

horror of fang rock doctor who

Horror of Fang Rock Doctor Who: An In-Depth Exploration

Horror of Fang Rock Doctor Who stands as a quintessential example of the classic British science fiction series blending atmospheric horror with compelling storytelling. First broadcast in 1977 as part of the show's 15th season, this serial has garnered acclaim for its chilling atmosphere, inventive monster design, and exploration of human fears in the face of cosmic terror. Set against the eerie backdrop of Fang Rock lighthouse, the story combines isolated suspense with a philosophical reflection on the nature of evil and human weakness. This article delves into the various facets that make "Horror of Fang Rock" a standout tale in the Doctor Who canon, examining its plot, themes, characters, production, and legacy.

The Plot of Horror of Fang Rock

Setting the Scene: Fang Rock Lighthouse

The serial unfolds in the remote Fang Rock lighthouse, located off the coast of England. Isolated and surrounded by treacherous waters, the lighthouse's crew is cut off from the mainland, creating a perfect setting for tension and horror. The time period is contemporary to the 1970s, adding a relatable yet ominous atmosphere.

The Arrival of the Doctor and Companions

The Fourth Doctor, played by Tom Baker, arrives at Fang Rock alongside his companions, Leela and K-9. Their arrival coincides with strange occurrences—lights flickering, unexplained noises, and the sudden death of a crew member. The Doctor quickly deduces that something otherworldly is at play.

The Unfolding Horror: The Beast and the Alien Threat

1. The core threat emerges in the form of a mysterious alien entity, which takes the form of a monstrous creature known as the Rutan.
2. The Rutan is a parasitic, tentacled being that feeds on fear and chaos, feeding off the terror of humans.
3. The creature's presence unleashes a series of terrifying events, culminating in a struggle for survival among the lighthouse's inhabitants.

Climax and Resolution

As the Doctor and his companions attempt to contain the alien threat, they confront their own fears and moral dilemmas. The climax involves a daring plan to trap the creature and prevent it from escaping into the wider world. The serial concludes with a tense resolution that emphasizes the importance of human resilience in the face of cosmic horror.

Themes Explored in Horror of Fang Rock

The Cosmic Horror and the Unknown

At its core, "Horror of Fang Rock" embodies the theme of cosmic horror—the idea that the universe harbors terrors beyond human comprehension. The Rutan symbolizes this unknowable evil, lurking in the shadows of the universe and preying on human fears.

Isolation and Humanity

The lighthouse setting amplifies feelings of isolation, emphasizing how humans react when cut off from society and confronted with existential threats. The characters' psychological responses highlight themes of fear, courage, and moral ambiguity.

Good Versus Evil

The serial explores the classic conflict between good and evil, but with a nuanced perspective. The Doctor's efforts to contain the creature showcase themes of responsibility and sacrifice, while the creature itself embodies chaos and primal instinct.

The Nature of Fear

"Horror of Fang Rock" delves into how fear can be manipulated and amplified in confined spaces. The creature feeds on fear, illustrating the destructive power of terror and how it can distort reality.

Characters and Their Significance

The Fourth Doctor

- Wise, humorous, and resourceful, Baker's Doctor embodies a mix of curiosity and compassion.

- His scientific mindset and moral compass are crucial in understanding and confronting the alien threat.

Leela

- A fierce and brave warrior from a primitive society, Leela's instinctive courage contrasts with the scientific approach of the Doctor.
- Her interactions with the other characters add depth to the narrative and highlight themes of instinct versus intellect.

The Crew of Fang Rock

1. Captain Reardon – The pragmatic leader trying to maintain order.
2. Owen – The young and inexperienced lighthouse assistant.
3. Other crew members – Their individual reactions to the crisis showcase human vulnerability and resilience.

Production and Creative Aspects

Direction and Atmosphere

Director Paddy Russell masterfully crafts an atmosphere of suspense and dread, utilizing lighting, sound effects, and limited settings to evoke claustrophobia and tension. The use of darkness and shadows enhances the horror elements, making the unseen threats even more frightening.

