

Romana (Doctor Who)

[Doctor Who universe character](#)

Romana	
With	Fourth Doctor , Time Lords
Race	Time Lord
Home planet	Gallifrey
Home era	Rassilon Era
First appearance	<i>The Ribos Operation</i>
Last appearance	<i>Warriors' Gate</i>
Actor	Mary Tamm Lalla Ward

Romana, short for **Romanadvoratrelundar**, is a [fictional character](#) in the British [science fiction](#) television series *Doctor Who*. She is a [Time Lady](#) from the planet Gallifrey, and she was a [companion](#) of the [Fourth Doctor](#). Because she was a [Time Lord](#), Romana was able to [regenerate](#), having two on-screen [incarnations](#) with somewhat different personalities (called Romana I and Romana II by fans). Romana I was played by [Mary Tamm](#) from 1978 to 1979. When she became [pregnant](#) and chose not to return for another series, the part was recast. Romana II was played by [Lalla Ward](#) from 1979 to 1981.

Romana I

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The [White Guardian](#) assigns Romana to help [the Doctor](#) during his quest for the Key to Time. Romana first appears in *The Ribos Operation*, and was intended as a contrast to her predecessor, the savage Leela. Romana is initially [haughty](#) and somewhat [arrogant](#), looking down on the Doctor (whom she considers to be her [academic](#) inferior; she obtained a [triple first](#) at the academy, while the Doctor passed with only 51 %, on his second attempt) and responding to his initial resentment at her presence with icy [put-downs](#). However, she soon gains an appreciation for the Doctor's [experience](#) and sense of adventure, and begins to respect him as a teacher.

Romana II

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The introduction of Romana's second incarnation in *Destiny of the Daleks*, a script credited to [Terry Nation](#), but with several changes by script editor [Douglas Adams](#), treats the concept of regeneration [humorously](#). At the

beginning of the serial, Romana changes bodily forms several times, like she was trying on different clothes, before deciding to take the form of Princess Astra, who had been played by Lalla Ward in the final serial of Season 16, *The Armageddon Factor*.

Romana II enjoys a more [intimate relationship](#) with the Doctor than her first incarnation. Some fans have assumed that she had a [romantic](#) relationship with the Doctor although a relationship was never shown or intended by the writers. In many ways, she is the companion most like the Doctor - besides being of the same race and close to the same intelligence, she occasionally [mimics](#) his sense of style, wields her own [sonic screwdriver](#) and can occasionally get the better of him in moments of [banter](#) and more practical situations. As her practical experience develops, she also becomes more assured and capable in the situations she finds herself in.

Her final television appearance was in *Warriors' Gate*, where, along with the robot dog K-9, she leaves to forge her own path in the [parallel universe](#) of E-space. She also appears briefly in the 20th Anniversary special *The Five Doctors* through the reuse of footage from the uncompleted story *Shada* because Tom Baker refused to come back.

After the departure of both Romana I and II, both versions of the character also appeared very briefly in [flashback](#) sequences during the Fourth Doctor's regeneration in *Logopolis* as well as the Fifth Doctor's mind-copy in *Resurrection of the Daleks*.

She would also be mentioned in *Castrovalva* during the Fifth Doctor's post-regenerative confusion, as well as *Arc of Infinity*, where the Fifth Doctor, in response to a [reprimand](#) from the High Council of Time Lords for "leaving her behind", retorts that she "chose to remain in E-Space".

In the new series the doctor says that all of the Time Lords apart from him were killed in the time war. Whether Romana was killed with the others, or is still alive in E-Space or elsewhere, has not been specifically established on screen.

Appearances in other media

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

An article by [Russell T Davies](#) in the *Doctor Who Annual 2006* states that Romana was President of the Time Lords during the Time War against the Daleks (see [below](#)), which ended with [Gallifrey](#) being destroyed.

