

THETA MORBIUS TIMES

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SPECIAL PUBLICATION

ART BY WARLORDWARDOG

POLICE PUBLIC CALL BOX



THE RIVER SONG IDENTITY RIDDLE!

ISSUE

2

ON-LINE
FANZINE

S Braithwaite 2011

EDITORIAL

Hello!

Welcome to the spiffing second issue! This issue, much like the first, has taken a long time to get to you. By time it has been a mere two months, but by other standards the toll it has taken has been much larger.

Over the previous two months, I have learnt much about myself and accepting who I am. It has been a journey of self discovery and it all began with this magazine. For two long years I had toiled away at this magazine, surrounding my weekends to write articles, some of which may never see the light of day. As such, when it came to releasing the issue, it felt like a part of me, however small, was being shown and subject to intense public criticism and opinion. I had finished the issue over a week before I actually decided to publish.

When the issue was eventually released, it took over a week before anyone actually gave any opinion. I don't want to blame anyone, it just felt like this was a rejection. This was the first big thing about myself that I had displayed and no-one reacted! It was so frustrating! But after the initial reaction (thankyou Dark Sky!), more followed with constructive criticisms and praise. Lots of praise. It was heartwarming and persuaded me to continue with a project that had taken two of my seventeen years of life to get a short issue out.

Anyway, that's a little potted history of the road to issue two. Unfortunately two articles I had planned for inclusion in this issue had to be cut at the eleventh hour. The Escapists and the Comic Strip Fundamentals were savagely deleted before they could even be written. This is disappointing to me, as these two articles were highly regarded features of last issue. The trouble is with those features is that they take a very long time

to write. Timing deadlines forced their deletion.

However, it is far from permanent. The Escapists will definitely return next issue and the Comic Strip Fundamentals will be back in the festive themed issue. Anyway, as I have begun on issue news, we may as well continue on that path.

The next issue will be feature-light and will serve as a massive reviews "special" that is not a special. Reviews will include the entire latter half of Series Six, Miracle Day reviews (possibly), the new NSA trilogy, reviews of 'example books' of the four classic novel series (NA, MA, EDA, PDA), some Goodies reviews and another cult film review. Also next issue will be the introduction of a new regular feature "The Great Fourth Doctor Marathon" which is pretty self-explanatory. Plus, a SJA retrospective may be included.

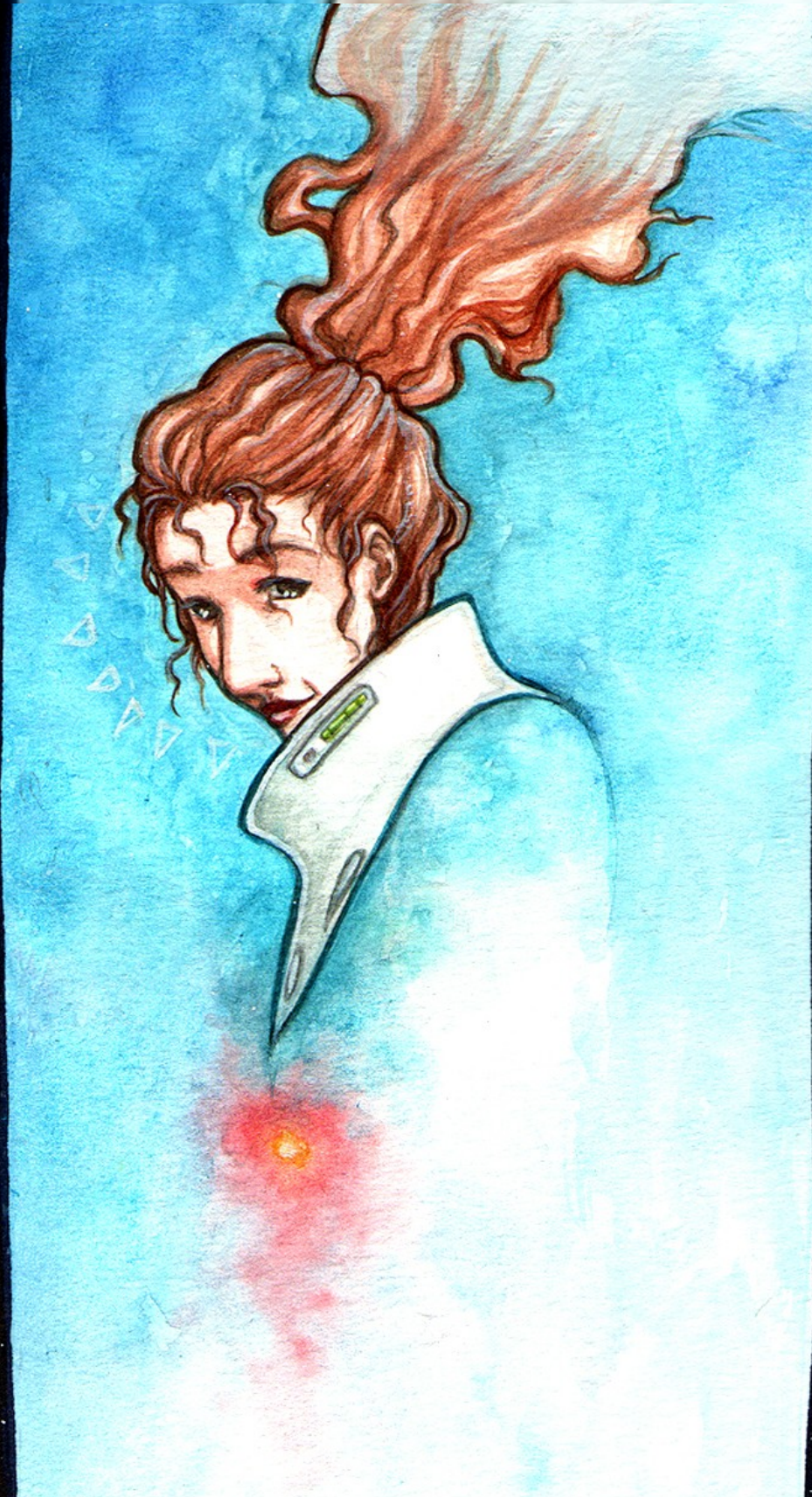
To end my editorial, I want to thank everyone involved in the magazine and urge you to contribute or comment at thetamorbius.weebly.com. It's been tiring, fun and rewarding. See you again in two months!

Until then...

**LET'S KILL
HITLER!**



ART BY CARRIE_KO



THE ULTIMATE RIVER SONG INVESTIGATION

BIOGRAPHY AND QUESTIONS



River Song is the most enigmatic character in Doctor Who at the current time, despite the fact that viewers have been told who she is. In this special report, TMT worms it's way through the seas of mystery to find a grain of truth.

The report is split into two sections. One is a biography of the character. This collects together the information we already know from River's point of view. The second section is what we don't know. It is presented as a collection of questions to which the answers are yet to be revealed. Along with the questions, TMT has provided possible answers. This second section is personal opinion and speculation about future events, so don't kill me!

Due to the open nature of this article, revised editions will be continued to be published over the internet on the official site.

SECTION 1: BIOGRAPHY

River Song (previously known as Melody Pond) was born at Demon's Run in the year _____ to parents Amelia Pond & Rory Williams (WAR). Amelia Pond was a young woman who had previously met the Doctor when she was a young girl and, after she began travelling with him some 12 years later, when he appeared on the eve of her wedding day. (TEH) After experiencing several adventures including the Angels incident (TOA), her boyfriend Rory came aboard the TARDIS. He travelled with the Doctor and Amy for some time until he was killed and erased from history (COL). After several more escapades, Amy was reunited with Rory in the Pandorica incident where she remembered him. Here she also re-encountered River Song. After the Doctor re-boots the Universe, by bravely self-sacrificing himself, Amy and Rory forget he ever existed but Amy's parents are resurrected. On her wedding day where she married Rory, she remembers the Doctor and brings him back to life. The married couple bid farewell to their old life and join the Doctor in the TARDIS. (TPO/TBB) That night it is believed that Melody was conceived, whilst the TARDIS was in flight within the Time Vortex. It is believed that this caused Melody's DNA to be a mix of both human and Time Lord DNA (WAR).

After that night, Amy and Rory went on several honeymoon trips before the Doctor dropped them off on Earth in the present day. It is believed that Amy was taken at this time by the Silence and replaced by a Flesh duplicate. After being reunited with the Doctor and River, Amy and Rory watched as the Doctor was killed on a beach by an astronaut. After this, Amy, Rory and River were collected by the Doctor where they defeated the Silence's plan and saw a little girl in a spacesuit... (TIA/DOM) After River was dropped off at the Stormcage Facility, the trio of the Doctor, Amy and Rory travelled for some time while the

Doctor continued to scan Amy, attempting to determine if she was pregnant or not. After the later Flesh incident, the Doctor's fears were confirmed that Amy wasn't the real Amy and was in fact a duplicate. He broke the link between the Flesh and the real Amy and began to search for her. Meanwhile, the real Amy gave birth to a healthy baby girl. (TAP)

