



Doctor Who - The Vault: Treasures from the First 50 Years

Marcus Hearn , Steven Moffat (Foreword)

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From Reader Review Doctor Who - The Vault: Treasures from the First 50 Years for online ebook

Jason Crane says

A really wonderful tour through the first 50 years of Doctor Who, featuring many photos of memorabilia produced over the years.

Richard Guion says

Great book for a Doctor Who fan, covers a lot of history from the very beginning of the show in 1963 until 2013. I learned a number of behind the scenes secrets I never knew before. What seems the most amazing is how popular the Daleks were after their first two appearances, there are photos of early merchandise like Dalek cigarettes and so on.

I'mogén says

Actual rating: 3.5 / 5

I would say I can't believe I've been reading this for 2 years but to be honest I thought it was longer than that! This was an intense, packed full of knowledge rollercoaster of a book.

Admittedly, by page 200 I started quick reading/skimming a lot of it because some of the detailed information was tedious... As you can imagine by how long it took me. It's actually a little embarrassing really because it's filled with pictures and the text doesn't even reach the sides! However, the context was just too *dry* at times.

Once we got to the era of Doctor Who that I started watching from (Eccelston) I felt like I flew through it. It gave me that chance to reconnect because I was being hurtled through my memory as I was remembering seasons I had grown up with. The scenes of the show were flashing in my mind, which was rather overwhelming, but in the most delightful way. It was a cool experience.

I was really enjoying seeing the logistics of how each episode was created, the history of Doctor Who music, and the politics of the production team internally and across the departments... There just seemed to be so many disputes, but at the end of the day they all came together to make something incredibly iconic in British television history.

It was really interesting to see how much hate Doctor Who had got over it's time (which I wasn't expecting), something that seemed very obvious during 1996 when they tried giving it a modern, Americanized reboot of sorts... The producers and rest of the team must have had a lot to deal with, especially with how involved the fans seemed to get.

I loved seeing familiar faces in the history of the show... For example Bonnie Langford.... Rowin Atkinson but then there were some of my favourite authors too, such as Douglas Adams, Philip Pullman and Neil Gaiman... I'll take greater care now to see if it has influenced any of their stories, now that I'm fully aware of their involvement... It really had me fangirling!

Overall, although dry and effortsome to get through, this is perfect for any fan of Doctor Who to reminisce or learn about the first 50 years of the shows history!

Pick it up, give it a go and enjoy! >(^_^)<
Gén

Ariel says

If you're a Doctor Who fan and you don't own this book you're really missing out! There was a lot of the things I already knew but there were a lot of little details that I didn't and I really really enjoyed learning about the part of doctor who that I wasn't around yet to see. Since I was born in 1990 I missed a lot of the older stuff but I missed a lot of really good stuff and this book brought it all to life for me! A MUST READ!

Bodhidasa says

An insightful series of light essays exploring ideas, motifs and the history of my favourite TV show. The book is an archive of images, stories and behind the scenes tidbits that keeps dawntime anoraks like me enthralled.

Helen says

Every Whovian must own this. Spans both major series.

Lilyn G. | Sci-Fi & Scary says

RTC

Mr Shahabi says

They say that this book is a must have for any fan or that..etc, but this is One Beautifully illustrated book!!!!!! The material is just so vast and wow! It's has like a billion photos and its soaked in a very fine hard cover print which is worth every penny! A very highly recommended for any Doctor Who fan

Ps: doctor Who died, no we don't believe in the female doctor, call me when they put a dude back in the set

Michael says

As a middle-age geek who somehow managed to not watch "Doctor Who" for most of his life* until last year

when I binged on the rebooted series, reading this comprehensive look at the show's history was a blast.

*I do remember watching the occasional Tom Baker-era episode on our local PBS station when I was in my pre-teen years. (Oddly enough, Now that I started watching the classic episodes available on Netflix, I just finished off the Jon Pertwee years and I'm about to start Baker's run.)

Samantha says

Read this when it first came out and realized I never added it to my shelves! Well, that's been rectified!

Adele says

A very very good book !!! You learn a lot about Dr Who over the 50 years. there are pictures, fun facts and a lot of informations about our doctor and his adventures.

Robert Morganbesser says

This is one brilliant, enticing book. They may have well subtitled it EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT DOCTOR WHO THAT YOU DIDN'T ALREADY. Unlike a lot of fly by night stuff, this one really delivers. The information here is amazing and it also reminded me that I'm still pissed at the BBC because I'll never see The Daleks Masterplan or Evil of the Daleks. But, as a long time fan, I can take solace by the increase of my knowledge of Who. (And it'll help me on jeopardy!) GET THIS BOOK if you are a Who fan.

Damian Dubois says

I was lucky enough to score this gorgeous Doctor Who, 50th anniversary book for Christmas last year and over the past couple of weeks have paced myself by reading a few 'year' chapters each night. Seems like I'm getting into the habit of reading one Doctor Who reference book a year these days. But what can I say? I've always enjoyed a trip down memory lane.

