



Doctor Who: The Blue Tooth

Nigel Fairs

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"I suppose that was one of the Doctor's most endearing qualities: the ability to make the bizarre and the terrifying seem utterly normal."

When Liz Shaw's friend Jean goes missing, the Doctor and U.N.I.T. are drawn to the scene to investigate. Soon Liz discovers a potential alien invasion that will have far-reaching effects on her life... and the Doctor is unexpectedly reunited with an old enemy...

Doctor Who: The Blue Tooth Details

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: The Blue Tooth for online ebook

Micah says

A sometimes heart-wrenching, sometimes humorous character piece for Liz.

Shaun Collins says

My first companion chronicle from Big Finish is a bit of a mixed bag. Loved the basic story, was less thrilled with how they went about telling that story. I feel it took away from the Liz Shaw character, the guys disagreed with me. Our full review is available in episode 303 over at <http://travelingthevortex.com/?p=7644> Warning, spoilers ahead...

Angela says

The cybermen are invading with a substance that changes humans. This is told by Liz, and is quite interesting told from her perspective. It does seem like an odd thing for the cybermen to do, but go with the story as its a decent listen.

Wendy says

Liz Shaw was a companion with a short tenure, and this story takes on the task of exploring a bit of her backstory and giving her a bit of a personal life, as well as explaining some of the reasons for her off-screen departure at some point between the end of series 7 and the beginning of series 8.

However, aside from this welcome character development for Liz, I felt like the story lacked some punch. Possibly one reason is that at the climax of the story, our narrator, Liz, is actually unconscious - she, and we, get filled in on the resolution later. I can sort of see why the author chose this approach, but it does blunt the impact of the story.

Interestingly, in this audio, Caroline John doesn't attempt to do impressions of her co-stars to nearly the extent she did in her reading of *Doctor Who and the Cave Monsters*. Her reading still works well (probably better for some listeners than it would have been with the impressions). I also have to mention the music, which I thought had a very nice period feel to it.

Not among the best of the Companion Chronicle's range, but certainly good enough to make me look forward to Liz Shaw's return in the upcoming *Shadow of the Past*.

Ritchie says

The late Caroline John reads this tale as Third Doctor Companion Liz Shaw. Good Cyberman adventure.

Colin says

I am not the biggest fan of the Companion Chronicles, and I'm not as familiar with the characters involved in this one (Tom Baker is my Doctor), but this was an interesting take on the Cybermen. Not bad, all things considered.

Nicholas Whyte says

I started off loving this purely on the grounds of Cambridge nostalgia, as Liz Shaw returns to her alma mater to sort out certain strange goings on (promising, in the framing narrative, to explain why she left UNIT). Certainly the portrayal of the University Dental Service on Trumpington Street as a place of horror, pain and fear was still perfectly accurate from my time there, twenty years after Liz Shaw. I also liked the continuity of the Cybermen being a legacy of the failed Invasion. But I went off it in the end: Liz, one of the really brainy Doctor Who companions, ends up being all fainting and unconscious and having to be rescued, and Caroline John does not really succeed in doing the voices of the Third Doctor and the Brigadier especially well. This was in the end my least favourite of the first four, though perhaps a non-Cantabrian listener will have fewer dashed expectations than I did.

Kelly McCubbin says

This is a charming enough diversion, though the first year of Jon Pertwee's run as The Doctor with Caroline John's Liz Shaw is arguably one of the most sprawling and challenging of the show's run and this story seems to fit hardly at all within it.

Sammy says

I thought this was delightful, overall. I'm a big fan of Caroline John's Liz Shaw, and John gives an impassioned and knowing reading of this story, which helps to explain both Liz's past, and future after leaving the Doctor. As with the first two in the series, the Doctor and other characters - the Brigadier, chiefly - are well-written. The story flows well, with dream sequences, horrific set pieces, humour and surprise.

Truthfully, though, the first half is stronger than the second. Liz's comparative lack of involvement in the climax is not 100% satisfactory, but at the same time, it comes across as genuine "Doctor Who".

I'm on record as stating that the Cybermen are my least favourite villains in the series (nothing but glorified zombies - AND the writers often forget that they're zombies at that!) but here, Nigel Fairs captures that Borg-like aspect of them: that there are people underneath.

All told, another strong entry in the "Companion Chronicles" series.

Jon Arnold says

I'm pretty sure the title came before the story, the author looking round for inspiration and seeing a potential title from his mobile phone functions. As with the previous releases in the range Big Finish have recreated the ambience of their chosen era beautifully, helped by Caroline John retaining much of Liz's sardonic playfulness for the reading. Her version of Pertwee feels right (helped by some excellent Pertwee-esque lines), even if her Brigadier often sounds something of a caricature.

The story's pleasantly small scale and inventive in its use of old Doctor Who monsters, choosing not to rely on the fannish thrill of their appearance but trying to logically expand their capabilities. Balancing that though, the story itself is flawed – Liz's friend being attacked by an alien menace on the exact day Liz is due to meet her stretches coincidence, and Liz being knocked out of the action at key points rather than serving as the dramatic fulcrum. Maximum points though for exploiting the fear of dentists, something Who hadn't done before. The range's solid start continues.

April Mccaffrey says

I finished listening to the Blue Tooth with Caroline John tonight and 10/10.

This is my first Liz Shaw audio and I have to say, this has been amazing listen. Carolin John performance is out standing and her impressions of the Brigadier and the Third Doctor are brilliant. I also loved how you saw a bit of her personal life and how she felt when she saw Jean as a Cyberman and you could really feel her devastation for her friend Jean.

Both Caroline John and Nick Briggs gave an exceptional performance in this audio and I could really imagine the whole audio playing out in my head.

In all retrospect, the Cybermen have always terrified me more than the Daleks have. The fact they were once humans and have become emotionless, cold metal monsters and the harrowing: "You will become like us. You will BE like us." really does send a shiver down your spine. Especially on audio.

Would really recommend this audio for anyone interested in Liz Shaw.

Charles Mitchell says

Cybermen yeah. Liz Shaw boo

Debra Cook says

Liz Shaw talks about one of her last adventures with The Doctor and UNIT. Liz's friends start disappearing and the Doctor discovers Cyberman trying to create more Cyberman.

Tom says

It was nice to see more of Liz but she didn't really explicitly explain why she left UNIT like she said she would in the beginning. I guess it was implied that it was such a traumatic experience she had to leave but I still want a proper goodbye. That being said, it was still an ok (if somewhat anti-climatic) Cyberman story.

Jacqueline O. says

Caroline John reads this audiobook by Big Finish, *The Blue Tooth*, part of the **Companion Chronicles** line. I thought the storyline would have something to do with alien control of Bluetooth™ technology, however, it doesn't -- though the Cybermen are involved eventually. Dr. Liz Shaw looks back on her time at UNIT, and considers when she decided to quit. She had gone to Cambridge to visit one of her university friends, only to find her friend missing and the friend's cat brutally slain.

Before long, the Brigadier and Captain Mike Yates arrive, investigating not only Jean's disappearance, but the disappearance of several scientists and even support personnel from Cambridge. The investigation leads to a mysterious blue living metal, a really bad dentist, Cybermats, and a crashed Cyberman scout ship. It's an intriguing story.

My only qualm about this one was that I found it a bit gross. I know it seems weird to describe a story in **audio** format as gross - but it is. This story is a bloodbath, in more ways than one. I also found the title a tad too literal.

Anyway, This is still my favorite Doctor Who range, and this story is enjoyable. Recommended, but it's not for younger listeners.
