



Doctor Who: Tales of Trenzalore: The Eleventh Doctor's Last Stand

Justin Richards , Mark Morris , George Mann , Paul Finch

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As it had been foretold, the armies of the Universe gathered at Trenzalore. Only one thing stood between the planet and destruction – the Doctor. For nine hundred years, he defended the planet, and the tiny town of Christmas, against the forces that would destroy it.

He never knew how long he could keep the peace. He never knew what creatures would emerge from the snowy night to threaten him next. He knew only that at the end he would die on Trenzalore.

Some of what happened during those terrible years is well documented. But most of it remains shrouded in mystery and darkness.

Until now.

This is a glimpse of just some of the terrors the people faced, the monstrous threats the Doctor defeated. These are the tales of the monsters who found themselves afraid - and of the one man who was not.

(Tales of Trenzalore documents four of the Doctor's adventures from different periods during the Siege of Trenzalore and the ensuing battle:

Let it Snow by Justin Richards

An Apple a Day by George Mann

Strangers in the Outland by Paul Finch

The Dreaming by Mark Morris)

Doctor Who: Tales of Trenzalore: The Eleventh Doctor's Last Stand Details

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: Tales of Trenzalore: The Eleventh Doctor's Last Stand for online ebook

Dan Schwent says

The Time of the Doctor only scratched the surface of what happened during the Doctor's centuries on Trenzalore.

Let it Snow by Justin Richards: Mysterious ice meteors rain down on Trenzalore and the Ice Warriors are responsible. But what do they have in mind for the town of Christmas and the Doctor?

Justin Richards utilizes the Church of the Papal Mainframe's truth field to the utmost in this tale. The Doctor proves to be as clever as a mongoose and Christmas is saved.

An Apple a Day by George Mann: A bizarre seed pod crashes through the roof of a glasshouse orchard and soon a Krynoid is running amuck in Christmas! Can the Doctor stop the Krynoid before it kills and devours everyone in Christmas? Of course he can. He's the Doctor!

An Apple a Day is a fun tale that harkens back to the era when all you needed in a Doctor Who episode was a monster and some running. The Krynoid was actually a little scary and reminded me of similar creature in Day of the Triffids and The Ruins.

Strangers in the Outland by Paul Finch: A prospector gets ambushed and his daughter wanders the forty miles back to Christmas, only to say that his attackers looked just like The Doctor?

The Autons are the villains this time. While I liked some of the Doctor's dialog and the Lifeboat, it was kind of weak compared to the previous story. The Autons are as creepy as ever, however.

The Dreaming by Mark Morris: A malign intelligence threatens the people of Christmas. But can even the Doctor stop an evil that attacks in the victim's dreams?

The final story in the collection is the creepiest and features the Mara. As always, the Doctor saved the day.

Tales of Trenzalore did a good job filling in a few gaps during the Doctor's time on Trenzalore in The Time of the Doctor. As the foreword said, there is ample room for hundreds if not thousands more like it so we'll probably see a sequel. The first two stories were my favorites but it's a pretty good collection overall. Three out of five stars.

Hilary says

If you haven't seen "The Time of the Doctor" (the last Christmas Special with Matt Smith), I strongly suggest watching it before you read these 4 tales for full appreciation and minimal confusion.

These tales, in a chronological order (though not back-to-back) tell of some of the Doctor's exploits while defending Trenzalore and the town of Christmas from all of his enemies.

Here the Doctor is tricky as old enemies evade the Church and come to him, and with typical high-speed

delivery stuns the townsfolk into silence with bad news while leaving them hanging for his brilliant plans. (Later on, of course, they've figured out - as Clara and other companions do - that he generally makes it up as he goes along!) Some of the enemies I vaguely remembered from the old series, but one was completely new to me.

We learn why he really needs a walking stick, and where it came from, and see an unusual variety of methods for dispatching his enemies along with the incredible inventions the people of Trenzalore have made to keep them living on such an inhospitable planet. Some mysteries are unraveled, but we also see the Doctor gradually fading, losing the seemingly inexhaustible energy that made the Eleventh Doctor who he was. Only the knowledge of the overall ending made that part better.

They were well-written, with a good choice of foe and resolution, and all gave a little more insight into that interminable period while the Doctor gave up everything for the planet. I'd like to read more like this!

