

# DIVERGENT WORDSMITHS

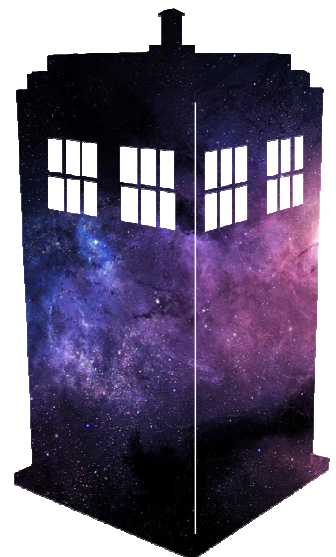
## *A Sparkle of Doctors* Submission Guidelines (Short Stories)

(Issued: 29/05/22)

As issued, the document outlining *A Sparkle of Doctors* Submission Guidelines is exactly that. It exists as an extension of the original **General Submission Guidelines (Short Stories)** document where many pre-existing guidelines for submission can be found. Both documents are to be taken into account when submitting a story to *A Sparkle of Doctors*.

This document is sectioned into the following:

- Extract from: "Professor Postgate's Guide to Multiversal Beings"
- A Sparkle of Doctors: Setting the Stage
- A Sparkle of Doctors: The Guidelines
  - *Lights, Camera, Artron!*
  - *The Perils of Perpetuity*
  - *The Labours of Diamant*



**EXTRACT FROM:  
PROFESSOR POSTGATE'S GUIDE TO MULTIVERSAL BEINGS**

*"If we extend our perspective beyond conventional N-Space, we are forced to acknowledge one immutable truth. There are beings so powerful that they must live outside our Universe, in silent and dark voids. Their influence often felt unknowingly by the myriad lifeforms that populate the multiverse. Those time sensitive and dimensionally susceptible, most keenly. Most of these Multiversal Beings engage in creative or destructive interference in their favourite Universe.*

*These beings are sometimes known by the catch-all title of 'the Higher Powers'. Most prominent entries to this category include: The Great Intelligence, the Eternals, the Guardians of Time, Fenric, the Cosmic Toymaker and Diamant."*

**DIAMANT**

Diamant is a multiform Grade-M fractal entity. Observers have documented it appears, in its natural state, to resemble a Mandelbrot fractal composed of infinite range of colours that can be manipulated and separated into any form Diamant wishes. Its composition is otherwise unknown.

Caution is recommended when approaching or even discussing researches of the Diamant entity. During our researches into the multiverse, by all the members of the Postgate Intergalactic Research Institute Diamant's name is mentioned with varying degrees of irritation and fury.

Unlike the Toymaker, for example, Diamant does not create fiendish and complicated plans of its own to play with the lives of unfortunate victims. Instead it delights in interfering and messing around with the plans of other Higher Powers. Fenric used the phrase, 'the Diamant factor' as one of the essential things to take into account when planning a stratagem. It is an Uncertainty Principle corporealised.

Diamant has created a crystalline viewer where it watches the events of planets and the lives of individuals. Diamant's viewer is an example of the non-repeating rhomboid tiling pattern discovered by Sir Roger Penrose, an Earth mathematician.

## A SPARKLE OF DOCTORS: SETTING THE STAGE

*“Diamant is forever, but not the Time Lords who stand against them.”*

Diamant is bored.

The other Higher Powers are leaving their usual realms and domains. There is no one else to annoy. No fiendish scheme to disrupt. Everyone from Fenric to the Toymaker are distracted by something. Not only that, they refuse to tell Diamant what is happening. This is their revenge for Diamant’s interference in their plans. It knows deep within its complex fractal molecular heart, a change is coming and it is powerless to stop it.

Diamant then remembers a name mentioned by all the Higher Powers. The Doctor, a wanderer through Time and Space. The Doctor is a thorn in the side of all the Higher Powers who encounter him. Diamant patiently watches the peregrinations of this individual with increasing interest.

Diamant’s crystal viewer shows in each rhomboid facet of its screen, the Doctor’s adventures. How many faces? How many different paths? This Doctor has many enemies and even more friends. Diamant loses count of the threads that make up the Doctor’s tapestry of countless lives. After watching for aeons, Diamant comes to a decision.

“I will make my peers notice me. They will tell me what they know when I show them that I am not just battling one Doctor at a time. I am so powerful and clever I will defeat them all, every incarnation. Fenric, the Guardians and the rest of them will have to acknowledge my achievement. I will succeed where they have all failed dismally. Now what manner of knavish trick shall I devise? A mysterious *puzzle* to solve... perhaps a *treasure hunt* with a prize that each Doctor will not be able to resist or an *epic* race through Time and Space between the TARDISEs...”

“I have it!” Diamant’s molecules shimmer in anticipation. “The Labours of Diamant. A set of tasks each one with a different element or activity. Like the episodes of a television programme or the pages of a book, they will be purely for our entertainment. I shall enjoy each exquisite twist and turn, but we won’t make it too easy for the Doctor. Once they are complete, the Doctors who complete their endeavour will have to face me in a final game, the prize? Why, bragging rights for all eternity of course.”

