

# COMPANIONS

MORE THAN SIXTY YEARS OF DOCTOR WHO ASSISTANTS

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## What Makes a Companion?



Finding a topic for *Doctor Who* fans to argue about is like shooting Fish People in a barrel. Are you allowed to have a favourite Doctor? Are the Virgin New Adventures 'canon'? Who's the best showrunner? And one of the most prevalent questions is surely: what makes a *Doctor Who* companion?

In considering this, you have to take note of all those the Doctor became friends with, and question if they can really be seen as 'companions'. Some are obvious: Ian and Barbara, Amy and Rory, Ben and Polly – all travelled in the TARDIS and fought monsters side-by-side with the face-changing alien. Others muddy the water, including one person many think of as the very first companion: Susan. Actress, Carole Ann Ford doesn't class her as the Doctor's companion; she's his granddaughter, not some fly-by-night human looking for an escape from earthly troubles.

The Brigadier falls into the latter category. Few can agree as to whether he should be classed as the Doctor's companion or not. He doesn't strictly adhere to the blueprint set out by the likes of Susan, Barbara, and Ian, but then, neither do River Song or Kate Stewart.

Twenty-first century *Doctor Who* further complicates matters. The 2009 Specials, for example, boast a succession of would-be companions like Captain Adelaide Brooke (*The Waters of Mars*), Lady Christina de Souza (*Planet of the Dead*), and Jackson Lake (*The Next Doctor*)... who has a companion himself!

So how do we separate the Wrights from the wrongs?

You have to analyse the Doctor's relationship with that person, and trust is a key part of any relationship. In travelling with him, companions become his representatives in some ways;

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he must have confidence in them doing the right thing when he's not there. But there are numerous companions who can't be trusted.

When he first met her in *Silence in the Library/Forest of the Dead* (2008), the Tenth Doctor was sceptical of River Song, despite her assurances that she was someone he'd 'trust absolutely'. It took her to whisper his real name for him to realise their shared future. Nonetheless, he's keen to get away from River when they next meet, and her duplicity is highlighted when it's revealed she's imprisoned in the Stormcage facility. Whereas River gains his trust, the Doctor never holds any faith in Adam Mitchell – which proves just as well: Adam swiftly puts time and space in peril and is duly dumped back home, with a hole in his head for his troubles.

Some might be unsure about giving River Song and Adam Mitchell 'companion' status, but few can quibble over Kamelion's inclusion. The Doctor shows great confidence in him, yet, in *Planet of Fire* (1984), the shape-shifting android caves in to the Master. He's not the only Fifth Doctor companion who's not trustworthy.

'Turlough was an alien, so when you first saw him, you needed to be a bit suspicious of him: he shouldn't have looked quite right,' actor, Mark Strickson explains. 'People often say, "weren't you too old to play a schoolboy?" And I could throttle them! I was not a schoolboy; I was an alien who had landed *posing* as a schoolboy. It's just completely different. So if, when you first saw me, you thought, *Oh, he's too old to be a schoolboy, he looks weird* – that's exactly what you were supposed to think! Immediately be suspicious of him.' Vislor Turlough's backstory wasn't expanded upon until his last serial, and his *raison d'être* was as a mysterious companion whose motivations remained elusive. The Doctor learned to trust him, encouraging him to find his own titular prize in *Enlightenment* (1983). A far cry from the schoolboy who was going to cave the Time Lord's head in at the cliffhanger of his debut episode.

You might think a proclivity to violence would stop fans from classifying someone as a companion. In theory, the Doctor doesn't approve of militaristic or rash action. He definitely spends enough

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time scolding the Brigadier for using such means to attack enemies.

Except that's not entirely true.

In *Journey's End* (2008), Davros tells the Doctor that 'you take ordinary people and you fashion them into weapons'. The Doctor certainly uses people: Ace is a good example of this because he says he doesn't like her use of Nitro-9, though is happy enough to exploit her unhealthy obsession. Other companions are more than willing to get their hands dirty: Jack Harkness, Leela, and River Song all revel in combat. The Tenth Doctor is visibly disgusted to learn Jack works for Torchwood and at Jack's suggestion that he break the Master's neck in *The Sound of Drums* (2007). The Fourth Doctor frequently refers to Leela as 'savage' and attempts to educate her on the ways of pacificism. At least with River, the Eleventh Doctor admits that she 'has her own gun, and unlike me, she really doesn't mind shooting people. I shouldn't like that. Kind of do – a bit.' The Doctor uses all these companions' less-desirable attributes for his own purposes while also decrying them. He's a hypocrite, but we forgive him for that because he tries to be better. A brief glance over the list of people associated with the Doctor disperses the notion that adherence to violence excludes anyone from being a companion.

