shame now that he's trying, maybe subconsciously, to imitate another writer.

Books like *Covenant of the Crown* and his terrific V novels have proved that he's a superb novelist and author. *Perchance to Dream* is his third **Star Trek: The Next Generation** novel and unfortunately I think he's running out of ideas. Sorry, Howard, better luck next time.

Mark Chappell

DOCTOR WHO
Timewyrm: Revelation
by Paul Cornell
Publisher Virgin Books
Price £3.50
Published: Dec '91

THE **Timewyrm** saga draws to an end, but its success should bode well for the continuation of these new '**Doctor Who** adventures'. All four stories have had their merits, and have been diverse and frequently innovative examples of storytelling.

Revelation is a bizarre tale from Paul Cornell, a **Who** fan turned writer, who has taken the plunge and written the novel for the adult audience the publisher intended.

The book is very attention grabbing, starting on the Time Lords' home planet, Gallifrey, as a young Doctor meets with his mentor on the mountainside — some subtle and pleasing continuity with the Jon Pertwee era there. Then to the village of Cheldon Bonniface, with the Reverend Trelaw and Saul, the mysterious entity which dwells in his church. A couple of pages later we're experiencing Ace's schooldays, and witness her murder at the hands of another child, Chad Boyle. Then Chad is taken from his bedroom at night in a Space-Time machine...

The juxtaposition of these events, together with Cornell's attention to detail, makes fascinating and unsettling reading. We know that Ace cannot really be dead, and sure enough she appears aboard the TARDIS at the beginning of the next chapter, as the ship lands in Cheldon Bonnifice. Or does it? As each page passes, one becomes aware that little is as it seems, as the travellers discover their true location and Rupert Hemmings (last seen in Terrance Dicks' *Exodus*) reveals himself.

Cornell has written a novel that steers clear of traditional **Doctor Who**. It is a nightmare in print, with some startling imagery; the dwarf astronaut, the grisly 'death' of Martha, Ace's journey to the afterlife... The recurring imagery is fascinating and colourful; snow falls on Gallifrey and the Moon, roses symbolize the

afterlife and the Doctor's motivation, and the Time Lord dances with Death, which then crumbles into Moondust. The pages are layered with description, such as in Ace's classroom where 'brown leaves were stuck to a chart with great dollops of white glue', while her bedroom includes a 'row of soft toys looking down at her and the pink bedspread tucked neatly up to her chin'.

Characters are lovingly crafted, particularly the odious Chad, a school bully who despises Ace for being a 'Paki-lover'. Peter and Emily Hutchings and Reverend Trelaw provide a welcome glimpse of normality amongst the pot-pourri of weird set pieces, and the Timewyrm herself is finally given centre stage and explored in some depth. Cornell also explores the Doctor's conscience, and the tempestuous relationship between him and his companion finally reaches boiling point, as Ace has to come to terms with the fact that the Doctor caused her death. We've seen arguments between the pair before, but this time the feelings run much deeper...

Revelation is another *Warriors' Gate*, with elements of Clive Barker and Stephen King thrown in for good measure. Perhaps its only fault is the frequently incestuous continuity (old companions, old Doctors...), but despite the fact that it becomes irksome (Katarina, Sara Kingdom and Adric begin to get really annoying after a while) there is a logical reason for it being there.

If the **Timewyrm** series has proved one thing, it is that **Doctor Who** is not dead — there are still many original stories waiting to be told. Such a pity that the BBC isn't trying to find them.

Richard Houldsworth

THUNDERBIRDS
Yes, M'Lady
By Sylvia Anderson
Publisher Smith Gryphon
Price £9.99
Published: Nov '91

FOR too long has the story of Sylvia Anderson's involvement in those bygone puppet series and Century 21 Productions gone untold. Now, finally, here is that story.