Sometime later, Amy and her baby are at the mercy of an army, which is based on an asteroid known as Demon's Run. This army is frightened of the Doctor and sees him as a potential threat to the Universe. A member of the army is Lorna Bucket who feels it necessary to protect Amy and her baby. Lorna is from the Gamma Forests and has met the Doctor before. Lorna meets Amy Pond and gives her a prayer leaf. It features Melody's name in the language of the Gamma Forests. Later, the Doctor appears having arranged an army to defeat those holding Amy and her baby captive. The Doctor's army defeats those that have kidnapped Amy and she and Rory share a tearful reunion as she introduces him to their baby. The Doctor shows his cot to the couple and they place Melody inside it. Amy wipes Melody's mouth with the prayer leaf, but drops it inside the cot as the battle of Demon's Run begins. The Doctor's army make a stand against the Headless Monks who are part of the army against the Doctor. Rory takes Amy and the baby away and keeps them hidden from sight. What they don't know is that Amy's baby is in fact a Flesh clone that melts away as Amy holds it. Melody is taken by the other army as she represents their hope of defeating the Doctor. They can raise her to be a weapon. The Doctor, meanwhile, is counting the cost as Lorna and several others die. The later River Song appears and informs the Doctor as to who she is. He leaves to find her when she



RIVER SONG AT ENIGMA

KEY

- SIL** Silence In The Library
- FOD** Forest Of The Dead
- TEH** The Eleventh Hour
- TOA** Time Of Angels
- FAS** Flesh & Stone
- COL** Cold Blood

- TPO** The Pandorica Opens
- TBB** The Big Bang
- TIA** The Impossible Astronaut
- DOM** Day Of The Moon
- WAR** A Good Man Goes To War



DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS RIVER'S SPEECHES

River's Speeches are an important part of the character's appeal. Quite often the most enjoyable part of the episode, the River Speech is very unique to the character. Her speeches form an integral part of the plot, often explaining complex plot points in a way that conveys deep emotion. The speeches can also take the forms of criticisms of the Doctor. The scene in *A Good Man Goes To War* where she criticises the Doctor and his ever changing actions is well-written and well acted. The episode also features the poem which is quite possibly the only use of a poem in a Doctor Who story! Then there's the infamous scene in *Day of the Moon* where River explains her life and the closing scene about the nature of life and death and the Doctor's place in it. River's speeches give us a view into the characters thoughts and feelings. That's something rare and that's a major part of why River's appeal.

THE TOP 4 RIVER SPEECHES

4 And all this, my love, in fear of you	3 Trouble is it's all back to front
2 Some days, nobody dies at all	1 Demons run when a good man goes to war

THE BATTLE OF DEMON'S RUN

DEMONS RUN WHEN A GOOD MAN GOES
TO WAR,
NIGHT WILL FALL AND DROWN THE SUN
WHEN A GOOD MAN GOES TO WAR,
FRIENDSHIP DIES AND TRUE LOVE LIES,
NIGHT WILL FALL AND THE DARK WILL
RISE WHEN A GOOD MAN GOES TO WAR,
DEMONS RUN BUT COUNT THE COST,
THE WAR IS RUN, BUT THE CHILD IS
LOST



TMT SPECIAL REPORT

Melody was raised on Earth during the 1960s. Her home for at least part of this time was a room in Graystark Hall Orphanage, America. She was raised and cared for here by Dr Renford, the orphanage manager. During this time she had a level of independence and freedom, and is incredibly strong. (DOM)

Sometime later, the young River calls President Nixon, as she is frightened of a spaceman, coming to eat her. She must have been forced into the suit, as the next we see of her, she is within the astronaut suit calling for help. The Doctor, Amy and Canton are there, and the feisty red-head shoots the little girl in the Astronaut (TIA).

The girl was obviously unharmed, as three months later she travels back to her orphanage home. There she meets her mother, Amy, who apologises for shooting at her. Silents come up behind River taking her mother. A short time later, Melody has forced her way out of the suit.

Six months later, the young River has made it all the way to New York. She is dying and meets a homeless person, in an alleyway. Her hands begin to glow, and she begins to regenerate... (DOM)

The details of River's life following this remain vague until much, much later, in fact as late as WAR... Some details following this will be revealed in the latter half of Series Six.

One year on River Song's birthday, the Doctor took her ice skating on the River Thames in 1814, which was the last of the Great Frost Fairs. The Doctor recruited Stevie Wonder to sing under London Bridge, but must have wiped his memory, as he no longer remembers the incident.

Shortly after that day, River returned to the Stormcage facility, which is her prison. Rory Williams who has a summons from the Doctor, greeted her. She was needed at the Battle of Demon's Run, to stop an army of people who hated the Doctor. River states that she can't as this is the Doctor's Darkest Hour and this is the day he finds out who she is. She promises to arrive later.

Sometime later, after the Battle of Demon's Run, River arrives. She is highly critical of the Doctor's actions and what he has become. The Doctor asks who she is and she takes him over to the cot. The cot contains the prayer leaf, which he reads. The Doctor works out who River is and they share a conversation that is full of questions. After speaking to River, he bids everyone farewell and departs to find Amy's daughter, apparently knowing as to her where she will be located. Amy, who is in shock, after having lost her child, picks up a gun and threatens River to tell her who she is. River gives Amy the prayer leaf and states that this is Melody's name in the language of the Gamma People. They don't have a word for Pond as "the only water in the forest is the river." Melody Pond therefore becomes Song River, but as the prayer leaf fell bottom side up the name becomes River Song. Amy and Rory are shocked as River Song reveals her identity as their child to her astonished parents (WAR)...

The events directly following this are yet to be known and will most likely be revealed in the latter half of Series Six.

DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS RIVER'S LOOK

River has a look that is unique to her. It tells much about her, often summing up her feelings completely at any given moment in a story where she gives them. One of the most obvious of these moments is seen in *The Impossible Astronaut*. Following the tense moment where the Doctor asks her just who she is, after the Time Lord has turned away, River just closes her eyes, in the background. It's like River is weighed down by the weight of her responsibilities and just wants this moment to be over. It's strange that just one look can convey the pain and emotion of a whole scene. And it's not only this scene. Throughout any one of River's stories look for the look that she gives. It's incredible and to me how one scene can display intense emotion that several pages of dialogue couldn't even begin to grasp speaks volumes.



Following these events, River watched as the Doctor died. She along with Amy and Rory Pond are invited to Lake Silencio, Utah, America in 2010. River is still within the Stormcage Facility when she receives a blue envelope containing the invitation. After she has packed, she reveals that she is going to America (we presume she gets there by Vortex Manipulator). Once Amy and Rory are in the US, they share a joyous reunion with the Doctor, who is wearing a Stetson. River appears behind him and promptly shoots it off. Later, the four visit a café where River discusses an adventure on Easter Island and one with Jim the Fish. The Doctor then reveals that after a picnic, they will visit Space 1969.

At the picnic, Amy sees a Silent, which edit themselves out of your memory. As such, she promptly forgets she ever saw it. After some foreshadowing from the Doctor (who is 200 years older than the last time Amy and Rory saw him), a car drives up. The Doctor waves to an old man who waves back. River is shocked to see an astronaut coming out of the lake which they were sitting next to. The Time Lord goes to meet him, but not before telling his companions not to interfere. After a short exchange between the Doctor and the Astronaut, the spaceman shoots him. The trio run to the Doctor, but stop. The Eleventh Doctor begins to regenerate into a new person, before he is shot by the astronaut again, killing him. This time they all run to the dead Doctor, as the astronaut disappears into the water, despite River's attempts to shoot it. Meanwhile the elderly man, Canton Everett Delaware the Third, has walked over carrying a can of gasoline. He confirms that this is the Doctor and not a duplicate. Amy is having a hard time dealing with it, suffering from intense grief. The group of four decide to give the Doctor a proper (and safe) send-off burning his body at sunset. River questions the elderly man as to his identity. He reveals that he came because he was invited just like the others and that his name is Canton. This will be the last time that he sees them, but they will see him again, but when he was much younger. He leaves and River begins to work things out. His invitation was number 4, she was 3 and Rory and Amy were 2. A short time later, they re-visit the café where they meet a younger Doctor (909 years old) who received the invitation numbered 1. After much confusion and frustration on everyone's part, the Doctor is convinced by Amy that they need to follow out the mystery man's (to the Doctor, to us and the trio of companions, the Future Doctor) instructions.

The TARDIS materializes in the White House on April the 8th 1963. The Doctor makes the time ship invisible, and steps out interrupting a top secret meeting between Canton (the younger) and President Nixon. The meeting involves a recorded phone call which is a message from a little girl who needs assistance. The girl is frightened of a spaceman who she thinks is coming to get her. The President turns to discover the Doctor in the room, but the Time Lord cannot get back into the TARDIS as he can't see it. As he is manhandled by the President's security, River makes the time ship visible again. The Time Lord convinces everyone present of his good intentions as Rory, Amy and River leave the TARDIS. The Doctor calls them the legs (Amy), the nose (Rory) and Mrs Robinson (River). Canton is convinced by the Doctor, and gives him five minutes to prove his case and find the location of the little girl. Sometime later, River and Amy converse about the spaceman and the likely connections between that and the one that kills the Doctor in 2011.