It's not this which excludes Captain Mike Yates and Sergeant Benton, whose statuses, like the Brigadier, are ambiguous. Many see them as recurring characters, in a similar fashion to Jackie Tyler, Sylvia Noble, and Professor Travers. Osgood is perhaps the nearest example: as with Yates and Benton, she's part of the UNIT family, so doesn't travel with the Doctor but remains a regular face working on Earth's defences.

Do companions have to travel in the TARDIS to qualify for companion status? If so, *The Three Doctors* (1973) would elevate the Brigadier and Benton to this distinction. However, it would also qualify Eldrad (*The Hand of Fear*), Courtney Woods (*Kill the Moon*), and a large array of characters throughout the 1980s, including much of the cast of *Earthshock* (1982). It would further discount Liz Shaw, the Third Doctor's co-scientific advisor during

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the period when the TARDIS wasn't working. Surely no one can question whether she's a companion or not.

Harry Sullivan occupies an interesting place in *Doctor Who*. He's part of the UNIT family and travels extensively with the Doctor, both with and without the TARDIS. And while he joins the Doctor and Sarah in something of a whirlwind, even before that he demonstrates an intuition and independence that marks him apart from some fellow UNIT employees. This could be because he's employed as a surgeon rather than a soldier, allowing him some flexibility due to a different degree of expertise. Nonetheless, it remains paramount for anyone under the employ of the military to obey orders.

Ian Marter had auditioned for the part of Harry when it was thought an older Fourth Doctor would be cast, hence his being written out in *The Android Invasion* (1975), when it became clear Tom Baker didn't need someone else to do physically exhausting scenes. *Doctor Who*, as a programme, demands some action-adventure traits, so it becomes a necessity to cast characters perfect for this part. William Russell, Peter Purves, and Michael Craze were all taken on as 'action heroes' as William Hartnell couldn't fulfil that role on the show.

Ultimately, what makes a companion is the intent of the production team.

Someone like Katarina, although having much less screen time than Sara Kingdom, is regarded as a companion because she was created to be so; yes, even Kamelion, who only appeared in two adventures, since he was intended to be a companion. Grace Holloway falls into the grey area, half companion, half almost companion, because the intent was that she'd apparently become the Doctor's companion had a series been picked up on the success of *The Television Movie*. No such series materialised.

It's inevitable, then, that we all have different criteria in mind when classifying companions – and that's okay. Much like the TARDIS, *Doctor Who* fandom is infinite in its view, and no one view is better than the other.

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After all, *Doctor Who* tells us to keep an open mind. One common theme in the series is that companions can be found anywhere and everywhere. Look at the people who have travelled with the Doctor, at the diverse cultures and times represented on the TARDIS. Jamie and Amy might share an accent, a love of fried food, and a place in the Time Lord's hearts, but their lives are poles apart otherwise.

But it's not all about people. *Doctor Who* tells us that we all have companions, and they're often more intangible than we initially think. Take *Listen* (2014) for example, in which Clara Oswald tells a young Doctor: 'Fear is like a companion. A constant companion, always there. But that's okay. Because fear can bring us together. Fear can bring you home. I'm going to leave you something just so you'll always remember: fear makes companions of us all.'

Clara's sentiment echoes one expressed by the First Doctor in *An Unearthly Child* (1963). 'Fear makes companions of all of us, Miss Wright,' he tells Barbara. 'Fear is with all of us, and always will be. Just like that other sensation that lives with it... Hope.'

If we define the term 'companion' as something that accompanies us throughout our life – or even something that accompanies us through a substantial amount of time – we're surrounded by companions. That could mean people: for the Doctor it does, and similarly it's the TARDIS.

It's art too, in all its mediums: screen, theatre, dance, and music. The ear-worms the Twelfth Doctor mentions in *Before the Flood* (2015) underscore our lives. In this sense, companions are an expression of self. It's that ELO song you're humming, that person you can't get off your mind, or the programme you love so much, your house is brimming with associated memorabilia.

# The Ninth Doctor

*Expanded Universe*



With the regeneration of *Doctor Who* into the more marketing-savvy and brand-conscious world of 2005 and its reintroduction into mainstream popular culture, the Expanded Universe expands like, well, a Big Bang. There are the additions of spin-off shows such as *Torchwood* and *The Sarah Jane Adventures*; and the appearance of magazines such as *Doctor Who Insider* and *Battles in Time*, the latter comprised of collectible trading cards reinforced by a magazine containing a comic strip of the Tenth Doctor's adventures. Pitched at a much younger audience, *Battles in Time* had a colourful, stylistically simple, and easily accessible look, as did another magazine, *Doctor Who Adventures*. Then there was the short-lived *Doctor Who Storybook* and its successor, *The Brilliant Book of Doctor Who*; a role-playing range, *Decide Your Destiny*; the *2-In-1* collections; numerous anthologies, audiobooks, and *Quick Reads* titles; and online projects such as the *BBC Online* comics, a series of strips posted on the BBC website by professional *Doctor Who* writers.

