



Doctor Who: Now We Are Six Hundred: A Collection of Time Lord Verse

James Goss , Russell T. Davies (Illustrator)

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If I were a Dalek
And a big Dalek too
I shouldn't much care
What happened to you...

As they get older, even Time Lords sometimes struggle to understand the universe around them. In this delightful collection of poems – the first volume of Doctor Who verse ever published – there are moments of insight, wit and reassurance for those aging inhabitants of Gallifrey, all of which will sound hilariously familiar.

Now We Are Six Hundred is a charming, funny and whimsical collection of poems that celebrate the joys and pitfalls of getting older. Much, much older. Time-Lord older. And sometimes, in space.

Doctor Who: Now We Are Six Hundred: A Collection of Time Lord Verse Details

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: Now We Are Six Hundred: A Collection of Time Lord Verse for online ebook

Mark says

Now We Are Six Hundred is a set of fifty *Doctor Who* poems over 118 pages, loosely based upon AA Milne's *Now We Are Six*.

Thus we have titles such as *Contents* (after "*Happiness*") and *The Five Doctors* (after "*The Three Foxes*"). However I found this difficult, myself. I'm not sure that you can understand the full context and fully appreciate the play on the prose if you don't know the original. For example, compare these two:

Dalek

If I were a Dalek

And a big Dalek too

I shouldn't much care

If it froze or snaw.

Furry Bear (original)

If I were a bear

And a big bear too

I shouldn't much care

If it froze or snaw.

Admittedly, some of these poems are more complex than the above example would suggest: Here's one, for example:

RETIRING

On days I don't want to Doctor much
I worry that I shall lose my touch
All that running down those corridors
Thwartings of tyrants and dreadful bores
Brave rescues from the Foul Monster's Lair
And firm trouncing all the Demons There.

Chaos never ends, oh that's the shame
So yes I tire of just one more game.
Sometimes when the same old fight begins
I fear, just once, I'll let Evil win.
And then, on second thought, perhaps I won't
Because they're Monsters, and so I don't.
On days like that I don't think at all
That being the Doctor's so bad after all.

Which is based on this AA Milne poem (*Knight in Armour*):

Whenever I'm a shining Knight,
I buckle on my armour tight;
And then I look about for things,
Like Rushings-out, and Rescuings,
And Savings from the Dragon's Lair,
And fighting all the Dragons there.
And sometimes when our fights begin,
I think I'll let the Dragons win ...
And then I think perhaps I won't,
Because they're Dragons, and I don't.

Is it clever? Possibly. Does it work? Hmm. I suspect that, as ever with these things, you will either be left amused by the poem's riffing off the original, bemused by its content or, alternatively left wondering what all the fuss is about.

Some will appreciate that, whatever their original inspiration, the content of the poems is all Doctor, from the first incarnation until the twelfth. As well as the Doctor in most of his guises, there are poems that reference Daleks (see above example), The Master, the Adipose, The Toymaker and lots of others.

The poems are accompanied with a number of original illustrations by Russell T. Davies, the writer and former Executive Producer who brought the series back to life in its modern form in 2005. This was a little surprising, although evidently Russell spent much of his youth (when not watching *Doctor Who*) developing his comic artist skills. It was his colour-blindness that steered him away from a job of Graphic Design and instead led him to the role of Executive Producer of *Doctor Who* that he became.

As before, I think you will be either impressed or left nonplussed by his work. Generally the drawings, all in black and white, are very good, although not really to the standard of Milne's artist E. H. Shepard.

In summary, how much you know *Doctor Who* or *Now We Are Six* will determine how much enjoyment you get from this book. I'm not sure if I can see fans quoting this at conventions myself, but you never know! I think you will need to either know, or have a copy of the Milne alongside, in order to get the full impact of this collection.

Whilst I think I know a fair bit about *Doctor Who*, even for me this was a bit of a curate's egg. It's quaint, charming and all rather whimsical, but not for everyone. A collection for hard-core *DW* fans with a knowledge of AA Milne, perhaps. Or, as National Poetry Day is due on 28th September, a convenient and amusing trifle that could provide an entertaining hour or so for a Doctor Who fan.

Jade Lopert says

This was a short fun book of novelty poetry about Doctor Who based on AA Milne's *When We Were Six*. So it's not exactly the best poetry you'll ever read, but it doesn't really matter. Again, it's just fun and I enjoyed it quite a bit.

Jenn says

Some were pretty good, but several poems didn't flow at all. Still a nice read for any Doctor Who fans.

Laura says

If you grew up on "Now we were six" and "When we are very young", by A.A. Milne, and if you also grew upon watching Doctor Who (or caught it later in life), then you might enjoy this slim volume of parody poetry written by James Goss, and illustrated by Russell T Davies, who wrote the first four seasons of the current run of Doctor Who.

But if you are unfamiliar with one or the other, or even both, I would steer clear of this book of mildly amusing poetry. And if you only know the recent incarnation of Doctor Who, then, oh half of the poems will leave you scratching your head.

As someone who can still quote A.A. Milne's verse from memory, it was rather fun to seeing the turn of the phrases that were shown in this book. The verses follow the same patterns of the original, including, in some cases, the same words.

It isn't rip-roaring amusing. It is more the dry wit of the British in full flower. For example, here is part of the original *The King's Breakfast*

The Queen said
"Oh!
And went to
His Majesty:
"Talking of the butter for
The royal slice of bread,
Many people
Think that
Marmalade
Is nicer.
Would you like to try a little
Marmalade
Instead?"