After Amy has another Silent encounter, which she promptly forgets. As she is now feeling a slight bit queasy, she excuses herself to the bathroom. Once there she meets another Silent, who kills one of the other ladies using the restroom via the use of 'lightning hands'. Amy takes a photograph of the creature, but once she leaves she promptly forgets that she ever saw it. However she knows she must tell the Doctor what 'he must know and what he must never know'. Once back in the oval office, Amy witnesses the Time Lord work out where the little girl is. Quite timely too as just as that information is found out, the President receives another call from the child. She reveals that the spaceman is there now, and that it is going to get her. The Doctor, Amy, Rory, River and Canton all depart in the TARDIS to the



little girl's location. Canton, at first, has some trouble dealing with the TARDIS' inconceivability, but soon he is back to normal. They materialize in a disused warehouse, a short distance from Cape Kennedy Space Centre. As the phone is not connected, the girl could not have possibly rung from there... As the travellers realize this, they fail to realize that the astronaut is watching them. The group search the warehouse, but fail to yield any conclusive results. Along the way River and Amy discuss killing the astronaut now, so that it will be unable to kill the Doctor in 2011. River tells Amy that they can't as it would cause a paradox. Dr Song finds a manhole in the ground, which leads to a network of tunnels that run under the entire planet. River descends, promising to scream if she meets trouble. Once below, she encounters several Silents, but as she reappears at the surface, she forgets them. The others continue to search, but this time when River descends, the Doctor asks

"THE ONLY WATER IN

Rory to go with her. He reluctantly agrees. Rory meets River, who is feeling a little unwell. Once she is feeling a little better, they begin their investigations. They find a maintenance hatch and, as she tries to open it, River reveals something deep about herself. Despite all her bravado, she finds it upsetting the back to front life she has with the Doctor., in which she foreshadows her own death. The door opens up into the console room (one that was seen in *The Lodger*), and as River investigates, Rory keeps an eye out for trouble. After more Silently forgetfulness, River sees something as Rory is placed in danger. Meanwhile, back in the warehouse, Canton, Amy and the Doctor hear cries from the little girl. Canton answers and is knocked out. Amy is having major pains in the stomach which causes her to reveal the fact that she is pregnant. Just as she drops the bombshell, the astronaut appears. The spaceman's visor is lifted, and the little girl is revealed. Amy shoots at the astronaut, shocking the Doctor... (TIA)

before they can properly "lightning" someone. After all of the Silents are killed, River helps the Doctor get to the President's office, with a short detour to pick up Canton. The Doctor bids both Nixon and Canton farewell. Their next stop is the Stormcage Facility, where River is dropped off. River is shocked by the Doctor's unusual nature and snogs him. After they both break off, River is saddened to find that this was the first time that this has happened, according to the Doctor, meaning it will be her last time... (DOM)

**CONTINUED
OVERLEAF...**



3 months later, it's July 1969. Amy has been tracked down by Canton who has turned rogue (through the use of Silent suggestion) and she is shot. The Doctor, meanwhile is trapped in a strait jacket in Area 51. River has been tracked down to a high-rise building in New York, where she sees several Silents, which she marks her arm as a way of remembering. She is distracted by the FBI, which threaten to shoot her. As she does not wish to be shot, she jumps off the building. The Doctor, meanwhile is being trapped in the perfect prison. Rory is also tracked down to the Glen Canyon Dam, where he is shot. The two bodies are carried to the prison, where Canton locks the Doctor and the bodies (and himself) in. The Doctor escapes from his jacket, and Amy and Rory weren't dead at all, plus Canton never went rogue, it was all an act. The Doctor has parked the TARDIS within the prison, making it invisible. The first thing they do is collect River Song who dives into the TARDIS swimming pool. The Doctor then reveals their secret weapon: Neil Armstrong's foot. The group have not wasted there time however. No, they have been collecting as much information they can about the Silence. They have learnt that they have been here for a very long time, and are everywhere. Amy says that her pregnancy was a false alarm, as the team has a nano-recorder implanted into their hands. They have also learnt that they edit themselves out of your memory as soon as you turn away, but you can build up a small amount of resilience to them. Sometimes you may feel sick, but not always. They have been shaping humanity since the human race began (if not earlier). After Canton sees a Silent (actually a hologram of an image from Amy's phone), they realize the use of post-hypnotic suggestion that the Silents use.

Amy and Canton, meanwhile visit Graystark Hall Orphanage in an attempt to find the little girl, who they believe the Silents have stolen. Once there they split up, Canton goes with Dr Renford and Amy investigates the rooms. Amy has several terrifying encounters with the Silents and one with Eye-Patch Lady (Madame Kovarian), she finds the little girl's room. Amelia is shocked to find a photo of her holding a baby. The astronaut enters the room. Amy is in shock, and apologises to the little girl in the spaceman suit. Silents come up behind the little girl which terrifies Amy.

The Doctor, meanwhile has strapped a device into Apollo 11, but he is caught and put under suspicion. River and Rory escort the President to the rescue of the Doctor, shocking the people that arrested the Time Lord. Later, Rory, River, Canton and the Doctor find the room in which Amy is being held. They can hear her but cannot see the young woman. They find the nano-recorder which is transmitting everything she is saying in real time, which understandably causes a lot of pain for Rory. Dr Renford interrupts the emotional moment when he announces that someone has been shot (a Silent that was shot by Canton a little earlier). During a short exchange, the Doctor learns that the race are the Silence. A short time later, there is only a few minutes until Apollo 11 launches, and the Doctor, River and Rory have returned to the warehouse. They examine the astronaut suit and learn that it is a life support system. The Doctor and River experience a tense moment, as does Rory and the Time Lord. The Doctor then realizes the importance of the suit being a spaceman; the Silence made humans build them one. At that very moment, Apollo 11 is launched. Canton meanwhile, has put the wounded Silent in the perfect prison and, using Amy's phone, he captures footage of the creature stating that "You should kill us all on sight!" The Doctor receives this and attempts to comfort Rory who is obviously taking his wife's abduction with great difficulty. He doesn't succeed very well.

Five days later, Amy finds herself strapped into the Silence's ship. Following a frightening exchange with a Silent, the TARDIS materializes. The Doctor, River and Rory walk out and the Time Lord decides to watch some television, after River threatens to shoot seven Silents. Rory attempts to get Amy out of her harness, as the Doctor and the Silence watch the Moon Landing. The Doctor has to make a call though, which Canton receives. He straps Amy's phone to a complicated watchit, which sends a signal to Apollo 11 which is in space. The video of the Silent commanding the human beings to kill them interrupts the broadcast, which is watched by every human being ever. The Silence aren't too happy about this and a visually spectacular battle ensues. Over the course of this, the Doctor sonics Amy's braces and she is freed. River helps the Doctor, by shooting the Silence



IN THE FOREST IS THE RIVER..."

DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS RIVER'S CHEEKINESS

River is an incredibly cheeky character, which again adds to her uniqueness. From the way she states her catchphrase "Hello Sweetie" to her banter with the Doctor, there is something intensely unusual about River Song that you can't really capture. What is perhaps most fascinating is that this cheekiness seems to be compensating for something. River is a broken character, and is far from two-dimensional adding character development through cheekiness. Clever, clever.



RIVER SONG
Circa *The Pandorica Opens*

In 5145, River Song receives a phone call from Winston Churchill who is in 1941. Churchill had phoned the Time Vortex in an attempt to get in touch with the Doctor, this did not work, but the TARDIS re-routed the call to River. Winston explains the situation regarding a Vincent Van Gogh painting from 1890, and River realises she must act. She slips the prison guard by using her hallucinogenic lipstick and travelled to the space whale that contains Britain, which is ruled over by a very cockney queen. The Doctor and Amy visited the space 'ship', on her first TARDIS trip (TBE). River breaks into the ship's Royal Archive where she, after grabbing the Van Gogh painting, is confronted by the Queen. River manages to convince the Queen of her good intentions after showing the painting and the monarch lets the archaeologist grab the painting. Sometime after this, River visited the Maldovarium, where she encounters Dorium. She manages to receive a Vortex Manipulator in exchange for a Calisto Pulse, which can disarm micro-explosives. From here, River travels back to Planet One, and graffiti's a cliff of pure diamond. As such, the first words in recorded history are "Hello Sweetie". Also on the cliff is the Doctor's name and co-ordinates. After this, River used the Vortex Manipulator, arrived in Britain in 102 AD, and using her lipstick, posed as Cleopatra. Then all she had to do was wait.

Sometime later, the Doctor and Amy arrive at the oldest cliff face in the Universe, read the message and follow the co-ordinates. As such, they also materialise in Britain 102 AD, and meet 'Cleopatra', in fact River. She shows the duo the painting, which depicts the TARDIS exploding. The title of the painting is "The Pandorica Opens". The Pandorica is a prison, which was designed to hold the most feared thing in the Universe. The prison was buried under Stonehenge and, as such, the trio of the Doctor, River and Amy, travels there. They find a vast space underneath the

landmark, which the Doctor dubs 'the Underhenge'. Here they discover the Pandorica is real and realise that it is opening from the inside... Of more pressing concern is the fact that at least 10,000 starships are surrounding the planet, all of which hate the Doctor. To fight them, the Doctor decides the Romans are the best option. River travels back to the Roman camp to enlist members. Once there she finds that the Roman leader has returned, but several men still join a group of 50 men. This group includes one man very familiar to the Doctor: Rory Williams, who was killed and erased from time. Because of this, Rory's place as a Roman in 102 AD is very, very odd. Anyway, after a tense encounter with a Cyberman, Rory the Roman saves Amy, who is drugged. The Doctor sees this and realises something is wrong. It takes him some time to realise that Rory is alive. River meanwhile informs the Doctor that ships surround Stonehenge, but he tells her to fly the TARDIS and get it to him. She leaves to do just that. After the Doctor instructs the aliens on the ships, as to his past victories over them, they fly off.

