



Doctor Who: Shroud of Sorrow

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It is the day after John F. Kennedy's assassination and the faces of the dead are everywhere. PC Reg Cranfield sees his recently deceased father in the mists along Totter's Lane. Reporter Mae Callon sees her late grandmother in a coffee stain on her desk. FBI Special Agent Warren Skeet finds his long-dead partner staring back at him from raindrops on a window pane. Then the faces begin to talk, and scream... and push through into our world. As the alien Shroud begins to feast on the grief of a world in mourning, can the Doctor dig deep enough into his own sorrow to save mankind?

Doctor Who: Shroud of Sorrow Details

Date : Published April 2nd 2013 by Broadway Books

ISBN : 9780385346788

Author : Tommy Donbavand

Format : Paperback 256 pages

Genre : Media Tie In, Doctor Who, Science Fiction, Fiction, Time Travel, Fantasy

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Kitty says

Why You Should Read 'Doctor Who: The Shroud of Sorrow' by Tommy Donbanvand:

- The first scene opens up at 76 Totters Lane (Foreman's junkyard) JUST after the the Doctor, Susan, Ian and Barbara have left for Doctor Who's first adventure ever.
- Clara changing clothes in front of the Doctor and making him blush
- Eleven's voice is PERFECT. Donbanvand even goes so far as to seamlessly incorporate Eleven's unique gestures and movements, at one point describing him as "a bowlegged ballerina"
- Hearing a scream in the distance, the Doctor turns to Clara and says "They're playing our song, dear." To which Clara extends her hand as if to dance and the Doctor takes it as they run off to help.
- The Doctor impersonating Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart and Clara's comment on the outfit "I love a man in uniform" *wink*
- Classic Who and Nine and Ten's era references abound.
- Protective Doctor
- Badass against a giant bear Clara
- "So back in Britain, it's just about teatime on Saturday 23 November 1963 – and the fun is about to start!"
- Brilliant nod to the airing of the very first episode of Doctor Who
- "Yes, only it doesn't so much fling the fun out of the big end as squirt it out," said the Doctor. He raised a finger to silence Clara. 'Whatever you're about to say, Miss Oswald, forget it!'
- The Doctor reliving the loss of a lot of his companions, classic and new, to draw out the monster
- ALL THE DOCTORS attending Brigadier Alastair Gordon Lethbridge-Stewart's funeral (Benton, Yates, and Liz are there too)

James Parry says

Doctor Who: Shroud of Sorrow - Short Review

Author: Tommy Donbavand

Age Range: 10+

Score: 9.7/10 - Fantastic, Very loyal to the series

The thing I loved most about Shroud of Sorrow was the dozens of references to the classic series and the new series. Most Doctor Who books feel detached from the series, like its not apart of Doctor Who universe. This book was different. I am a big fan of the classic series and that many references in 250 pages was just a dream come true. On the other hand the plot was not as good as it could be, it was good but not amazing or phenomenal. The Doctor and Clara were almost completely identical to the ones from the TV shows. The supporting characters were pretty strong but could have done with some more character development.

Overall this book is definitely one of my favourite Doctor Who books, but I feel that its not for the right reasons.

Jim C says

A book based on the television series. This one has the eleventh Doctor and Clara as his companion. This

takes place right after President Kennedy was assassinated. The world is in mourning and a new enemy feeds off this. The Doctor is the only one who can stop this enemy.

The first half of this book was terrific and I was loving it. I thought the portrayals were accurate as I had no problem picturing Matt Smith and Jenna Coleman. I loved the concept of an sentient being feeding on the grief of the world because of a tragic event. For the first half of this book I could not fathom why there were so many negative reviews. Then the second half hit me and I soon found my answer. This book took an awful, silly (which is saying something considering this is a *Doctor Who* book and this universe is not known for its seriousness) turn and it completely ruined this novel. Clowns, really? We went from a tragic moment in history to clowns. This was wrong on so many levels.

For a series that is known for its playful nature this book completely missed the series intent. That being said I could not give it a one star rating because the first half of the book was so enjoyable. It did capture the nature of this universe and had some terrific easter eggs. Unfortunately, it took a one hundred and eighty degree turn and I recommend avoiding this book.

Tomáš says

Na za?átku jsem byl nadšený, ale b?hem p?íb?hu to tak n?jak vyprchalo. Jako televizní epizoda by byl Závoj smutku spíše pr?m?rný díl a od knihy jsem tak n?jak o?ekával, že se nenechá omezit tím, co lze ukázat na obrazovce.