This book is elegantly presented and as mentioned above each chapter covers a year of the show, essentially from 1963 through to 2013. Each chapter is accompanied by plenty of photographs, scenes taken from both on and off the set and the various memorabilia available at the time as well as an associated essay corresponding with that particular year. While the "Whovians" living amongst us no doubt have seen these pictures before in other such reference books or the pages of Doctor Who Magazine, it doesn't really matter as it's wonderful to have them all collected in one tome such as this.

The thing I love most about these types of reference books is the sections relating to the 1960's and in

particular the William Hartnell and Patrick Troughton years. As a child I was always intrigued by this era due to the fact that a lot of the stories no longer exist, some idiots in the BBC thinking at the time that wiping the original tapes to be a good idea. Honestly, those people should be round up and shot on the spot... if old age hasn't done them in first already. Not having the foresight to think that someday, somewhere, someone might want to watch these again? Naive morons!

There was some good news at the end of last year when copies of two Troughton stories were discovered in Nigeria of all places - *The Enemy of the World* and *The Web of Fear*. I read both of the Target novelisations when I was a wee kid so know how the stories go but I am extremely excited to be able to see these for the first time when I can get my hands on the DVD's. Hopefully there are other missing episodes out there still to be found!

So with a rich and varied history behind it, what does the year 2014 hold in store for Doctor Who? Well, a new Doctor in Peter Capaldi for one thing and talk of a 'darker' version of our hero as well which is definitely a direction I would like to see taken. Some other things on my Who wish list for 2014 are the following:

1. Get rid of the sonic screwdriver. Enough of using this in every situation.
2. Let's have a companion that is simply just a companion and not a potential love interest. While I am a fan of Rose and Amy and didn't mind them falling for the Doctor I think we can now move on from this and go back to how companions were back in the 70's.
3. Less humour and darker themes. Some of the Eighth Doctor novels were very dark and as much as I'd love them to go down this path I can't see it happening because the show is more mainstream than ever and is much beloved by the kiddies, including my own daughter.
4. Limit the Daleks to once every couple of years.
5. Not every adventure has to have Life, the Universe and Everything at stake. Smaller can sometimes be better.

Although *Doctor Who: The Vault: Treasures from the First 50 Years* is accessible to the casual fan, I really can't picture that person seeing this on the shelf and wanting to part with \$40 to \$50 of their hard earned cash. Definitely one for the Who fans.

5 stars.

Mel says

I was lucky enough to get an early copy of this as a present. It's the first 50th anniversary book that I've had and I did really enjoy it. It has pictures of events and merchandise from each year of the show. There is a synopsis of the show and events that happened that year and then a short essay on a related topic. The only reason that I am giving this 4 stars instead of 5 is that quite often the essays didn't match up with the pictures

(or the themes of the year in question) given all the things that happen in a year I think it would have been nicer to have talked specifically about the year in more detail, rather than general discussion of theme music, spin offs, etc. There was also no real feedback from the actors involved, just quotes from interviews with the production theme. That said it was still lots of fun. It was an interesting insight into the way the show was produced. It was also full of nostalgia. Flipping through it with my friend we decided the book was designed to look through and go, "I had one of them" as often as possible. If the other books celebrating 50 years are of this quality Doctor Who fans are in for a real treat. Definitely one I'd recommend.

Adam Watson says

This book was a Christmas present from my wife, and began gobbling it up immediately as the 11th Doctor Matt Smith was saying his goodbyes in the recent special.

First, some context: I am a committed fan to Doctor Who, somewhere between the casual fan who knows the basic premise of the show and catches an episode here and there and the completist who has watched all the serials since 1963. As for myself, I began watching reruns on PBS in the 1980's, and the first and only Doctor I knew at the time was Tom Baker, who still remains my favorite. During the recent revival years, I caught the occasional Tennant episode and only started watching weekly during the Matt Smith run. Thanks to Netflix I plan on watching Eccleston and Tennant episodes in order in the near future. (Also, thanks to Netflix, I was able to watch a few "classic" serials from some of the older Doctors, which was great fun.)

Now to the book! As a collection, it is comprehensive and probably a great place to start for new Who fans. The "yearbook" structure of highlighting what happened each year starting with 1963 is helpful to keep the chronology right; the side-essays exploring aspects such as special effects and screenwriting is informative and engaging. The book is rife with photos, and my inner kid geek particularly liked the various Doctor Who toys throughout the years. By the nature of the book, however, it is not quite definitive as a "true" biography of the series. As an official publication, credit must be given that any "warts" are mentioned at all (some in passing, some with more detail), but more information on some of the behind-the-scenes stories about the difficulties of production would have been welcome. (For example, the DVD extras on "Logopolis" have some candid information about Baker's ups and downs with the Who crew.) In addition, I would have liked more background on each actor that has portrayed the Doctor. Where did they come from? What was some of their acting highlights pre- and post-Who? A 50th anniversary interview with the actors would have been illuminating as well.

In the end, still very recommended for Who fans both casual and enthusiastic.
