



# Doctor Who: Dead of Winter

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## **Doctor Who: Dead of Winter** James Goss

'The Dead are not alone. There is something in the mist and it talks to them.'

In Dr Bloom's clinic at a remote spot on the Italian coast, at the end of the 18th century, nothing is ever quite what it seems. Maria is a lonely little girl with no one to play with. She writes letters to her mother from the isolated resort where she is staying. She tells of the pale English aristocrats and the mysterious Russian nobles and their attentive servants.

She tells of intrigue and secrets, and she tells of strange faceless figures that rise from the sea. She writes about the enigmatic Mrs Pond who arrives with her husband and her physician, and who will change everything. What she doesn't tell her mother, is the truth that everyone knows and no one says - that the only people who come here do so to die.

A thrilling, all-new adventure featuring the Doctor, Amy and Rory, as played by Matt Smith, Karen Gillan and Arthur Darvill in the spectacular hit series from BBC Television.

## **Doctor Who: Dead of Winter Details**

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Author : James Goss

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# From Reader Review Doctor Who: Dead of Winter for online ebook

## Andrew says

Within the range of Doctor Who novels, this one's fantastic. Told through letters from the supporting cast and Amy Pond's memories, it details the arrival of the TARDIS crew at a mysterious clinic in 1783, where some very strange methods are being used to cure the patients.

While the story itself is fairly straightforward, the writing style allows for some extra twists and surprises. It also gives us some great insight into the characters' minds, and their thoughts and feelings about one another.

Amy and Rory are portrayed particularly well, and it really is to the series' advantage to have this married couple on board the TARDIS. The Doctor is as enigmatic as ever, and comes across every bit as daft and brilliant and mad on the page as he does on the screen.

The story feels like it would fit right in with the TV series. But it's the kind of story that wouldn't work on TV, but only in print. And that's the best kind of Doctor Who book, as far as I'm concerned.

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## Mark says

Really not the best Doctor Who novel ever written. It did get marginally better about 100 pages in once a very obvious plot twist was revealed, but only very slightly. Told from the view point of Rory, Amy and a couple of other disposable characters this book tells the story of a French clinic in the 18th century that seems to have developed a cure for TB about 100 years before people even really understand the disease. There were a number of twists in this book and everyone of them as transparent as the last. The method of writing was quite infuriating at times, but this was more a case of the Doctor, Amy and Rory characters in this book seeming to have very little resemblance to the characters in the show. I have read many Doctor Who books before and some of them are so well observed of the show that you can easily imagine the characters from the show speaking the dialogue in the book. But that was not the case in this book and it was as though the author had done very little research into the characters he was writing about. I also greatly disliked the way that Rory was portrayed in this book. Yes it is often accepted in the show that he sometimes has to play second fiddle to the Doctor and he is sometimes (for lack of a better word) forgotten about from the Doctor and Amy's view point. But there were moments in this book where Amy and the Doctor disregarded him completely and despite the fact it came good in the end, the text leading up to that was not conducive to how it would have been handled in the show. Also there was one very annoying aspect in the conclusion of this book and I don't really want to give much of it away to anyone who hasn't yet read this book but it was as though the author is unaware of what happens to the Doctor in the event that his body is damaged beyond repair.

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## Stephen Osborne says

I really liked how this novel was set up, with each chapter either from Amy or Rory's point of view, or from letters from Maria or Mr. Nevil, or Dr. Bloom's journal. It made for more than a few surprises, some of which wouldn't have worked as well if it had been written in a more straightforward manner. However, those

who dislike "head-hopping" should steer clear. The chapters are short and the action is pretty swift, so if you're not careful things could get confusing. And, of course, if you're going to write from Amy or Rory's perspective, you've got to really know the characters and understand them. Luckily, Mr. Goss does.

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### **Rebecca says**

I thought Doctor Who-Dead of winter was such a FANTASTIC book and I loved the ending how they all made up again, but I didn't really like it when Dr Bloom shot the Doctor in the forehead and just lied there on the sand of the beach. Amy Pond and Rory Williams(husband and wife, all lovey dovey) were sitting there crying as the Doctor died but luckily came back to life again. An 11-year-old girl called Maria always writing letters to her mother but Dr Bloom keeps them in his office to read. It says on the back cover "In a remote clinic in 18th century Italy, a lonely girl writes to her mother. She tells of pale English aristocrats and mysterious Russian nobles. She tells of intrigues and secrets, and strange faceless figures that rise from the sea. And she tells about the enigmatic Mrs Pond, who arrives with her husband and her physician. What she doesn't tell her mother is the truth that everyone knows and no one says-that the only people who come here do so to die!!!