Novels

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

In the licensed Virgin New Adventures novel *Blood Harvest* by [Terrance Dicks](#), Romana II leaves E-Space and returns to Gallifrey with the help of the Seventh Doctor. In *Goth Opera* by [Paul Cornell](#), from the complementary Missing Adventures series, she is given a seat on the High Council of Time

Lords. In New Adventures' *Happy Endings*, also by Cornell, it is revealed that Romana has become Lady President of Gallifrey. Romana's presidency is reflected in the later novels and in her appearances (voiced by Ward) in audio dramas from Big Finish Productions. Romana appears in independent charity novel [Time's Champion](#), in the role of President of the Time Lords.

In the BBC Books Eighth Doctor Adventures novels, Romana undergoes a second regeneration, and her new incarnation (Romana III, whose appearance was modelled on silent movie actress Louise Brooks) is far less sympathetic and far more [ruthless](#) than the other two.

Audio plays

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

Romana II appeared [pseudonymously](#) in a series of [audio plays](#) produced in the early 2000s by BBV. In this series, Lalla Ward played a character who appeared with K-9 in an unnamed parallel universe. This character is called the Mistress (which was what K-9 called Romana in the television series). Because of an unusual [copyright](#) situation in which BBV was able to license K-9 but not Romana or other *Doctor Who* elements, the Mistress is not explicitly called Romana. For similar reasons, the parallel universe (obviously intended to reflect Romana's exile in E-Space) is called a "pocket universe" in the series' packaging.

In [Big Finish](#)'s regular line of *Doctor Who* audio stories, Ward joined the Sixth Doctor in *The Apocalypse Element*, in which Romana is Lady President of Gallifrey. In *Zagreus*, Romana II is forced to banish the Eighth Doctor from the universe as he has become a danger to it following his infection by the forces of "anti-time". Following on from this, she is featured in a number of audio plays with former Doctor companion Leela (played by [Louise Jameson](#)) under the umbrella title of *Gallifrey*.

The series ends on a cliffhanger, with Gallifrey on the brink of economic and social collapse as well as in danger of being overrun by a Free Time [virus](#), while most of the characters are trapped with no apparent means of escape.

List of appearances

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

Television

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

Season 16

- *The Ribos Operation* (Romana I)
- *The Pirate Planet*
- *The Stones of Blood*
- *The Androids of Tara*
- *The Power of Kroll*

- *The Armageddon Factor*

Season 17

- *Destiny of the Daleks* (Romana II)
- *City of Death*
- *The Creature from the Pit*
- *Nightmare of Eden*
- *The Horns of Nimon*
- *Shada* (not completed or transmitted)

Season 18

- *The Leisure Hive*
- *Meglos*
- *Full Circle*
- *State of Decay*
- *Warriors' Gate*

20th anniversary special

- *The Five Doctors* (footage from *Shada*)

30th anniversary special

- *Dimensions in Time*

Audio dramas

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

BBV

- *K-9: The Choice* (pseudonymous appearance)
- *K-9: The Search* (pseudonymous appearance)

Big Finish Productions

- *The Apocalypse Element*
- *Neverland*
- *Zagreus*
- *Shada* (webcast on BBCi, later released on CD)
- *Gallifrey: Weapon of Choice*
- *Gallifrey: Square One*
- *Gallifrey: The Inquiry*
- *Gallifrey: A Blind Eye*
- *Gallifrey: Lies*
- *Gallifrey: Spirit*
- *Gallifrey: Pandora*
- *Gallifrey: Insurgency*
- *Gallifrey: Imperatrix*
- *Gallifrey: Fractures*
- *Gallifrey: Warfare*

- *Gallifrey: Appropriation*
- *Gallifrey: Mindbomb*
- *Gallifrey: Panacea*
- *The Beautiful People*
- *Ferril's Folly* (Romana I)

Novels

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

Virgin Missing Adventures

- *Goth Opera* by Paul Cornell
- *The Romance of Crime* by Gareth Roberts
- *The English Way of Death* by Gareth Roberts
- *The Shadow of Weng-Chiang* by David A. McIntee
- *The Well-Mannered War* by Gareth Roberts

Virgin New Adventures

- *Blood Harvest* by Terrance Dicks
- *Happy Endings* by Paul Cornell
- *Lungbarrow* by Marc Platt

