

# Quatermass: A Journey Through Time and Space on Television and in Films

Professor Bernard Quatermass, the brilliant yet enigmatic scientist created by British writer Nigel Kneale, has been a mainstay of science fiction for over seven decades. From his humble beginnings on BBC television in the 1950s to his cinematic adventures in the 1960s and beyond, Quatermass has captivated audiences with his groundbreaking stories and thought-provoking explorations of the human condition.



## Quatermass In Television and Movies by Mark F Cain

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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## Origins on Television

The character of Quatermass first emerged on the small screen in 1953, in the BBC serial *The Quatermass Experiment*. This six-part series introduced viewers to Professor Bernard Quatermass, a leading expert in rocket science and space exploration. When a British spaceship returns to Earth with only one survivor, a strange and horrifying creature, Quatermass finds himself caught in a race against time to prevent an alien invasion.

The success of *The Quatermass Experiment* led to two sequels, *Quatermass II* (1955) and *Quatermass and the Pit* (1958-59). These serials further developed Quatermass's character and explored darker themes such as the dangers of nuclear technology and the potential for humanity's self-destruction.

## **Hammer Films Adaptations**

In the 1960s, the Hammer Film Productions studio brought Quatermass to the big screen with a trio of films: *The Quatermass Xperiment* (1955), *Quatermass 2* (1957), and *Quatermass and the Pit* (1967). These adaptations were more streamlined than their television counterparts, but they retained the essence of Kneale's original stories and introduced Quatermass to a wider audience.

Hammer Films' Quatermass films are renowned for their striking visuals, atmospheric cinematography, and memorable performances. Brian Donlevy, John Longden, and Andrew Keir all brought their own unique interpretations to the role of Quatermass, cementing the character's place in the pantheon of science fiction icons.

## **Later Television Appearances**

In the 1970s and 1980s, Quatermass returned to television in a series of one-off specials and short-lived series. These included *Quatermass in the Future* (1979), *Quatermass* (1979), and *The Quatermass Memoirs* (1996). These later productions explored new themes and expanded on Quatermass's backstory, adding further depth to the character.

In 2019, a new Quatermass series, titled *Quatermass*, was announced for development by the BBC. This series aims to reintroduce the character to a

modern audience while remaining faithful to Kneale's original vision.

## Impact on Popular Culture

Over the course of seven decades, Quatermass has had a profound impact on popular culture. The character has been referenced in countless works of science fiction, television, and film. His influence can be seen in everything from the *Doctor Who* franchise to the works of Stephen King.

Quatermass's enduring popularity is due in no small part to his complex and multifaceted character. He is a brilliant scientist, but he is also flawed and haunted by the consequences of his own actions. He is a man of science, but he is also open to the possibility of the unknown. This combination of rationalism and mysticism makes Quatermass a uniquely compelling and relatable figure.

Quatermass is a towering figure in the history of science fiction. Through his television series and cinematic adventures, he has explored the depths of the human psyche, the dangers of unchecked scientific progress, and the possibility of extraterrestrial life. His legacy continues to inspire and entertain audiences to this day.

Whether you are a long-time fan or a newcomer to the world of Quatermass, I encourage you to delve into his thrilling and thought-provoking stories. You will not be disappointed.

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