Design of the Rutan

- The creature design capitalizes on practical effects, with tentacles and monstrous features creating a visceral sense of horror.
- The creature's ambiguous appearance allows viewers' imaginations to fill in the terrifying details, heightening fear.

Sound and Music

The serial employs a sparse, unsettling soundtrack, with eerie noises and minimal music that underscore the suspense and fear. The sound design effectively amplifies the creature's presence and the characters' psychological states.

Legacy and Reception

Critical Reception

- "Horror of Fang Rock" is often regarded as one of the best serials from the classic era, praised for its tight storytelling and atmospheric horror.
- Fans appreciate its blend of science fiction and horror elements, along with strong character development.

Influence and Cultural Impact

1. The serial has inspired discussions about horror in science fiction, emphasizing the importance of atmosphere and psychological tension.
2. It remains a favorite among fans and is frequently referenced in analyses of Doctor Who's darker stories.

Adaptations and Re-releases

The serial has been released on various formats, including DVD collections, with special features exploring behind-the-scenes insights, making it accessible to new audiences and preserving its legacy.

The Horror of Fang Rock: Why It Continues to Terrify

Timeless Themes

The themes of cosmic horror, fear of the unknown, and human vulnerability are universal and continue to resonate with audiences today. The serial's portrayal of an ancient, incomprehensible evil taps into primal fears that transcend time and culture.

Atmospheric Mastery

The setting, direction, and creature design work in harmony to create a palpable sense of dread. The confined environment of the lighthouse makes the horror intimate yet intense, ensuring lasting impact.

Character Depth and Moral Complexity

The characters' reactions to terror—ranging from bravery to panic—add realism and emotional weight. The Doctor's moral dilemmas and Leela's instinctive courage highlight the series' capacity to explore complex human responses to extreme situations.

Conclusion

"Horror of Fang Rock" exemplifies the best of classic Doctor Who: a story that masterfully combines science fiction, horror, and human drama. Its atmospheric setting, terrifying creature design, and profound themes continue to captivate audiences and influence the genre. The serial remains a testament to the enduring power of horror within science fiction storytelling, reminding viewers that sometimes, the greatest fears lie not just in monsters, but in the darkness of the unknown and the depths of human psyche.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of the 'Horror of Fang Rock' Doctor Who serial?

The story revolves around the Doctor and his companions arriving at Fang Rock Lighthouse, where they encounter a mysterious alien entity causing deadly chaos among the lighthouse crew and visitors.

Who are the main characters in 'Horror of Fang Rock'?

The main characters include the Fourth Doctor played by Tom Baker, the companions Romana and K-9, as well as the lighthouse crew members and the alien creature threatening them.

What makes 'Horror of Fang Rock' a standout horror story in Doctor Who?

It's renowned for its atmospheric setting, suspenseful storytelling, and effective use of horror tropes like isolation, unseen threats, and psychological terror, all set within the claustrophobic lighthouse environment.

Is 'Horror of Fang Rock' inspired by any classic horror or sci-fi themes?

Yes, it draws inspiration from classic horror tales involving isolated locations and mysterious creatures, as well as science fiction themes of alien invasions and cosmic horror.

How does 'Horror of Fang Rock' contribute to the Fourth Doctor's character development?

The story showcases the Fourth Doctor's resourcefulness and wit in facing terrifying threats, highlighting his ability to remain calm under pressure and his scientific curiosity.

What are some iconic moments from 'Horror of Fang Rock'?

Notable moments include the reveal of the alien creature, the tense confrontation in the lighthouse, and the Doctor's clever plan to outsmart the creature using the lighthouse's equipment.

Has 'Horror of Fang Rock' influenced other Doctor Who stories or media?

Yes, its atmospheric horror elements and setting have inspired subsequent stories that incorporate suspense and isolated environments, and it's often cited as a classic example of horror within the series.

Where can fans watch 'Horror of Fang Rock' today?

The serial is available on DVD and digital platforms through the official Doctor Who collections and streaming services that host classic episodes.

