to lead his people into a new intergalactic age. There are some excellent characters in this story such as Grun the champion and Ssorg the Ice Warrior.

Generally considered to be of the finest Third Doctor stories it is no wonder that this audio version is excellent.

Steven says

1 of the Jon Pertwee classics complete with cuddly monster ...

Frederick Lopez says

Doctor Who and the Curse of Peladon is a novel written by Brian Hayles, based on a script that he wrote. The novel was published in 1974, two years after the script was copyrighted.

The Doctor cons his way onto a committee reviewing whether a Renaissance-level planet should be allowed to join a Galactic Federation. The decision process is fatally complicated by a priest who threatens the delegates with the sacred royal beast. Will the Doctor and his companion be able to fast-talk their way out of this one?

The most important thing to know about a Doctor Who book is if it is set during a part of the Doctor's life that you are familiar with. Curse of Peladon is set during the Doctor's third regeneration, when he was played by John Pertwee. In this book he's traveling with a contemporaryish woman named Jo.

The prose in this book is heavy with the adjectives, and the action is somewhat over-described. The key example is page 108, a wall of text describing a combat between the Doctor and the King's champion. The elaborate verbiage gives the novel an immersive feel, but it is difficult to escape the suspicion that Hayles is padding out a pretty thin script. As it is, the novel comes out to 142 pages.

The pictures in this book are pretty nifty. They are done in a black-and-white line style. Each one takes up an entire page.

The villainous priest expressed concern that his planet would be exploited as a result of joining the federation, and I really wish that this sort of colonial and economic anxiety was more prominent in the novel. Given that this book was written in the seventies, when many of Britain's former colonies in Africa were gaining independence, it's not difficult to see a post-colonial subtext. The reference to a 'developing planet' only confirms this suspicion.

Overall, I'd describe this book as okay. I've read better books dealing with the complex topic that is Doctor Who. I'd recommend Stephen Baxter's *Wheel of Ice*, and or Jim Mortimore's *Campaign* before reading this.

Min says

The programme audio recordings with linking narration are definitely my favorites as it is like almost being there.

This specific episode, first broadcast when the UK was entering the ECC, and the strife then to the commentary on the times of today when the UK has voted to leave the ECC, with the same issues over tradition and progress. The sub-plot of science and religion only a ruse to keep the young king in line. This presents a moral/ethical undercurrent that isn't heavy-handed that kept the story still enjoyable.

I would place this television episode in my top 20.

For unclear reasons, there is a minor blooper recording of the reading of a moment from the first episode in the midst of the audio.

One portion I appreciated in my childhood, is the gender-neutral character having an unexpected voice, and the Ice Warriors are become peaceful, rather than war-mongering.

As in previous editions, there is the interview at the end of the recording with the narrator/ former companion of the Doctor, this one Jo Grant/ Katy Manning.
