

The next volume of Doctor Who short stories is on the way – featuring a gaggle of new scribes...

SHORT BUT SWEET

BIG FINISH'S popular **Short Trips** range returns with six thrilling new adventures. The Doctor and his companions face friends and foes from past, present and future in this audiobook anthology of **Doctor Who** short stories. Range producer Peter Anghelides says: “**Short Trips** has been a wonderful opportunity for Big Finish to seek out new and varied voices for writing **Doctor Who** adventures.

“In previous releases we’ve had a balance of familiar and new writers. I’m delighted that this time five of the six authors are contributing their first audio story for Big Finish – including some who came to our attention from their entries in the annual Paul Spragg Memorial Competition.

“Each writer has brought a fresh outlook to the range. Their stories make clever use of the opportunities an

audiobook offers that a full-cast audio drama does not, such as descriptive prose and a perspective on someone’s inner thoughts and perceptions.

They combine exciting adventures with thoughtful character pieces.

“Whenever possible, I invite the writer to listen in to the studio recording of their story. When I’ve written scripts myself, I’ve always found it a treat to hear my words come to life as the actor performs them. And I think writers also get a better feeling for the practicalities and mechanics of recording a story that can help them when they write their next script. Two of our six writers for this collection were in the US so it was quite an early start for them to dial in!”

The set opens with *Dark Watchers of California* by Riley Silverman, a Twelfth Doctor and Bill adventure read by Rebecca Root.

Susie hides out in California’s Big Sur, but finds she cannot entirely escape a 1966 San Francisco riot. Who are the Dark Watchers?

Riley is a writer, comedian, actress and podcaster based in Los Angeles. She is an author of *Star Wars* books, head writer of the comedy panel podcast *Troubled Waters*, and a contributing writer to *D&D Beyond*.

The second story, *When I Say Run...* by Ben Tedds, is an adventure for you and the Tenth Doctor, read by Clare Corbett.

You love listening to these audio stories as you go about your daily routine, so it’s awkward when an alien entity takes control of you during your morning run. Maybe the Doctor can have a word in your ear?

Ben won the Paul Spragg Memorial Short Trips Opportunity



Above: India Fisher

in 2019 with *The Best-Laid Plans*. He has subsequently written for the **Short Trips** range and **The Twelfth Doctor Chronicles**. In 2024, Ben won an ITV Development Traineeship at Plimsoll Productions.

Rise of the Eukaryans by Daniel Hardcastle is an Eleventh Doctor story read by Laura Aikman.

A busy factory owner unexpectedly finds her own face burned into her breakfast toast. As if that's not bad enough, someone's rearranged the contents of her fridge.

Daniel was invited to write his first audio story for Big Finish when judges of the Paul Spragg Memorial Opportunity were impressed by his competition entry. As Nerd³ he is a popular YouTuber, author and actor. He wrote a 2019 Sunday Times bestseller book on video gaming, and his science fiction novel *The Paradox Paradox* is being published by Unbound this year.

Ahead of Time by Paul Booth is an Eighth Doctor and Charley adventure read by India Fisher.

Kairon lies in ruins, its timeline destroyed by a reckless temporal Ponzi

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PETER ANGHELIDES

scheme. Amid the chaos, Kenz Qindi holds the secret to saving her planet.

Paul was invited to write his first audio story for Big Finish when judges of the Paul Spragg Memorial Opportunity liked his entry. He is professor in Communication and Media at DePaul University, Chicago, where he teaches a course on **Doctor Who**. Paul has written and edited more than 50 books, chapters and academic articles on media and pop culture (including **Doctor Who** titles for Bloomsbury), as well

as other sci-fi/horror stories.

Emerald Isle by Christian Markham is a Seventh Doctor and Ace adventure read by Kaye Brown.

Family and friendship are at stake on the Caribbean island of Montserrat as ghosts of the past come for Ace and her childhood friend.

This is Christian's debut story for Big Finish, having previously submitted entries to the Paul Spragg Memorial Opportunity. For his story, he has chosen to draw upon his mixed Jamaican/Montserratian Caribbean heritage.

The final story, *Dark is the Devil that Walks* by Mags L Halliday features the Fifth Doctor, Tegan and Turlough read by Janet Fielding.

In 1814 Devon, palaeontologist Isabella Kerslake rescues the Doctor from a cliff collapse.

This is Mags's first audio story for Big Finish though she has written adventures for print in **Short Trips: Transmissions** and the **Bernice Summerfield** and **Iris Wildthyme** ranges. Mags wrote the Eighth Doctor novel *History 101* for BBC Books and has been shortlisted for the Exeter Writers prize for her non-**Who** fiction.

Peter concludes: "This is the first **Short Trips** volume to have behind-the-scenes tracks where the author, director and reader discuss how the story was written and recorded.

"We did some of these for the most recent Paul Spragg Memorial Competition winners, and as listeners like them so much we decided to do them for all our short stories." **VORTEX**

SHORT TRIPS TALES FROM THE VORTEX



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