

# doctor who the day of the daleks

**Doctor Who The Day of the Daleks** is one of the most iconic and compelling serials from the classic era of the long-running British science fiction series. Originally broadcast in 1972, this story features the Third Doctor, played by Jon Pertwee, and introduces some of the most memorable elements of the Dalek mythology. As a pivotal episode in the Doctor Who universe, "The Day of the Daleks" continues to captivate fans and newcomers alike with its intricate plot, engaging characters, and thought-provoking themes. This article explores the storyline, characters, themes, and significance of "Doctor Who The Day of the Daleks," providing a comprehensive overview for enthusiasts and newcomers interested in the series.

## Overview of "Doctor Who The Day of the Daleks"

"The Day of the Daleks" is a six-part serial that originally aired from December 30, 1972, to January 6, 1973. It is set primarily in 1973 but involves time travel to the future and the past, creating a complex narrative that explores themes of war, morality, and the consequences of interfering with history.

The story is notable for its intriguing plot involving a conspiracy to prevent a future war, the introduction of the Time War concept, and its portrayal of the Daleks—one of the Doctor's most persistent enemies. The serial was written by Terry Nation, creator of the Daleks, and directed by David Maloney.

## Plot Summary

### The Premise

The Doctor, along with his companion Jo Grant, is drawn into an intricate plot involving time travel, political intrigue, and the threat of the Daleks. The story begins with a mysterious group called the "Future Warriors" who are attempting to prevent a devastating future war by manipulating historical events.

### Key Events

- The story starts with the Doctor investigating strange anomalies in the British countryside, leading him to uncover a covert operation involving time travel.
- The Time Lord detects Dalek activity in the future and realizes that their

plans threaten the stability of the timeline.

- The Daleks plan to alter history by influencing Earth's political landscape to ensure their dominance in the future.
- The Doctor and Jo travel back in time to 22nd-century London, where they discover a covert Dalek operation.
- They encounter the "Future Warriors," a group of resistance fighters who aim to stop the Dalek plot.
- The climax involves a confrontation at a nuclear research facility, where the Doctor and his allies attempt to prevent the Daleks from executing their plan.

## **Characters and Cast**

- The Third Doctor (Jon Pertwee): The protagonist, a resourceful and charismatic Time Lord.
- Jo Grant (Katy Manning): The Doctor's loyal companion, providing support and bravery.
- The Brigadier (Nicholas Courtney): The head of UNIT, assisting the Doctor in his investigations.
- The Daleks: The recurring alien villains, bent on universal conquest.
- The Future Warriors: Human resistance fighters fighting to prevent the Dalek-dominated future.

## **The Significance of "The Day of the Daleks"**

### **Introduction of the Time War Concept**

While not explicitly called the "Time War," this serial introduces ideas about manipulating time to prevent catastrophic events—a theme that becomes central in later Doctor Who stories, especially the 2005 revival.

### **Classic Dalek Storytelling**

This serial is often praised for its compelling portrayal of the Daleks, emphasizing their relentless and calculating nature. It also showcases their ability to adapt and evolve, keeping them a persistent threat.

### **Standout Elements**

- The use of time travel as a plot device.
- The moral dilemma faced by the characters about interfering with history.
- The suspenseful storyline with multiple twists and turns.
- The depiction of a future dystopian society under Dalek control.

# Themes Explored in "The Day of the Daleks"

- **Prevention of War:** The central theme revolves around stopping a future war, echoing real-world concerns about conflict and peace.
- **Morality of Intervention:** The story examines whether it is right to interfere with history to prevent future suffering.
- **Power and Control:** The Daleks symbolize unchecked power, and their attempts to manipulate history reflect fears of totalitarian regimes.
- **Responsibility:** The Doctor grapples with the responsibility that comes with time travel and the potential consequences of their actions.

## Legacy and Impact

"The Day of the Daleks" remains a fan-favorite serial and is often cited as one of the best Dalek stories from the classic series. Its influence extends beyond its original broadcast, inspiring various adaptations, audio dramas, and comic stories.

## Influence on Later Doctor Who Stories

The themes of time manipulation and the moral questions surrounding it continue to appear in modern Doctor Who episodes, making "The Day of the Daleks" a foundational story in the series' long history.

## Revivals and Adaptations

Though primarily a classic serial, "The Day of the Daleks" has been adapted into audio dramas by Big Finish Productions and remains a popular choice for fan conventions and retrospectives.