Why is 'Horror of Fang Rock' considered a must-watch for Doctor Who fans?

Because it combines effective horror storytelling, strong character moments, and a memorable setting, making it a quintessential example of the series' ability to blend sci-fi and horror genres.

Additional Resources

Horror of Fang Rock: An In-Depth Analysis of One of Doctor Who's Most Atmospheric and Terrifying Tales

Introduction

When discussing the pinnacles of Doctor Who's atmospheric storytelling and intense horror elements, few episodes stand out as prominently as Horror of Fang Rock. This story, from the 1977

season featuring the Fourth Doctor portrayed by Tom Baker, exemplifies the series' ability to blend science fiction with genuine horror, creating a memorable experience that continues to resonate with fans and critics alike. In this article, we will explore the intricacies of Horror of Fang Rock, examining its narrative structure, themes, production choices, and its place within the broader Doctor Who canon.

Overview of Horror of Fang Rock

Horror of Fang Rock is the third serial of Season 15, comprising four episodes, originally broadcast from February 19 to March 12, 1977. Set in 1890 on a remote lighthouse off the coast of England, the story immerses viewers in a claustrophobic, isolated environment where a deadly alien creature threatens the lives of the lighthouse crew and any potential passing ships.

The story's premise hinges on the classic horror trope of isolation—an environment cut off from help, where paranoia and fear escalate as supernatural and extraterrestrial threats emerge. Its setting in a lighthouse, a structure often associated with maritime horror and Gothic tales, lends a timeless quality that enhances its eerie atmosphere.

The Narrative and Plot Development

The Core Plot

Horror of Fang Rock follows the Fourth Doctor, Sarah Jane Smith, and the returning Colonel (later Captain) Skinsale, as they investigate the mysterious deaths and strange phenomena plaguing Fang Rock Lighthouse. The story unfolds in a linear fashion, gradually revealing the alien threat: a monstrous creature known as the Varga, which feeds on fear and has become inadvertently unleashed due to a scientific experiment gone wrong.

Key Plot Points

- Introduction of the Lighthouse Crew: The serial begins with the lighthouse keeper, Reuben, and his assistant, Tom, who are unaware of the impending horror. The arrival of the Doctor and Sarah introduces the audience to the story's main characters.
- Discovery of the Varga's Nature: As inexplicable deaths occur and strange noises are heard, the characters begin to realize they are dealing with something extraterrestrial and deadly.
- The Scientific Experiment: The inciting incident involves a scientific experiment conducted by the crew, which inadvertently opens a portal to the Varga's dimension, allowing the creature to enter our world.
- Climax and Resolution: The Doctor devises a plan to trap and destroy the creature using the

lighthouse's equipment, ultimately preventing the alien from reaching the mainland and saving the shipwrecked crew.

Narrative Techniques

The serial employs a slow-building tension, emphasizing atmosphere over action. The confined setting heightens suspense, with each character's behavior and reactions subtly revealing their fears and motives. The story's pacing allows for moments of quiet dread punctuated by sudden shocks, embodying the horror genre effectively within the science fiction framework.

The Themes and Symbolism

Isolation and Humanity's Fragility

Fang Rock's remote location underscores themes of isolation and human vulnerability. The lighthouse, often viewed as a beacon of safety, becomes a trap that exposes the characters' fears and mortality. This juxtaposition highlights the fragility of human life against cosmic or extraterrestrial threats.

Fear and the Unknown

A recurring motif in horror, fear of the unknown is central to the story. The Varga, a mysterious and unseen predator, embodies primal fears of unseen dangers lurking in the dark. The story uses suspense, shadows, and sound design to evoke this fear, suggesting that what we do not see is often more terrifying than what is visible.

Scientific Hubris

The scientific experiment that unleashes the Varga serves as a cautionary tale about human hubris and the unintended consequences of meddling with unknown forces. It echoes classic science fiction themes where curiosity and ambition lead to catastrophic results.

Light as a Symbol

The lighthouse itself symbolizes guidance and safety but becomes a site of danger. Its light, typically a symbol of hope, paradoxically exposes the characters to the creature's attack, emphasizing the thin line between safety and peril.

