

DOCTOR · WHO

THE TEN DOCTORS



by Richard Morris

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Thanks for reading!

Rich Morris
Hilary Doda

<http://comics.shipsinker.com>

Author's Note:

I saw my first Doctor Who episode back in 1977 when I was on a family visit to England. We were staying at my Grandparents' house and my big sister and I were exploring the world of British evening television. So we flip through the guide and turn the T.V. on, and there was this wild-eyed goon with an immense scarf and his dark haired companion having adventures in a big blue box in outer space and then in Medieval Italy! ("The Masque of Mandragora," Ep. 1) I was transfixed and terrified! For months my dreams were haunted with images of the farmer being burned with Helix energy, and I never forgot the impression it made on me. I had watched Star Trek (TOS) at home in Canada and it was always part of my life, but that year was when Star Wars had come out and I acquired a fascination for space opera and anything to do with spaceships, zap guns and robots. Once I discovered I could actually watch it in Canada I absorbed everything about it I could get my hands on.

One of the things I used to really love to do in my spare time as a kid was draw comics, though I never got into the comic book scene. I always pictured the panels as television screens and never cared to experiment with the size and format - I'd just take a standard 8.5" x 11" and divide it into 8 equal parts and draw in the spaces provided; it came out more like a storyboard than a comic. I use the same format today, and I draw storyboards for a living! I had drawn a lot of comedy strips with my own cast of very cartoony comics and decided I wanted to do something more serious. I had a 1980 Doctor Who annual that I loved for inspiration and tried drawing the Doctor. I could not for the life of me draw him to a point where I was happy with it and after a while gave up, creating my own Time Lord instead (a very Gary Stu-ish creation based on myself and named "The Scout") I never really shook the idea, however, that I wanted to draw adventures of the Doctor, and resigned myself to the fact that Tom Baker was simply impossible to draw.

It was only recently that, inspired by the resurrection of the show, I doodled a bunch of caricatures of various Doctors and I realized that I actually could draw them well enough for a sketchy comic! So I set off to draw them all in the ultimate Doctor Who adventure. That way if I wound up hating it at least I'd have had a chance to draw everything in a story context. I'm thrilled that I achieved what I set out to achieve! I wove together an admittedly ponderous story that involved crazy time travel, old and new aliens, spaceships, zapguns and robots. Technically I never have to draw any of them again. But I will. I loved it.

If I had (or ever get the inclination, anyway) to go back and change anything it would just be minor things. Obviously the spelling is often terrible and some of the dialogue is out of character, but also the 9th Doctor's overreaction to Rose's getting kidnapped never sat well with me after it went up on the site. I'd like to have made UNIT's contribution more significant too. I also wish I'd had more access to visual references while I was drawing it.

I want to give special thanks, first and foremost, to Hilary, my friend, my wife, my editor, my test audience, my webmistress, publicist and agent. Without her this comic probably would never have made it to the internet and surely would never have gotten finished.

[Editor's note: Sure it would! Just possibly with less grace and style.]

Thanks to the writers and production crew who made the show, new and old, the treasure that it is, especially Russell T. Davies who brought it back and made it mainstream without damaging its integrity. Thanks to the actors and actresses who breathed life into the characters and were so engaging. Thanks to Tim Quinn, Paul Cornell and Tony Lee for such incredible encouragement. And finally, thanks to the readers who enjoyed each page and gave me great feedback (and also those who fed my ego!)