



Doctor Who: The Last Dodo

Jacqueline Rayner

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The Doctor and Martha go in search of a real live dodo, and are transported by the TARDIS to the mysterious Museum of the Last Ones. There, in the Earth section, they discover every extinct creature up to the present day, all still alive and in suspended animation.

Preservation is the museum's only job - collection the last of every endangered species from all over the universe. But exhibits are going missing...

Can the Doctor solve the mystery before the museum's curator adds the last of the Time Lords to her collection?

The Doctor and Martha race against time to stop their own extinction - the latest in the bestselling series of *Doctor Who* novels.

Doctor Who: The Last Dodo Details

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Author : Jacqueline Rayner

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: The Last Dodo for online ebook

Heather says

A very quick read - I read it in about two hours or so - but was enjoyable. I loved the idea that there would be a museum of 'last ones' of every species in the future.

Helen says

I didn't like that it switched from Martha's first person narrative to third person. Also, I didn't feel Martha's 'voice' was quite right.

Katie Bookworm says

I Thought That this was an excellent and fascinating book By Jacqueline Rayner. It is told partly through the eyes of Martha and partly from third - person and captures the true essence of doctor who. The book is about (No Spoilers here!) A Whole Mueseum in space filled with Animals the last of their kind -The Last Ones - Including The Last Dodo. But things are going haywire - Creatures are being stolen! It's Up to The Doctor and Martha to Possibly save the Last ones and discover who or what is taking them. But what if someone finds out about The Doctor...??

Danni says

i liked that book. and it is my fave one!

Thetravelingpanda says

A must read for any Doctor Who fan. I read other Doctor Who books but this one is the best! I took it for a 12 hours plane and I could not put it down the entire trip!

Wayland Smith says

This was a mixed bag for me. I'm a big Dr. Who fan (obviously, why else would I read this?), so I've read the novels about him, Torchwood, and would read Sarah Jane if I knew of any. I've found the books to be hit or miss, and this had some of both.

The basic idea is that, after a mild disagreement about zoos, the Doctor tries to take Martha to see a dodo. They end up at the Museum of the Last Ones, a place dedicated to preserving the last member of any species.

The Doctor isn't pleased with the place to start with, and less so the more they learn. Then it doesn't help matters any when they realize *his* status. There are a lot of surprises and twists along the way.

The writer nailed the Doctor as played by David Tennant. He was dead on perfect and I could see him doing the things in the book. There was a brief, temporary companion who was really well written and had a few entertaining moments. The villain made sense, and had a rationale for what they were doing.

Martha didn't feel quite right to me, I'm not sure why. And, as happens even on the show sometimes, the sonic screwdriver got a bit *deus ex machina*.

It's a decent read that should be fine for Dr. Who fans, especially of the Tenth Doctor.

Christopher Buchanan says

I had pretty much given up on the new series books. Aside from the fact they are generally written for younger readers, they're also generally pretty bad. Hence, I just quit bothering. I can thank Drunk Chris for this one.

Drunk Chris likes to get online and look for deals on Doctor Who books to surprise Sober Chris with. Sober Chris will come home from work and there will be a package containing a book or two. Usually it's a book Sober Chris wouldn't mind having but none-the-less he goes running to the computer to figure out how much the idiot paid for it. It's almost always a good, or at least acceptable, price. (Thankfully) The down shot is, sometimes you get a "Wtf was he thinking?" gift. This was one of those. After a little back-tracking, I discovered that Drunk Chris picked this up for \$3.50 with free shipping. It's in great shape and hardback. Not a bad score. However, as I said above, I am not a fan of the new series books and if you've read some of my other reviews, you know I am definitely not a big fan of Jacqueline Rayner. As best I can figure, since this one didn't have an actual picture of the book on the listing it was purchased from, Drunk Chris probably mistook it for an 8th Doctor novel or something along those lines. But, as I have the damn thing anyway and it takes all of about 3 hours to read one of these, I figure, what the hell, I'll give it a try.

Well, sadly, this has not made me change my mind about the new series books or Rayner. I will admit though, it is not as terrible as I thought it would be. It actually had a very interesting and fairly well constructed, if extremely implausible, story. It also had a very nice though somewhat simplistic message about conservation to it. As it's a young adult book, I can overlook the simplistic nature of it. Not bad on those counts. However, on the characters, it really blows it. The baddie is extremely cliché. Martha, despite being a trained doctor, apparently gabbles like a sugared up ten year old and can't handle anything more complicated than a DVD player or a toaster. Rayner also has a tendency to amplify the more annoying habits of the 10th Doctor. Specifically the hyper-activity and the high speed technobabble. In small doses it can be endearing but in Rayner's novels they seem to be the bulk of his character excepting the momentary flashes of maudlin when someone reminds him he's 'The Last of the Time Lords' for the 8000th time.