Production and Atmosphere

Setting and Cinematography

The remote Fang Rock lighthouse is brought vividly to life through atmospheric production design, creating a claustrophobic environment filled with shadows and confined spaces. The tight corridors and small rooms contribute to a sense of entrapment, making every creak and shadow feel ominous.

Sound Design and Music

Sound plays a pivotal role in establishing horror. The serial employs unsettling ambient noises, creaking metal, and eerie silence to evoke dread. The creature's vocalizations, along with the subtle use of music, heighten tension during key moments, ensuring viewers remain on edge.

Creature Design and Special Effects

The Varga, while largely unseen, is represented through effective creature effects and sound design, creating an alien menace that is both mysterious and terrifying. The creature's design emphasizes its alien nature, with grotesque features and a predatory presence that lingers in the imagination.

Analysis of the Horror Elements

Atmosphere Over Action

Unlike many sci-fi stories that rely heavily on action sequences, Horror of Fang Rock prioritizes mood and psychological horror. The slow build-up, coupled with the isolation of the lighthouse, allows fear to simmer beneath the surface, culminating in moments of sudden shock.

Use of Shadows and Lighting

Lighting techniques play a crucial role in establishing suspense. Limited illumination, flickering lamps, and strategic shadows conceal the creature, prompting viewers' imaginations to fill in the blanks with terrifying possibilities.

Psychological Tension

The serial explores characters' reactions to fear and death, emphasizing the psychological toll of their situation. The Doctor's calm logic contrasts with the rising panic among the lighthouse crew, illustrating the human struggle to maintain composure in the face of horror.

The Unseen Threat

The Varga's partial concealment echoes classic horror tactics—what is unseen is often more frightening than what is seen. This technique engages viewers' imaginations, intensifying the terror and making the creature's presence more impactful.

Legacy and Reception

Critical Acclaim

Horror of Fang Rock has been widely praised for its atmospheric storytelling, effective use of suspense, and strong character development. It is often regarded as one of the most genuinely frightening stories in the classic Doctor Who canon.

Fan Appreciation

Among fans, the serial is celebrated for its Gothic horror qualities and its successful blending of sci-fi and horror genres. Its setting, tone, and storytelling style have influenced subsequent horror narratives within the series.

Influence on the Series

The serial exemplifies how Doctor Who can transcend simple adventure stories to explore darker, more complex themes. Its emphasis on atmosphere and psychological horror has inspired later stories that aim to evoke similar tension and dread.

Conclusion: Why Horror of Fang Rock Remains a Masterclass in Horror-Science Fiction

Horror of Fang Rock stands out as a quintessential example of horror within science fiction. Its masterful use of setting, sound, and narrative pacing creates an immersive experience that taps into primal fears of the dark, the unknown, and human vulnerability. The serial's success lies in its ability to evoke genuine terror without relying on excessive gore or action, instead focusing on atmosphere, character psychology, and suspense.

For fans and scholars of Doctor Who, it remains a benchmark for storytelling excellence, demonstrating how the series can explore the horror genre with intelligence and style. Whether viewed as a thrilling adventure or a haunting tale of cosmic terror, Horror of Fang Rock continues to leave a lasting impression—an enduring testament to the series' versatility and depth.

In summary, Horror of Fang Rock is a masterful blend of Gothic horror, science fiction, and psychological suspense that exemplifies the best of Doctor Who. Its enduring appeal stems from its atmospheric setting, compelling storytelling, and profound exploration of primal fears, making it a must-watch for fans of horror and classic sci-fi alike.