Pro:

- + P?i ?etb? doslova slyšíte Doktor?v (Smith?v) hlas a snadno si p?edstavíte jeho pohyby
- + Odkazy na klasické p?íb?hy, spole?níky a nep?átele
- + N?které vtipy jsou p?ekvapiv? originální

Proti:

- Doktor je šašek. V seriálu je d?inským starým mužem, ale tady je prost? jen klaun. Což je škoda.
- Antagonista (Závoj) není zdaleka tak zajímavý, jak by mohl být
- Chyby v p?ekladu (p?ekladatel sice dostal jakýsi slovní?ek pojmu?, ale absolutn? nezvládl kontext, který Whoviana trkne do o?í). Za slovo soná? by n?kdo zasloužil p?edhodit Dalek?m.
- Úpln? scházel morální lidský p?esah. Katarze, p?íjemný pocit z ukon?ení p?íb?hu.

Hodnotím p?esto pom?rn? kladn?, protože cílová skupina ?tená?? je výrazn? mladší než já a tenhle druh p?íb?hu nejspíš ocení. p?íšt? bych si ale rad?ji p?e?etl n?co vážn?jšího.

Peter says

It looks like most of this author's other books are children's books, and it really shows in this one. The plot is simply bad (not even laughably bad), the main villain is not only not terrifying but in fact is incredibly boring, the Doctor and other characters are hollow dialogue-deliverers (delivering rather infantile dialogue), and the potential emotional impact from the setting in Dallas the day after JFK was shot goes woefully untouched.

I enjoyed both Touched by an Angel and Plague of the Cybermen, but I can't recommend this book to anyone except young Dr. Who fans between the ages of 8 and 11. If you like your Dr. Who to feel smart, scary, and emotionally charged, you're better off watching Moffat's wonderful episodes Blink or The Girl in the Fireplace.

To be fair, I would give this book a 3.5 or 4 out of 5 if the only people reading it were those young Whovians aged 8-11 I mentioned before.

Kandice says

I wavered between two and three stars. I'm still not sure. The characterization in this book was spot on. I could hear and see Matt Smith and Jenna Coleman as I read. Donbavand is obviously a fan, not only of Doctor Who in general, but of the Twelfth Doctor in particular because I don't think I've read such a perfect written representation of a television character. Ever. That includes Max Allan Collins who I thought was the absolute king in this area.

The Doctor and Clara are drawn to Earth on the day after the Kennedy assassination when the nation, possible the world, is experiencing a shared grief and heartache. Something is toning up the grief for reasons unknown until the Doctor arrives and discovers the Shroud. The Shroud was a terrific Doctor Who nemesis. An alien entity that feeds on grief. The Shroud searches your mind for the source of your most poignant grief and then impersonates it and twists memories to intensify your anguish. Dobavand wrote the Shroud well enough, and in such an exquisitely detailed way, that I feel I almost "watched" this episode unfold.

The waffling has nothing to do with characters. My torn feelings are in regards to the plot. The first two thirds or so of the book was a joy to read. When we travel through a wormhole in search of the Shroud's last feeding ground and meet the clowns...not so much. The entire premise of the clowns was just silly to me. Doctor Who requires a certain acceptance, affection even, for silliness, but there is a certain point where silliness becomes stupidity. I feel Donbavand crossed that line with the clowns.

In the end the Doctor saves the day (of course!) But only by reliving his own moments of grief. Those of us that know and love the Doctor know just how much grief he has felt over his centuries of life. He again shows his willingness to suffer for others. It's this willingness that causes those he encounters to trust and follow him. I would.

Cindy says

[It's a bit strange that Donna and Rose are missing from the Bad Memory Montage, while Astrid shows up so many times. For fans at least, those goodbyes are far more painful than Astrid's. (hide spoiler)]

Elevenetha says

[When you've got Clowns that try to bring happiness to people so they mean well but they're clowns so that negates everything positive they're attempting that live on an ice world, where saber-toothed polar bears attack the ambulance the Doctor used to travel through a wormhole (which was the Shroud's stomach,

complete with dead bodies and grief), that's a *little* bit too

Nikki says

Confession: I'm actually a bit of a fan of Doctor Who tie-in stories. They usually have issues, but they can also be really fun. It's a bit like getting to see secret adventures that never make it into the television show.