River meanwhile arrives at the Doctor's time ship and manages to de-materialise. However, all is not what it seems. The TARDIS' dematerialisation is flawed and something is wrong with the TARDIS. The fight is erratic and out-of-control and finally, the ship materialises at Amelia's house on 26th June 2010. River realises that alien ships have been there and that those inhabitants have used Amy's memories to create a very elaborate trap for the Doctor. Rory meanwhile has re-visited Amy and realised that she does not remember him and he attempts to jog her memories of him. River is having problems of her own as explosions rock the TARDIS, as she realises that something else is controlling the TARDIS. The Doctor tells her to leave but she cannot. At that moment, the Romans are 'activated', River's troubles continue and the Pandorica opens. Rory forces himself to fight the conditioning and tries to get Amy to leave. This is what triggers Amy's memories of her life with him, and she states that she will never leave him. Despite Rory's best efforts, the Auton conditioning is too strong and he shoots and kills Amy. River lands the TARDIS and attempts to get out so that the TARDIS engines will automatically shut down. The Romans are actually Autons who capture the Doctor, ready to meet the Pandorica Alliance. The Alliance consists of many of the races the Time Lord has beaten before. They decide that they wish to stop the "cracks in the skin of the Universe" and, as such, seal the Doctor into the Pandorica. River cannot escape the TARDIS, as the doors open onto a wall. She apologises to the Doctor as the time ship explodes and the Universe ends not with a bang, but with a whimper... (TPO)



RIVER SONG
Circa *The Big Bang*

From here, several timey-wimey incidents happen which would be difficult to explain and are not really relevant to the article. All you need to know is, a future Doctor saves Amy by going back in time and getting Rory to take him out of the Pandorica. He does this, and the Doctor places Amy inside. Rory decides to stay with her for 2000 years, officially making him a legend, in more ways than one. 1,894 years later, young Amy (Amelia) visits the National Museum where the Pandorica is held and, by touching it, brings future Amy (Amy) back to life. But the Universe is still ending and as such, time and space are getting smaller. A remnant of a species (ie; a footprint in the sand) still remains. The light of the Pandorica hits one of these remnants (a stone Dalek) and it comes to life. The group of Amy, Amelia and the Doctor encounter Rory who saves them all from the Stone Dalek. On their way to the roof, the four encounter a future Doctor who dies before their very eyes. The Doctor has only 12 minutes to life and Amelia's remnant disappears...

Once on the roof, the Doctor realises that the sun they can see is his exploding TARDIS. The trio hear River repeating the same words "I'm sorry my love" over and over again. The Doctor remembers that the TARDIS will have sealed off the control room and put her in a time loop to save her, putting her location right at the heart of the explosion. The Doctor, using the Vortex Manipulator saves her, from this seemingly unending hell. They return to the roof where River is surprised that the Centurion (aka Rory) is on their side. She notices the fez on the Doctor's head, which he has taken to wearing. Amy grabs it, throws it into the air and River shoots it, blasting it into a million pieces. The stone Dalek floats up to the roof, where the quad run back into the building. Once there, the Doctor realises that the Pandorica can effectively re-boot the Universe, causing Big Bang 2. However, before the details of this plan can be put in place, the Doctor is shot by the stone Dalek. The Doctor

"...I LIVE FOR T

THE GREAT ENIGMA

zaps down the stairs, 12 minutes ago, where he died. Amy and Rory go back there, but River has something to do first. After making the Dalek beg for mercy, she shoots it through the eye-stalk killing it instantly.

Once downstairs, they realise that the Doctor isn't dead because he seems to have moved. They find him sitting in the Pandorica, ready to fly off into the exploding TARDIS. This is the only way the light of the Pandorica can be at all of space and time at once. He has wired the Vortex Manipulator, which will enable him to fly the Pandorica into the heart of the explosion. Amy, Rory and River will wake up where they ought to be, but the Doctor will be trapped in the void, which will mean that he will never have been born. He wishes to speak to Amy. She goes reluctantly. He reveals that her family was eaten by the crack and that, if she tries, she can remember them and they will come back. The Pandorica shuts and the Time Lord flies up to the TARDIS. With one final "gerinomo" and a look of determination, the Doctor flies into the explosion, re-starting the Universe, but killing himself. The Doctor begins a rewind through some of his more recent adventures. He realises that, despite the fact that she can't see him, she can hear him. He reverses to the Angels incident, where he tells Amy to remember something he told her when she was 7. He then reverses back to the night he first met Amelia, the night she waited. He finds her asleep and carries her back to bed. Once there, he gives a touching soliloquy on his time with her, reminding her of his borrowed, "brand new and ancient: blue box. After this, he decides to skip the re-run, stepping valiantly into the crack, sealing his fate.

On Amy's wedding day, on 26th June 2011, the redhead feels as though she's forgotten something and is grateful to see her parents, despite the fact that she's known them all her life. At the reception, she sees a mysterious blonde curly-haired woman walk past (in actuality River). This causes Amy to cry without knowing why. She spies a battered blue book (in actual fact, River's diary), which is blank (because the Doctor never existed). This reminds Rory of the old wedding saying. Several things around the room remind her of a long lost friend, this causes Amy to interrupt her Dad's speech. She remembers her childhood friend, the Raggedy Doctor, she knows he is real. The glasses begin to shake, the wind picks up as Amy finds the Doctor in words. The words by the way are "Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue". The TARDIS materialises into the room and into Amy and Rory's memories. The Doctor walks out of the time ship wearing a black suit and top hat and introduces himself as Amy's imaginary friend. The reception continued with dancing going well into the night including the Doctor's infamous 'drunken giraffe'.

Sometime later, the Doctor goes back to the TARDIS where he meets River. They engage in some friendly banter. He gives her back the diary and vortex manipulator. She foreshadows and then leaves. The Doctor enters the TARDIS where he is promptly followed by the newly married couple. They wave goodbye to their old lives and join the Doctor for their wonderful new lives... (TBB)



Much later, Dr Song is placed under Father Octavian's custody. He released her from the Stormcage Containment Facility, so that she could complete a mission relating to the Weeping Angels, and achieved her pardon. Until this time, River is legally under obligation to Octavian.

Four days later, on the ship Byzantium in the 51st century, Doctor River Song used her hallucinogenic lipstick, to ensure that the guard was distracted and entered the ship's vault. Once there and she had found the ships' home box, she inscribed a message written in Old High Gallifreyan, the language of the Time Lords. On that box, she wrote her immortal words "Hello Sweetie". The home box would eventually fly home with details of the ship if it ever crashed which, in this case, it did. 12,000 years later, the home box could be found in the Delirium Archive, the biggest museum ever. One day, in that planet's history, the Doctor and Amy materialise in the TARDIS. Once there, they find the box, read the message and thus, decide that they need to steal it. Meanwhile back on the Byzantium, several guards and the ship's captain, Alistair, discover River and reveal that they need to execute her as penalty for breaking into the ship's vault. River blows up the door to outer space and flies through it, but is not killed. The Doctor and Amy have watched the message from the Byzantium, and listened to River Song who tells them where she is and asks for an air corridor. The TARDIS materialises, and River flies into the TARDIS landing on the Doctor. She instructs him to 'follow that ship'.

River maneuvers the TARDIS and the trio materialise on the planet Alfava Metraxis, which is the seventh planet of the Dundra System. They find that the Byzantium has crashed due to a phase-shift, these meant that there were no survivors. Once there, she calls the Clerics, which are in fact, an army and they arrive on the scene. Their leader at this time, and River's 'guard' is Father Octavian who is a Bishop, second-class. He has brought with him several clerics. River discusses why they are here and reveals that, in the ship, was in fact a Weeping Angel. The Weeping Angels are alien statues that can only move when a person blinks, and are practically undefeatable. The Angel is thought to be still in the ship and, to get to it, the Doctor, River and co. must pass the spookily named Maze of the Dead. The Maze, also known as an Aplan mortarium, is full of statues and to add to the group's trouble,



THE DAYS WHEN I SEE HIM"

the Weeping Angel looks like it has freed itself from the ship. The statues make it close to impossible to find the Angel on the loose. After a long trek, having ascended four of the six levels of the maze leading to the ship, the Doctor and River realise something shocking. All of the statues within the labyrinth are in fact deformed Weeping Angels, and they are all reforming and coming after the group. The Byzantium had crashed not because of an accident, but a rescue mission to give the army of Angel's power. The group decide they need to escape, and, as the Angel, is no longer in the ship, decide that going through the ship is their best option. Once close to the ship, they realise that Angels surround them and that the ship is high in the air. The Doctor realises that there is only one way out. The Time Lord grabs Father Octavian's gun and shoots the Grav Globe, a light sphere, which also keeps the group rooted to the ground. (TOA)



RIVER SONG
Circa *Time Of Angels*

The group land on the ship's outside as when the ship crashed, the power was still on and as such, the artificial gravity was also still on. As the group had jumped, they 'fell' up and landed on the belly of the ship safely. River, the Doctor and the others jump into the ship, but are trapped by the Angels, which also jump up onto the ship. The Angels lock the door to the next room, and to get it open again, the Doctor has to turn off all the lights. Father Octavian asks River Song whether she trusts him or not. She states that she does. He agrees to let the Doctor do the dangerous manoeuvre but on the condition that if the Father loses any more men, he will tell the Doctor who River Song is. Amy, meanwhile, begins counting down from ten. The group is able to successfully get out and escape on to the Secondary Flight Deck.

Once there, the Doctor realises that the ship has an artificial forest within, to produce air. The Doctor and River realise that Amy is counting down, and ask the Angels why. They state that they are in her eye, and laugh, as the Doctor hasn't noticed something. He turns around and sees the crack from Amelia's bedroom wall. As the rest of the group escape into the forest, the Doctor stays behind to study the crack. As he does so, an Angel grabs him and they take his jacket. In the forest, River realises that something is wrong with Amy, and the feisty redhead collapses. River orders a Med-Scanner and as the Doctor appears, she discovers that Amy is dying. The Doctor works out that Amy has an Angel in her mind, as other Angels stalk the group. The Time Lord realises the only way to stop the Angel killing Amy is for her to shut her eyes. She does so reluctantly and Amy returns to a safe level. Amy must not open her eyes from now on or she will die. As such, the Doctor, River and Octavian leave to find the Primary Flight Deck, while the remaining clerics stay behind to watch over Amy. On the way to the Flight Deck, Octavian reveals several secrets about his custody over River Song. At this time, the Doctor realises the date of the explosion in the future that is causing all the cracks in space and time all over the Universe. Back in the forest, the Clerics are erased from time and as such, Amy is left on her own, not being able to open her eyes.