Most prominently, however, are the *New Series Adventures*, or NSA, novels that began in May 2005 with *The Clockwise Man*, *The Monsters Inside*, and *Winner Takes All*, the first of only six fiction books released during Christopher Eccleston's time as the Ninth Doctor.

Rose's first visit to an alien planet, Justice Alpha, is the subject of *The Monsters Inside*. This is part of the Justicia system – mentioned in passing during the episode, *Boom Town* – a penal colony sprawled across seven planets, and Rose is quickly separated from the Doctor, both being arrested and taken to difference jails (humans on Justice Beta and aliens on Justice

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Prime). Prior to this, Rose's adventures have either been Earthbound or to space stations. These three books take place early on in her travels, though all occur sometime after *Aliens of London/ World War Three*, given that she mistakes rogue Blathereen in *The Monsters Inside* as Slitheen, both families hailing from Raxacoricofallapatorius.

She appears in all of the first twelve New Series Adventures novels, the next of which, *Winner Takes All*, sees her back on Earth and more specifically back on the Powell Estate, where her mum, Jackie, is mugged, and Mickey reveals himself to be quite the obsessive gamer, talking about *Grand Theft Auto*, Sonic the Hedgehog, XBoxes, and Playstations. Another of his games is called *Bad Wolf*.

Mickey isn't the only man in Rose's life, however. In *Only Human*, she marries a Neanderthal man named Tillun. Marriage sees her dispensing with 'Tyler' and becoming Rose Glathicgacymcilliach. Technically though, she ends up a widow as Tillun remains in his own time where he lives out his life. (The later novel, *The Stone Rose*, alludes to this, as the Tenth Doctor asks Rose if she has ever come close to marrying anyone that she shouldn't have. Then again, this could be a reference to Jimmy Stone, an ex-boyfriend of Rose's to whom she was engaged.)

Probably the best source of biographical information about Rose can be found in an article called *Meet Rose*, included in the 2006 *Doctor Who Annual* and written by Russell T Davies. Here we learn that Rose's middle name is Marion and that she has always dreamed of travelling. However, a school trip to France at the age of thirteen was the furthest she had ever got and this didn't end well. But it did reveal an early taste for adventure: Rose, and Shareen Costello, her best friend, gave their teachers the slip and rode a train to Parc Asterix instead of visiting the Louvre. (She'd eventually see the Mona Lisa in the 2005 comic, *Art Attack*, and Paris in 1923, as per the 2015 comic event, *The Four Doctors*.) They were eventually found by the police and subsequently sent home.

Rose started dating Mickey Smith, who lived on the same



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estate, when she was fourteen years old, claiming that it really wasn't anything special. At school, further trouble occurred when she managed to talk the school choir into going on strike, resulting in her being suspended for three days. Rose, despite her ongoing tendency for mischief, did reasonably well in her exams, getting an A, a couple of Bs, four Cs, and a D in science. Encouraged by this, she made plans to study English, Art, and French at A-Level. Sadly though, this wasn't to be the case.

Jimmy Stone was twenty, had the title of 'fittest boy' on the estate, and played bass in a local band called No Hot Ashes. Rose fell very deeply for Jimmy and, after dumping Mickey and leaving home, she moved into a bedsit with him. Only five months later, she was back at home, heartbroken and £800 in debt while Jimmy was in Amsterdam with a woman named Noosh. Mickey forgave Rose and they got back together. She then got a temporary job to try and pay off her debt before getting, with Jackie's help, a more permanent position in Henrik's, which of course, was destined to go up in flames.

And what of Jimmy Stone? He's mentioned in *Rose*, with the companion berating her lack of job and concluding, 'It's all Jimmy Stone's fault. If I hadn't left school because of him... Look where he ended up.' According to the Target novelisation of the episode, Stone wound up imprisoned for eighteen months, then briefly became a door-to-door salesman, before being killed by Autons while he was robbing his then-girlfriend, Abena. (A parallel version of Rose marries Jimmy in *The Rogue Planet*, part of the 2022 audio set, *The Dimension Cannon: Other Worlds*, and has a child with him, also named Jimmy.)

What kind of an individual would get stranded in the Ataline System with only a traffic cone? Captain Jack Harkness, of course, who joins Rose and the Ninth Doctor in the last three official novels of 2005. The Ataline incident is referred to in *The Stealers of Dreams*, set in a world where fiction is against the law. Jack references his connection with the Time Agency, telling the enemy that he's still a Time Agent and will summon a Time Agency

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warfleet should he be forced to. This is a highly significant threat to most alien races as the Time Agency is much feared.

*The Stealers of Dreams* is also notable in that Jack mentions knowing the Face of Boe, touching on a contentious subject since *The Last of the Time Lords*, which raises the possibility that Jack and the Face of Boe are one and the same. *The Stealers of Dreams* was released almost two and half years before that TV episode aired, and the idea of a connection hadn't yet been fully conceptualised. In this novel, Jack recalls the Face of Boe as being a local figure of some fame in his own time, which doesn't negate the Face being Jack, living through Jack's own pre-Doctor life.

