



Doctor Who: Made of Steel

Terrance Dicks

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Since its return to the screen in 2005, masterminded by Russell T Davies, Doctor Who has become a genuine phenomenon picking up countless awards, attracting huge audiences and selling lots and lots of books - over half a million so far.

This thrilling adventure sees the Doctor pitted against one of his most famous adversaries - the deadly Cybermen. The first book to feature the Doctor's companion Martha Jones, it is sure to be snapped up by all fans of the show.

Doctor Who: Made of Steel Details

Date : Published 2007 by BBC

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Author : Terrance Dicks

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: Made of Steel for online ebook

Beverly K says

I wasn't that impressed. The way it was written, it would have been more suitable for a novel, not a novella. There was a slow build up and no real sense of a climax. It all kind of fell apart at the end instead of a suitable conclusion. On the plus side, it was short and the characters seemed in character, which is always good.

Anna K?avi?a says

2,5

This is the first book that features Martha Jones

Brooklyn Tayla says

4 stars because I wish it was longer? Though that might defeat the purpose of it being a "quick read" but I loved this! I thought Terrance's writing was beautifully canon to the DW world and that Ten, Martha and the Cybermen were written perfectly :)

El (book.monkey) says

I really feel like the Doctors personality showed through in this book a lot more than before. as in while I was reading it sounded in my head like David Tennant was reading his lines. also a quite interesting story line. I love the cybermen

Emily Ross says

I feel like the shortness of the story really impacted on the plot, which was rather slow. It would have read much better if it had been a longer novel as some things in this needed to be looked into rather than skimmed over. Overall, the plot didn't really deliver.

Natalia says

Way too short, but pretty fun indeed!

ArwendeLuhtiene says

+1 Enjoyable plot, and it read as a DW episode

++1 The **Tenth Doctor's** characterization

++1 **Martha** didn't technically have a lot to do, but her attitude and response to danger situations were on point. She tries to find solutions to the problem at hand, thinks actively about a way to escape when captured and keeps a cool head at all times (instead of following the traditional (sexist) trope of the 'damsel in distress'). She also gets to be snarky at the Cybermen while being their prisoner and I love it xD

+1 **Female bonding and Bechdel test** passed: Martha bonds with a friend at her hospital and also talks (more indirectly) to the Army Captain Sharon Sanderson.

+1 A **female captain** (Sharon Sanderson), second in command, in the Army, described as smart and efficient. She also knows that she must be ambitious in order to go up in the Army, which is still '*a man's world*'.

+1 **Moral integrity content:** The Doctor's anti-gun and anti-violence ethics make an appearance ('*guns aren't brave, you know*'), and he criticizes the Army and their methods. In a very enjoyable scene he pulls an officer's nose because he elbowed him in the ribs while being taken into custody and asks for tea and ham sandwiches as compensation xD

--1 The (still very much existing) **double standard in which all women are invariably described as either 'pretty' or 'attractive'**, with the additional 'young' and/or 'slim': Martha, medical students at her hospital, Captain Sanderson, a girl studying her thesis at a coffee shop - their appearance is always important, even if we don't know much else about some of them them. Meanwhile, there's no mention of the males' attractiveness, even when they're seen as 'interesting' by girls in coffee shops (the Doctor) or when they're 'tall and young' (an Army man). Some of them are actually described as unattractive and/or old, like the Army Major and Colonel, respectively, and they still have 100% validity. Women's validity still depends largely on how attractive they are, it seems - even if they're '*equally bright*' and efficient like Captain Sanderson or active and courageous like Martha.

-1 Even though the Doctor criticizes the Army's weapons and pro-violence methods, he does help kill a Cyberman with one of the Army's advanced weapons (although he hesitated initially and thought about the issue), and then tricks the remaining Cybermen so that they're killed by a T-Rex coming through a space-time portal. They were forcing his hand, and as usual, the Doctor didn't use indirect-violence methods until there was no other choice, but still, he could have thrown them into a space-time portal and closed it without killing them, maybe? He mentions the fact that 'they're no longer human' as a kind of justification for these methods, which can be **ethically problematic** as well.

Stina says

Going into this book you need to be familiar with Doctor who the tv show, this is a short story in the doctor who universe and it was written so you should already know the characters before starting reading it because

there is no explanation on who they are you just jump right into the story.

its Martha and the doctor's first time back after the hospital she worked at got abducted (tv show) and the cyberman is back for the first time after the doctor sent them into the void in the tv show with Rose.

no book can compare the tv show an especially in a 99page book so it wouldn't be fair to compare these two but if you go into this story with the mindset of this is a short glimpse of the doctor and Marthas lives between the episodes you can actually enjoy yourself, would it have been better if it was bigger book, yes but it says so on the book cover that's its a 'quick reads'. I am a slow reader and I spent just under 1,5hour reading this so if you just have an hour or who definitely pick this up if you're already familiar with the Doctor Who universe.