## Watching "The Day of the Daleks" Today

For viewers interested in experiencing this classic serial, it is available through various streaming services, DVD collections, and special edition releases. Watching "Doctor Who The Day of the Daleks" provides insight into the series' roots and showcases the storytelling style of the early 1970s.

Tips for New Viewers:

- Pay attention to the moral dilemmas presented; they are central to the story's depth.
- Notice the production design, which reflects the era's special effects and storytelling approach.
- Enjoy the performances of Jon Pertwee and Katy Manning, whose chemistry adds charm to the serial.

## Conclusion

"Doctor Who The Day of the Daleks" stands out as a quintessential example of classic Doctor Who storytelling. Its combination of compelling characters, thought-provoking themes, and iconic villains makes it a must-watch for fans of the series. Whether you're a seasoned Whovian or new to the Doctor's adventures, this serial offers a fascinating glimpse into the series' rich history and its exploration of morality, power, and the complexities of time travel.

As one of the most celebrated Dalek stories, it continues to influence the franchise and remains a testament to the enduring appeal of Doctor Who. Dive into this classic serial to experience a thrilling adventure that encapsulates the best of science fiction storytelling and the timeless battle between good and evil.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the main plot of 'Doctor Who: The Day of the Daleks'?**

The story revolves around a future Earth where a group of scientists attempts to prevent a Dalek invasion by sending a time traveler back to 22nd-century London, but their plans are complicated by the Daleks' own schemes and a time paradox.

### **Who are the key characters in 'The Day of the Daleks'?**

The main characters include the Third Doctor, played by Jon Pertwee; Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart; and the Time Lord known as the War Chief, who is a renegade Time Lord collaborating with the Daleks.

### **Why is 'The Day of the Daleks' considered a classic serial in Doctor Who history?**

It's regarded as a classic due to its compelling storyline, the introduction of the Daleks' continued threat, and its innovative use of time travel.

themes, making it a memorable and influential story in the series.

## **What are some notable themes explored in 'The Day of the Daleks'?**

The serial explores themes of time manipulation, the ethics of altering history, and the consequences of interfering with the past, alongside the classic battle between humans and Daleks.

## **Has 'The Day of the Daleks' been adapted or referenced in other Doctor Who media?**

Yes, the story has been referenced in various audio dramas, novels, and fan productions, and its themes and characters have influenced later Dalek stories and Doctor Who plots.

## **Additional Resources**

Doctor Who: The Day of the Daleks is a classic serial from the long-running British science fiction series Doctor Who, first broadcast in 1974 during the tenth season of the series. Starring Jon Pertwee as the Third Doctor, this story is notable for its intriguing plot, innovative special effects for its time, and its exploration of themes such as time travel, morality, and the consequences of interfering with history. As one of the most revered serials in the classic era of Doctor Who, The Day of the Daleks has left a lasting impact on fans and critics alike, making it a must-watch for both newcomers and seasoned Whovians.

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## **Overview and Plot Summary**

The Day of the Daleks is set in 22nd-century London and involves a complex plot that intertwines historical events with science fiction intrigue. The story begins with the Doctor being approached by the United Nations Intelligence Taskforce (UNIT), who have become aware of a mysterious group of humanoids, the Exterminators, who are planning to use a time machine to alter history. The central threat involves the Daleks, the Doctor's most iconic enemies, who are intent on manipulating the future to ensure their dominance.

The plot revolves around a covert operation to prevent a future war, which involves a group of rebels called the "Free French" (not to be confused with the historical Free French movement) who are resisting a Dalek invasion. The Doctor, along with his companions Jo Grant and the scientist Benton, must navigate a web of deception, time manipulation, and ethical dilemmas to thwart the Dalek plans.

The story is notable for its clever portrayal of the ethical questions surrounding time travel—specifically, whether it is justified to interfere with historical events to prevent future suffering. The resolution involves a tense confrontation in the future, where the Doctor must outwit the Daleks and the temporal agents working for them.

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## Storytelling and Writing

### Strengths

- Intriguing Plot: The narrative is tightly woven, combining historical, futuristic, and moral elements seamlessly.
- Themes: Addresses complex themes such as the morality of changing history, the ethics of war, and the dangers of powerful technology.
- Pace: Maintains a brisk pace, balancing action, suspense, and character development effectively.
- Humor and Light Moments: Interspersed with witty dialogue and humorous exchanges, especially involving the Doctor's quips.