Horror Of Fang Rock Doctor Who

horror of fang rock doctor who: Doctor Who and the Horror of Fang Rock Terrance Dicks, 1978 The Doctor and Leela investigate the draining of electrical energy from a lighthouse and discover that the rumored beast of local superstition is a far more real and dangerous enemy.

horror of fang rock doctor who: *Doctor Who and the Horror of Fang Rock* Terrance Dicks, 2017-03-28 Louise Jameson reads this classic Fourth Doctor novelisation, based on a 1977 TV serial starring Tom Baker. On a remote rocky island a few miles off the Channel coast stands Fang Rock lighthouse. There have always been tales of the beast of Fang Rock but, when the TARDIS lands here with Leela and the Doctor, the force they must deal with is more sinister and deadly than the mythical beast of the past. It is the early 1900s, electricity is just coming into common usage, and the formless, gelatinous mass from the future must use the lighthouse generators to recharge its system. Nothing can stop the Rutan scout in its search and its experimentation on humans... Duration: 4 hours approx.

horror of fang rock doctor who: A Critical History of Doctor Who on Television John Kenneth Muir, 2015-09-15 Since its inception in November 1963, the British science fiction television series Doctor Who has exerted an enormous impact on the world of science fiction (over 1,500 books have been written about the show). The series follows the adventures of a mysterious Time Lord from the distant planet Gallifrey who travels through time and space to fight evil and injustice. Along the way, he has visited Rome under the rule of Nero, played backgammon with Kublai Khan, and participated in the mythic gunfight at the O.K. Corral. Predating the Star Trek phenomenon by three years, Doctor Who seriously dealt with continuing characters, adult genre principles and futuristic philosophies. Critical and historical examinations of the ideas, philosophies, conceits and morals put forth in the Doctor Who series, which ran for 26 seasons and 159 episodes, are provided here. Also analyzed are thematic concepts, genre antecedents, the overall cinematography and the special effects of the long-running cult favorite. The various incarnations of Doctor Who, including television, stage, film, radio, and spin-offs are discussed. In addition, the book provides an extensive listing of print, Internet, and fan club resources for Doctor Who.

horror of fang rock doctor who: Doctor Who and the Art of Adaptation Marcus K. Harmes, 2014-05-01 Although it started as a British television show with a small but devoted fan base, Doctor Who has grown in popularity and now appeals to audiences around the world. In the fifty-year history of the program, Doctor Who's producers and scriptwriters have drawn on a dizzying array of literary sources and inspirations. Elements from Homer, classic literature, gothic horror, swashbucklers, Jacobean revenge tragedies, Orwellian dystopias, Westerns, and the novels of Agatha Christie and Evelyn Waugh have all been woven into the fabric of the series. One famous storyline from the mid-1970s was rooted in the Victoriana of authors like H. Rider Haggard and Arthur Conan Doyle, and another was a virtual remake of Anthony Hope's *The Prisoner of Zenda*—with robots! In *Doctor Who and the Art of Adaptation: Fifty Years of Storytelling*, Marcus Harmes looks at the show's frequent exploration of other sources to create memorable episodes. Harmes observes that adaptation in Doctor Who is not just a matter of transferring literary works to the screen, but of bringing a diversity of texts into dialogue with the established mythology of the series as well as with longstanding science fiction tropes. In this process, original stories are not just resituated, but transformed into new works. Harmes considers what this approach reveals about adaptation, television production, the art of storytelling, and the long-term success and cultural resonance enjoyed by Doctor Who. *Doctor Who and the Art of Adaptation* will be of interest to students of literature and television alike, and to scholars interested in adaptation studies. It will also appeal to fans of the series interested in tracing the deep cultural roots of television's longest-running and most literate science-fiction adventure.

horror of fang rock doctor who: The Humanism of Doctor Who David Layton, 2014-01-10 From 1963 to 1989, the BBC television program Doctor Who followed a time-traveling human-like

alien called The Doctor as he sought to help people, save civilizations and right wrongs. Since its 2005 revival, Doctor Who has become a pop culture phenomenon surpassing its classic period popularity and reaching a larger, more diverse audience. Though created as a family program, the series has dramatized serious themes in philosophy, science, religion, and politics. Doctor Who's thoughtful presentation of a secular humanist view of the universe stands in stark contrast to the flashy special effects central to most science fiction on television. This examination of Doctor Who from the perspective of philosophical humanism assesses the show's careful exploration of such topics as justice, ethics, good and evil, mythology and knowledge.

