



Doctor Who: The Doctor Trap

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Sebastiene was human... once. He might look like a nineteenth-century nobleman, but in truth he is a ruthless hunter. He likes nothing more than luring difficult opposition to a planet, then hunting them down for sport. And now he's caught them all - from Zargregs to Moogs, and even the odd Eternal. In fact, Sebastiene is after only one more prize. For this trophy, he knows he is going to need help. He's brought together the finest hunters in the universe to play the most dangerous game for the deadliest quarry of them all. They are hunting for the last of the Time Lords - the Doctor!

Doctor Who: The Doctor Trap Details

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James Bowman says

Starts off with a straightforward enough premise - "The Most Dangerous Game" starring the Tenth Doctor - but quickly becomes focused on surprise twists and games of manipulation rather than the hunt. It's fun for the most part, but there are so many last-minute twists in later chapters that it's hard to believe they were really planned from the beginning, and not just thrown in there for the heck of it. Still, it works out OK in the end. (B)

Hasselhh says

Just because this is a Doctor Who book, there is no excuse for clumsy timelines! What is up with jumping forward and backwards – and sideways! First we are told the new system will take over in 2:47 hours, then it's the next morning, and there is still 6:40 minutes to go! And then it's the middle of the night again – but only for one paragraph, and then it is back to – when?

~Geektastic~ says

Of all the New Series Doctor Who books I have read (about 12 or so at this point, I think), this is the least successful. *The Doctor Trap* is essentially a failed attempt at what could have been a complex and interesting case of "mistaken identity with a twist." It is hampered most by its length; it is not long enough to provide the detail necessary to the mystery. The need to differentiate the Doctor from his "impostor" overrides any sense of genuine mystery, and creates a lot of undue confusion instead. The initial events of the story are so jumbled that it takes half the book just to get the story rolling, and by then you are already entering the conclusion. The "Doctor trap," a mystery in itself, is bandied around frequently but is dropped so abruptly into the plot that what it truly means turns out to be astoundingly unimportant.

The biggest flaw in the whole narrative is the key element around which the whole thing hinges: (view spoiler) It is never entirely clear what the point of the fake is, and since most of Sebastiene's planning relies on a combination of weak logic and megalomania, neither he nor the impostor ever feel like a genuine threat, so the resolution is worth very little in the end. Another particularly irritating element was Donna; usually my favorite companion, she is not characterized well and comes across as selfish and whiny rather than her assertive and compassionate self.

As an audiobook, I was not impressed with Russel Tovey as narrator (although I usually don't mind his work), especially when he attempted to voice Donna, and unfortunately his choice of voice for Sebastiene was one of the reasons I was never able to take him seriously as a villain.

Overall: Weak

*Convoluted and poorly structured plot

*Unconvincing threat

*Poor characterization

*Too short to be effective

*Portrayal of the Doctor hit and miss

Only recommended if you've run out of Who books and desperately need a fix

Shaitanah says

An interesting enough idea but a messy execution and frankly terrible Doctor and Donna characterizations. Extra star for Russell Tovey's narration though; I liked it a lot, especially the hilarious way in which he did Sebastiene.

Shawn McLain says

didn't quite capture the personality or charm of the doctor.

Jessica Gillies says

First Doctor Who book I have read. I'm really confused. Possibly the fact that the audiobook is abridged didn't help (I found this out after I began). It seems from the other reviews that lots of others were confused too though. Perhaps there's somewhere else better to start?

Ken says

The Doctor is the latest target for the Endangered Dangerous Species Society, Sebastiene the leader of the group loves nothing better than to lure difficult opposition to hunt.

It's an interesting premise and even though it felt slightly similar to another Tenth Doctor novel 'The Last Dodo' this one is a lot more complex.

Through a series of deliberate misdirected by The Doctor, both the hunters and reader soon becomes confused on he's current location.

Both The Doctor and Donna's characterisation are slightly off, with a convoluted plot I felt that this was essentially to get right.