Disclaimer: I received a free copy from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Mimi says

Well, I have this dumb issue with the fact that I've already seen so much of the show and read hardly any of the Doctor Who-inspired books, so basically I missed actual-Matt-Smith. However, George Mann is one of my favorite authors and it was easy to like his story :) And I feel like all the authors did a good job with the dialogue (the Doctor's dialogue was the most important thing to me). This book was actually quite good all together.

Can says

11i ne kadar özledi?imi farkettim her whovian?n okumas? gerek bence

Hayal Perest says

Kitaptaki öykülerin, olaylar?n dizide yer almas?n? isterdim. Okumak kadar izlemekte keyifli olurdu. Kitab?n bask?s?na ise bay?ld?m! Son olarak on birinci doktoru sevenlerin okumas? gerekti?ini dü?ünüyorum. :)

Dan says

Tales of Trenzalore tells some of the stories of the Doctor defending the town of Christmas on the planet Trenzalore during his long stint there. You really need to have seen the Eleventh Doctor's final story "The Time of the Doctor" for the context.

Let it Snow by Justin Richards: This is a decent story featuring the Ice Warriors as the aggressors. It's great that we get a well characterised Ice Lord and they have a decent plan but it does feel like any alien race could have taken their place, like the Cybermen. Seeing the Doctor's relationship with the people of Christmas also

works really well in this story. It's a strong start to the collection.

An Apple a Day by George Mann: Having the Krynoids is an interesting choice for this story. They are the least well known of the aliens to feature here, having appeared in just one TV story, and the seed pods can't germinate in the cold and Trenzalore rarely reaches above freezing temperatures. Somehow though Mann manages to make it work wonderfully well and he just about gets away with his way round the temperature issues. My favorite of the stories.

Strangers in the Outland by Paul Finch: Perhaps the weakest of the stories, largely because it doesn't reach it's potential. It's an Auton story and the Nestene Consciousness' plan is to send in Auton replicas of the Doctor. Strangely though the author decides to make the plan not really work- barely any Autons survive and the replica side of things never comes into play, and that's really the main reason for having the Autons around outside of an environment when there are shop dummies.

The Dreaming by Mark Morris: Morris shows his horror credentials in this story featuring the Mara. It's genuinely creepy and I felt the story really got into the Eleventh Doctor's character and his thoughts about being stuck on Trenzalore better than the other stories here. My one issue with it though is that it feels like it drifts a little from the character of the Mara shown on TV in the 80s.

Overall this is a good collection and I'm really pleased that Justin Richards and BBC Books have been coming up with lots of clever ideas for e-books which tie more directly into the TV series than most Doctor Who books. A great idea with four decent stories which make it work.

Ron says

The idea of the Doctor allowing himself to be stranded in one place for centuries was absurd, so I was eager to see if this book redeemed it at all. Instead it offers up 4 cartoon depictions of enemies of the Doctor that new series viewers wouldn't be very familiar with. The enemies in the Ice Warrior and Auton stories could have been almost any other characters - the stories were that generic and weak. The Krynoid ending hurt. It was a Doctor ending, but the Doctor in question is Seuss. The Mara installment may have been the strongest - but it was a struggle not to be in full-on skim mode by the time I got to it.

Do we get to look at whether generations of humans appreciate one person endangering their lives non-stop? Not really. Do we get to know Handles? Nope. How about some insight into how it is that the town itself barely changes in so many hundreds of years? LOL, no.

Damnit Doctor Who handlers, why you wanna do me this way? I wish I didn't care. It's silly to be bothered by this.

~Geektastic~ says

Tales of Trenzalore is a collection of four stories that attempt to give a little more insight into the life of the Doctor during the centuries-long siege of Trenzalore. These are very lightweight adventures, just a few notches above the little vignettes that appeared in *The Name of the Doctor* (the wooden Cyberman, the Sontarans in the invisible vehicle). Essentially, they attempt to give readers an idea of the continual struggle between the Doctor and the various alien races that forever try and fail to reignite the Time War. Of course, since we know the Doctor lives beyond Trenzalore, it isn't a spoiler to say that each story ends with the Doctor victorious.

Let it Snow by Justin Richards

An “invasion” (if four is an invasion) of Ice Warriors threatens to bury the town of Christmas. This one had an interesting introductory sequence and a nice plot twist, though the Warriors themselves were incredibly underwhelming.