The book includes Rose calling her mother and references the events of *Boom Town*, placing this after that TV episode; that goes against the Doctor's assertion in *Bad Wolf* that the trio had gone from Raxacoricofallapatorius then Kyoto in 1336 before being taken by the transmat beam at the start of the series one finale. While that story fills in a narrative hole that doesn't exist, various others naturally fill in ones that do. This includes *The Last Party on Earth*, part of the 2019 audio anthology, *The Dimension Cannon*, which tells us that her grandfather Prentice passed away when she was eight or nine years old and that his life was celebrated in a lively wake. *The Ninth Doctor Chronicles Volume Three* (2017) features *The Other Side*, which sees the Doctor attempting to take Adam Mitchell home after he joined them in *Dalek*, but instead being caught in a temporal tsunami; with Rose stranded in 1922 and the Doctor in 1894, the Doctor waits twenty-eight years to see her again. The Doctor then accepts Adam as a new companion, pre-*The Long Game*, after he helps them defeat the anomaly-creating Bygone Horde. And the short story, *The Red Bicycle*, from 2016's *Twelve Doctors of Christmas*, shows the Ninth Doctor acting as Father Christmas by leaving her a beloved red bike when she was twelve (mentioned in *The Doctor Dances*) in 1998; this also tells us that Rose is a fan of The Stranglers, as she bought one of their albums at a record shop in Piccadilly Circus in 1977.

We also find out that Rose is a fan of the Vengaboys,

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according to the 2006 short story *Voice from the Vortex!* in *Doctor Who Magazine* (written in the style of 1960s comics), as well as the Erasure song, *Sometimes*, which she sings during *Opera of Doom*, included in the 2007 *Doctor Who Storybook*.

Arguably, *A Groatworth of Wit*, the last Ninth Doctor *DWM* comic strip from 2005-06, contradicts the 2007 TV episode, *The Shakespeare Code*, seeing as it shows the Doctor and Rose meeting William Shakespeare, as well as his rival playwright, Robert Greene.

In a perfect example of how twenty-first century *Doctor Who* expands on companions' backstories more than ever before, the origins of the Powell Estate, where Rose and Jackie (and, for a time, Pete Tyler) live are explored. Notably, *The Love Invasion*, Rose and the Ninth Doctor's comic strip debut in *DWM*, starts off in 1966 with the pair visiting the future site of the estate. But what should be all fields is instead a housing development called Brandon Mews; after they unravel the plans of the alien Kustollon called Igrix, the Doctor uses his sonic screwdriver to activate bulldozers that destroy Brandon Mews and make way for the Powell Estate. The Target novelisation of *Rose*, though, says that it wasn't built until 1973, and is comprised of two towers of sixteen floors, with six flats per storey. These towers were unofficially known as 'Enoch' and 'Powell', as some thought they were named after MP Enoch Powell, whereas they were actually named after the developer's mother-in-law, Mary Jane Powell. *Wednesdays For Beginners*, from the 2017 audio boxset, *The Lives of Captain Jack*, shows that Trisha Delaney, Rose's rival in the fight for Mickey's heart as mentioned in *Boom Town*, lives on the Powell Estate; so too does the Doctor's future wife, River Song, in 2020's *R&J*, specifically at number twenty-three in 2007.

Further adventures for Rose and the Ninth Doctor include a trippy trip to Mars (*The Cruel Sea*); Rose being turned into a vampire in *Monstrous Beauty*, part of the *Time Lord Victorious* event in 2020, during which they also come face to face with Rassilon; and, for Titan Comics' 2017 event, *The Lost Dimension*, meeting

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Vastra, Jenny, and Strax, aka the Paternoster Row gang introduced on TV in 2011's *A Good Man Goes to War*. The latter takes places during the period Rose is travelling alongside Captain Jack Harkness.

Before Titan Comics got the license for official tie-ins, IDW published many comics, though primarily featuring the Tenth Doctor. Nonetheless, in 2008-09's *The Forgotten*, Jack is mentioned by a soldier who talks about him surviving a bullet in the head. This is in keeping with Jack's TV timeline which suggests on a few occasions that he left Torchwood Three in order to enlist in both world wars. Nonetheless, it's fruitful to delve into *Torchwood's* Expanded Universe for more development of Jack's character.

In the 2008 *Torchwood* novel, *The Twilight Streets*, the 1940s Jack is seen as being critical and disapproving of Torchwood's approach and methods and is persuaded by Greg, a former boyfriend, to become a freelance agent. The novel further explains that, during the events of *Boom Town* – in which a younger Jack arrives with the Doctor and Rose to refuel the TARDIS at Cardiff Bay – Jack puts a lockdown on all Torchwood activity to avoid a paradox involving his past self. *Trace Memory* and the anthology *Consequences* then see Jack still working as a freelance agent for Torchwood in the 1960s. He also remains distrustful of UNIT, expressing complaints about the organisation in *Something in the Water* and *Bay of the Dead*.