### Weaknesses

- Complexity: The intricate plot can be confusing for viewers unfamiliar with time travel tropes.
- Dialogue: Some of the dialogue, especially the exposition-heavy parts, can feel dated or overly verbose by modern standards.
- Character Development: While the Doctor is well-developed, some supporting characters, including the rebels, are somewhat underwritten.

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## Performances and Characters

### The Doctor

Jon Pertwee's portrayal of the Third Doctor is a highlight of the serial. Charismatic, witty, and resourceful, Pertwee's Doctor exudes authority and charm. His scientific expertise and martial prowess are showcased throughout, and his moral compass guides the story's moral dilemmas.

## Companions

- Jo Grant: Played by Katy Manning, Jo provides a lively, courageous presence. Her inquisitiveness and bravery complement the Doctor's intellect.
- Benton: A loyal and pragmatic soldier, Benton adds a layer of grounded realism to the story.
- The Rebels/French Resistance: Portrayed with earnestness, though some characters lack depth.

## Antagonists

- The Daleks: As ever, the Daleks are menacing and effective, with their characteristic voice and design.
- Temporal Agents: The agents working for the Daleks are portrayed as cold and ruthless, emphasizing the threat they pose.

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## Production and Special Effects

### Visuals and Design

- The serial features impressive set designs for its time, including the Dalek city and the futuristic laboratories.
- The costumes and Dalek props are well-crafted, maintaining a sense of menace and sophistication.
- The depiction of the 22nd-century London is convincingly futuristic, with practical effects that, despite limitations, create a believable environment.

### Special Effects

- The serial benefits from practical effects such as smoke, explosions, and model work to depict space and time travel.
- While some effects appear dated by today's standards, they were innovative for the early 1970s.
- The Dalek battles are tense and well-choreographed, emphasizing the threat they pose.

## Pros and Cons of Production

- Pros:
  - Creative set design and effective use of practical effects.
  - Iconic Dalek appearances with well-maintained costumes.
- Cons:
  - Some effects are limited and visibly dated.

- Certain scenes, especially action sequences, can feel slow or stilted.

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## Themes and Cultural Impact

### Major Themes

- Time Travel Ethics: The serial explores whether it's right to alter past events for a supposedly better future.
- Totalitarianism and Power: The Daleks' desire for domination echoes themes of tyranny and unchecked technological power.
- Resistance and Morality: The rebels' fight against the Daleks highlights themes of resistance and moral courage.

### Impact on the Series and Popular Culture

- The Day of the Daleks is often praised for its intelligent storytelling and scares, reinforcing the Daleks' status as the quintessential Doctor Who villains.
- It showcased the potential for science fiction to explore complex moral issues.
- The serial has influenced subsequent stories involving time travel and Dalek narratives.

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## Pros and Cons Summary

### Pros

- Engaging, tightly woven plot with moral depth.
- Strong performances, especially from Jon Pertwee.
- Impressive practical effects and set designs.
- Iconic Dalek appearances that remain terrifying.

### Cons

- Some plot elements can be confusing or overly complex.
- Dated special effects and limited character development for minor roles.
- Dialogue can feel verbose and exposition-heavy.

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# Conclusion

Doctor Who: The Day of the Daleks stands out as a compelling example of classic Doctor Who storytelling. Its combination of intelligent plotting, memorable characters, and innovative production techniques makes it a standout serial from the Jon Pertwee era. While some aspects have aged, the core themes and suspense remain relevant and engaging. The serial not only offers thrilling science fiction but also prompts viewers to reflect on the moral implications of their actions, especially concerning technology and history.

For fans of classic Doctor Who, this serial is a quintessential watch that encapsulates the series' ability to blend adventure, moral inquiry, and imaginative world-building. Its influence can be seen in later stories that tackle the ethics of time travel and the importance of resistance against tyranny. Overall, The Day of the Daleks is a must-see for those interested in the rich history of Doctor Who and the enduring appeal of its timeless villains—the Daleks.

