



## Doctor Who: The Massacre

*John Lucarotti*

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Novelization of the *Doctor Who* TV episodes/story title "The Massacre of St Bartholomew's Eve".

The TARDIS lands in Paris on 19th August 1572 and the Doctor, driven by scientific curiosity, leaves Steven in order to meet and exchange views with the apothecary Charles Preslin. Before he disappears, he warns Steven to stay out of 'mischief, religion and politics'.

Ignoring the Doctor's warning to stay out of trouble, Steven finds himself caught up with a group of Huguenots. The Protestant minority of France is being threatened by the Catholic hierarchy and danger stalks the streets of Paris.

As Steven tries to find his way back to the TARDIS, he is horrified to find that the greatest persecutor of the Huguenots is actually none other than the Doctor himself.

## Doctor Who: The Massacre Details

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## From Reader Review Doctor Who: The Massacre for online ebook

### Leela42 says

First Doctor and Steven. Novelisation of a season 3 story that no longer exists, so while the outline is the same, the finer details are somewhat different. A pure historical. The author does a good job with description and geography. An unusual novelisation in that there's virtually no action but many meetings and near-misses. Note: None of the oft-referenced epilogue is in it (e.g. Dodo is only mentioned in passing). Instead the story is bookended with the first Doctor denying Time Lord allegations that he interfered in events.

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### Iain Hamilton says

Really enjoyed this, even if it is quite different to the surviving audio. It also does exactly what this sort of work was originally intended for (the show's educational remit) in that my first instinct was to find out more about The Massacre (a period I know very little about in French history). Recommend.

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### stormhawk says

The Doctor's travels through space and time tend to land him in the more interesting bits of history, which is odd, considering the vast numbers of boring bits where and when the TARDIS could land ... but the interesting bits of history make for better storytelling, I suppose.

The Doctor and Steven materialize in Paris in the midst of court intrigue, plots, counterplots, and religious unrest.

There's an interesting connection to a later companion, but I'll leave that for your own discovery!

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### Jamie says

Obviously I wasn't alive but I think the novelisation differs substantially from the TV version. Which is no bad thing of course but I don't have a basis for comparison

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### Steve says

The frame story is kind of pointless, and I found the long string of names a bit difficult to differentiate between without strong personalities or "faces" to put to the names. But it was still an enjoyable story, as have almost all of the Doctor Who historicals so far.

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## Travis says

One of the weaker of the Who historicals, but still pretty interesting.

The episode is gone, so this is your only way to see this story. It's a look at a lesser known historical event, and it's the first Doctor and Stephen, which is an interesting combination. Very rare to see the Doctor and just a male companion.

(Watching the new series you'd start to think guys weren't allowed on the Tardis)

Lots of political intrigue and running around Paris makes up for a pretty weak supporting cast, but the twist of the bad guy was fun and made me wish the TV footage was still around.

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## France-Andrée says

Between Whovians a question does always come up... if you could watch one of the lost stories which one would it be? The Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Eve is my answer, every time. After reading this book, I'll have to find another answer: for one, I feel like I've seen the serial now, and two, not sure it would have been a favorite even if it had have been possible to see it.

Don't get me wrong as Doctor Who stories go this is good and quite exciting, really. I think you have to love the First Doctor to appreciate it (and I love every regeneration of our favorite Time Lord) so I would not recommend this to someone who hasn't seen the First in action before, but I don't think someone interested in DW would start by the books, audios or other satellite of the show; the show classic or modern has to be fallen in love with before going for any other medium than television.

The story of The Massacre is not actually, like the title infer, what we see in this story instead we see the days leading to it, that was a surprise since I didn't remember that from what I knew from reading about this serial (have to say, I read this a good while ago and I didn't read the synopsis of the book before beginning it because I'm allergic to "spoilers"... can we call them that when the episodes played before I was born? not sure.). The First Doctor never really meddled with the end game of historical events, I guess in the modern take the massacre would fall under the fix points that the Doctor cannot change, so as exciting and good as the story is, there is fate awaiting the characters you learn to love and with a title like The Massacre it is hard to believe in a happily ever after for everyone.

It's a good book, I think the author did well in adapting his script, but I can't compare... I'm still a little frustrated about that, I so wish episodes still existed, (view spoiler). I didn't think there was a lot of originality in this story, the Doctor and companion get separated, each has his own adventure and off they go at the end having had but little impact in the lives of the people they have encountered... was the episodes exciting? you can't judge from the book, I suspect they probably were a little more than the written word, actors can transform a story from ordinary to exciting and fun although that's just me guessing. The epilogue wants to make us believe that maybe some of the characters future were changed by the Doctor and Steven being there, I doubt it.

Wow, not sure I said a lot about the book or story... This is a very meandering review, that'll teach me to write it at one o'clock in the morning and I can go in a tangent about Doctor Who like any good Whovian.

Final verdict: worth the read and it's out on audiobook too so that's another option... but I rather experience it

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in my head if I cannot watch the serial and, after all, it is written by the original author so you have to think this was a good adaptation (though I do like the ones written by Terrance Dicks a lot too and I'm sure his take on this would have been very interesting too... sorry, I went off again).

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### **Nicholas Whyte says**

<http://nhw.livejournal.com/825455.html> [return] [return] The novelisation of The Massacre strays some way from the story as broadcast: we experience it as a flashback from the First Doctor's point of view, at a moment when he has temporarily made his peace with the Time Lords and is relaxing in the garden from which he is wrenched for The Five Doctors. Rather than the Doctor disappearing from the scene as he does in the TV story, here he and Steven get completely sucked into the Protestants' attempts to discredit the Doctor's double, the Abbot of Amboise, and to be honest it is all rather confusing; apparently the story had to be rewritten to allow for Hartnell's health (or the unusability of Lucarotti's original script, depending what version you believe). We get the impression that because of the Doctor's interference to save Anne Chaplet, the Time Lords get grumpy with him again. Dodo Chaplet, who appears in the last few minutes of the TV version, does not appear at all here except in that her arrival is referred to by the Time Lords in the epilogue.

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### **Justin Rees says**

An excellent example of what a historical Dr. Who should be. This was a pleasure to read, and I hope to one day see the television version. I love the Doctor/Time lord bits and it was such an interesting time location.

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### **Danny Butler says**

The massacre of St. Bartholomew's Eve. History! Intrigue! Alsatians! The Tardis is burnt at the stake! The Doctor performs an exorcism! He's not meddling with time at all!  
A fun read. The massacre itself wasn't very good.

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### **Leah says**

It was a well written, interesting book. Another horrifying chapter in French history visited by the Doctor. And the Doctor breaks his cardinal rule of non-interference, which he always does, this is just the first time he admits to doing so.

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### **Daniel Kukwa says**

It's a completely different re-imagining of the story, by its original author. Treat it as a companion -- rather than a replacement -- of the original, and you'll be rewarded with some fascinating history, a few action set-

pieces, a meeting of doubles that didn't happen on TV...and a surprise prologue/epilogue featuring the 1st Doctor and the Time Lords. John Lucarotti's best novelization of his 3 stories.

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