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## **Doctor Who: Vampire Science** Jonathan Blum , Kate Orman

In the days when the Time Lords were young, their war with the Vampires cost trillions of lives on countless worlds. Now the Vampires have been sighted again, in San Francisco.

Some want to coexist with humans, using genetic engineering in a macabre experiment to find a new source of blood. But some would rather go out in a blaze of glory - and UNIT's attempts to contain them could provoke another devastating war.

The Doctor strikes a dangerous bargain, but even he might not be able to keep the city from getting caught in the crossfire. While he finds himself caught in a web of old feuds and high-tech schemes, his new companion Sam finds out just how deadly travelling with the Doctor can be.

## **Doctor Who: Vampire Science Details**

Date : Published July 7th 1998 by BBC Books

ISBN : 9780563405665

Author : Jonathan Blum , Kate Orman

Format : Paperback 288 pages

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

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# From Reader Review Doctor Who: Vampire Science for online ebook

## Igor says

The 2nd book in the EDA series is a marked improvement over the first. I mean, sure, The Eight Doctors wasn't really a hard mark to shoot over but even when viewed on its own, this ss an okay book. It would have benefited from being a bit shorter (say 250 instead 300 pages) because around the middle the plot begins to sag a bit and a shorter word count would have meant a tighter plot, more dynamic. But the Doctor is spot on and the companion is coming up nicely and the vampires are - well, they're okay and nothing more really. Not really interesting as DW villains. Not really interesting as villains generally what with being so overused and de-fanged. Although, vampire squirrels. That was...weeeeird. Good weird.

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## Sarah says

Skipping through this quite merrily, more of a ticking off of various tropes rather than the full-baked crazy of later doors EDAs, but this is only the second one and they've got to do SOMETHING after the Eight Doctors throws Sam in the TARDIS and runs away laughing.

### TROPE LIST:

- Doctor described as having 'elven features'!
- Vamps are as of yet the sort of vamps who appear in the background of the Bronze. Maybe they will get a bit more Great Old Ones towards the end? Doc Who books have a GREAT history of vamps in the Missing Adventures so it would be disappointing if they merged into Buffy-lite rather than sticking to their original, pleasingly ridiculous past.
- BUT! as of yet no-one has turned into a bat.

Still, this is a book I can cope with reading before 8am so not bad innit.

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## Ken says

The Doctor and Sam battle Vampires in San Francisco. Following up from the nostalgic romp in the previous book, the range really starts to have a distinct feel to it.

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## Samantha V says

The story and the characters saved this book for me. The writing wasn't the best in the world but it was bearable. The only mention of POC in this book was when they were breaking into a house and that just didn't sit well with me. Other than those small errors, I really enjoyed reading about the eighth doctor

adventure with Sam and others.

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## **Harry Williams says**

(UPDATED REVIEW)

Quite an enjoyable book. This was a novel I was really looking forward to and I heard a lot of good things about it. When finished with the book, I part of me really liked it but another part of me found it to be rather average.

Vampire Science is the second novel in the EDA range after the first novel, The Eight Doctors which seemed to have received a marmite reception. Vampire Science however, seemed to be getting a lot of praise so this intrigued me. I can sort of understand why it's liked so much but personally I would class this book as just above average in terms of enjoyment.

The characterisations of The Eighth Doctor are pretty well done and they both have some interesting moments in the book. I've heard not a lot of people like Sam as a companion but I don't think she's that bad. A lot of the authors have said that they struggle with the eighth doctors characterisation as when the EDA's were being written, they only had the 1996 TV movie for reference. The story itself is pretty good and has an interesting premise. Some fans aren't too keen on the whole vampire idea in Doctor Who but I think it works quite well.

Overall Vampire Science is a decent story, definitely not a bad one either. If you're a fan of vampires then I'm sure you'll love this book!

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## **Peer Lenné says**

So, das zweite Buch der EDAs geschafft.

Vampire Science gefiel mir nicht ganz so gut wie der erste Band, was aber vor allem daran liegt, dass ich Vampire im Allgemeinen, und die Folge State of Decay (auf der das Buch ja lose basiert) im Speziellen, nicht besonders viel anfangen kann.

Dabei war das Buch nichtmal schlecht geschrieben und der achte Doctor kommt so rüber wie man ihn sich vorstellt. Die Story ist soweit ganz gut und vermeidet die meisten Klischees mit denen man zu kämpfen hat, wenn man ein Buch über Vampire schreibt.

Was ich besonders schade fand, ist dass einem der neue Companion Sam einfach so vor die Füße geworfen wird. Im letzten Buch kam es zu einer kurzen Vorstellung und im nächsten Band ist sie schon drei Jahre mit ihm unterwegs und hadert schon wieder damit, ob sie den Doctor nun verlassen soll oder nicht. Da hätte ich mir eine ausführlichere Vorstellung gewünscht.

