

MILD CURIOSITIES



an ian & barbara charity fanzine
supporting breast cancer now edited by sophie iles

With Twitch broadcasting *Doctor Who's* original series to a wide audience this month, I was thrilled to discover that Ian Chesterton and Barbara Wright, two of the Doctor's first companions, were being discovered and adored for the first time by a new generation of fans; or in some circumstances, rediscovered by an older loving audience. These two unwilling schoolteachers were originally kidnapped by the Doctor and opposed to his lack of understanding became in time a beautiful friendship as they travelled around time and space with him, with hope they would get home back to London 1963.

I wanted to find a way of celebrating these first companions who help shape the Doctor into the hero, the idiot, the hermit, the mad man in a box that most of us know him as today. Ian and Barbara, who were born into a different generation: wartime childhoods, postwar young adulthoods, Cold War professional careers that shaped them into the people they became—and the person the Doctor became.

Mild Curiosities is a collection of short stories from various points in their lives, arranged in chronological order with a mix of art, fiction, and non-fiction articles about these two much-loved teachers.

I would like to invite you all to write and illustrate various points in these character's lives. These stories should be 2-10 thousand words in length, though I'm welcome to flash fiction and longer stories (just talk to me first!). They can be first or third person.

The proceeds from this collection will be going to *Breast Cancer Now*, the UK's largest breast cancer research charity. The donations will be given in loving memory of Jacqueline Hill, who would have been 89 this year.

You can reach me at mildcuriositiesfanzine@gmail.com

See below for submission instructions and deadlines.

Sections of the Zine

The zine will be divided into three sections, each lining up with an era of Ian and Barbara's lives and relationship.

- **Before *An Unearthly Child*.** You can explore Ian and Barbara meeting, and their time teaching at Coal Hill. This is the place mainly for small, sweet slice-of-life stories. This will probably end up being the shortest part of the zine.
- **During their adventures with the first Doctor (between *An Unearthly Child* and *The Chase*).** Feel free to show us anything from a "deleted scene" to a fully-fledged new adventure. Keep in mind that Ian and Barbara, and not necessarily the Doctor, are the protagonists of these stories. Please, do not adapt existing episodes, audios, or the like.
- **After *The Chase*.** This is your chance to explore what happened to Ian and Barbara after London 1965. You're not bound by canon unless you choose to be! I'm also encouraging stories featuring Ian and Barbara's rockstar son, Johnny Chess.

But I Don't Ship Ian and Barbara!

That's fine!

No, really, that's fine!

This is not a specifically shipping zine. While every story is required to feature Ian and Barbara, you're not required to present them as a couple or interested in each other. I don't want to alienate non-Barbarian shippers.

Art Guidelines

I'm looking to make this zine image-heavy. Bring us your art! We are looking for full page spreads and smaller illustrations. Please follow the below guidelines so we can make sure we can fit your beautiful work into the zine.

Your piece must be:

- A4 size.
300 DPI
- JPEG, or flat PSD (preferred)
- CMYK color mode
- Please allow for bleed around your work, for layout purposes.
- (If you need any help with your files, ask!)

We will only be able to print in black and white, but don't let that stop you, Ian and Barbara's world is void of colour and is still wonderful and beautiful to behold. We are looking for different styles and techniques of showing these characters and their lives not seen before. I'm excited to see what you come up with!

Comic Submissions: Please send them! Just let me know as soon as you know you'd like to submit that, so I plan ahead with the layout!

Fiction Guidelines

Please send a synopsis and a sample of your writing. The synopsis only needs to be about 250-500 words (about a page long). I'd like to see a previous sample of your writing, too! If you have a story you finished in the past, please feel free to send that as your writing sample. If you don't, then the first 500-1,000 words of your story would be perfect.

You're welcome to explore anything from cozy fluff to wild adventures. Playing with the EU is alright as well. As long as Ian and Barbara are the central cast, you're on target.

Please have all pitches sent to me by October 1st, 2018. GMT Midnight.

Word Count

Flash Fiction: 500-1,000 words

Short Stories: 1.5-10,000 words

(Because this is a magazine I will have limited slots for longer stories. Make sure you have a good pitch if you want to write something longer!)

Content: Please keep adult content to roughly the level of the 1960s series. This is a family friendly magazine.

Non-Fiction Guidelines

The zine is open to non-fiction articles about Ian & Barbara, relevant production history, Jacqueline Hill & William Russell, or the like. Talk to me about what you're planning, and I'll help you develop it.

Please send a synopsis and a sample of your writing. The synopsis only needs to be about 250-500 words (about a page long). I'd like to see a previous sample of your writing, too! If you have a story you finished in the past, please feel free to send that as your writing sample. If you don't, then the first 500-1,000 words of your article would be perfect.

Word Count

Non-Fiction: 1-4,000 words

(Because this is a magazine I will have limited slots for longer articles. Make sure you have a good pitch if you want to write something longer!)

We're not interested in reviews. If you're doing a fact-based article, please make sure it is well-researched and informed!

Please have your pitch for your article sent by me by October 1st, 2018. GMT Midnight.

Details

Submissions Open: August 15th, 2018

Submissions Close: October 1st, 2018

Deliver Stories by: November 11th, 2018

I'd like to publish on or near December 17th, Jacqueline Hill's birthday.

You're welcome to submit before the submissions window opens, but I will not be replying to pitches until August 15th.

If you have Discord, please include your handle in the cover letter.

Charity: Breast Cancer Now (<http://breastcancer.org>)

Contact: mildcuriositiesfanzine@gmail.com

About Soph

Sophie Iles is an artist, writer, and sometime animator. She often works with 18thWall Productions, serving as a rotating host on *The Raconteur Roundtable*, formerly serving as blog coordinator, as well as providing her art and designs. Recently, a short story about Rigsy appeared in kOZMIC Press' *Children of Time: The Companions of Doctor Who*, as well as eight illustrations covering companions from Sarah Jane to Kate Stewart.

She has written articles on *Doctor Who* for 18thWall Productions and The Time Travel Nexus.

Alongside her writing, Soph's art has found internet acclaim appearing in *Doctor Who Magazine*, the 2018 San Diego Comic Con Doctor Who panel, *Children of Time: The Companions of Doctor Who*, BBC's Anglophena's *Doctor Who Round Up* (on six occasions), *The Time Travel Nexus*, several *Doctor Who* fansites, as well as multiple upcoming professional and charity works.