There was also a quaint little line very early on when the author refers to the Earther's weapons as their "space guns". No. No. Don't do that.

So, yeah. It's not good, but it's not terrible either. Especially if you don't want to engage your brain.

Diana Montes says

unexpected twists but really coherent story...

? Jess ? says

This book really brought out the Doctor for me. It had his personality pretty spot-on and made me smile while reading it. It also reeeeeeally makes me want a Dodo; it was adorable. It had a lot of cute moments and I can never turn down dinosaurs being brought back to life!

Trin says

I think the basic premise of this book, in which the Doctor and Martha visit the Museum of the Last Ones, is quite cool; the book in general, however, is rather blah. Not terrible, but it reminds me why I don't usually bother with tie-in novels (and why, if I need some extra-show kick, fanfic is infinitely preferable): they completely lack the ability to change the status quo. I think it's the rare tie-in novel in which you'll encounter a "gasp" moment—a moment where the established paradigm shifts, or a character grows and changes. Those moments are one of the major reasons I enjoy serialized entertainment as much as I do. (That and the pretty pretty boys.) Without them, you're not left with much. And unlike in fic, in tie-in novels, you don't even have the expectation of sexxors to spur you on.

Sorry, this has turned into MY THOUGHTS ON TIE-IN NOVELS. Back to this *particular* tie-in: weaknesses included not particularly interesting OCs, no real Doctor/Martha relationship development (purely platonically, understand), and some headdesky moments whenever Rayner shifts into Martha first-person POV, as opposed to the alternating generic third. I just don't believe it sounds like that in Martha's brain—very scattered and fluttery? No. Martha's a doctor, I want to see her think like a doctor. Also, I really doubt she'd see a black man driving a fire truck and think, "There's a black man driving a fire truck." I could be totally off-base, of course, but I think Rayner needs a Characters of Color POV lesson from Neil Gaiman (or even better, any writer of color; but see *Anansi Boys* if you don't know what I mean).

I liked all the stuff about the extinct animals, mostly because I like weird facts about things like extinct animals. For that, I'd probably be better off reading Gerald Durrell, though.

HOWEVER, these thoughts are based on my impressions from when I actually read this book, several months ago. Since then, I've sat through the *Doctor Who* S4 premiere. In comparison, this novel seems AWESOME. Way to lower my standards, Rusty.

? percy ♡ says

loving that tiniest hint of the Time Lord Victorious when the Doctor said he'd never forgive the Time Lords for exiling him on Earth back in his third incarnation ???

Angela says

The first book of my 2008 book log (note the shift in icons to designate these posts!) is another Doctor Who novel: *The Last Dodo*, by Jacqueline Rayner. I'd previously read and enjoyed her *The Stone Rose*, so I wanted to give her another shot. This one's a Ten-Martha--but I have to halfway wonder whether Rayner just has a preference for Ten-Rose, or perhaps just a better grasp of Rose, because she didn't seem to get Martha quite right at all for me.

Which is a shame, because there's a big chunk of this book that's from Martha's point of view, so there was plenty of opportunity to delve into her as a character. Thing is, much of Martha's sections were actually in first person--and Rayner gives her a voice that comes across as a bit too ditzy and teenager-y for the young woman we see on the show, especially given that Martha's supposed to be a medical student after all. And this is related to the book's other major issue: it really needed another edit pass or two. The Martha sections alternated between first and third person for no apparent reason, and to have a first person Martha section immediately followed by a third person was quite jarring. So was the one occurrence I found where two short paragraphs were repeated one right after the other on a page.

This is not to say it wasn't a fun read, though. The concept was pretty basic; SF/F has certainly seen the concept of a mad collector trying to get the last one of every extinct species into a zoo before. This time around, the collector in question trying to corner the last Time Lord certainly has some potential for interest--though this wasn't explored nearly as deeply as I'd hoped. Still, the Doctor reacting to and sympathizing with all the trapped creatures rings true for him as a character, and even if Rayner's grasp on Martha is kind of shaky, she's good and solid on the Doctor. Two and a half stars.

Kimberley doruyter says

after several not so good dr who books i loved this one.

Chey says

Oeeeeeeeeeeh. I just love Doctor Who so much. Even the books are great. I'm not a fan of Martha as companion, but the store only had Doctor Who books with Martha as companion and I really wanted to try one.

And how right was I! It was awesome, from start to end. I really read this in the Doctor voice. The way this was written is exactly as he talks. And he talks great.

If you love Doctor Who you should definitely read these books.
Now if you could excuse me, I'm off to buy the other Doctor Who books.

Chris says

Listened to the book on tape and I really enjoyed it. Freema Agyeman narrates the book and does a fantastic job. The story is rather interesting, and the Doctor and Martha are fantastic.