horror of fang rock doctor who: Regeneration: The Changing Style of Doctor Who: An Unofficial and Unauthorised Analysis D. G. Saunders, 2020-02-26 For over fifty years, the BBC's Doctor Who has taken viewers on adventures across time and space. At the same time, the programme has crossed genres and styles. From science fiction to action, horror to comedy and back again. *Regeneration: The Changing Style of Doctor Who* offers a penetrating look at the way different showrunners, producers and script editors shaped the Time Lord's adventures. Analysing each era in sequence, it looks at story styles, the character of the Doctor and his intrepid companions, and the nature of the villains and monsters they faced, as well as the portrayal of the Time Lords. An essential guide both for new fans wanting a primer on the programme's history and for longstanding enthusiasts seeking a fresh perspective on eras they thought they knew.

horror of fang rock doctor who: Doctor Who Mark Campbell, Kim Newman, 2011-04-01 A new, updated edition puts all the Doctors under the microscope—including Matt Smith—with facts, figures and opinions on every Doctor Who story televised. Doctor Who has seen many ups and downs in its long and colorful history, and this guide tracks all of them. From humble beginnings in November 1963 to its cancellation in 1989 and eventual resurrection in 2005, Doctor Who has always been a quintessential element of sci-fi, and British popular culture. The spine-chilling theme music, the multidimensional Tardis, the evil metallic Daleks, and the ever-changing face of the Doctor himself have become trademarks of the program's witty, eclectic style. Over the years Doctor Who has embraced such diverse genres as science fiction, horror, westerns, history, romance, adventure, and comedy—but has never strayed from its first and most important remit: telling damn good stories. Eleven Doctors, a multitude of companions, and a veritable cornucopia of monsters and villains: the show has it all. This guide includes sections on TV, radio, cinema, stage, and internet spin-offs; novels and audio adventures; missing episodes; and an extensive website listing and bibliography.

horror of fang rock doctor who: 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.

horror of fang rock doctor who: Doctor Who FAQ Dave Thompson, 2013-02-01 (FAQ). Doctor Who is indisputably the most successful and beloved series on UK TV, and the most watched series in the history of BBC America. *Doctor Who FAQ* tells the complete story of its American success, from its first airings on PBS in the 1970s, through to the massive Doctor Who fan conventions that are a staple of the modern-day science fiction circuit. Combining a wealth of information and numerous illustrations, *Doctor Who FAQ* also includes a comprehensive episode guide. From the Doctor's most impressive alien foes and the companions who have fought alongside him to unimagined planets and unexpected points in history, from some of the greatest minds ever to have walked the Earth, to the most evil beings ever to haunt the universe, it's all covered here, including the Tardis, the none-too-reliable bigger on the inside than the out blue box in which the Doctor travels.

horror of fang rock doctor who: The Essential Terrance Dicks Volume 2 Terrance Dicks, 2021-08-26 I think if you can get a kid reading for pleasure, not because it's work, but actually reading for pleasure, it's a great step forward. It can start with me, you know, start with Dicks and work its way up to Dickens - as long as you get them reading. - Terrance Dicks For over 50 years, Terrance Dicks was the secret beating heart(s) of Doctor Who - from joining production of The Invasion in 1968 to his final short story in 2019. As the undisputed master of Doctor Who fiction, Terrance wrote 64 Target novels from his first commission in 1973 to his last, published in 1990. He helped introduce an entire generation to the pleasures of reading and writing, and his fans include Neil Gaiman, Sarah Waters, Mark Gatiss, Alastair Reynolds, Russell T Davies, Steven Moffat, Frank-Cottrell Boyce, and Robert Webb, among many others. This two-volume collection, features the very best of his Doctor Who novels as chosen by fans - from his first book, The Auton Invasion, to his masterwork, the 20th anniversary celebration story The Five Doctors, voted all-time favourite. This Volume contains, complete and unabridged: DOCTOR WHO AND THE GENESIS OF THE DALEKS DOCTOR WHO AND THE PYRAMIDS OF MARS DOCTOR WHO AND THE TALONS OF WENG-CHIANG DOCTOR WHO AND THE HORROR OF FANG ROCK DOCTOR WHO AND THE FIVE DOCTORS