Jack enters into a number of liaisons, including having affairs with Alison and Miles, whose wedding he also attends in *The House That Jack Built*; when Miles drowns his wife, however, Jack is left wracked by guilt.

Rather pleasingly, in *Trace Memory*, Jack hides out in the Shangri-La hotel, formerly the Shangri-La holiday camp as seen in the TV *Doctor Who* story, *Delta and the Bannermen*; *Risk Assessment* reveals that he helped Torchwood foil an invasion of the Ice Warriors in the 1960s, then apprehended one of their sonic

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cannons; and *The Undertaker's Gift* implies he's met Sontarans and Silurians.

Much like *Doctor Who Magazine*, albeit with less frequency, the monthly *Torchwood Magazine* featured comic strips in which Jack made regular appearances. Perhaps most noteworthy is the 2009 story, *Captain Jack and the Selkie*, written by John Barrowman and his sister, Carole E Barrowman. This writing duo return for the 2012 novel, *Exodus Code*, which is set after the events of *Torchwood: Miracle Day*, and sees Jack dealing with more consequences of his immortal life, brought down somewhat by becoming mortal in *Miracle Day*. He is no longer convinced he will remain immortal. The book reveals that Jack's aware of the Mandragora Helix, having been told by Sarah Jane Smith about its exploits (in the TV story, *The Masque of Mandragora*).

Jack's also had many audio adventures – most significant of these being *Month 25*, the fourth story in 2017's anthology, *The Lives of Captain Jack*, which tells us Jack's real name: Javic Piotr Thane.

In the same boxset, *The Year After I Died* shows what happened to Jack after *The Parting of the Ways*, namely that he's hailed as a hero but shuns the attention by becoming a recluse. He only starts integrating himself back into the world when aspiring reporter, Silo Crook, tries to interview him and instead draws him into the mystery of Trear Station, a place reconstituted from the Game Station. Not knowing he's immortal at that point, Jack is electrocuted and revived, which he puts down to the universe liking him; we might infer that his more positive attitude, spurred on by Silo's new agenda to rebuild the irradiated and largely-destroyed planet following the Daleks' attack, inspires him to travel back to twenty-first century Earth. His vortex manipulator's burning out leaves him stranded in 1869, as established in *Utopia*, meaning he spends a lot of time working for Torchwood: during this period, he meets Queen Victoria (*The Victorian Age*); shuts down Torchwood India (*Golden Age*); and is frozen in a temporary time bubble by Yvonne Hartman in *One Rule*. She recognises that

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he doesn't have Torchwood's best interests at heart – for her, that means acquisitioning the Doctor on behalf of 'Queen and country.' Jack also sets up a deadlock seal on his office at the Torchwood Hub, as per 2016's *Outbreak*, which effectively means even the Doctor can't use the sonic screwdriver to get in, should he ever wish to.

Jack does meet the Doctor again before *Utopia*, albeit the Sixth Doctor who seemingly dies in Jack's arms in 2019's *Piece of Mind*. Jack even dresses up as this Doctor... while the real Doctor pretends to be his companion, Captain Jack Harkness! The Sixth Doctor later falls into a healing coma during which he edits his own memories so his future self won't recognise Jack.

*Night of the Whisper*, part of the *Destiny of the Doctor* fiftieth anniversary audio series, shows that Jack has a second sonic blaster, his first having been destroyed in 2015 comic, *Weapons of Past Destruction*. That comic run explores the time Jack travelled with the Ninth Doctor and Rose: they track down Time Lord technology on the intergalactic black market in the aforementioned story; defeat rogue Raxacoricofallapatorian, Gleda Ley-Sooth Marka Jinglatheen, with the help of Slist Fayflut Marteveerthon Slitheen in *Doctormania*; meet Brigadier Alistair Gordon Lethbridge-Stewart, Harry Sullivan, and Sergeant Benton of UNIT in *Official Secrets*; and attempt to get Jack's missing memories back – only for them to encounter an assassin Time Agent taking the name Joshua Hughes in *Secret Agent Man*, who, of course, turns out to actually be Jack.

The comics further explore the companion who couldn't cut the mustard – Adam Mitchell, whose TV arc began in *Dalek* and ended in the very next episode. Before this, his story was foreshadowed online, via shorts on the site, *Who is Doctor Who?*, modelled after that seen in *Rose* run by Clive Finch, then expanded afterwards in *Welcome Home*, part of the 2015 book, *The Time Lord Letters*. That tome says his parents are Sandra and Geoff Mitchell, and he lives in Manchester, though this is contradicted by the online

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story, *Essay Competition*, which says their house is in Nottingham. The latter includes a thesis by fourteen-year-old Adam, in which he details why he wants to meet aliens – specifically that he wants to learn from them. This nicely explains his motives in *The Long Game*, notably his wanting to cure problems like arthritis, which his father suffers from. This essay won him (Adam) Geocomtex Hardware offered as a prize by his future employee, Henry Van Statten.