Once at the Flight Deck, Octavian manages to open the hatch to the deck. The Doctor and River, meanwhile, realise that time can be unwritten. As Octavian tries to get the Doctor into the hatch, an Angel grabs him. As he is trust dying, the Father reveals that the Doctor can't River, as she killed a good man. Octavian is killed as the Doctor and River escape to the Flight Deck. River attempts to revive a teleport, the Doctor states that it is impossible. The Doctor realises that he needs to save Amy. He speaks to her through her communicator and instructs her to walk like she can see. She needs to avoid the Weeping Angels and keep ahead of the Time Energy that is spilling out of the crack. After a close call, Amy is brought to the Primary Flight Deck, as River has managed to get the teleport working. Once there, the army of Angels faces the Doctor, River and Amy. The only way to close the Crack is to feed it with a complicated space-time event. As such, the Doctor removes the gravity from the ship and all the Angels fall into the Crack, shutting it. The trio manages to climb through the wreckage, and the Angel in Amy's mind is removed. River, meanwhile, is locked in handcuffs, waiting for the prison ship to beam her up. She thinks she might have earned a pardon. River teases the Doctor about the Pandora incident and is beamed up to the ship. (FAS)



One must assume that River received that pardon as, the next time we see her, she is working for the Thelman Lux Corporation. In the 51st Century, River Song would have what would turn out to be her final adventure with the Doctor, at the biggest Library in the Universe. The Library, a world that is home to every book ever written. The planet's core is the largest hard drive ever as this is the index computer to the library. She, along with her team, are investigating as there is nobody in the Library. Once there, she meets the Doctor in his tenth incarnation, who has arrived with his companion Donna Noble. She had ensured his arrival by sending him a message on the psychic paper, which was sealed with a kiss. But the message went incorrectly and arrived too early. At this point, River Song is known as a Professor of Archaeology and, apart from time at a University, is working with Strackman Lux of the Thelman Lux Corporation. They are investigating a 100 year-old mystery, in an attempt to find out what happened to all 4022 people who were saved, and yet oddly there were no survivors. The Doctor, River Song and Co. learn that the events were caused by an alien race called the Vashta Nerada, which are carnivorous shadows. Along the way, she learns that this incarnation of the Doctor has not met her at all yet. It is incredibly painful for River Song to see the Doctor look right through her and ignore her. At this stage, River has a future Doctor's Screwdriver, which is radically different to any model previously seen by the Doctor. Along the course of the adventure, the Doctor's continual persistence at attempting to find out River's identity is to no use as she is just as strong and stops him, knowing that she cannot possibly tell him. (SIL)

Due to certain editorial deadlines, the biography section for River Song on Forest of the Dead is yet to be completed. When the updated edition of this article is published online, this episode will definitely be included. I am so sorry for the inconvenience, and hope it does not spoil your enjoyment of the second part of the article which follows now...

SECTION 2: QUESTIONS AND SPECULATION

Series 4, Episode 7 SILENCE IN THE LIBRARY

How does River Song know Donna Noble? Why does River feel it is so important to tell Donna about her relationship with the Doctor?

River Song most likely heard about Donna from the Doctor, discussing his past companions. River may feel it important to tell Donna because like the Doctor, she needs to tell her something so that Donna can trust her. It is unlikely that the definitive answer to these questions will be revealed as it is more part of the Series Four Doctor/Donna arc than the ongoing River Song arc.

Why haven't we seen River Song's Sonic Screwdriver yet?

If the theory that River Song's life is running parallel to the Doctor's, albeit in the opposite order, is correct then why haven't we seen the Sonic Screwdriver that River is given? This is a tough one. The parallel lives theory is a good theory, but the facts just don't add up. If that theory were correct then the last time the Doctor saw River then he would have given her his screwdriver. The problem is that that screwdriver is far more advanced than either the Tenth or Eleventh Doctor's sonic screwdriver. This screwdriver has various settings that we haven't even heard of since. Due to this fact, it is far more likely that this is one of the odd jaunts that River seems to have with future Doctors. Let me explain. There's no easy way to do this, so let's use a simple diagram. (see Figure 1 below)

The dark blue line is the Doctor's timeline, whereas the magenta line is River's timeline. They are basically parallel to one another. The various other arrows refer to the odd jaunts that the Doctor makes into River Song's life. So why does River Song think that they're lives run parallel? That's another question for later...

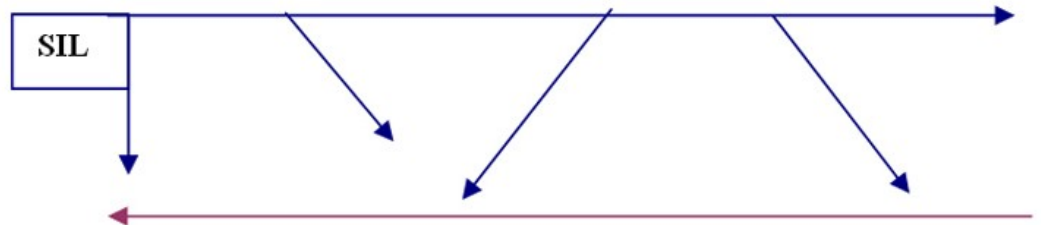


FIGURE 1: TIME TRAVEL CONFUSION

How does River Song know about Emergency Program One?

This is a much simpler question to answer, as it could have happened one of two ways. One, an adventure that we won't or have yet to see features the Emergency Program One. The second, slightly more likely option is that River Song learnt it while being told how to fly the TARDIS. It is made quite clear in later episodes that River knows definitively how to fly the TARDIS. During that 'course' she was possibly told about that emergency program. But who told her and who taught her to fly the TARDIS? See this is why Steven Moffat's clever. You work out one thing only to reach another question. It's so frustrating!

Series 4, Episode 8 FOREST OF THE DEAD

When did River Song and the Doctor go to the End of the Universe?

Okay, a bit of a difficult one here. This most likely happened in a period when River Song travelled with the Doctor on a semi-regular basis. Another theory that can be made possible is that River is a future companion who travels with the Doctor. This is a good theory and explains several things we don't yet know, but it can also be quite easily debunked. The series implicitly states that River has travelled with several Doctors, which sort of gets rid of the theory in it's own right. The most damning evidence of all is that conversation in *The Impossible Astronaut*, which states that River and the Doctor are travelling in opposite directions which completely removes that theory from plausibility...

Anyway, River and the Doctor possibly travelled to the End of the Universe on one of her birthdays. Maybe that birthday also had two Doctors? Ooh, imagine it...

How does River Song know how the Screwdriver works and how does she know more about it than the Doctor?

Gosh, these questions don't get any easier. River and the Screwdriver, again we have a number of possible solutions. A) River Song learnt how to use the Sonic on the same day she learnt how to fly the TARDIS. B) On her final day with the Doctor, where he gave her the Screwdriver, he taught her how to use it. And C) it just came up in conversation or was important to a specific adventure. Whichever way you choose, the instance must have happened quit far in the future as she knows more about the Screwdriver than either Ten or Eleven do. That leads me to believe that options A or B are more likely.

DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS RIVER'S PARADOX

River's entire life is a paradox. A timey-wimey bucket filled with confusion and cleverness. What's unusual about River Song is that she is the first character to really be part of time. Sorry, didn't word that very well. River is the first regular character to really give the writer a chance to develop the audience understanding of time. Time is not linear it moves and flows, which makes River's name very clever indeed. Even her title "River" represents the smooth, haphazard nature of time, which is fascinating. And who doesn't love a time paradox?





What Does River Song Whisper to the Doctor?

Okay, yes we know what River whispered to the Doctor, as he later conveniently states that it was in fact his name. But other fan rumours around the Internet suggest that she told him more than just his name. Some have speculated that she told him how to get out of his later impending death. That strikes me to be quite ridiculous, as River knows that the Doctor would hate to be told that and he does not seem to know about his later impending death. What strikes me more about this is the fact that River can say the name. In previous stories, it has been clearly stated that the Doctor's name is not actually pronounceable by members of the human race. That raises an interesting question. Was the Doctor lying about that or is River Song more than just a human? More about that discussion later...

Why Does River Song Have Handcuffs?

Easier one. As River Song is later seen to be part of the army clerics, she may have picked up a pair of handcuffs from there. Or is there another reason for River's possession of the cuffs? We may never know...

Which Doctor took River Song to Derilium?

This question is really open to interpretation. Either it's the Eleventh Doctor with a new haircut or suit or it's a later Doctor. But how can it be a later Doctor if the Eleventh is dead? That's a big question that will be answered later. Be patient.

When is the only time the Doctor could ever tell River Song his name?

This is an odd one. This example assumes that the Doctor's name is a word of power, which it most likely is. The only time I think he could ever tell her his name would be his death, but we supposedly have seen that and we are still none the wiser as to the Doctor's name. The answer may in fact be found in *A Good Man Goes To War*. In that episode we see the Doctor's cot. That episode seems to portray River Song as being able to read Gallifreyan and if she was the little girl, she may well be at least partly Time Lord. In that case, River may have just read his name off the cot. For some reason, I have a feeling that there is more to this question than meets the eye. I hope this is one question we get a definitive answer to...

"She didn't know me." Does River Song Know of Donna?

As established earlier, River does seem to know exactly who Donna is and what her fate is. So why doesn't Donna think that River knew her? I think it's more an interpretation issue. Donna meant that River did not know her as in having met her, while River knew of her, presumably by a story the Doctor told. If only all questions were that easy to answer.