Ansonsten ist das Buch aber durchaus lesbar und wenn man Vampire und Doctor Who mag, sollte man es mal gelesen haben.

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## **Daniel Kukwa says**

Two authors set out to write the definitive mission statement of the Paul McGann incarnation of the

Doctor...and succeed beyond everyone's expectations. "Vampire Science" is brilliant on all levels: it's a funny, outrageous, poignant novel, full of nail-biting moments, and passages that will leave you sighing with contentment. Skip the disappointing "official" start of the BBC 8th Doctor line (that would be the utterly forgettable "The Eight Doctors") and make THIS book #1...you won't be disappointed.

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### **Christopher Buchanan says**

I've often felt that vampires don't really fit in the Doctor Who universe but this story pulled it off very well. They played around with the vampire mythos and worked it well without making it sound too weird or stretched. I particularly like the way the 8th Doctor was portrayed as a frenetic and childish genius. The little bits where he's making breakfast and burning the toast and sewing on buttons and such were really neat. Kind of gives a special insight into how his mind works. Sam's character really comes to life in this one as well. She was pretty much a cardboard cut out in the previous adventure, 'The 8 Doctors' (reviewed that one too, I didn't like it.) and it was nice to see her get fleshed out into an honest to goodness companion. The supporting characters were developed really well too. You had a good sense of motivation for the heroes and the villains, although I will say Slake was a little cliché. Over-all, very entertaining story with some really good characters and a good bit of humor worked in as well. Vampire crack squirrels. Ha! Loved that.

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### **France-Andrée says**

I'm reading the eighth Doctor's series of books in order this is the third (counting the novelized version of the movie) and because of the word "vampire" in the title I stalled my reading of this series for months. I'm not attracted to the vampire lore to say I never would be a lie, I read plenty of books within the genre when I was in my early twenties, but now almost two decades later I'm passed that genre. I was surprised how much I liked this book, the vampire mythology is well thought of and The Doctor is very well realized, I enjoyed this one; it really felt like an out of breath, running through half the story kind of episode.

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### **Tom Jones says**

I think Vampire Science is an overrated Doctor Who book.

I read it in two days and enjoyed it but when comparing to other reads I personally felt it didn't hit the level of those books and I had some negatives popping up with it.

One thing it nails the characters. The Doctor is great, Sam gets her development (as she had none in The Eight Doctors) and the supporting characters are wonderful and feel like really people with how they interact and react in these different situations.

What it lacks is action, tension and drive. The book is too centralised on character drive and it needed something else to get the plot moving. This is a vampire story as shown by the title and there is better Vampire stories out there. Slake the leader of the Vampires of this group comes across as a little annoying and not how I like vampires delivered. He's self centred, a little childish and egotistical. Delivered more to humour than something like Jago & Litefoot series 2 and 12 or State of Decay. He said all this threatening

stuff but I could never believe he could do them and it was just "all talk." Actions speak louder than words. Though there were times I have to admit. Especially when Sam's life is in danger.

Supporting Characters are perfect (when putting Slake out of the equation) but the plot was could of been better and it did lack in areas and the worse part for me was the lack of any strong drive as when in the middle of the book, I felt there was no drive and too much character focusing and not enough plot development or action.

Overall, I think it's overrated. Not bad by any means. I am however disappointment that it didn't hit my expectations considering Kate Orman's reputations is very high and she's very respected with the Doctor Who books. It's a good novel but not 10/10 that some say.  
6/10.

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### **April McCaffrey says**

Honest reviewl 3.5/4 stars.

This took me longer than expected to read. It was a very, very good book and I enjoyed the concepts of the vampire covens in San Francisco but a lot of it dragged and was slow when it didn't need to be.

I loved the characters however and there were some precious moments with the 8th doctor and Carolyn's kittens and the Butterfly room scene was beautiful.

I love Doctor Shackle too.

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### **Samuel Rooke says**

After some false starts dwelling too much in the past or on meta concerns, authors Kate Orman and Jon Blum deliver a fully-formed vision of the Eighth Doctor in "Vampire Science", a novel with a refreshing sense of simply getting on with telling a good story with good characters, instead of navel-gazing about how to define said new characters, or a new book series, or whatever else.

Where previous books defined themselves by their differences to the television movie that established Paul McGann's Eighth Doctor, Orman and Blum simply get on with writing a compelling story with him, his unique traits (as defined by them) spilling out along the way. They even graciously thank people involved with the television movie in the acknowledgements, where previous books contorted themselves in ways to try and diminish the movie. Good vibes all around.

