



ASPECTS OF AVON

A BLAKE'S 7 NOVEL FROM THE 1980S IS BEING GIVEN A NEW LEASE OF LIFE ON AUDIO THANKS TO BIG FINISH...

WHEN PAUL Darrow passed away in 2019, *Blake's 7* lost one of its most iconic, charismatic and beloved stars. The actor invested so much of himself into the role of Kerr Avon, to the extent that in 1989 he wrote *Avon: A Terrible Aspect* – a prequel novel to the television series. It tells the story from a time long before *Liberator*, as the young Avon grew into man with a driving purpose: to avenge the death of his father in a world of cross and double-cross. It is a thrilling tale of family, loyalty, action and revenge during the early days of the Terran Federation that took Avon through his early life and across the galaxy towards his ultimate destiny.

Paul said of his book at the time of publication: "This is a prequel to *Blake's 7*. It's a straightforward, fast-moving story of the origins of Kerr Avon. It begins before Avon's birth and shows the family structure he was born into, in the strange repressive culture projected for the future in the *Blake's 7* universe."

"In here are some of the characters a *Blake's 7* fan will recall – Anna Grant, Avon's only love; Del Grant, her brother; and Tynus, Avon's good friend – or so he believes!

"In a weird duel in the frozen North of their home planet, two brothers

fight a duel to the death – and Rogue Avon is slain. This, the Federation feels, spells the end to rebellion in the universe and the status quo of peace without freedom can continue.

"But they are wrong. The son of Rogue Avon, obviously an Earthling and entitled to return to his home planet, has sworn to his mother to avenge his father. He returns to Earth, and there manages to work out the inevitable conclusion to this ingenious and fascinating tale.

"This book is dedicated to Terry Nation – a great writer – and to Janet, my wife, without whose help I could not have attempted to emulate him."

BIG FINISH'S Blake's 7 producer Peter Anghelides says:

"The question on every fan's mind when the original TV series ended was: 'What happens next?' So it was an unexpected treat when Paul Darrow defied all expectations by writing a prequel. And apart from Terry Nation, himself a good friend of Paul's, who better than the man who played Avon himself to reveal the character's history before his first

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PETER ANGHELIDES

appearance on the telly? When the book was first published in 1989, Terry said: 'Now I know why Avon was the way he was.'

"*Avon: A Terrible Aspect* was published a good eight years after the series ended. Contemporary *Blake's 7* fandom has kept the series alive and has quite the tradition of new fan fiction – not just short fiction but also whole novels published in A4 fanzine format.

"But what a treat to discover that the man who played Avon in the series was writing his own first novel – and it was about *Blake's 7*! The book was only available in print form – it was published at a time

when novels were not so widely made available as audiobooks."

The new audiobook is read by Alistair Lock who plays Orac and Zen for the Big Finish *Blake's 7* audio plays. Alistair has also played other characters in *Blake's 7* and *Doctor Who* audio dramas, and been a sound designer and music composer for many of them.

Peter says: "As it's been so long out of print, now seemed like the right time to give *Avon: A Terrible Aspect* a makeover and make it available again. Alistair has been involved in officially licensed *Blake's 7* audios since about 2008 as a director, sound designer, musician and/or actor. He's very much the all-rounder."

Alistair tells *Vortex*: "Having been involved with the full-cast *Blake's 7* audios since 2012, I was honoured to be asked to record Paul's book.

"Over the years I have actually played or read-in for every member of the *Blake's 7* cast so narrating this novel has been an enjoyable challenge. I had great fun finding a voice for all the characters including, of course, the man himself – Avon. Well now..."

Peter is delighted with the way the audiobook is coming together, saying: "It sounds wonderful. As well as capturing Avon and a diverse range of other characters in his reading, Alistair has also done a great job on the sound edit. I can't wait for people to hear it."

Avon: A Terrible Aspect isn't Paul's only *Blake's 7* fiction. Peter explains:

"Paul has also written three post-series Avon novels for Big Finish known as the *Lucifer* trilogy. They have been released in print and also as audiobooks with the first and second narrated by Paul, and Stephen Greif reading the third."

Lucifer, Lucifer: Revelation and *Lucifer: Genesis* are available from Big Finish as eBooks, audiobooks and/or in print. Paul's autobiography *You're Him, Aren't You?* is also available. **VORTEX**

BLAKE'S 7 AVON: A TERRIBLE ASPECT

- RELEASED: FEBRUARY 2025
- FORMAT: DOWNLOAD

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