



Doctor Who: The Ring of Steel

Stephen Cole , Arthur Darvill (Narrator)

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Arthur Darvill ("Rory" from Doctor Who) reads this exclusive audio adventure featuring the Eleventh Doctor and Amy

When the TARDIS lands on Orkney in the near future, the Doctor and Amy arrive to find a large demonstration in progress over the construction of new electricity pylons. The Doctor tries to break things up peacefully – but suddenly the road splits open without warning and swallows police, security guards and protestors alike.

Separated from the Doctor, Amy takes charge of transporting the wounded to hospital – but the rescue mission becomes a terrifying ride as the pylons come to life and begin to walk and the road rears up, erupting with boiling tarmac...

The Doctor, meanwhile, has even more than metal monsters and rebellious roads to deal with. Who is sucking the life out of the power company's employees – and just what is lurking inside the Astra-Gen headquarters?

Written specially for audio by Stephen Cole and read by Arthur Darvill, who plays Rory in Doctor Who, The Ring of Steel features the Doctor as played by Matt Smith in the acclaimed hit series from BBC Television.

Doctor Who: The Ring of Steel Details

Date : Published 2010 by BBC Physical Audio

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Author : Stephen Cole , Arthur Darvill (Narrator)

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Download and Read Free Online Doctor Who: The Ring of Steel Stephen Cole , Arthur Darvill (Narrator)

A surprisingly uninspired Doctor Who tale from Stephen Cole "The Ring of Steel" sees the Doctor, Amy and Rory facing a true crisis of energy policy in the form of moving monstrous electricity towers. A bunch of demonstrators are also involved.

The story itself was alright. A little ridiculous in parts, but what good Sci-fi story isn't now and again?

Natalia says

Extra star because Arthur Darvill.

Camille says

Throughout this entire story, there was one question I found myself asking repeatedly:

What the heck?!

I hate being critical of the hard work of others - especially when there's a group of people out there who like and praise it. But this entire audio story was a mess that made no sense to me whatsoever.

Firstly, it's read by the extremely talented Arthur Darvill, whose voice is a pleasure to listen to (I was also surprised to learn that his 'reading' voice is very different to his 'Rory' voice). But if you're going to get him to read an audiobook, why not make it one with Rory in it? While Darvill's impersonations of Matt Smith and Karen Gillan were exceptional, it seemed like such a waste for him not to also appear in the story as his own character.

Then there's the monster of the week. If you took all the enemies from the mediocre, forgettable New Who stories out there and mushed them together, you'll end up with the ridiculous antagonists in this story. Walking power poles sound bad enough, but that's not even the start of it.

And don't even get me started on the plot. It probably sounded alright in theory, but the fact is that it bored me to death. The aliens were cheesy and not interesting in the slightest, and almost all the supporting characters were two dimensional. At no point in the story did I care about the fate of any of the characters or how the Doctor might resolve the problem. My engagement level was basically zero.

I'm sorry, I really am, but this story just wasn't for me. As far as I'm concerned, if you're looking for a bearable and semi-engaging Eleventh Doctor audio story, I'd recommend the cringe-worthily similar (but still superior) Doctor Who: The Runaway Train by Oli Smith.

April says

A rather good, if predictable and silly in parts, short audio drama of the 11th Doctor with Amy (and rather well narrated by Arthur Darvill; despite the fact that Rory is nowhere to be seen in this story!).

The Doctor and Amy show up in Scotland in the Orkney Islands and appear to be at a protest around some huge steel electricity pylons going up. When things start getting creepy (moving pylons, people sucked completely dry of energy) the Doctor and Amy get to saving the town (and the world).

The downsides are the odd "Wait...what? That's not....nothing can DO that!" moments that I often have to just ignore with Doctor Who; a few cases of phrases that seemed out of character (like the Doctor saying

"Screw up"); and the effect they used to voice the Monster of the Week was really rather horrible: a screeching squealing whisper-scream thing that made me really glad they didn't get much talking time.

An enjoyable quick listen for the most part; like listening to a good (but not amazing) episode of the show.

Tom says

An ok Doctor Who book. The writing style was fine and the visual of the walking pylons was kind of cool but the story itself was nothing special. And while The Doctor and Amy were good most of the secondary characters were either undeveloped, uninteresting, or just acted unbelievably.

Megan says

I'm sorry to say the Stephen Cole's audio book for the 11th Doctor really, *really* sucks. I mean it is just downright terrible. I mean *tries to laugh* the Amy and the Doctor are fighting Pylons. And are fighting an alien, the Caskelliac that use Pylons and other electrical devices for power. It never felt like the Doctor was in danger or like there was even a Monster of the Week.

Arthur Darvill who plays Rory in the tv show reads this audio book. He does an okay job. Darvill is able to do different voices and is able to imitate Amy's Scottish accent.

The only thing that might be good about this audio book is the secondary characters, Thinwood and Fay, both were protesting the Pylons in Orkney, and both had unique personalities.

I have to apologize for such a short review but there isn't much I can muster up to say about this audio book except that it really sucks. If you really want to read/listen to it, I'd only recommend it to diehard Stephen Cole fans. Otherwise, you are not missing anything by skipping this one.