Diamant marshals their considerable powers and sets their plans in motion...



“Did you put that there, Mel?” asked the Doctor.

He pointed at the octahedral diamond that lay on the TARDIS console just above the door control.

“Not mine, Doctor,” replied Mel. “If you didn’t put it there who did?”

“I did. Hello Doctor, and Miss Melanie Bush,” a smug voice filled the room.

“Who are you and what do you want?” asked the Doctor.

He attempted to pick up the diamond but it remained stuck fast to the console.

“I am Diamant, and I have a little task for you,” the voice sounded confident in its own superiority.

Mel had plenty of those types when she started her career in computing.

The Doctor was having none of it, “And what if I refuse? I shall just materialise somewhere else and ignore your stupid task.”

“You don’t know what it is yet,” replied Diamant. “But do please try, if you so wish.”

“I don’t like the sound of that. It sounds like there’s an element of compulsion to me,” frowned Mel.

The Doctor set the TARDIS moving. When it landed in a location the Doctor was not expecting, he was furious.

“How dare you direct my ship. It’s piracy, that’s what it is.”

Mel flicked the scanner control, it revealed a grey, barren rocky vista.

“We’re on Minifix Minor,” he answered her unspoken query.

“But, not for long. Here we go.”

The TARDIS returned to the time vortex. The Doctor set the controls for Earth. The TARDIS returned to Minifix Minor. The Doctor set the coordinates for Gallifrey and all went well until the Doctor checked the controls to find he was back on Minifix.

“It’s like being tied on a giant piece of elastic,” sighed Mel.

“Backwards and forwards we go, but the destination remains the same.”

“Well, Doctor have you had enough yet. Are you going to ask me what your task is?” the smug voice filled the room again like a bad smell.

After setting the controls for Skaro, and still ending up on the dusty, grey world of Minifix Minor, the Doctor was forced to give in.

“Well, Diamant. What do you want me to do?”


“I knew you would *eventually* see it my way,” enthused Diamant.

“Now here are the specifics of *your* task...”



## A SPARKLE OF DOCTORS: THE GUIDELINES

*“Diamant is forever, but not the Time Lords who stand against them.”*



*Diamant ensured each Doctor was able to view the Sixth Doctor's attempts to escape as a warning. The challenges were as varied as the Diamant's twisted imagination could be. From solving the mystery of the Wereplanet, to winning the Sol System Starquest or even completing the eating challenge on Golmeres Nine.*

*And so it was, with much ill-will and consternation, that the Doctors found themselves engaged in the 'Labours of Diamant'.*

*“Hub, they couldn't even come up with an original title!” complained the Second Doctor.*

### Lights, Camera, Artron!

Each story in **A Sparkle of Doctors** is a separate entity detailing the particular task given to that Doctor. The story can include **any** Doctor and **any** companions. Doctors can, of course, include Unbound and Inbound incarnations. Doctors could even join forces and help each other solve their respective tasks.

**The tasks can be literally anything:**

- Obtaining a TARDIS permit from the Bureaucracy of Kirax;
- Finding a suitable present for the Antiprismatic King of Tetrapolis, or;
- Escaping from a Dalek assassination squad on a suitably dangerous planet of your choosing.
- Perhaps, for one of the tasks, the Doctor is expecting something backbreaking or mindbending, but ends up paired with one of his other incarnations instead. That's their 'trial'.

To work together, Second Doctor and Third come to mind.

The main antagonist is a being who is plural in nature and mischievous, rather than malevolent in intent. A Pan-like trickster, more than wrathful Zeus. Diamant just wants to show the other Higher Powers that they are important too and worthy of respect.



As determined by the author, there could be interludes between the stories will that provide a chance for a Greek chorus commentary from Diamant, a bit like the families on **Gogglebox** who comment on the programmes they are watching. The interludes could also include hints of the danger faced by the universe from the Universal Mutation.

### **The Perils of Perpetuity**

Unbeknown to both the Doctor and Diamant, there is a greater danger which becomes apparent as the tasks are completed. This Universal Mutation is a living being, but its continued existence threatens the existence of every other life form in the universe.

Its exact nature will be kept a mystery—for now.

But rest assured that the nature of this Universal Mutation will be revealed in all due time.

### **The Labours of Diamant**

The Labours of Diamant format will provide plenty of scope for a variety of stories. The individual tasks give scope within a possible anthology for a variety of genres. The task could form part of a comedy-adventure, an action-thriller, a mystery, a detective puzzle, a haunting ghost story, a historical romp or a uniquely high-concept science-fiction story.

**Doctor Who** has always used its unique storytelling format to reflect the world in which its writers and producers find themselves.

The stories written for the television series were to designed to entertain, amuse, scare, inform and provoke its audience to think.

The character of the Doctor is at one level human, relatable, frail and capable of mistakes. But you cannot ignore the fact that the Doctor is an alien, unknowable, unpredictable and with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the physical universe and the time vortex. The Doctors will need all this experience to meet Diamant's challenges and to solve the wider danger of the Universal Mutation.