Essentially the book is about the Gerry and Sylvia Anderson partnership; how it started, and how it fell apart. The story starts in 1957, with the young Sylvia — I don't think we ever find out her maiden name — looking for a job, and how she ends up working with the most unlikely group of people. From this grew Anderson Burr Productions, and all those early puppet series.

As the book title suggests, the programme the book concentrates on is **Thunderbirds**. This is a pity in a way, for many of the Anderson series tend to get the briefest of references, and I'm sure there are many stories to be told about them. Still, there is enough information about **Thunderbirds** to excuse this.

This might have been a nasty and bitter book with perhaps a caustic look at the break-up between her and Gerry Anderson, but it is instead a very affectionate

and nostalgic trip through the years of **Thunderbirds**' success. Sylvia Anderson pays tribute to all those involved in the series', and in particular to the amount of personal sacrifices everyone made.

She comes across as a very warm person, full of enthusiasm for, and pride in, her work. You realize very quickly how much of the Andersons' success was down to her. This does not mean that she spends the book telling us how clever she was, her contribution just comes out as a seemingly natural consequence of the events around her.

At the back of the book are listed the **Thunderbirds** episodes, each with a synopsis, writer and director credits, and a comment by Sylvia Anderson. Fortunately there are very few, and all minor, negative points. There is a photograph (one of many excellent ones, by the way) which is credited as a Martian Rock Snake (between pages 86 and 87). Nope! No way. Haven't a clue what it is either!

The only other gripe I can have about the book is its title and sub title. *Yes M'Lady - The Voice of Lady Penelope* does not do justice to Sylvia Anderson. She is a lot more than that. It should have been called something like 'Sylvia Anderson - Co-creator of **Thunderbirds**', at the very least.

Jan Vincent-Rudzki

MYTH MAKERS
Sophie Aldred (#23)
Reeltime Pictures
Price £16.99
Released: Late '91
Hi-Fi Stereo

THIS is the latest in a series of video-taped interviews with the stars of **Doctor Who**. Since the third tape, the interviewer has been Nicholas Briggs — er, that's me (as a glance at the end of this review will reveal). Of course, I'm not the point of these tapes, the featured guests are!

To many fans of **Doctor Who**, Sophie Aldred, who played nitro-nine touting Ace, represents one of the best aspects of the last (possibly final) twenty-odd episodes of the programme. Script editor Andrew Cartmel and his team of writers obviously took to the character of Ace in a big way, making her a vital part of the plots, rather than the screaming cipher every other **Who** companion became. Another factor which has made Sophie Aldred popular with fans is her genuine 'personability' at conventions/autograph signing sessions. There's not a hint of pretension about her.

The Sophie Aldred **Myth Makers** works because, like the Colin Baker tape (released a year or so ago), there is a strong element of real communication between the celebrity and me. Presenter-driven programmes are mostly fairly 'cringe-making', and past **Myth Makers** have certainly featured their fair share of ingratiating and nervous behaviour on my part. It occurs because I am desperate to make the programme work and have a relaxed feel about it; I have learnt that the true effect is the opposite!

Luckily, overlaid 'niceness' does not rear its off-putting head in this tape. There is an anarchic edge to the proceedings, as Sophie takes me on a tour of her old childhood haunts. Gone are the usual **Myth Makers** trademarks of vanishing / materializing celebrity / presenter 'gags' and contrived 'plots' about mysterious,

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lurking strangers/monsters. All those elements have been fun in past releases, but rather than an effective technique for on-screen interviews, they have been more an indication of the production team's hidden wish to produce drama.

This tape unashamedly borrows techniques from 'Youth TV' (hand-held camera, clever graphics), tells you virtually everything you wanted to know about Sophie Aldred and quite a lot about **Doctor Who** — I even give her a bit of a grilling about **Who** scripts. Also on view... some unique behind-the-scenes photographs, great driving by Sophie and a minimum of stupid questions from me. It was great fun to make, Sophie Aldred was a joy to work with and the finished product contains some inspired editing (not by me!). I could even bear to watch it again... and I reckon that must be some kind of strong recommendation!