And here is how this book approached it.

The Henchmen
They nodded
And went and told
The Assassin
"Don't forget you'd better make

The Doctor very, very dead
The Masked Assassin
Said slyly
"You'd better tell
His Majesty
That many people nowadays
Like democracy
Instead

So, this book is really for those who either love both A.A. Milne and Doctor Who, or love Doctor Who and must have every book written about the show. I think everyone else in the world will look at this book and kind of scratch their heads.

Nicholas Whyte says

<https://nwwhyte.livejournal.com/3070704.html>

A short collection of poems by James Goss, with illustrations by former show-runner Russell T. Davis, all more or less based on similar poems by A.A. Milne. The concept is very cute, and I like that fact that the subject matter of the poems bridges both Old Who and New Who. James Goss is one of my favourite Who writers. However, it didn't entirely work for me - perhaps it is too long since I last read Now We Are Six.

Ken says

A collection of poems loosely based on A. A. Milne's 'Now We Are Six', those that know the original Winnie The Pooh verses will easily see the parallels.

The poems themselves are a little unremarkable.

My favourite being Full Stop, which featured all of the then current 12 Doctor's.

The best thing about this collection is the illustrations, even the space pig from the televised story 'Aliens of London' looks remarkably like Piglet.

It's worth reading the book just for the wonderful drawings alone.

Derelict Space Sheep says

42 WORD REVIEW:

By themselves Davies' illustrations would make this a 4-star book, but the unmitigated celery stick of Goss's verse (so-called) diminishes this to a dudgeon-inducing 1-star cash-in from the direst depths of e-space. Utterly unreadable to poets, Doctor Who fans and everyone else.

Michael Rudzki says

Wonderful verse about all the Doctors, with absolutely delightful drawings by the father of New Who, Russell T Davies!

Jason Wilson says

One of the odder but more delightful who tributes... you have to know your old and new who to get it all but the Milne modelling is nice and , like all nursery rhymes, sometimes the ditties are reflective of the series' darkest hours.....

Sadena says

4/5. To be fair, I can't say I understood all of the poems, mainly because I don't remember or know a lot of old Who, but I liked this nevertheless. Some poems just captured my heart and the illustrations were, quite honestly, cute and beautiful. It was a fun, quick read and I would recommend to any Doctor Who fans out there to read it.

Margaret says

Cute idea, doesn't quite work.

Mostly because some of the poem adaptations don't scan correctly. Squeezing an extra syllable in to make a rhyme just annoys me.

Several were excellent and the book gets 3 stars on the basis of the Cottlestone Pie red0.

Michael Mills says

5 out of 5 for the illustrations

2 out of 5 for the poems

Not that I was expecting a bit of novelty publishing to offer great poetry, but expectation of weakness doesn't forgive it. There are a few that are fun and touching in their own ways (the "Foreward" and little story of the War Doctor and the mouse) but the hit rate is very low, and for the most part they feel like they were knocked off in pretty short order. Some of them, if I'm honest, don't even seem to make that much sense (but perhaps I'm not engaging in a close enough reading)...

The illustrations from Russell T Davies are a joy, however, and worth the price of admission alone. The wit and insight of his writing is every bit as evident here, with cartoons that are gorgeous to look at and also funny beyond the bounds of the poems they accompany (my personal favourites are the Celestial Toymaker conjuring up some real-life Doctor Who toys, and K9 as Snoopy).

Michael Cook says

It's unfortunate how utterly disappointing this collection of poetry was. I guess I expected better poetry? There's hints of interesting ideas in this, like when they lovingly parody Winnie the Pooh, but for every moment of brilliance, there's two moments of trite, crummy poetry. It might have been better if more than one author contributed to the poetry, instead of one author having to write fifty Doctor Who related poems.

It's not that this book is bad, it's just not as good as it could've been.

Cale says

The 'about the author' section says "This is his first (and probably only) volume of poetry." I admire his willingness to admit that poetry is not his strong suit - I just wish I had seen that before I had stumbled through the 100 pages of poems that preceded that.

The book is a merger of Doctor Who and A.A. Milne's "Now we are Six" that presupposes the reader has extensive knowledge of both - many of the Who references eluded me and I've seen all of the new and about a third of the old. And I know poetry doesn't have to rhyme, but when you do try to make it rhyme and pair things like shocked her, fracture, interlocutors, and provocateur, you're failing.

The illustrations are done by Russell Davies, and they're... acceptable, I guess. Their quality varies greatly, and the best of them are hardly memorable. I think what it comes down to was that this was an experiment that just didn't pan out. I'm all for experimenting, but honestly I can't recommend this to anyone. I'm kind of shocked it got published. Unless you have all of 'Now we are Six' memorized, and can quote every Doctor Who by heart, and don't mind frankly painful poetry, this book is not going to bring you any pleasure.

travelgirlut says

This was a fun bit of poetry. There's a pretty even balance between poems about the old Doctors and poems about the new. This left me feeling a little left out since I've only watched the new series, with the exception of a few episodes of the old, but it wasn't completely foreign.

I was also a bit confused at first since I had no idea this book was based on a book of poems by A. A. Milne. I did a bit of Googling a few poems in and finally figured it out. I think you'd probably get more out of this if you were familiar with the original poems, which I am not.

But overall, a fun way to spend an hour or so.