Shroud of Sorrow is an Eleventh Doctor adventure and the first novel with new-ish companion, Clara "Oswin" Oswald. (FYI: I think this might be the only media tie-in novel featuring Eleven and Clara, which is really sad.)

Over All Thoughts:

Characters -

From the writing style alone, I'm guessing that the author - Mr. Tommy Donbavand - had only been shown the 2012 Christmas Special and told a bit about the second half of Series Seven. Why do I say this? Clara comes off as a lot of generic traits. She just doesn't seem like herself. She actually comes off as a bit too whiny and complains a lot – not like the Clara I've seen. And while there is some flirty Whouffle (Doctor/Clara)dialogue, the chemistry between the Doctor and Clara is missing. Actually, the Doctor's depth is missing; he just doesn't seem like himself.

The rest of the characters (Mae, Warren, etc) come across as rather generic and just there to keep the story moving. No one really caught my eye or my attention.

Writing and Plot -

The writing style is fine, if over simplistic at times. And the plot is serviceable for a Doctor Who adventure. Though, I cannot help but this this would have worked better as a two-parter for a series of the show. The Shroud really could have used more development as an enemy and as a character itself. It felt rather, there.

I have to wonder why Rose Tyler and Donna Noble weren't in the 'Bad Memories' Montage. To me, their goodbyes were the Doctor were heartbreaking and probably left a large impact on him (and on fans of the "New Who" Series.)

Overall, the novel is a rather fast paced read. (I read it in an hour and a half) And it does have some good moments. However, it's not the best Doctor Who tie-in out there.

2/5 stars.

Debby says

4 stars

If you happen to follow me on Twitter, you would know by now that *Doctor Who* has taken over my life pretty much. So when I saw the beautiful New Series Adventures books in Waterstones in London back in March, it took all my self-control not to buy them. Alas, since then, the obsession has only grown, especially with my love of Whoufflé, and I could not stop myself any longer. I had no idea what to expect with a media tie-in book like this, but MAN was it enjoyable and captured the essence of the TV series perfectly.

What becomes apparent right off the bat is that **Tommy Donbavand has such a great understanding of the Eleventh Doctor and Clara as characters**. They sound completely genuine, which I suppose I was a bit nervous about (since Clara especially hadn't really been seen for long by the time this book was published). Especially the dialogue was top notch, and I found myself giggling like an idiot throughout most of the book. It was just Matt Smith. Totally.

The adventure in this book was also quintessentially DW. The Shroud are such a creepy freaking alien race, it pretty much **gave me the shivers** - as all good Doctor Who villains should. It even ended on a note reminiscent of the most famous episode ever, *Blink*, in that I'm going to have a bit of trouble not thinking I see the Shroud all around me. Creepy goodness!

I thought it was especially cool that **elements of the series really came back in this book**, like mentions of old characters, especially at the end, with memories of the Doctor saying goodbye to various companions over the years. It was not only cool, but that last scene was so emotional and beautiful. Also, I'm just going to put this out there, but there was a Mr. Williams, a veterinarian, in the US in the 1920s. Just. You know.

The only negative thing I have to note is that **the ending is a bit confusing**. I know *Doctor Who* is not exactly known for its thorough (and believable) explanations of science fiction elements, but the wormhole situation was poorly explained and felt a bit rushed to get the climax over with. But that ultimately didn't keep me from enjoying the book any less.

AND. As to the Whoufflé. There could have been more, but I totally understand that this is not fanfiction, haha. I love the dynamic between the two characters anyway, and Donbavand captured that perfectly. The subtle hints are good enough for me now and had me fangirling anyway.

His words were drowned out by a piercing scream from the corridor outside. He flashed a grin at Clara. 'They're playing our song, dear.'

Clara held out her hand. 'Care to do the corridor quickstep?'
Doctor Who: Shroud of Sorrow by Tommy Donbavand

'Want to know what this friend is thinking right now?'

'What?' asked the Doctor. 'Is it that you'd like to be taller? Because I think you should be taller.

When I hug you, I can feel your breath on my chest. It's weird.'

Doctor Who: Shroud of Sorrow by Tommy Donbavand

That is all.

Summing Up:

A fun, quick read! For *Doctor Who* fans who are bookworms like me, I think this series is probably the perfect solution to tide us over in between series. I mean, how am I going to survive the wait until November now? I might buy some more of these.

In Three Words:

Recommended To:

Any *Doctor Who* fans, really.