Nicholas Briggs

THE SAINT
The House on Dragon's Rock / The Saint Plays With Fire
ITC Video
Released Dec '91

DESPITE the video's title, the two episodes are actually in the reverse order. This meant that I had to speed through the first, 'regular', episode to reach the unusual **Saint** story, *The House on Dragon Rock*.

This is a slightly difficult review to write, as I can remember watching this

episode when it was first shown back in the mid-Sixties. This was a special episode — in some ITV regions it had the warning 'unsuitable for children and people of a nervous disposition' — which is perhaps why the video has a PG rating. My review must therefore be tinged with quite a lot of nostalgia.

This is the first time I have seen this story in colour, and I'm glad to say it in no way detracts from the story's impact. The main theme is that of a mad scientist creating something which goes around killing people and sheep in the Welsh mountains. What is it? Well, the Saint will find out.

Fortunately, we do not see 'it' for some time, and so the tension builds up nicely with clues sprinkled all over the place. Of course we have those wonderful mist-bound studio sets, so prevalent in Sixties ITV drama, but that all adds to the charm.

I can see why ITC have released this episode. It is well made and very enjoyable.

Incidentally, after watching this episode I thought I might as well take a look at *The Saint Plays With Fire*. I'm glad I did, as this story of a Nazi movement in Britain was quite compelling. This is definitely a tape to recommend.

Jan Vincent-Rudzki

Finally, a quick mention of the **Twin Peaks** video releases. The first season is being released in complete episodes — the BBC did cut a bit towards the end — over the next few months. Along with this release there are T-shirt offers and a competition at the start of the video. Unmissable! As is our competition, so here goes...

Twin Peaks

Take the ingredients of murder, coffee, cherry pie, a personal tape recorder, a dwarf, a policeman who cries at the scene of a murder and... well, *any* of the other odd ideas lurking around in the dark imagination of writer/director David Lynch, and you may well come up with a 'damn fine' cult television series called **Twin Peaks**. More importantly, you'll also come up with the prizes on offer, from Screen Entertainment, to *TV Zone* readers who enter this competition.

We have five sets of four **Twin Peaks** tapes as prizes. These cover the first season (the second is to be released next year), so why not throw a few rocks at the following questions and see how you do. Alternatively, you can put your answers on a postcard, or the back of an envelope, and send them to:-

TV Zone (Peak)
PO Box 371
London
SW14 8JL

1) Whose body is discovered on the beach?
2) What is the name of the FBI agent in charge of the case?
3) What does this FBI agent most like to eat and drink?

Closing date: 13th February 1992

Main Cast

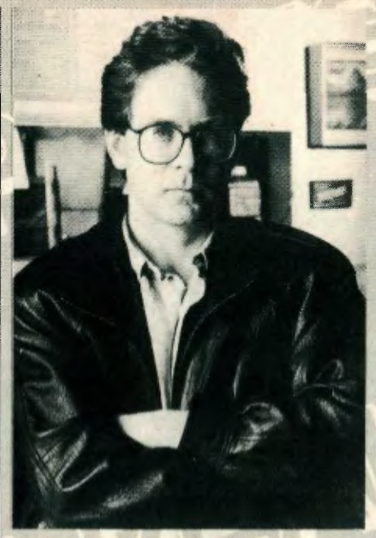
Andy Brennan.....Harry Goaz
Bobby Briggs ..... Dana Ashbrook
Major Briggs ..... Don Davis
FBI Agent Dale Cooper
.....Kyle McLachlan
Madeleine Ferguson.....Sheryl Lee
Donna Hayward..... Lara Flynn Boyle
Doctor Will Hayward..... Warren Frost
Tommy 'The Hawk' Hill
.....Michael Horse
Benjamin Horne..... Richard Beymer
Audrey Horne .....Sherilyn Fenn
Ed Hurley.....Everett McGill
James Hurley .....James Marshall
Nadine Hurley..... Wendy Robie
Dr Lawrence Jacoby
.....Russ Tamblyn
Norma Jennings .....Peggy Lipton
Leo Johnson.....Eric Da Rae
Shelly Johnson ..... Mädchen Amick
Log Lady.....Catherine E Coulson
Catherine Packard Martell
.....Piper Laurie
Pete Martell .....Jack Nance
Mayor Dwayne Milford
.....John Boylan
Lucy Moran..... Kimmy Robertson
The One Armed Man..... Al Strobel
Josie Packard.....Joan Chen
Laura Palmer.....Sheryl Lee
Leland Palmer .....Ray Wise
Sarah Palmer .....Grace Zabriskie
Jacques Renault..... Walter Olkewicz
Sheriff Harry Truman
.....Michael Ontkean