"Future me had years to think about it. All those years to think of a way to save her." Are we in paradox territory? Does the same apply to the opening of the TARDIS doors by clicking one's fingers?

We are definitely in paradox territory. This will get confusing. Future Doctor had years to think about a way of saving River Song, presumably because he was unable to. As he thinks of a way to save her, he gives the screwdriver to River who then travels back to the earlier Doctor. He then gets her screwdriver and saves her. Are there two versions of this timeline, where the Future Doctor changed the future/his past? How else can this work? The Tenth Doctor saves River on the later instructions of his later incarnation, thereby not doing anything himself. It is a paradox. It is similar to the *Time Crash* scenario. Neither of the Doctors has to do any thinking, as the previous one will remember watching the future one solving the problem. The future one will remember being the earlier Doctor and as such act on the actions he saw himself do. It is in a way predestined as if the Doctor didn't do it then the earlier Doctor wouldn't see the later Doctor doing it and, as such, the later Doctor won't be able to solve the problem. It is a closed paradox, and one of the oddities of Time Travel. It is not used to extensive detail here, but later Steven Moffat would come into trouble when he used the technique for much of the Doctor's actions in *The Big Bang*. Anyway, River is saved by the earlier Doctor on the instructions of the Future Doctor who doesn't have to think about what to do. This means that either the Tenth Doctor was wrong and Future Doctor didn't save River or Future Doctor changed history. The same goes for the finger clicking opening the TARDIS door. If River hadn't mentioned it, the Doctor wouldn't have thought to try it so that River would later remember it. My head hurts...

Will the Doctor ever come back for River?

Some people have stated that River's eventual fate is quite cruel on the Doctor's part. I tend to agree with them. After the life that River has had, it's a bit unlikely that she would want to settle down in a fantasy world. I hope that one day the Doctor will come back for her, but then again this can be seen as a sort of heaven. A place to go after a long life. Maybe River's fate isn't so bad...

Series 5, Episode 4 THE TIME OF ANGELS

How Does River Know the Lost Language of the Time Lords?

This is actually a much more difficult question to answer than appearances suggest. As we now know that River Song is half Time Lord, it is therefore logical to assume that she must know her own half-language. But who taught it to her? A baby isn't just born in England, knowing how to speak English is it? No. That means that River must have heard Time Lords chatting away or she must have had a teacher to teach it to her. So, who was the teacher? Who else, but the Last of the Time Lords? One must assume that after the Doctor eventually rescues Melody that he teaches River about his and her people. This lesson might include language and possibly TARDIS operation... Anyway, this question is one of those, which I doubt we will get any answer to, unfortunately.

How Can River Fly the TARDIS?

Possibly the same way as in the previous question. What is more interesting is again the teacher and the question of identity. In this episode River says to the Doctor 'it's a shame you were busy that day'. Okay, so it wasn't the Doctor, all fine and good. Or it would be, if not for *The Pandorica Opens* where she states, 'You taught me! Who taught her?!' Going by the onscreen evidence, it's more likely that someone else and the Doctor both taught her. The theory is evidenced by the fact that she references the Doctor having taught her and that her knowledge of TARDIS flight is more advanced than the Doctor's. This one may be explained in a roundabout sort of way in the television series.

'I've got the spotter's guide'. What?

Okay, the spotter's guide presents a number of questions. The first one is about who gave it to her. A future Doctor is a logical suggestion, and is such an easy answer. The second question relates to the future Doctor's death. Okay, now I know it wasn't broadcast when this was written, but it happened earlier in River's chronological order. If River has the spotter's guide does it include an image of a later Doctor, which would mean that the Doctor couldn't be dead? Okay, if it doesn't that means it has images of eleven Doctors, River would only have met two of them. Or has she met earlier Doctors, as some fans may suggest? I don't think so, as the Doctor would have remembered her, when he saw her in *Forest of the Dead*. But he doesn't seem to. Anyway, the spotter's guide is another one of those things that probably won't be expanded by more than this line...

Series 5, Episode 4 THE TIME OF ANGELS

Who was the good man that River killed?

This is one of the biggest questions that Steven Moffat has given us about River Song. Octavian states that this person is 'a good man, a hero to many'. Immediately, the obvious victim is the Doctor. He is a good man, and is a hero to several of his companions. But on further investigation, there is a greater possibility of it being Rory. Okay, now on first read it sounds sort of silly. But there is evidence. Rory became the Last Centurion in *The Big Bang*, and in *A Good Man Goes To War*, Amy talks about him in a manner that is indicative of a good man. Also, when River reads the poem of Demon's Run, several times when River mentions a good man, there is an image of Rory battling, not the Doctor. Also, Rory also went to war in that episode. But why would River kill her father? And would it really be Rory? Is there evidence for the victim to be the Doctor? Well, yes. If River killed the Doctor, then it would be his death scene as it appeared in *The Impossible Astronaut*. What is odd about that scene, among other things, is that the Doctor is so forgiving to his would-be killer. Why? Unless... the younger River Song is the killer! Think about it. Madame Kovarian wanted River to be a weapon. As such, she put River inside an Astronaut suit and set up a trap to kill the Doctor in 2011. The Doctor, somehow, knew of this and as such, was forgiving of the young River as he knew she didn't have any choice in the matter. Despite that fact, River feels guilty of it, and admits to the crime. As such, she is sentenced to time in Stormcage. Anyway, that is just a theory. It's got a lot of holes, but it's also got a lot going for it. Not least, as there is something Moffatley poetic. The first time the Doctor sees River, she dies, and if this theory is proved correct, the first time the River sees the Doctor, he dies. This one question, we will definitely get an answer to, otherwise several fans will be quite annoyed with Mr Moffat.

Series 5, Episode 12 THE PANDORICA OPENS

"You taught me..." Who taught River to fly the TARDIS?

Basically, we don't know just yet. It seems likely that two people taught her, but that doesn't really explain why she would give conflicting answers. Maybe she just wants to play with the Doctor's mind. If so, I am more inclined to believe that the Doctor taught her, as this moment we are referring to is a moment of high stress. Would she really be thinking of playing with the timelines while thinking that the TARDIS may have been invaded? Not likely. The other moment in *The Time of Angels* is less tense, and as such could be more playful. Refer to the second question in *The Time of Angels* for a more details.

Series 5, Episode 13 THE BIG BANG

Why is River surprised that Rory is on 'their side'?

Okay, easy enough question to explain. River knew Rory was a good guy, but she had to pretend she knew nothing otherwise her cover (being Rory and Amy's daughter) was at risk. The same could be said for the scene in *Flesh and Stone* where River has to pretend she has no idea what the base code of the Universe is. If this is correct, I wonder how far River's knowledge extends to? Could we ask her about the plans for the Fiftieth Anniversary...? If only we could...

Why does River remember the Doctor when she really shouldn't?

This is actually a very, very tough question to answer, because it looks at a number of factors. First, there's the fact that if the Doctor was never born then everyone goes back to where they ought to be. Right, that makes sense. Amy and Rory go back to their life in Leadworth, but where does River go to? One would assume prison, but if the person she killed is the Doctor, then technically he never existed for her to kill him. Second, if Amy and Rory never travelled with the Doctor then when did River begin? Okay, we know where she would have begun but she would not have been half Time Lord, would she? Nor would she have been raised by Kovarian and the Silence. Steven Moffat has stated that the reason River remembered the Doctor is actually quite significant, and that seems very logical. One other thing. If River is a Time Lord (at least in part), then maybe that accounts for her memory of the Doctor. While this seems like a very logical answer, which it is, the facts don't quite add up. If the Doctor never

DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS RIVER'S MYSTERY

Throughout this feature, these box-outs have looked at why River is popular. For the final box-out it is therefore entirely logical to look at the greatest element that sums up River's popularity. It's the mystery surrounding her. Everyone loves an enigma, it grips you and pulls you into the story. A character that is a mystery forces you to concentrate on every tiny little detail, every line of dialogue. And once you're hooked, you're hooked. This article was born out of the need to fit it all together. To attempt to display the complete puzzle, filling in the gaps with my own homemade pieces. However, upon completion the puzzle is far from complete, and even when all the pieces are there, and none are homemade, people will still love River Song. She is the most enigmatic character in the series at the moment, yet she is also the most joyous.



existed, technically River was never born so how does she even exist. Too many questions!!!

"That's when everything changes". Does it?

River's revelation that she is Melody Pond, is massive, but is it that massive? 'Everything changes'. No it doesn't. The two companions have a daughter who is River Song. That's really a game changer. Okay, maybe it will change this season and possibly, the next, but as a series changer it doesn't seem too significant. Due to this, I think more shocking revelations are to come that will be are groundbreaking. I wonder what they will be? Only time will tell...Where's a Vortex Manipulator when you need one?

Series 6, Episode 1 THE IMPOSSIBLE ASTRONAUT

The Doctor's death has a number of implications for everyone involved, but River may know more than she seems... Also, is the Doctor really dead? Discuss.