Eighth Doctor Adventures

- *The Eight Doctors* by Terrance Dicks
- *The Shadows of Avalon* by Paul Cornell
- *The Ancestor Cell* by Peter Anghelides and Stephen Cole

Past Doctor Adventures

- *Tomb of Valdemar* by Simon Messingham
- *Heart of TARDIS* by Dave Stone
- *Festival of Death* by Jonathan Morris

Independent Novels

- *Time's Champion*

Short stories

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- "Glass" by Tara Samms
- "Return of the Spiders" by Gareth Roberts
- "Special Occasions 1: The Not So Sinister Sponge" by Gareth Roberts and Clayton Hickman
- "Special Occasions 2: Do You Love Anyone Enough?" by Norman Ashby
- "Special Occasions 3: Better Take Care" by Steve Burford
- "Special Occasions 4: Playing with Toys" by David Agnew
- "I Was A Monster!!!" by Joseph Lidster
- "The Lying Old Witch in the Wardrobe" by Mark Michalowski

- "Doing Time" by Lance Parkin
- "O, Darkness" by John Binns
- "The Time Lord's Story" by Iain McLaughlin and Claire Bartlett
- "The Little Things" by Paul Beardsley
- "The Clanging Chimes of Doom" by Jonathan Morris
- "Present Tense" by Ian Potter
- "Suitors, Inc." by Paul Magrs
- "Life from Lifelessness" by Keith R.A. DeCandido
- "The Glarn Strategy" by Brian Dooley
- "All Snug in Their Beds" by Scott Alan Woodard
- "Good Queen, Bad Queen, I Queen, You Queen" by Terri Osborne
- "Breadcrumbs" by James Moran

Comics

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- "Terror on Xaboi" by Paul Crompton (*Doctor Who Annual 1980*) - 1st incarnation
- "The Weapon" by Paul Crompton (*Doctor Who Annual 1980*) - 1st incarnation
- "Every Dog Has His Day" by Mel Powell (*Doctor Who Annual 1981*) - 2nd incarnation
- "Victims" by Dan Abnett, Colin Andrew and Enid Orc (*Doctor Who Magazine* 212–214) - 2nd incarnation
- "The Seventh Segment" by Gareth Roberts, Paul Peart and Elitta Fell (*Doctor Who Magazine* Summer Special 1995) - 1st incarnation

Other websites

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- [Romana I on the BBC's *Doctor Who* website](#)
- [Romana II on the BBC's *Doctor Who* website](#)

<i>Doctor Who</i>	
Series and Spin-offs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor Who • Torchwood • The Sarah Jane Adventures • K-9 and Company
Characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Doctor • Companions • The Master • Daleks • Cybermen

Companions

- [Susan Foreman](#)
- [Barbara Wright](#)
- [Ian Chesterton](#)
- [Vicki](#)
- [Steven Taylor](#)
- [Katarina](#)
- [Sara Kingdom](#)
- [Dodo Chaplet](#)
- [Polly](#)
- [Ben Jackson](#)
- [Jamie McCrimmon](#)
- [Victoria Waterfield](#)
- [Zoe Heriot](#)
- [Liz Shaw](#)
- [Jo Grant](#)
- [Sarah Jane Smith](#)
- [Harry Sullivan](#)
- [Leela](#)
- [K-9](#)
- Romana
- [Adric](#)
- [Tegan Jovanka](#)
- [Nyssa](#)
- [Turlough](#)
- [Kamelion](#)
- [Peri Brown](#)
- [Melanie Bush](#)
- [Ace](#)
- [Grace Holloway](#)
- [Rose Tyler](#)
- [Adam Mitchell](#)
- [Jack Harkness](#)
- [Mickey Smith](#)
- [Martha Jones](#)
- [Donna Noble](#)
- [Astrid Peth](#)
- [Amy Pond](#)
- [Rory Williams](#)
- [River Song](#)
- [Clara Oswald](#)
- [Bill Potts](#)

Retrieved from "[https://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Romana_\(Doctor_Who\)&oldid=9342953](https://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Romana_(Doctor_Who)&oldid=9342953)"