Pilot Episode

Executive Producers .... Mark Frost &
.....David Lynch
Producer.....David J Latt
Writer.....Mark Frost & David Lynch
Director.....David Lynch
Production Designer
..... Patricia Norris
Director of Photography
.....Ron Garcia
Editor .....Duwayne R Dunham
Music .....Angelo Badalamenti

Alice Brady (Shelly Henning), Betty Briggs (Charlotte Stewart), Max Hartman (Ben DiGregorio), Eileen Hayward (Mary Jo Deschanel), Harriet Hayward (Jessica Wallenfels), Heidi (Andrea Hays), Janice Hogan (Majorie Nelson), Margaret Honeycut (Jane Jones), Sylvia Horne (Jan D'Arcy), Hotel Employee (Diane Caldwell), Father Hutchings (Frank Roberts), Mrs Jackson (Dorothy Roberts), Sven Jorgenson (Arnie Stenseth), Mike Nelson (Gary Hershberger), Joey Paulsen (Brett Vadset), Janek Pulaski (Rick Tutor), Maria Pulaski (Roberta Maguire), Ronnette Pulaski (Phoebe Augustine), Dr Shelvy (Tawnya Pettiford-Waites), Biker Scotty (Rodney Harvey), Girl Singer (Julee Cruise), Gilman White (David Wasman), George Wolchezk (Troy Evans)

A small town murder — a beautiful, much-loved girl is found butchered. As



Co-creator Mark Frost

FBI Agent Dale Cooper arrives in Twin Peaks, he discovers that there was more to Laura Palmer than most people thought.

The Series

Executive Producers, Creators, Writers and Directors
..... Mark Frost & David Lynch
Producer ..... David Greenberg
Music ..... Angelo Badalamenti

A1

Teleplay ... Mark Frost & David Lynch
Director ..... Duwayne Dunham

Betty Briggs (Charlotte Stewart), Eileen Hayward (Mary Jo Deschanel), Mike Nelson (Gary Hershberger), Janek Pulaski) (Alan Ogle), Surburbis Pulaski (Michelle Milanton), Trudy (Jill Rogosheske)

As James Hurley tries to avoid the murderous intent of Mike and Bobby, Catherine Martell reveals her plans to take over the mill.

A2

Teleplay ... Mark Frost & David Lynch
Director .....David Lynch

Bartender (Kim Lentz), Bob (Frank Silva), Eileen Hayward (Mary Jo Deschanel), Jerry Horne (David Patrick Kelly), Johhny Horne (Robert Bauer), Sylvia Horne (Jan D'Arcy), Man From Another Place (Michael J Anderson), Mike Nelson (Gary Hershberger), Blackie O'Reilly (Victoria Caitlan), Albert Rosenfield (Miguel Ferrer), Swabbie (Charlie Spradling)

Stone throwing, and Cooper has a dream — a dream where Laura reveals her murderer and Dale is taught how to dance.

Lara Flynn Boyle, who plays Donna Hayward, and Kyle MacLachlan as Dale Cooper confer with Director David Lynch Photos courtesy Worldvision Enterprises Inc