Considering that Catherine Tate had already appeared in the series 2 years prior to this book bring published, it was really disappointing that the writer didn't capture the two main characters.

Shadowsword says

expected sth more like hunger games. it was pretty clear very soon who Baris was since the booked was so heavy on his part of the story. never understood why a fan should help in killing the doctor

Brooklyn Tayla says

I really enjoyed this. It actually was really suspenseful from the word go; I didn't know how it would turn out; I was reading on the edge of my seat for the 246 pages. And as I read, an episode played out in my mind of the story. Brilliantly written and loyal to Donna and Ten; I could definitely read their lines in their voices.

Lolly's Library says

This is my first entry into the **Doctor Who** novelization universe and I chose this title because Donna is my favorite of the Doctor's companions. I have to say, I was rather disappointed with the book. The story is twisty, turny, and confusing, only working itself out towards the end, which isn't necessarily bad, but there seemed to be little point to the whole thing. To me, it was as though the author was boasting, "Look at how confusing I can make this plot!" without any real effort made to draw the reader in through drama or empathy. My main problem was the characterization of both the Doctor and Donna. Missing was the Doctor's trademark sparkle and energy, as embodied on the show most skillfully by David Tennant; only occasionally did I see glimpses of it in the book and even then it felt flat, the merest sketch of the Doctor's true character. In the book, Donna, that wonderful, acerbic, pragmatic person as portrayed by the talented Catherine Tate, is instead shown as a whiny and rather abusive dullard; certainly not the Donna I know. I have to wonder if the author has even watched the show about which he's writing. I'm not giving up on the Doctor Who novelizations. I just hope the other authors are better at capturing the show's universe than Mr. Simon Messingham.

Laura P. says

Nice plot but The Doctor and Donna charactereziation felt a bit off. Still it was quite an enjoyable ride with enough twists and turns to keep the reader entertained.

Kati says

1.5 stars. Half a star up from a complete disaster just because I liked the characterization of Donna in this one. Everything else? What a frickin' muddled mess. I guess the author was trying to be clever but in the end, the whole thing was just one big confusing... mess.

Christy Schaefer says

This was confusing and weird, but entertaining? It wasn't my favorite of the Doctor Who books I've read so far. Oh well. At least it had plenty of good Donna moments!

osoi says

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annikeh.net

Ruth says

"Excitement, tension, the thrill of the chase, these were a few of his favourite things." - *The Doctor Trap*, p. 187

Sebastiene is physically flawless, incredibly powerful and more than a little bit maniacal. As the ruler of Planet 1, Sebastiene has everything he could ever want, but that will never be enough. He's taken to hunting down alien species, the more dangerous the better. For his ultimate prize, however, Sebastiene must enlist the help of the Endangered Dangerous Species Society, a group of the most ruthless hunters in the galaxy. Sebastiene wants to add the most dangerous being in the universe to his collection: the Doctor, the last of the Time Lords.

Sebastiene uses a genetic copy of the Doctor, a man named Baris, to steal the TARDIS and kidnap Donna. The doppelganger lures the Doctor to Planet 1, but it doesn't take long for the Doctor to turn the tables on his twin. He manages to switch places with Baris, which only complicates matters. Now he has to save Donna, recover the TARDIS and keep the hunters from killing Baris. Can the Doctor escape Sebastiene's trap or will Sebastiene find himself in a trap of the Doctor's design?

The Doctor Trap is an action-packed story filled with twists and turns, alternating between confusing and clever. Sebastiene was an interesting villain but I felt that the story would have been stronger without the final twist; it felt rather anticlimactic compared to earlier revelations.

This is one of the first novels to feature Donna Noble as the Doctor's companion. While they spend most of the story separated (one of my personal pet peeves with the *Doctor Who* novels), there are some nice moments of Doctor/Donna banter that the show's fans came to expect during Series 4.