Max says

This is a bit of an odd book for me. The first half or thereabouts is pretty fun. The monsters, the Shroud, feed on human grief and have come to Earth on November 23, 1963 to eat everybody saddened by the Kennedy assassination. The Doctor and Clara have to stop this new threat, of course, and they get some assistance from the locals to do so. Clara is written relatively well, and the Eleventh Doctor is great in this - the author captures him perfectly in mannerism and speech. I could really picture this as an actual episode. I loved the references to Doctor Who continuity, from the opening scene at the Tottenham Court Road junkyard to the mentions of past companions and monsters.

However, things really went off the rails in the latter half of the book. The Doctor decides that since he's never met the Shroud before, he should track it back to its previous feeding grounds. In a nice reference to *Planet of the Dead*, he does this by driving an ambulance through a wormhole (the TARDIS is out of commission because of course it is). And suddenly we get the *Planet of the Winter Clowns*. It's as ridiculous as it sounds - having been drained of all grief, the people of the planet the Shroud has devastated have reverted to various primal instincts and emotions, except for a small handful that survived fully intact and have turned to clowning to try to fix the population. I get that the author is going for a joy/laughter versus sadness theme, something which *Doctor Who* has done well in the past, but clowns is a little too on the nose and a little too ridiculous even for *Doctor Who* (especially *nuWho*). Plus, it comes down to the Doctor to actually fix things in the end, and the clowns only help him out some.

There's some cool moments of the Doctor revisiting the deaths of past companions, and the idea of every

Doctor visiting the Brigadier's funeral is a much better tribute than the crap we got in the season 8 finale. But, I mean, really: clowns. Freaking clowns. It just doesn't really gel with the vibe of the first half of the novel and takes me out of the tension and drama. The result is that while this book has some fun ideas and some neat references to Who's past (it was published in the 50th anniversary year) it just doesn't really hold together for me. I enjoyed parts of it enough to give it three stars, but I'm left disappointed at the wasted potential. I hope the other Doctor Who novels I have are more like *Touched By An Angel* and less like this mess.

Laura says

Fun, quick read with the 11th Doctor. On the day after JFK's assassination, people all over the world are seeing the ghosts of loved ones. Why are they seeing these ghosts? Are they who they think they are? And what is up with those CLOWNS!??!

Daniel Kukwa says

First of all, I HATE the reduced quality paper & printing that has befallen the series...courtesy of an American publisher, which is now providing Canada with its "Doctor Who" books. The result is disappointingly cheap. But I could have lived with it, had the story been enjoyable. Instead, I found it rather superficial, with most of the characters leaning towards bland. Meanwhile, the 11th Doctor & Clara seemed more like caricatures than the vibrant figures I've come to expect. The 1963 atmosphere isn't milked for its full value, while the inclusion of the clowns comes so drastically out of left field it left my head spinning. Only the lightning pace of the story & the gorgeous realization of the Brigadier's funeral raise this to the level of two stars. By far the least successful "Doctor Who" novel since "The Forgotten Army". That said, I believe this would have worked far better as a television script than a novel -- it's an extremely visual story that deserves a skilled camera & director more than prose.

Joshua Bishop says

One of my absolute favorite Doctor Who novels. Granted, I have only read 12 in total thus far, more to come. I do not have a single complaint about this title.

'Shroud of Sorrow' is full of what you expect from a Doctor Who novel or show. From humorous, playful moments, to a new enemy alien race that can manipulate space and time without the use of technology, to traveling to another planet full of battling tribes and blood thirsty, saber-tooth polar bears, and clowns. Lots of clowns. There is also a playful scene that digs back to the days of the Second Doctor.

Tommy Donbavand seems to be a fan of the Doctor and to have actually done his research in the Doctor and Clara. He wrote both Eleven and Clara perfectly. The "whouffle" was present all throughout. I can't stress enough how refreshing it feels to actually read a novel with the Doctor and his companion acting like they should and being properly written. The author even goes into detail when describing body language for Eleven and Clara, capturing Eleven's essence perfectly.

Kribu says

Sort of hovering between three and four stars - I actually enjoyed it quite a lot, most of the time. It got a bit sillier towards the end, but eh, whatever.

Plenty of fun, light moments with some actually rather moving and horrifying parts, so pretty much what I like DW tie-in novels to be.

Also, I keep being amazed by how much more I like Eleven's written adventures compared to Eleven on TV. It's not the character (and I think Eleven was very well written here), as I rather enjoy Eleven, so I guess it's just that his era on TV didn't work for me at all.