This is where IDW's comic picks up the story: *Mystery Date* shows that, after being dropped home, Adam grows resentful of the Doctor when his mother dies of a brain embolism, something Adam might've saved her from if the Time Lord hadn't have interfered with his plans. As he later tells the Doctor, 'It wasn't fair! I only made one mistake!' He has a point. Adam decides to take revenge and excavates Van Statten's vault in Utah, before stealing a vortex manipulator from a Time Agent. Now able to travel in time, Adam kidnaps many of the Doctor's companions during the *Prisoners of Time* event, including Susan, Ian Chesterton, Barbara Wright, Sara Kingdom, Jamie McCrimmon, the Brigadier, Sarah Jane Smith, K9, Frobisher, Grace Holloway, and Rose; as well as (to him) future companions, Jack Harkness, Mickey Smith, Martha Jones, Donna Noble, Amy Pond, Rory Williams, and Clara Oswald. With the help of the Master in *Façades*, Adam appears to kidnap Peri Brown too, but it actually turns out to be the shapeshifting Frobisher.

With all his companions in stasis, Adam gives the Eleventh Doctor a choice: he can only save one (*Endgame*).

The companions are rescued by the Doctor's previous ten incarnations, with Frobisher's help, before the Master springs his ultimate trap, to use their TARDISEs to destroy the universe. Realising he's been used, Adam turns on the Master and dies stopping him. In his last moments, he apologises for what he's done. In turn, the Doctor apologises, by burying Adam outside his fortress located in the Time Vortex, his grave inscribed with 'Adam Mitchell – A Companion True.'

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Meanwhile, Titan Comics' *Ninth Doctor* series is significant for introducing a new companion, Tara Mishra, a rarity for this incarnation of the Time Lord.

Born in Sri Lanka, Tara is a nurse-turned-UNIT soldier who meets the Ninth Doctor, Rose, and Jack at Blaise Castle in Bristol in *Official Secrets*. (Due to the UNIT dating controversy, it's not revealed whether Tara comes from the 1970s or 1980s.) There, she's investigating Albion Defence, a rival taskforce intent on undermining UNIT by creating attacks by monsters. She's clearly gutsy and values the safety of the country more than her career, as she sacrifices this by appearing on a chat show pretending to work for Albion Defence in order to publicly bring them down. At the end of the story, she sneaks on board the TARDIS. Tara and the Doctor quickly establish a bond, one which Rose is clearly jealous of.

Tara's first trip is to Brazil in 1682 (*Slaver's Song*), where they learn Zloy Volk (Russian for 'Bad Wolf'), someone who Jack was supposed to have assassinated when working for the Time Agency, is still alive, leading Jack to briefly leave the TARDIS to search for answers on his own. They catch up with him in *The Bidding War*, just in time to be attacked by the Cybermen, who Tara reveals she, alongside UNIT, has fought before, when they'd converted half the town of Halifax. Tara stays behind on the technology-haven of Nomicae, circa 5324, to help its population recover from the Cybermen. Jack's bond with Tara is so great that he goes back to find her in *The Lost Dimension*, but after his vortex manipulator fails him, they're eventually left on a planet likely to be Skaro. Tara's fate is left unanswered, but we know Jack makes it back to the TARDIS at some point.

The Ninth Doctor's audio-exclusive companions are similarly short-lived, though understandably so. The first is Nova, played by Camilla Beeput in Big Finish's *The Ninth Doctor Adventures: Series One* (2021). An intergalactic chef at the *Sphere of Freedom*, Nova is an eleventh-generation human refugee from the outer



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colonies, and so she has never even heard of Earth. She meets the Doctor as he's investigating time eddies, and though she's initially distrustful of him, she is soon won over – albeit mainly due to his agreeing to help her escape her life, which consists of fourteen-hour shifts in return for food and grubby sleeping quarters. As such, she follows the Doctor's orders to the letter, and is frustrated when the Doctor accidentally disappears into the TARDIS for three weeks.

Before she can join him in his ship, she's taken away by a time eddy and ends up on a planet covered in massive plants (*Cataclysm*). The Doctor finally rescues her in the TARDIS, and the pair find themselves on the planet Tarlishia, where they hope to learn why Sphere of Freedom CEO, Audrey Mohinson, is manipulating the time eddies.