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### **Amy says**

At first, I wanted to give this book two and a half stars...the beginning was a bit confusing and seemed to drag on much longer than it should until they revealed a plot twist which made me want to go back and re-read the first 100 pages. The way the chapters were set up (character point of view through diary entries and letters) seemed unrealistic as they recalled every detail to dialogue or inflection. the different style threw me off at first, but I shrugged it off and moved on. About halfway through the book, when you start to realize what's going on, the story becomes quite emotional and dramatic. It was one of the more serious stories I've read involving the Eleventh Doctor and reminded me a lot of "The Rebel Flesh/The Almost People" episodes of season 6. It had a lot of familiar themes involving alternate versions of the main characters as well as the whole amnesia storyline that opened the book. Even though the story itself is probably worthy enough for a tv episode, the characterizations of the main trio seemed off. I never understood why they seemed so angry at each other and their reaction didn't fit what I've come to know on tv. In the beginning, I wanted to give this book two and a half stars and then I wanted to give this book almost four stars by the end because I liked the story a little more than some of the other quicker Doctor Who tie-in books, but it had too many mistakes for me to completely enjoy it.

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### **Daniel Kukwa says**

James Goss comes up trumps once again. After his fantastic "Torchwood" novels comes his first "Doctor Who" novel...which is an absolute triumph of character. Goss captures the Doctor, Amy & Rory with astonishing precision & depth. The story is told in first person letters and remembrances, and the historical setting makes for a colourful backdrop, without being intrusive or too heavy. This is a dark, historical fairy tale...and I blazed through this book in three hours. A positive triumph.

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## Jennifer says

This felt interminable. The setting was very promising: a crash finds Amy, Rory and the Doctor (although not quite themselves) at an ahead of its time European sanatorium in the 18th Century. Even in the 21st Century we still like to think of going to the seaside as a cure and the sea here is effecting miraculous improvements in the motley collection of guests/patients with TB. Even before anyone thought fresh air, rest and good food might help. Yes, there's something fishy going on! We've got a story!

Unfortunately the execution was dire - the book was 3 times as long as it should have been (oh my goodness are we only on disc 3 of 6?), the characterisations of Rory and the Doctor were off (when, because of the personality switching, it needed to be spot on) and the relationship between the two men was worse. The format of the book alternated between "What Amy remembered" (or forgot, as appropriate - that was quite a nice touch), Dr Bloom's journal, The Story of Rory (impossible to hear without repeating aloud 'The Storwy of Worwy'), letters from Mr. Neville (a pompous English gentleman and MP) and A Letter from Maria - a little French girl left behind by her mother and wiz an outRAGEous accent worthy of Monty Python and the Holy Grail or 'Allo 'Allo. Maria writes countless letters to her mother each day... there's a point to this in the end but patience has run out by that stage. It never really works when someone unconnected with the Doctor Who series narrates although Clare Corbett does do quite a nice job of Amy's Scottish accent and manner.

The worst aspect of the book (aside from realising we hadn't registered how the Doctor had fixed the problem or what had happened to key characters - kind of crucial!) was the scattering of self conscious 'up to date' references to Jedward and the like. These alone would doom the book's chances of ever becoming classic Doctor Who. I am barely in touch enough with popular culture myself to just about get them and this is a 2011 book.

There were some nice reflective quotes on life with the Doctor and James Goss wrote one of the Doctor Who's I've particularly enjoyed, so quite a surprise to find this so ghastly. We felt like having a party to celebrate the thing being over!

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## Michael Ryan Pillado says

I bought the book almost a year ago but I never had the opportunity to read it. Recently, I found out that it will be republished for a DW History Collection that will gather all of the best DW novels set in the past. As a result, I decided to give the book a go.

After reading the book...

I can say that it is one of the best DW stories I've encountered, the book perfectly portrayed Smith's Doctor and Gillian's Amy Pond. The story was a perfect mystery that was capped with an explosive mind-bending plot twist at the end. On the other hand, I found the journal/letter format of the chapters boring. But overall, the novel would definitely be a DW novel classic.

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## Hasselhh says

DNF - love the Doctor who universe too much!

The whole Amy/Rory/Eleventh drama is the worst doctor-companion storyline in the franchise! Just as Martha's crush on the Tenth doctor made her look weaker than was fair to her awesome character, all the jealousy and belittling in this drama just takes all the fun out of the stories. Why is it necessary to keep playing up to the whole Who-Will-Amy-Choose thing?! It is just like how they deliberately created a suspense over who of them was River's dad (only made worse by the whole Eleventh/River catastrophe of a 'romance'). – wondering why I haven't talked about the story of this book yet – **THAT IS THE WHOLE POINT!**

Russian princes, mysterious German doctors and dead people dancing with the smoke is more than enough to entertain! If you need love triangles, a wife who still gets confused over who she loves the most, and husbands who has low self esteem as a result of seeing the truth of this in her actions, then read a romance novel!

And seriously why does Rory even keep up with it? If my wife fancied another bloke and ran away with him, only forcing me to come with for some selfish reasons, and he kept putting me down and claiming the only success of my life to having married her, then I would have told them both to go fuck each other and then find someone who deserved my awesomeness!

Even in the Sixth Doctor's most patronising and male chauvinistic moods he never pissed me so much of as his desire to 'neuter' Rory or replace him with a cat!