An Apple a Day by George Mann

An old-fashioned monster chase, this one sees a Krynoid- a flesh-eating, plant-based life form- land in one of the few heated spaces on the planet and attempt to consume all the living things on Trenzalore. The Doctor works with a young boy, Theol, to save the day. The less recognizable foe was a nice touch, though the solution could be seen a mile away. (This author also wrote the full-length *Engines of War*, featuring the War Doctor).

Strangers in the Outland by Paul Finch

We finally see a little bit more of what Trenzalore is like outside of the town of Christmas, as a lone trapper and his daughter find trouble in the subarctic tundra miles away from civilization. This one brought back a foe that we haven’t seen since the earliest days of the New Series, and the Doctor’s battle with them felt a little weightier than the preceding two.

The Dreaming by Mark Morris

An enemy familiar to fans of the Fifth Doctor makes an appearance, threatening to destroy Christmas from the inside. This one had a very *Tommyknockers*/pod people feeling, and seemed to be resolved the quickest, though the menace felt the most powerful of the four.

Taken all together, the stories are fun but not terribly substantial. We know that many, many instances like these had to have occurred over the centuries the Doctor spent defending the town of Christmas, and most of them had to have been fairly undramatic, as he survived for so long. It’s a nice read if you’re looking to bridge that gap in the timeline, and it does make *The Name of the Doctor* feel a little more substantial in retrospect, but none of them felt particularly memorable. Recommended if you just can’t let go of Eleven and need a few more adventures to help you along.

(Cross-posted at Booklikes: <http://atroskity.booklikes.com/post/9...>)

Yzabel Ginsberg says

2.5 stars. Enjoyable, but the stories seemed too short. Or maybe there weren't enough of them? I can't really tell. I guess would have liked to learn about some more things, too (like how the Doctor lost his leg, etc.).

Michael Loring says

This book is for the Whovians who have seen *The Time of The Doctor*, who are like me and wondered what happened during the Doctor's time on Trenzalore. This book contains four short stories of the Doctor fighting four unique monsters intent on killing him. I'd like to review each story individually, but I don't want to give away the plots as part of the book is discovering what will happen when the town of Christmas faces the

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An Apple a Day by George Mann

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Strangers in the Outland by Paul Finch

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The Dreaming by Mark Morris

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????????? ??????. And I guess now's as good a time as any to say that

I'll never forget when the Doctor was you.

annikeh.net

Felix Zilich says

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N says

Exactly what I was hoping for. Short, beautiful, exciting adventures set on Trenzalore, exploring the 900 years that the Doctor spent living in the town of Christmas.

The writing style is delightful throughout, and it's clear from the consistent world-building that the four authors coordinated very well. The descriptions are lush and involving. There's a strong progress in the stories, too — in the first one, just a few hundred years in, the Doctor is still running about and fighting enemies on his own terms, whereas the three later stories find him handicapped by his wooden leg and ageing body. That whole concept provides some very interesting obstacles for the Doctor that aren't available in most Doctor Who stories.

However, since the stories are so short, none of the adversaries get a chance to really shine. The Ice Warriors didn't do their research, the Krynoids attack a planet full of ice when they know they're weak to ice, the invasion plans of the Nestene Consciousness seem half-baked and the Mara... well, the Mara starts out nice and gruesome in its "Kinda"-like introduction chapter, but just doesn't do much at all beyond that. The story definitely misses out on a chance to have it slither inside the Doctor's mind or to awaken anyone's dark desires, a concept Big Finish did explore with much glee. As such, all four stories feel more like campside tales than full-fledged adventures, but a campside tale is the atmosphere the book is going for in the first place, so it does work well.

My main gripe is with the editing, or lack thereof, as is for some reason all too common in Who novels. There are too many spelling errors to count, as well as glaring logical mistakes. Most noticeably, the Doctor's *left* leg is said to be missing, even though it seems from "The Time Of The Doctor" that it's his right one. I can't even remember the last time I read a Who book without really silly errors like those, and I really hope it'll get better at some point.

Anyway, all four authors are fantastic at writing for Eleven, and give some really wonderful insight into Trenzalore. I found myself smiling throughout the book.

Elisabethclaire says

An Apple A Day

All I can think is How Did He Lost His Leg?! Answer please :/

This was a fun DW read, thanks for enlargening Trenzalore stuff :)