It's a good thing that Nova likes science fiction, as she's quickly swept up in talk of time particles and teaming up with a ragtag group of time-eddy-displaced individuals including the former leader of the Roman Empire, Marcus Aurelius Gallius (*Food Fight*). Her former distrust of the Doctor comes back, however, when that timeline is aborted and the Ninth Doctor meets her again; this time, though, he befriends Mohinson, who agrees to give her enough credits to start a new life. Nova and the Doctor then bond over drinks, with the former explaining her love of sci-fi and gaming comes from her father; when the Doctor offers her one trip in the TARDIS, he says he already knows exactly the right place and time.

In 2023's *Red Darkness*, the Doctor meets Callen Lennox and his guide dog, Doyle, on Solis Kailya. Callen suffers from poor eyesight due to macular degeneration and red-green colour blindness, so Doyle is his 'seeing' dog; more than this, however – Doyle can also talk, using a neural relay! The Border Collie, voiced by Harki Bhambra, doesn't immediately like the Doctor, perhaps borne from not trusting outsiders given that colonists have been going missing, and the fact he's supposed to look out for Callen, who's still young (voice actor, Adam Martyn, being in his

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twenties at the time of recording) and adventurous.

Helpfully, Doyle can detect the real threat to the colonists – that is, Vashta Nerada, as seen on TV in *Silence in the Library/Forest of the Dead*, combined with the malicious waveform, Vermine, to create the Red Darkness – but that’s not enough to save Iona Lennox, Callen’s mother, an optics specialist who was studying the unique light properties of the planet and the Red Darkness. After defeating the Vashta Nerada and Vermine, Callen feels displaced from his home, so the Doctor takes him and Doyle with him in the TARDIS. They travel together for a short time, though Doyle annoys the Doctor by asking for frequent toilet breaks. Nonetheless, Doyle’s natural herding instincts come in handy on the spaceship Greenwood when he helps round up giant maggots (*The Green Gift*, a sequel to *The Green Death*). Though Callen is a keen explorer, the Ninth Doctor isn’t quite ready to travel with anyone long-term, still suffering from the Time War, and is looking for an appropriate place for his new companions to settle down. Sure enough, Callen and Doyle stay to make a new life, having become emotionally attached to bio-habitat guardian, Tay Lothlor, and her dog, Lyrka.

## COMPANIONS: MORE THAN SIXTY YEARS OF DOCTOR WHO ASSISTANTS

*Doctor Who* was never really about the Doctor. This is the story of the Time Lord's companions – friends through all time and space.

Discover the journeys of every one of the Doctor's assistants, from Susan, Ian Chesterton, and Barbara Wright, to Fifteenth Doctor companion, Ruby Sunday; including their adventures off-screen, in novels, comics, and audio.

*Companions: More Than Sixty Years of Doctor Who Assistants* is an in-depth account of each companion, examining their arcs, significance in the TV series, and how they traversed different times, places, and mediums. Relive their travels on television. Learn what companions did after they left the TARDIS. And meet the Doctor's wider network of friends, from Evelyn Smythe to Liv Chenka, Professor Bernice Summerfield to his grandchildren, John and Gillian.

See the universe anew through their eyes.



The original *Companions* book by Andy Frankham-Allen was released in 2013, and came to just over 300 pages. This new edition, written by Philip Bates, editor of *The Doctor Who Companion*, is a whopping 700 pages long, covering every companion from Susan, Barbara Wright, and Ian Chesterton, to Ruby Sunday – and brings us right up to date with a section on Anita Benn, who stayed with the Fifteenth Doctor for a year in the most recent Christmas special, *Joy to the World!*

*Companions: More Than 60 Years of Doctor Who Assistants* now includes:

- Updated sections dedicated to every single regular TV companion, including Jamie McCrimmon, Sarah Jane Smith, Peri Brown, Rose Tyler, Amy Pond and Rory Williams, Bill Potts, and Yasmin Khan.
- Expanded chapters on the multimedia adventures of TV companions, featuring details of what happened to them after they left the TARDIS, and bringing each one up to date to form a definitive guide to their journeys on screen and off.
- Companions exclusive to the Expanded Universe, including Jeremy Fitzoliver (introduced in *The Paradise of Death*); Mrs Wibbsey (from the *Nest Cottage* audio series); *Doctor Who Magazine* original characters like Sharon Davies, Sir Justin, Kroton, and Fey Truscott-Sade; Stacy Townsend and Ssard from the Radio Times; Big Finish companions like Oliver Harper, Anya Kingdom, Hebe Harrison, Elizabeth Klein, Lucie Miller, and Valarie Lockwood; characters who feature in novels such as Fitzgerald ‘Fitz’ Kreiner, Princess Freydis of Trondheim and Henrik, Chris Cwej, Cinder, and Grant Markham; and other comic companions like Alice Obiefune, Josephine ‘Josie’ Day, Heather McCrimmon... and even a robotic Tyrannosaurus Rex called Kevin!
- New chapters for the companions of the Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Doctors, as well as sections for the War Doctor and Fugitive Doctor.
- A brand-new chapter on the Eighth Doctor’s companions like Grace Holloway, Molly O’Sullivan, C’rizz, Liv Chenka and Helen Sinclair, Lady Audacity Montague, Compassion, Izzy Sinclair and Destrii, Cass, Samantha Jones, and more.
- Sections throughout about River Song, noting down her meetings with numerous Doctors.
- A new cover and afterword by *Doctor Who* artist, Colin Howard.