horror of fang rock doctor who: Timeless Adventures Brian J. Robb, 2023-10-05 This critical history of Doctor Who covers the series 60 years, from the creation of the show to its triumph as Britain's number one TV drama. Opening with an in-depth account of the creation of the series within the BBC of the early 1960s, each decade of the show is tackled through a unique political and pop cultural historical viewpoint, exploring the links between contemporary Britain and the stories Doctor Who told, and how such links kept the show popular with a mass television audience. Timeless Adventures reveals how Doctor Who is at its strongest when it reflects the political and cultural concerns of a mass British audience (the 1960s, 1970s and 21st Century), and at its weakest when catering to a narrow fan-based audience (as in the 1980s). The book also addresses the cancellation of the show in the late 1980s (following the series becoming increasingly self-obsessed) and the ways in which a narrowly-focused dedicated fandom contributed to the show's demise and yet was also instrumental in its regeneration for the 21st Century under Russell T. Davies, and analyses the new series to reveal what has made it so popular, reflecting real world issues like consumerism and dieting.

horror of fang rock doctor who: *The Last Pirate's History of Doctor Who* D.G. Valdron, 2022-03-15 The final volume of the Pirate Histories of Doctor Who, this chronicle brings us up to the modern era with explorations of Doctor Who animation from short fan films of the 1970s, to the modern BBC re-animations of classic series. We'll also discover the history of Doctor Who audio adventures, fan created, official BBC and the audio universes of BBV and Big Finish. And we'll tour the most amazing fan films leading up to the revival, some of them starring actual Doctors like Colin Baker and Sylvester McCoy, through the blazing new wave of modern productions including Trident, Fire and Ice, How to Stop a Time Lord, and series like DW2012 and Velocity. If you're a casual fan of Doctor Who, these books will blow your mind, and if you're a hard core fan, you'll love this cosmic tour de force and maybe even discover a few new things.

horror of fang rock doctor who: Doctor Who and The Pirate Planet (target collection) Douglas Adams, James Goss, 2021-03-11 This all-new Target novelisation is based on the televised version of The Pirate Planet The hugely powerful Key to Time has been split into six segments, all of which have been disguised and hidden throughout time and space. Now the even more powerful White Guardian wants the Doctor to find the pieces. With the first segment successfully retrieved, the Doctor, Romana and K-9 trace the second segment of the Key to the planet Calufrax. But when they arrive at exactly the right point in space, they find themselves on exactly the wrong planet - Zanak. Ruled by the mysterious 'Captain', Zanak is a happy and prosperous planet. Mostly. If the mines run out of valuable minerals and gems then the Captain merely announces a New Golden Age and they fill up again. It's an economic miracle - so obviously something's very wrong... For a much expanded version based on Douglas Adams' first draft scripts, check out BBC Books' hardback

edition of The Pirate Planet.

horror of fang rock doctor who: Timeless Adventures Brian Robb, 2014-04-01 An expanded edition of the critical history of Doctor Who covering the series' 45 years, from creation to triumphant reboot. Opening with an in-depth account of the creation of the series in the early 1960s, each decade of the show is tackled through a unique political and pop cultural historical viewpoint, exploring the links between contemporary Britain and the stories Doctor Who told, and how such links kept the show popular with a mass television audience. This book reveals how Doctor Who is at its strongest when it reflects the political and cultural concerns of a mass audience (the 1960s, 1970s, and 21st Century), and at its weakest when catering to a narrow fan-based audience (as in the 1980s). Chapters range from discussions on the cultural and political relevance of Doctor Who monsters like the Daleks (based on lingering wartime fears) and the Cybermen (1960s spare part replacement surgery), through to themes like energy and the environment in the 1970s (Doctor Who stories tackled big real-life themes in a fantasy format and so connected with a mass audience). The book also addresses the cancellation of the show in the late 1980s (following the series becoming increasingly self-obsessed) and the ways in which a narrowly-focused dedicated fandom contributed to the show's demise and yet was also instrumental in its regeneration for the 21st century under Russell T. Davies, and analyzes the new series to reveal what has made it so popular, reflecting real world issues like consumerism and dieting.

