



Doctor Who: Planet of Fire

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The Doctor is enjoying the sun on a holiday island — but things are soon hotter than he bargained for.

The young American Perpugilliam Brown brings to the TARDIS a mysterious object that her archaeologist step-father has found in a sunken wreck. Kamelion, the Doctor's robot friend of a thousand disguises, reacts to the object totally unexpectedly, with bewildering consequences for the TARDIS crew.

For Kamelion sends the Doctor and his friends to Sarn, a terrifyingly beautiful planet of fire. This strange world provides the key to Turlough's secret past — and once again the Doctor is pitted against the wily Master.

Doctor Who: Planet of Fire Details

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: Planet of Fire for online ebook

Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nhw.livejournal.com/1063804.html#cutid5>[return][return]This was a somewhat frustrating read. There are some significant improvements to the story as broadcast - the background to Kamelion is explained a bit more, and it is clear right from the start that he is probably fatally damaged; also there is more of a feeling of difference between Sarn and the site of Howard's dig (clearly in Greece or Cyprus rather than the Canaries). But the exposition of Turlough's background should have been more substantial, and Grimwade occasionally resorts to jarring contemporary metaphors which don't really suit a Doctor Who narrative; the line about the Carmelite nuns in a disco will linger unpleasantly in my memory for some time.

Justin Rees says

This was an excellent Master story but was a little dull as an overall Doctor Who. Stil one that you should read simply for the awesomeness that the Master provides :p.

Travis says

Not a particularly strong story, more a collection of story threads woven into a thin framework of a story. Peter Davidson was getting ready to end his run as the fifth Doctor and this story was written with the express purpose of wrapping up any loose sub-plots while writing out two companions and introducing a new one.

Didn't leave much room for a story.

An archeological dig on Earth discovers an alien artifact, which bears a symbol similar to a marking the Doctor's mysterious companion, Turlough, has on his arm.

Before he and the Doctor can investigate, their robot companion, Kamelion, starts to go nuts and Turlough rescues young Peri Brown from drowning.

Once the quartet leaves Earth, they scatter. While Turlough and the Doctor discover the people living on an volcanically unstable planet, while Peri is stuck with the unstable robot.

The resolution involves the return of an old Who villain, Turlough finding his people and deciding to return home and Kamelion gets the boot.

Very light on story, but lots of good characterization and it was interesting to see the various plot threads dealt with.

I do feel bad for Kamelion. He got a raw deal, as the robot prop never worked well so he got ignored and then written out. Shame as he had a lot of potential as a companion.

Not a big epic, but just a fun read.

Daniel Kukwa says

In some ways, it's Peter Grimwade's most ambitious novelization of his three Doctor Who scripts. Yet it's also the least satisfying...because I don't believe he takes his enhancements and refinements as far as he could have. The end result is a novelization that is good, even occasionally great...but could have been stunning.

Van Turner says

This is the novelization of the television script of the same name and the book is written by the original script writer.

I found the novelization to be somewhat flat, much in the same as I have found Terrance Dicks' novelizations. The story was okay and I enjoyed seeing the character Turlough's storyline given some background but it came as the character was leaving. Interestingly enough, I liked the story that introduced Turlough, "Mawdryn Undead," a lot more and it was even written and novelized by the same author here. I liked the introduction of Peri but was a little disturbed by the demise of Kamelion. Of the Master's little problem, I thought it was funny and fitting.

I would still recommend this to anyone even given its minor flaws.

Becci says

The Master and Chameleon return with more menacing plans...

Jim Short says

I'm glad we finally learned some things about Turlough. And people say Adric was annoying.

Gabriel Mero says

A great introduction to Peri and a wonderful Master story.

David Layton says

Peter Grimwade's novelizations of his own scripts are always better than the televised version. Perhaps it is that the original scripts were drastically changed in production. Perhaps it is that novelizing the scripts allowed Grimwade to rethink what he had written. Or, perhaps Grimwade was just a better novelist than script writer. Whatever the reason, the novelized "Planet of Fire" gives us insights into the characters, especially Turlough and Peri, that we did not get on TV. There are also some additional scenes early, which add background and supply some rationality to some of the plot elements. The plot itself is a bit overly complicated in ways it need not be. There are some unanswered questions, such as how a Trion beacon ended up in the bottom of the Mediterranean. Also, in the novel, Grimwade makes Turlough a bit more snobbish, with some worrying opinions about the lower classes. He never does fully explain to the Doctor

why he acts as he does. It is also a very small universe in which The Master just happens to need something on a planet used as a kind of prison by Turlough's people, and just happens to have the means to get Turlough there without trying to, and that Turlough's family just happened to crash their spaceship on that planet. Too many "just happened tos" for my taste.