Wendy says

This book is really pretty good for what it is. It's a quick, easy read, and evokes some nostalgic memories of reading Dicks's novelizations when I was younger. Dicks writes a pretty good Tenth Doctor, though I was less happy with his characterization of Martha - at one point, he has her flummoxed by the term "teleportation device", but any companion savvy enough to reference the grandfather paradox on her first trip to the past has got to have enough sci-fi familiarity to know what a teleportation device is.

I am amused that Dicks makes reference to an untelevised adventure in which the Doctor and Martha visited Vesuvius. Someone out there really ought to write some fanfic which has the 7th Doctor and Mel, 10th Doctor and Martha, and 10th Doctor and Donna all racing around Pompeii and just missing each other.

Ken says

Another in the quick reads series.

Noticeable for Dicks writing for the then current Doctor, it's a fun read.

Mikael Kuoppala says

Terrance Dicks is one of the oldest and most prolific Doctor Who writers and authors of all time. He has been involved with the series from the start, so it's nice to see him offer stories for the latest incarnations of the Doctor. "Made of Steel" is a pretty standard Who story where the Cybermen threaten to assimilate the world with only the Doctor and Martha in their way.

Dicks writes in a confident manner, but his storytelling is rather dry. The characters don't really come alive, even though there are no obvious faults in the characterization. Somehow it seems as if the novel has been written with experience rather than with a need to say something. There is no drive in the prose.

"Made of Steel" is a paragon of mediocrity, but a stylish and relatively faultless one at that.

Elena says

2,5 stars.

The book was ok, but the lack of pages affected the story. It's a Quick Read, so the story is supposed to be short, but while this worked more or less well in the other Quick Reads, it didn't work that well in *Made of Steel*.

If Martha and the Doctor had been together for the whole story, the detective work might have worked out better. However, the fact that they're not together for about half the story, the subplots that don't add much to the story and the long introduction (long compared to the rest of the book) didn't leave enough pages to develop the main plot.

The positive point is that the Doctor seems to be in character if you've watched the show and can imagine his voice. This wasn't the case with Martha though. She is smarter in the show. She wouldn't have survived that year alone if she had behaved in the way that she does in this story.

It's entertaining and ok for fans of the show and this companion, but if you just want to read a short Doctor Who book, I would recommend any of the other Quick Reads.

Sad Sunday (Princess Consuela Bananahammock) says

When I saw this book in my local library I was like:

And then I was like:

Then my face was like:

Really, this was probably the only book in Lithuania about Doctor Who. (I checked - we also have Doctor Who: The Invasion of Time). It's an easy and quick read (~ 2 hours). I think it's a great read to every fan. Even if you finished watching the series, the book will remind you the great feeling Doctor Who makes you feel. The style of the book is laconic, simple. It's an enjoyable read.

Chad says

The Doctor and Martha find themselves returning to Earth so Martha can visit the hospital and check in on her old co-workers. Things are well enough until the Cybermen start showing up stealing high tech

equipment. With all the Cybermen believed to have been sucked back into the Void (from the TV series), the Doctor must figure out what the Cybermen are up to and how to stop them. The military gets involved and there are references to Torchwood that tie into the story.

This was a very quick read and a good Doctor Who story. Both the Doctor and Martha are well written and the story moves along quickly. My only concern with this book was that the Cybermen do not seem as cold and distant as I have come to expect them. A few times they almost seemed to show emotion. Even so, I enjoyed the book overall and would suggest it to any Doctor Who fan needing a quick Who - Tennant fix.

Sinéad Mannion says

I picked this up for my 10 year old nephew while I was visiting the Dr. Who Experience in Cardiff. It's a small 100 pages book ideal for his summer reading. Of course being a major Dr. Who fan myself I picked it up and couldn't put it down. I love the Dr. Who series but I had never read any of the accompanying books. This novella stars the 10th doctor (David Tennant) and his companion Martha. From the beginning the story was fast paced and definitely had all the hallmarks of a Russell T. Davis Dr. Who episode. The Doctor is his usual fast talking, mumbling self. This book also answered a lot of unanswered questions for me – the main one being – how Martha (well a Torchwood employee played by Freema Agyeman) was killed at the end of season 2 of the new shows. Then we meet her again as Martha in season 3. This was nicely mentioned by Martha as her cousin who looks like her. A feeble excuse I know but at least it was addressed. I also felt for the Doctor when he mentioned not being able to open the void – the void where Rose remains forever. An episode which still makes me cry every time I watch it.

As for the plot for this novella, left behind cybermen plot to make the Doctor open the void so they can be reunited with the other cyberman. The usual events play out – The army need the Doctor, they treat him badly, cocky army personnel nearly ruin it all and the Doctor saves the day.

An excellent read I highly recommend it. Now I must go and rewatch The Doctor and Martha season.
5 stars.