And seriously Amy if all you want is Ryan Reynolds, then go for him, and leave the rest of them alone and with a chance to find actual happiness and not just getting played and used by you!

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### **Christine Taft says**

I really enjoyed this book! It was very captivating with great plot twists. My only complaints were that it could be a bit confusing at times, and that sometimes earlier on the characters (The Doctor, Amy, and Rory) didn't seem quite like themselves.

Four stars! I would definitely recommend this book to my Whovian friends

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### **Robert Schneider says**

First off let me say that I have never like books told through "journal entries" so it was with some trepidation that I started this book after reading some of the reviews. This book did not change my opinion of stories told in this way. The book was slow to start and seemed to be there purely for the plot twist that was obvious from a mile away. The biggest problem I had was one this style of story all shares, Dull and very static. How can you foster a sense of danger or even of urgency if the characters are able to stop and write letter or journal entry every 10 minutes? Saying that I sure would have like to have had the stationary concession here.

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### **Leslie says**

At first I was really happy we get to see rorys perspective, but it just turns into this bitter hate for the doctor, and even a little bit for Amy. Like he just has such low self esteem that its really off-putting. Someone like Amy would never love someone that has self esteem as low as the rory written in this book. I know he's often overshadowed by the doctor on the show, and for a while it feels like their love is one sided, but he never

questions it. When she has the transmitter in her hand from the episode about the silence, and we can't see her but they can still hear her, the doctor says it isn't really her and that she can't hear him and Rory says she is always here, and she can always hear me. (Which ironically is what the doctor says to River in this season's finale). So I just feel like they took a good opportunity to show Rory's perspective, and instead made us hate him for being so negative and hard on himself and everyone around him.

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## **Ben says**

This was the worst Doctor Who book I've ever read. The plot was boring; the audiobook reader wasn't very good; the villain was kind of deus ex machina; the monsters weren't scary and were kind of just "weird" (in a bad way); the writing style wasn't the best (a poorly executed part-epistolary and part-multiple-narrator novel); and most importantly, the characterizations of the trio (Amy, Rory, and the Doctor) were completely off (Amy came off as a whiny little tart who didn't really care about Rory and was consumed by her schoolgirl crush on the Doctor; Rory came off as a whipped wimp, despite this being post-Pandorica; and the Doctor came off as being a complete jerk [e.g., at one point Amy had to actually convince him to take the trouble to save Rory from the monsters] who was quite incompetent at times). I really hope his DW short story "The Hounds of Artemis" isn't as horrible!

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## **Kandice says**

This story is told through letters, journal entries and memories, so the point of view is continually changing. It took quite a lot of pages to get used to the narrative. Longer than it should have, I thought. Then about halfway through the book something is revealed that makes you want to go back and re-read the first half. Kudos to Goss for this twist, I just wish he could have delivered it in a more straightforward way.

This was definitely a proper Doctor story. He is the reluctant hero, who at times seems to be almost cruel. Later when we look back we see that his possible cruelty is simply kindness that we were unable to see or understand at the time. Smith's 11th Doctor was captured on the page perfectly. I doubted at first, but that middle of the book twist solidified Goss' handle on the character.

Amy and Rory were equally presented as themselves. I was torn, though, because despite getting their characters and personalities correct, Goss made a few continuity errors that I found almost unforgivable as a Who-vian. For instance, he has Rory remembering an interaction with Amy's father. WTF? And the memory occurred (supposedly) when they were adults. I didn't misunderstand, either, because I went back and read the surrounding pages to be certain this wasn't some of the witchery involved in the plot twist. Nope. Just poor research, editing, whatever. There were a few other notable discrepancies as well, but I'll leave it at one example.

The "alien" in this novel was equally Doctor worthy. Often we encounter "other" and see it as evil, out to destroy the planet or race, when in reality they are simply too alien for us to understand their motives. Thank goodness the Doctor understands for us and explains it all.

Overall it was an enjoyable read with a great twist.

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## William says

Honestly, a person doesn't read Doctor Who novels expecting much beyond a day or two of escapism. But *Dead of Winter* is unexpectedly better than that average, offering a burst of growth for the genre, while capturing the strange meta-consciousness of the Matt Smith-era scripts and translating it -- widely successfully -- into book form. Simply put, this is the kind of Doctor Who novel fans deserve to see more often.

The form here is brilliant: first-person remembrances, epistolary passages, subtle references to the larger historical context, and characterizations that not only feel true, but stretch the cast with emotions and experiences that reach beyond the show and make believable humans of these people. There are also several twists of plot to rival Steven Moffat's.

Viewers already know that *Human Nature* was rewritten into a successful episode for David Tennant, and fans should hope for the same with *Dead of Winter* and Matt Smith. The book is easily the best written and best plotted of the Doctor Who books I've read precisely because it treats itself as a novel first and not just an attempt to parrot an already successful show. A less-attentive author might feel fans would be just as happy with less, but James Goss has here accomplished something very special: a novel centered around Doctor Who that finds much more human experiences to talk about.

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