horror of fang rock doctor who: 5000 Episodes and No Commercials David Hofstede, 2011-11-09 Groundbreaking! Does for TV shows what Leonard Maltin's guides do for movies! Forget movies! Sales of TV DVDs are outpacing all other categories, according to Video Store magazine. The Simpsons, 24, Lost, Desperate Housewives, Alias, even old chestnuts like Columbo and Home Improvement are blowing out of the stores as fans and collectors rush to buy their favorite shows, compact and complete. How do buyers know which shows are the best, which season contains that favorite moment, which episode features that guest star? They don't—not without their trusty copy of 5,000 Episodes No Commercials which gives full information on every sitcom and drama released on DVD, whether in season-by-season sets, individual episodes, best-of compilations, specials, or made-for-TV movies. Almost 500 pages of listings include year of original airing, information on audio and video quality, extras, Easter eggs, and more. Every couch potato is sure to heave up off the sofa just long enough to buy 5,000 Episodes No Commercials!

horror of fang rock doctor who: Doctor Who and Science Marcus K. Harmes, Lindy A. Orthia, 2021-01-14 Science has always been part of Doctor Who. The first episode featured scenes in a science laboratory and a science teacher, and the 2020 season's finale highlighted a scientist's key role in Time Lord history. Hundreds of scientific characters, settings, inventions, and ethical dilemmas populated the years in between. Behind the scenes, Doctor Who's original remit was to teach children about science, and in the 1960s it even had a scientific advisor. This is the first book to explore this scientific landscape from a broad spectrum of research fields: from astronomy, genetics, linguistics, computing, history, sociology and science communication through gender, media and literature studies. Contributors ask: What sort of scientist is the Doctor? How might the TARDIS translation circuit and regeneration work? Did the Doctor change sex or gender when regenerating into Jodie Whittaker? How do Doctor Who's depictions of the Moon and other planets compare to the real universe? Why was the program obsessed with energy in the 1960s and 1970s, Victorian scientists and sciences then and now, or with dinosaurs at any time? Do characters like Missy and the Rani make good scientist role models? How do Doctor Who technical manuals and public lectures shape public ideas about science?

horror of fang rock doctor who: Doctor Who Alan Kistler, 2013-10-01 Premiering the day after the JFK assassination, Doctor Who humbly launched one of the entertainment world's first super-brands. We begin with a look at TV programming of the day and the original pitch documents before delving into the Daleks, which almost didn't make the cut but inspired many monsters to follow. After three years, First Doctor William Hartnell left, prompting the BBC to recast their hit rather than end it, giving us the first "regeneration" and making TV history. We follow the

succession of Doctors—including Third Doctor Jon Pertwee, exiled to Earth and targeted by the Master—and see how the program reflected the feminism of the 1970s while gaining mainstream popularity with Fourth Doctor Tom Baker . . . until declining support from the BBC eventually led to cancelation. Fan outcry saved the series only for it to suffer a repeat cancelation. Yet many continued to enjoy the Whoniverse in syndication, novels, audio dramas, and Doctor Who Magazine. Paul McGann impressed many as the Eighth Doctor in a 1996 TV movie, but it failed to reignite the series. A new age dawned in 2005 with Ninth Doctor Christopher Eccleston and a serious special effects budget before Tenth Doctor David Tennant helped rocket the series to international popularity and a new era of spinoffs. With Eleventh Doctor Matt Smith, the show became a bona fide success here in America. Following the program's fiftieth anniversary, Whovians will meet the Twelfth Doctor, ushering in yet another era for the unstoppable Time Lord. Featuring discussions of concepts and characters, with insights from producers, writers, and actors from across the years, here is a rich, behind-the-camera investigation into the dazzling multiverse of Doctor Who.

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