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**doctor who the day of the daleks: Doctor Who and the Day of the Daleks** Terrance Dicks, 2012-05-10 UNIT is called in when an important diplomat is attacked in his own home - by a man who then vanishes into thin air. The Doctor and Jo spend a night in the 'haunted' house and meet the attackers - who have time-jumped back from the 22nd century in the hope of changing history. Travelling forward in time, the Doctor and Jo find themselves trapped in a future world where humans are slaves and the Daleks have already invaded. Using their ape-like servants to Ogrons to maintain order, the Daleks are now the masters of Earth. As the Doctor desperately works to discover what has happened to put history off-track, the Daleks plan a time-jump attack on the 20th century. This novel is based on a Doctor Who story which was originally broadcast from 1 to 22 January 1972. Featuring the Third Doctor as played by Jon Pertwee, with his companion Jo Grant and the UNIT organisation commanded by Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart

**doctor who the day of the daleks:** *Doctor Who-Guide 1/3* compiled from Wikipedia pages and published by Dr Googelberg, 2012-08-07 Almost everything about the good doctor, his companions and travels, his enemies and friends. Additionally the actors etc. Part three contains all summaries of all TV episodes. Compiled from Wikipedia pages and published by Dr Googelberg.

**doctor who the day of the daleks:** *The Doctor Who Programme Guide* Jean-Marc Lofficier, Jean-Marc, Randy Lofficier, 2003-05 The Doctor Who Programme Guide is the complete guide to every Doctor Who story shown on television. The stories are listed in order of broadcasting, starting with the first episode broadcast in 1963. Each entry includes the storyline, the cast list, and the names of the producer, script editor, writer and director, and the details of novelizations, video and audio cassette releases. This indispensable guide first appeared over twenty years ago, and immediately established itself as the single, most important reference work about Doctor Who. THE bible to an entire generation of [Doctor Who] fans on both sides of the Atlantic. --Andrew Pixley, Celestial Toyroom A real treat for Doctor Who buffs. --David McDonnell, Starlog It sits invaluablely upon every fan's bookshelf and is a constant source of reference. --Gary Russell, Doctor Who Monthly A remarkable work of...dedicated scholarship. --Barry Letts, Producer, Doctor Who

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**doctor who the day of the daleks: Doctor Who** Louis Marks, Jon Pertwee, 1986

**doctor who the day of the daleks: Doctor Who - A Companion** Timothy J. Lee, 2013-11-24 Doctor Who: A Companion Find out more about television's most iconic show and relive all your favourite stories in this fan's light-hearted exploration of EVERY episode from the programme and its spin-offs since it first flew onto our screens in 1963. This exhaustive and invaluable book includes a guide and review for each story; detailing every Doctor's adventures, from Hartnell through to Smith. So buckle up for an adventure through time and space!

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**doctor who the day of the daleks: The Doctor Who Error Finder** R.H. Langley, 2024-10-14 In its long television run, the low-budget but beloved science fiction serial Dr. Who featured numerous bloopers that producers could not afford to reshoot. Today, spotting and discussing those bloopers has become a favorite pastime for fans seeking answers to penetrating questions: When was the First Doctor on a slight exploitation? What does the Second Doctor call the sectional supply unit? When does the Third Doctor mistake a silicate rod for a silicon rod? What is hanging from the Fourth Doctor's nose when is in a cell on Traken? How does the Fifth Doctor accomplish his disappearing hat trick? Where does the Sixth Doctor believe Peri's heart and liver are located? What does the Seventh Doctor do when Ray asks what he is doing? Why does the Eighth Doctor not know the difference between Twelve and Thirteen? This work is the largest existing collection of errors appearing in Doctor Who, from every episode of the original television series, the movies, and the spin-offs. Presenting over 4000 errors and about 1500 other items of interest to fans, it includes transmitted bloopers such as microphones or equipment visible in a shot, obvious strings, anachronisms, unsteady sets, and actors having trouble walking. This book not only presents previously unrecorded bloopers, but also corrects errors in others lists and even refutes well-established blooper claims. The work guides the reader through the stories of each Doctor (first to eighth). Information on each story begins with the official BBC code and title, alternate titles, writers and directors, media examined in creating this list, running times, highlights, questions to

keep in mind, and then information on the individual episodes. For each episode, the work provides information on the date of first transmission and a list of errors and trivia, each with its approximate time within the episode. The book also lists errors from the untransmitted parts of the pilot episode and Shada, and concludes with the Forgotten Doctor and related programs such as K-9 and Company, Dimensions in Time, and The Curse of the Fatal Death.