Leila Anani says

Arthur Darvill (Rory) reads this Matt Smith/Amy Pond adventure which is a little bit weird as Rory the character doesn't feature. So the Doctor and Amy visit the Orkney Islands and get caught up in protest marches against metal pylons being erected in prominent historic and beautiful sight seeing spots. The pylons mixed with Tarmac off the roads come to life and start marching and it is all some elaborate plan of invading aliens who suck the life from planets then move on.

Story is a bit weak I mean this form of alien devourer is two a penny. What I did like was the visuals of the marching pylons. Who as a kid hasn't imagined they are giant robots marching across the land? Or is that just me?

Arthur Darvill isn't a bad narrator either and this retained my interest, although it is not one of the better Who audios.

Melissa says

Originally started 6 June 2011, restarted 10 September 2011.

...And abandoned. The excitement of Doctor Who is vastly diminished in mini-audio book format.

Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nwhyte.livejournal.com/1513407.html>

Stephen Cole has rarely disappointed me, and I thought that this was one of the better Doctor Who audiobooks out there: read by Arthur "Rory" Darville, whose own character isn't actually in it, we have the Eleventh Doctor and Amy getting mixed up in an environmental protest in the Orkney Islands and discovering, inevitably, that there are aliens behind the new technology involved. But it's not quite your standard alien invasion story - turns out in fact to be rather a clever plot, assisted by excellent sound effects and other incidentals. Strongly recommended.

Matt says

Pretty much paint-by-numbers alien invasion Doctor Who story, but has it's strong points. Writer Stephen Cole seems to have a strong grasp of both of the main characters (The Eleventh Doctor and Amy Pond), and Arthur Darvill is really excellent as the narrator, although his character isn't even in this story. The supporting characters are neat, and the new aliens, Caskellians, are interesting. Overall, not a wonderful story but still a worthwhile and fun listen.

Erin says

I need to listen to this again, as I have absolutely no idea how it ended. I listened to it, but for the life of me, cannot recall the end.

What I do remember of it, it wasn't that good for a DW story. It wasn't bad, it just wasn't as good as others.

I absolutely loved Arthur narrating though, and will gladly listen to other productions done by him.

Callie Rose Tyler says

This tale is narrated by Arthur Darvill but Rory is not a part of the adventure which I thought was very odd. This story takes place in Scotland 15 years in the future. A good story but nothing really grabbed me. The script seemed to be devoid of the Doctor's humor and whimsy. This is a story that you can skip.

Derelict Space Sheep says

42 WORD REVIEW:

#DoctorWho meets War of the Worlds (or the Tripods; take your pick) in an adventure that does little to exonerate the programme from claims it repeatedly sledgehammers the law of conservation of energy (while outdoing Wells for off-handedness in thwarting alien invasions).

Keri Payton says

(From my blog: Quill Café)

In accordance with the FTC, I would like to disclose that I purchased this book. The opinions expressed are mine and no monetary compensation was offered to me by the author or publisher.

When Amy and the Doctor arrive in Orkney in the near future, they discover a large group of protesters who don't like the new electricity pylons destroying their landscape.

What they don't know, is that these pylons have a far more sinister agenda. Soon, roads begin opening without warning, creating massive chasms...and the pylons start walking.

With the help of the protesters, the Doctor and Amy must find out who is behind the construction of the pylons and their deadly mayhem and stop it before it's too late.

I grabbed this audio book because it was another one narrated by Arthur Darvill. I can't get enough of his narrative skills. I'm addicted.

These exclusive audio books are much shorter than the novel readings but they read just like an episode of Doctor Who. What they have that the novel audio books don't is sound effects. Great ones at that. I could hear the pylons moving and the bells ringing and the ships sounding their horns. It really amplified the tension. Quite exhilarating.

There was even some voice alteration for some of the characters. Imagine Gollum shrieking into a microphone. It was very creepy, especially since I was listening to it at night with lightning cracking through the blinds.

Darvill only accentuated Cole's writing with his narration. The imagery was very clear and effective: "the moon, now revealed like a breath-freshening mint in the night's wide open mouth..." Brilliant! Excellent writing.

I'd recommend 'The Ring of Steel' by Stephen Cole to any avid Doctor Who fan looking for a good audio book romp.

Trent says

Aurthur Darvil, why can't you narrate 1/3 of the things I read? (Sir Patrick Steward and Sir Ian McKellen reserve full rights to the remaining 2/3, however.)

A very enjoyable read. It's a story that'd be too expensive to realize in a typical episode of Doctor Who, so you have the opportunity to join the Doctor and Amy for a truly fantastic adventure.

That said, even though this is my second Doctor Who audio book, I'm starting to notice a distinct pattern in plot structure: seemingly normal situation reveals crazy alien origins that leads to a world-threatening climax and the meeting of a partially sympathetic alien baddie.

Of course, that's ALWAYS the plot structure in doctor who, but somehow it seems so much more obvious in writing.

Nevertheless, I still recommend this story. The narration is wonderful and the story feels true to each character's personality.

Dannielle says

Arthur's funny as The Doctor. :) I was really thrilled with him. He actually made the story good to me. His accents and voices were great and he read everything very well. I liked the idea of the story, and yet I just found it okay over all. I dunno if it was because it was an audio book or if it was because I wasn't watching it. Nothing remarkable in my opinion.

Kimberley doruyter says

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