A cheery Doctor, a meta love story between the authors of the novel, a gracious tip of the hat to the controversial television movie, everything here just exudes grace. Well, not literally "Grace", as that character from the television movie proved unable to clear the rights to use, resulting in a new character filling the place she was originally meant to fill in the novel.

Grace isn't the defining word I'd use to describe the novel though, though there's plenty of it. I'd probably use "warm". Orman and Blum's Eighth Doctor is a cuddly, warm figure, who sees relationship advice as

equally important to saving the world from dastardly vampires, who trades in ice cream instead of self-congratulatory speeches, who is more interested in hanging out with his pet butterflies and bats than defeating villains. The novel's arguably saccharine, but at least that's an actual adjective, an identity for the series and the new Doctor to have, which seems to me exactly what was needed at this point, after too many false starts of the character. The Eighth Doctor here is defined by what he does, what he is, not what he's not, or who he isn't. This isn't "the Doctor after the Seventh Doctor", this is "the Eighth Doctor", and there is a hugely important distinction there.

Examining the novel in a more retroactive, retrospective way is fascinating...the Eighth Doctor's characterisation seems to serendipitously line up with his future (in both an in-story and out-of-story sense) characterisation in other media. This is a spontaneous, chaotic, romantic Doctor lacking most of the subtle irony, detachment and world-weariness of his later audio and television depictions, which works wonderfully, given the enormously huge canvas extended media gives his character development to play out on. Whether that consistency in development is from writers amiably keeping up a dialogue with each other, productive conflict and competition across writers and mediums, or sheer luck, I don't yet know, but I'm happy with the results in any case.

Some echoes of the revived series crop up too, the Eighth Doctor's infectious enthusiasm for the hum-drum of daily life recalls the "I've never met anyone who isn't important" sentiment of the newer Doctors, the Doctor accidentally abandoning a companion before picking them back up recalls some of Steven Moffat's pet themes, the particular execution of one such case recalling a moment early in the first revived series (under Russell T. Davies' writing actually). The extent of the wilderness era's influence on the revived series will make itself known to me in due time, I'm sure, but for now these seem perhaps influences, perhaps coincidences.

"Vampire Science" is finally an effective, and perhaps more importantly a fun, start for the Eighth Doctor, and hopefully an indicator of this range's general success. I give it three butterflies, and a pair of bats.

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## **N says**

Wow! A really wonderful vampire story, and a book that perfectly sets up the Eighth Doctor's character for the rest of the novel series.

The plot is completely standalone, and would be enjoyable even for someone who doesn't know the first thing about Doctor Who. It's funny, scary and touching, with complex characters and exactly the kind of lush gothic horror atmosphere you'd expect in a vampire novel. At the same time, it's also modern and self-aware, and has just the right amount of camp. Really one of my all-time favourite Doctor Who stories.

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## **Michael says**

Night and day. Not only is it an appropriate expression for a book about vampires, but it is the perfect description of the difference between Terrance Dick's skill and that of Kate Orman and her husband Jonathan Blum. It was quite refreshing to see that the BBC could hire not simply decent, but \*good\* authors.

The story isn't perfect, and I think it was very awkward for these authors to come so close, then shy away

from, making the vampire's bite into an analogy of rape. Perhaps, given the BBC-as-publisher, that was mandated from above, but it felt like the authors simply didn't have the courage to tackle the issue head on. Worse still was the way in which the character bitten got over her ordeal; it was on her mind throughout much of the book, but once she faced it head on she magically got better. Emotional scars don't work that way. It would have felt much better, and given that character much more strength, for her to work through it gradually. {Best of all would be if it was even mentioned in future books as something she was in the process of healing through, but with a new writer around every corner that seems like it might be too much to ask for.}

Aside from that, my sole complaint here is that it did not pick up directly where *The Eight Doctors* left off. The new Companion, Sam, brazenly pushed her way onto the TARDIS at the end of the previous novel; but nowhere can you find her first [or even second or third or...] adventure with the Doctor. This story sees the pair already well-comfortable with each other, which robs the reader of the opportunity to see that relationship develop.

I don't know if the problems I have with this book are its authors fault or meddling on the part of the BBC. Either or both could be laid at the publisher's feet. But still, it left the book feeling *\*almost\** perfect, but sadly not quite reaching its potential.

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### **Shannon Appelcline says**

After a mediocre TV movie and a bad first book, BBC finally gets the Eighth Doctor right in this third outing. It returns to San Francisco, it returns to vampires, and it overall offers a great beginning to the Eighth Doctor adventures. The characterization is strong enough that I finally know who Eight is (and Sam too). The plot is exciting, and the one-off characters are folks I care about.

Really, about 4.5 stars, only missing a 5 because there's nothing extraordinary here, just darn good storytelling.

You can see more more extensive review, as part of a ongoing thread at RPGnet.

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