Okay, quite possibly the biggest question yet asked, must know be answered. In fact, the whole feature has sort of been leading up to it. Now, we know that the Doctor is dead. There is no get-out clause (for the moment anyway). The latter half of Series Six will almost definitely have to include one. So, what is River's involvement if any. Clever theory coming up. We all know that River killed a good man and that is why she's in prison. We know that this was the best person River has ever met. We have all assumed that this is the Doctor, because if it's not, it would be very interesting to know who the best man River ever knew that wasn't the Time Lord... Anyway, due to River's killing of this person, whoever it may be, she is in jail and has been for a considerable amount of time. Within the opening minutes of *The Impossible Astronaut*, the Doctor is killed, dead. We know that later on in the episode the little girl (ie River) is wearing the Astronaut suit. Know let's put the theory all together. Madame Kovarian trains River to be a weapon against the Doctor, but the young Pond is a bit rebellious and has no wish to kill this Doctor. Therefore, Kovarian and Kronies strap the little girl into the Astronaut suit with the intent to destroy. River is trapped inside the suit, which is being controlled, or she is controlling it, either way. In the end, she ends up killing the Time Lord. However, she feels so guilty over the death, that she sends herself to prison. This theory explains several things, and there is evidence on-screen. Firstly, there's the bit where the Doctor feels sorry for his killer, making it okay for them to feel all right,

"It's okay, I know it's you". This gives strength to the theory that River had none or very little control in the situation. The Doctor is aware of this and is making her feel okay, as she has no choice in the matter. Secondly, there's the moment where adult River shoots the astronaut and states "Of course not". In this moment, she remembers herself being the astronaut which killed the Doctor. Lastly, there's River's seemingly freer approach to prison life. River is entitled to phone calls (as seen in *The Big Bang*), and seems to be able to leave at will without any real punishment implemented. However, this theory doesn't explain anywhere near anything, but it is quite neat. Anyway, I'm sure some details in that are wrong or not even close to the real plan.

The second part of the question asks whether the Doctor is really dead or not. I would be inclined to say the negative, the Time Lord ain't dead. Firstly, there's the reference in *The Doctor's Wife*, where the TARDIS states that she has about 30 older control rooms saved. The Doctor states that there hasn't been thirty to which she cheekily replies not yet. Apart from being a funny scene, this reinforces the idea that everyone's favourite do-gooder isn't dead. Unless someone else uses the TARDIS after he died often enough to change the desktop theme, the Doctor isn't dead. Plus there's River Song's spotter's guide and the fact that the series is so popular at the moment, it would be really silly to kill off your main character. This question will be answered in the second half of Series Six and appears to be 'the main arc plot'.

"I'm quite the screamer. Now there's a spoiler for you!" What story could that come from?

Apart from being a very amusing line, this scene also seems to have some gravitas and importance. This is seen through the way River says it, placing significance on the particular spoiler. My story theory is that she needs to scream to stop something dangerous, which would make a very interesting story. Whether this is followed up depends on whether or not Steven Moffat had a story in mind, or if it's just another throwaway line.

"My past is his future." Is it?

In a touching exchange towards the end of this episode, River reveals that she believes that her and the Doctor's lives are back to front. Notice how I have used 'believes'. This is because this is still only a theory, and it doesn't seem to be correct. The series has proven time and time again that River has met future Doctors in between televised adventures. So how has River come to believe that their timelines run directly parallel? This is my theory. The Doctor, in his search for Melody (who is taken in *A Good Man*), tracks River's timeline back from his just recent meeting, dropping in on her life at certain moments, until he finds her as a little girl. This settles the theory that their lives are running slightly parallel. The Doctor, however, still feels for River and, as such, meets her, in his various other incarnations at various points in her life. This theory will most likely be wrong as it breaks every rule of time that the series has set up, but hey it's a theory!

Series 5, Episode 2 DAY OF THE MOON

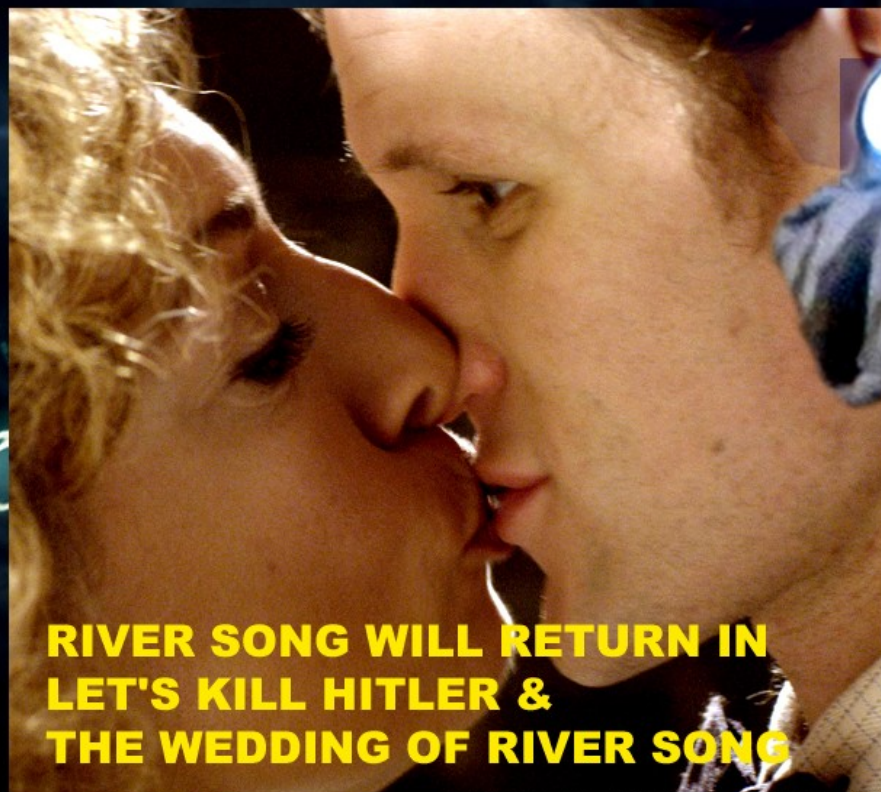
No questions present themselves within this episode

Series 6, Episode 7 A GOOD MAN GOES TO WAR

Which Doctor took River to the last of the Great Frost Fairs in 1814?

Again, the parallel theory meets another problem. If the Doctor and River are travelling in exactly parallel directions, a completely different Doctor than Eleven could not have taken River to the last Frost Fair. What I think Steven Moffat's done, and this is no fault of his own, is he just put that scene in to distract fans from finding the truth. It's worked quite well, by the way! The parallel timelines' theory is good in a broad view but upon closer inspection it fails to stand up to close scrutiny... But they can't keep meeting in a random order. That would be too confusing for even the Doctor...

THIS WAS A TMT SPECIAL REPORT



**RIVER SONG WILL RETURN IN
LET'S KILL HITLER &
THE WEDDING OF RIVER SONG**



SERIALISED COMIC

DOCTOR • WHO

THE TEN DOCTORS
EPISODE 2

ARTIST PROFILE

Hello;

Rich Morris here, writer and artist on "The 10 Doctors" here to give some commentary and explanations on the comic.

I started watching **Doctor Who** way back in the mid '70s as a child when Tom Baker was the undisputed face of the series. It both terrified and fascinated me then and as I grew up I sought out and absorbed as much as I could about the show. By the time Sylvester McCoy was heading the last three seasons of the original show I had seen every single existing episode, read novelizations of most of the missing ones, and gathered as much trivia into my head as I could. As a cartoonist it had always been my plan to draw my own adventures of the Doctor in the TARDIS, but with my experience level at the time, I couldn't capture a likeness that satisfied me enough to pursue it to completion. For a while I had created my own Time Lord known as The Scout and wrote a few adventures for him instead as I didn't have to worry about making sure it looked like anyone in particular.

Now, years later, with the rebirth of the show and some years of professional art experience under my belt, I finally felt I had the skill I needed to make some. I wanted

to start by making the ultimate **Doctor Who** comic, just in case I only had the interest to do the one and not continue. I wanted to make sure I covered as much material as I could in one story, so I brought in all the incarnations that existed at the time, plus companions for each. An early idea was to cross the story over with other shows, for example, the 2nd and 7th Doctors aboard the Starship Enterprise from the original **Star Trek** series, the 3rd and 4th Doctors on Moonbase Alpha from **Space:1999**, and so on. As I began to plan the story I ditched the crossover idea to try to simplify things a little. As you can understand, this project needed as much simplification as it could get!

The first page went up on my Deviant Art account on February 15, 2007 and the final page went up on Rich's Comix Blog on May 27, 2009. You can really see the art style change dramatically over the course of those 2 years as I found the style and gained experience.

TO BE CONTINUED...

What follows over the next few pages is a commentary by the author on the comic and then the first 10 pages are available for you to take a look at!





PANEL 1	PANEL 2
PANEL 3	PANEL 4
PANEL 5	PANEL 6
PANEL 7	PANEL 8

How To Get The Most Out Of This Commentary

To get the most out of this commentary, simply use the following as a guide. Let's say that one of the references is Page 11 (in the black bubbles), panel 5 (in bold). You then look at the above panel guide turn to the adjacent page after having read the commentary. This will enable you to get the most out of your TMT comic strip experience. Enjoy!

The Ten Doctors Page 11

Here we see what the 8th Doctor is up to these days here in his own proper timeline. There have apparently been some changes on Gallifrey since the last time we saw it, which would have been after the political upheaval in "Trial of a Time Lord".

PANEL 2: The president here is not based on any character in particular. When I created this page I hadn't yet heard the non-canon, spinoff material that suggested that Romana had somehow managed to get back from E-Space and become president. So at first I got a lot of people asking if this was supposed to be a new incarnation of Romana. I didn't really go for the whole President Romana thing, so for this story, it's not her. It's a totally new original character (who remains unnamed). The garden set seen in this sequence is actually the Ecodome set from a TV show I was working on at the time. A kid's show called "Lunar Jim".

PANEL 3: The President's line is an oblique reference to the ending of "The Deadly Assassin".

PANEL 7: The President mentions Flavia, who was seen in "The Five Doctors" and had been appointed acting president by the 5th Doctor.