**doctor who the day of the daleks: Doctor Who in Time and Space** Gillian I. Leitch, Donald E. Palumbo, C.W. Sullivan III, 2013-03-20 This collection of fresh essays addresses a broad range of topics in the BBC science fiction television series Doctor Who, both old (1963-1989) and new (2005-present). The book begins with the fan: There are essays on how the show is viewed and identified with, fan interactions with each other, reactions to changes, the wilderness years when it wasn't in production. Essays then look at the ways in which the stories are told (e.g., their timeliness, their use of time travel as a device, etc.). After discussing the stories and devices and themes, the essays turn to looking at the Doctor's female companions and how they evolve, are used, and changed by their journey with the Doctor.

**doctor who the day of the daleks: The Doctor Who Discontinuity Guide** Paul Cornell, Martin Day, Keith Topping, 2013-10-31 When it was originally published, the Discontinuity Guide was the first attempt to bring together all of the various fictional information seen in BBC TV's DOCTOR WHO, and then present it in a coherent narrative. Often copied but never matched, this is the perfect guide to the 'classic' Doctors. Fulffs, goofs, double entendres, fashion victims, technobabble, dialogue disasters: these are just some of the headings under which every story in the Doctor's first twenty-seven years of his career is analysed. Despite its humorous tone, the book has a serious purpose. Apart from drawing attention to the errors and absurdities that are among the most loveable features of DOCTOR WHO, this reference book provides a complete analysis of the story-by-story creation of the Doctor Who Universe. One sample story, Pyramids of Mars, yields the following gems: TECHNOBABBLE: a crytonic particle accelerator, a relative continuum stabiliser, and triobiphsics. DIALOGUE TRIUMPHS: 'I'm a Time Lord... You don't understand the implications. I'm not a human being. I walk in eternity.' CONTINUITY: the doctor is about 750 years old at this point, and has apparently aged 300 years since Tomb of the Cybermen. He ages about another 300 years between this story and the seventh Doctor's Time and the Rani. An absolute must for every Doctor Who fan, this new edition of the classic reference guide has not been updated at all for the 50th anniversary.

**doctor who the day of the daleks: Women in Doctor Who** Valerie Estelle Frankel, 2018-03-04 Over the past half-century Doctor Who has defined science fiction television. The women in the series--from orphans and heroic mothers to seductresses and clever teachers--flourish in their roles yet rarely surmount them. Some companions rescue the Doctor and charm viewers with their technical brilliance, while others only scream for rescue. The villainesses dazzle with their cruelty, from the Rani to Cassandra and Missy. Covering all of the series--classic and new--along with Class, K9, Torchwood, The Sarah Jane Adventures, novels, comics and Big Finish Audio adventures, this book examines the women archetypes in Doctor Who.

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**doctor who the day of the daleks: Day of the Daleks** Terrance Dicks, 1989-01-01 Dr. Who has had a massive following for years, and this popularity should boost sales with the addition of the first six titles in the phenomenal Dr. Who series. Don't miss this opportunity to stock up on one of the favorite science fiction adventure series ever created.

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a background for high adventure, this book offers new perspectives on many familiar programs and the first serious study of several unjustly neglected ones. Time-Travel Television is essential reading for science fiction scholars and fans, and for anyone interested in the many ways that television brings the fantastic into viewers' living rooms.

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**doctor who the day of the daleks: Doctor Who: 365 Days of Memorable Moments and Impossible Things** Justin Richards, 2016-03-29 23 November 1963: The first-ever episode of Doctor Who—"An Unearthly Child"—is broadcast. 21 July 1969: Silence will fall. 23 August 2014: "Deep Breath" is Peter Capaldi's first full episode as the Twelfth Doctor. 3 March 2472 The Master tracks down the Doomsday Weapon. For over half a century, Doctor Who has entertained and enthralled fans with the adventures of the Doctor. From the first glimpse of a police telephone box in a junkyard to the fall of Gallifrey, Doctor Who has provided a near-inexhaustible list of indelible memories. Doctor Who: 365 Days is a unique and captivating chronicle of drama or humor, terror or joy, for each and every day of the year. Revisiting classic battles, iconic characters, game-changing plot twists, and more, it's a fascinating portrait of the Whoniverse and an essential addition to any fan's collection.

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