- An examination of Ace's various timelines and endings, and how they tally with her inclusion in *The Power of the Doctor*, alongside updated entries for Tegan Jovanka, Donna Noble, Wilfred Mott, and Melanie Bush to account for their adventures with the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Doctors.
- An updated look at the roles of Brigadier Alistair Gordon Lethbridge-Stewart and his daughter, Kate Stewart – and of UNIT – in the Doctor's life.

*Companions: More Than 60 Years of Doctor Who Assistants* is available now from the Candy Jar website, for £20 (plus p&p).



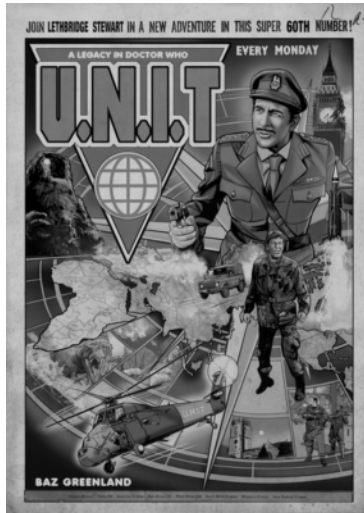
*To listen to a Companions Spotify playlist, scan the QR code above.*

## UNIT: A LEGACY IN DOCTOR WHO

*UNIT: A Legacy in Doctor Who* explores the rich history of the United Nations Intelligence Taskforce – and later Unified Intelligence Taskforce – from its inception under producer and writer Derrick Sherwin, through the UNIT family days of Jon Pertwee’s Doctor, all the way to the Kate and Osgood era of recent years.

With UNIT featuring in numerous other media like Reeltime Productions, Big Finish audio, and the *Lethbridge-Stewart* range from Candy Jar Books, the legacy of UNIT – and its importance to *Doctor Who* extends beyond its television appearances.

The book features exclusive interviews with writers and actors John Levene and Sophie Aldred, and explores the development of UNIT, its importance in the *Doctor Who* mythos and the actors that brought these iconic characters to life – from Nicholas Courtney’s stalwart Brigadier Alistair Lethbridge-Stewart to Jemma Redgrave’s courageous Kate Stewart.



# Coming Soon from Candy Jar

TEN YEARS IN THE MAKING

*Just Sarah:*

*More Than Fifty Years of a Doctor Who Companion*

On 15th December 1973, Sarah Jane Smith joined the Doctor on his travels and became one of the most loved companions throughout its initial twenty-six-year run. In 2006, she returned to *Doctor Who*, which led to her own spin-off series, *The Sarah Jane Adventures* – the most successful show on CBBC.

Half a century on from *The Time Warrior*, this essay collection celebrates not just this cherished character but also the remarkable person who played her, as well as those lives she touched.

*Just Sarah: More Than Fifty Years of a Doctor Who Companion* includes a guide to Sarah's adventures in the TARDIS and beyond; examinations of her relationship with the Doctor; a look at the horror tropes in tales like *Planet of Evil* and *The Brain of Morbius*; recollections of Sladen's other roles (often for Third Doctor producer, Barry Letts); warm memories from artists, Colin Howard and Martin Geraghty; and much more.

Plus, of course, why she's not Sarah Jane Smith – she is *just Sarah*.

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[www.candyjarbooks.co.uk](http://www.candyjarbooks.co.uk)

# Coming Soon from Candy Jar

## BENTON AND HAWTHORNE INVESTIGATE

Murder! Magic! Morning tea!

When UNIT is called in to investigate strange goings-on at Addershall Hall, they uncover a supernatural menace about to be unleashed upon the world. They need an expert. They need Miss Hawthorne.

Or “Aunt Olive”, as Sergeant John Benton calls her.

The pair must go undercover to find out the truth about the wyverns ushered into this universe by a clandestine group of evil-worshippers. Tempted away from Devil’s End, Miss Hawthorne soon gets a taste for adventure, and so, in these six short stories, she and Benton have to track down the reason for mysterious earthquakes across the sleepy village of Lower Budworthy, slip out the Wringford Worm’s grip, and find themselves in Germany, recovering experimental missile plans. Of course, they also meet some new friends – and plenty of enemies – along the way.

It’s Agatha Christie, spliced with dark magic, and infused with that warm nostalgic glow of the 1970s *Doctor Who* Target novels.

Going beyond *The Dæmons*, the Brigadier assists Benton and Hawthorne in this exciting confrontation with the forces of black magic!

For more information on Candy Jar’s range of books, visit  
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