The Ten Doctors Page 12

The Doctor has become concerned about a lack of activity in the universe. The President thinks he's become bored. This is a joke reference to the fact that other than the 8th Doctor's televised adventure, there was no Doctor Who on television for many years.

PANEL 1: "There's been a serious change in the universe lately." Yeah, the show had been cancelled, his movie was made in the U.S. and hadn't been picked up for a new series [yet].

PANEL 4: The President mentions the Doctor teaching thermodynamics. We learn several times in the old episodes that that was his special subject at the Time Lord university.

PANEL 8: The President demonstrates a classic case of Time Lord overconfidence.

The Ten Doctors Page 13

PANEL 1: The President shows signs of power lust as well. All the legendary Time Lords mentioned are from the series at some point. The President's examples are the Time Lord heroes who founded and established the glory of the Time Lords of Gallifrey. The Doctor's examples are Time Lords who somehow went bad and betrayed their own people. Of course, Omega did as well. And in the new series much much later we discover just how bad Rassilon was as well!

PANEL 3: The Transduction barriers are mentioned in "The Invasion of Time", some kind of force field that keeps Gallifrey sealed off from the rest of the universe.

PANEL 4: The 'young Time Lords' line refers to back when I used to run a Doctor Who RPG with my friends. The concept of which was that other Time Lords had to have done what the Doctor did to get out into the universe. Of course, in the game, the Time Lords didn't catch them and haul them back. Or maybe she's lying?

PANEL 7: The undisguised TARDISes in the maintenance bay are based on the designs of the SIDRAT machines from the Pat Troughton's final episode "The War Games". They are obviously similar machines.

PANEL 8: The TARDIS interior is based on the Fox Film set in keeping with the 8th Doctor's presence.

The Ten Doctors Page 14

The Master has been lurking inside the Doctor's TARDIS since the FOX Film. Here he takes advantage of the technician, jumping into his body and forcing him to regenerate. The regeneration allows him to morph the new incarnation into a much more Master-like appearance than the Human one from the Film. When I drew this page I hadn't quite settled on a design for the new Master. His appearance settles down much later in the comic. There are, I believe, a couple of versions of this page floating around the internet somewhere, with panel 8 having been redrawn with a different face.

If you look at the technician's tool kit you can see a 'moog clamp' as seen in "Earthshock".

The Ten Doctors Page 15

The Doctors all speak in order of incarnation number.

PANEL 5: The 5th Doctor's suggestion comes from early new series episodes with the Autons and the Gelph trying to recover from the effects of the Last Great Time War.

PANEL 7: The 9th and 10th Doctors comments refer to the change of attitude from early in the new series when they believed all their old enemies were wiped out, to later on when almost all of them had made an appearance (except the Time Lords themselves).

The Ten Doctors Page 16

PANEL 1 & 2: Romana explains temporal mechanics to the companions. Peri and Jamie have been paired up on a parody of some of their scenes in "The Two Doctors".

The Ten Doctors Page 17

PANEL 1: I was still trying to settle on a design for the new Master.

PANEL 2: The Master mentions the fluid links, which were a source of trouble back in the 2nd Doctor Who story, "The Daleks".

PANEL 3: A reference to several times in the classic series where the Doctor attempted to fix the chameleon circuit (which keeps the TARDIS stuck in Police Box form), and finally decided he liked it as it was.

PANEL 5: Having lifted the technician's TARDIS key, the Master pops into one of the (SIDRAT) TARDISes and takes off into the Universe somewhere. Note the SIDRAT controls on the wall under the Rassilon swirl crest. In "The War Games", the SIDRATs were controlled by a series of fridge magnet shapes stuck to a steel plate.

The Ten Doctors Page 18

Just having a bit of fun with my favorite Doctor.

The Ten Doctors Page 19

PANEL 3: The 7th Doctor still muddles up his idioms.

PANEL 6: Not only is this a reference to the 3rd Doctor's catchphrase (which supposedly Jon Pertwee resorted to when he couldn't remember his technobabble lines), but also the rivalry between the 2nd and 3rd Doctors. Which itself reflected the friendly ribbings Pat Troughton and Jon Pertwee used to give each other at conventions.

PANEL 7: The 4th Doctor remembers the Hand of Omega, which we learned in "Remembrance of the Daleks" the 1st Doctor had stolen from Gallifrey and [eventually] hid on Earth in 1963. It's a stellar manipulator and could be used to recreate the Eye of Harmony in the post-war period of the new series. A concept the 9th Doctor obviously finds attractive.

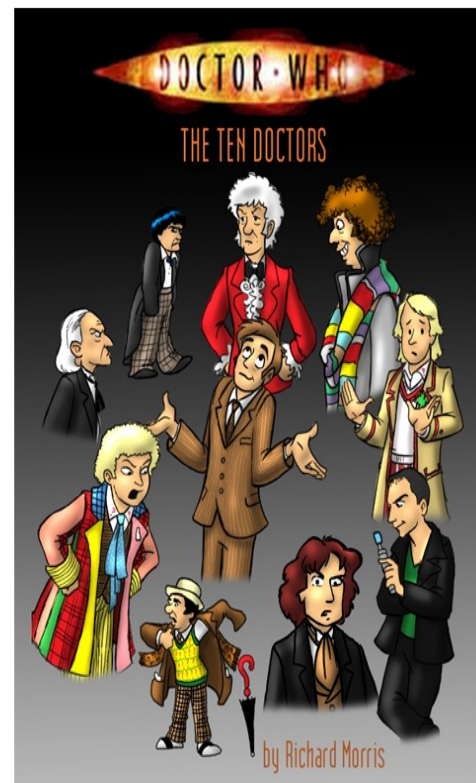
The Ten Doctors Page 20

PANEL 3: The 8th Doctor catches himself talking to himself again. This is a reference to a line in the 8th Doctor's Big Finish audio dramas, where he has to speak dialogue but has no companion to talk to.

PANEL 4: The 8th Doctor runs into Commander Maxil, captain of the guard as seen in "Arc of Infinity" as played by Colin Baker, who would later become the 6th Doctor.

PANEL 8: Just like in "Arc of Infinity", we see that Commander Maxil may have allied himself with the wrong people again.

TO BE CONTINUED...



Download the whole series at: www.comics.shipsinker.com

-----Rich

Thankyou Rich Morris for your time and patience...

I MUST SAY, DOCTOR, YOUR VISITS ALWAYS INSPIRE MIXED FEELINGS.

GALLIFREY

WHILE MANY OF US REVERE YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN PAST DISASTERS, OTHERS ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE THE CAUSE OF MOST OF THEM.

I SUPPOSE THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED...

WE DON'T NEED ANY NEW HEROES, DOCTOR.

SO.....COME ON, OUT WITH IT.

MADAME PRESIDENT?

DON'T PLAY COY.

THE TEN DOCTORS
PART TWO BY RICH MORRIS

YOU HAVE CONGRATULATED ME ON MY APPOINTMENT TO PRESIDENCY, COMPLIMENTED ME ON MY LATEST REGENERATION,

YOU MADE ME TEA FROM YOUR FAVORITE PLANET AND NOW WE'RE TAKING A STROLL IN THE GARDENS.

YOU HAVEN'T HAD A GO AT ME TO BREAK THE NON-INTERFERENCE LAWS YET.

MADAME PRESIDENT!! I... I.....

OH YES! FLAVIA HAD YOU WRITTEN INTO THE PRESIDENTIAL MANUAL.

AND I REFUSE TO BELIEVE YOU CAME HERE JUST TO HAVE MY TECHNICIANS HAVE A LOOK AT YOUR TARDIS.

-SIGH-
OKAY.

SERIALISED COMIC

I WANT YOU AND THE HIGH COUNCIL TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER RE-EVALUATING THE NON-INTERFERENCE LAW.

THERE'S BEEN A SERIOUS CHANGE IN THE UNIVERSE LATELY—



—I KNOW WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU, DOCTOR.

Y-YOU DO?

OF COURSE.



WE'VE BEEN KEEPING TABS ON YOU. YOU'VE NOT BEEN AS ACTIVE AS YOU ONCE WERE.

YOU'RE BORED, DOCTOR... AND YOU WANT TO COME HOME AND FIT BACK INTO OUR SOCIETY.



YOU WANT TO RETIRE FROM YOUR RENEGADE, INTERFERING LIFE AND TEACH THERMODYNAMICS AT THE ACADEMY!

WELL... NO.



AH WELL. A GIRL CAN DREAM.

THIS IS SERIOUS, MADAME PRESIDENT! I'M CONCERNED FOR THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE UNIVERSE!



IT'S THIS STRANGE LACK OF ACTIVITY THAT'S GOT ME WORRIED! NO CYBERMAN INVASIONS, NO SEA DEVIL UPRISINGS, NO AUTON INFESTATIONS!

AND MOST FRIGHTENING OF ALL.....



THERE HASN'T BEEN A DALEK ATTACK ANYWHERE, ANYTIME, FOR THE LAST 200 YEARS!

THEY'RE UP TO SOMETHING. SOMETHING BIG!



WHY DOCTOR... YOU'VE BECOME POSITIVELY PARANOID! THE UNIVERSE ISN'T OUT TO GET YOU. WE'RE JUST ENTERING A NEW GOLDEN AGE OF UNIVERSAL HARMONY!



AND SUCH FORTUITOUS TIMING. PRESIDENT ELECT AT THE CUSP OF A GOLDEN AGE! A FEW HUNDRED YEARS OF THIS AND MY NAME WILL BE REMEMBERED ALONGSIDE RASSILON... OMEGA...

MORBIUS... BORUSA... HEDIN...



(THAT'S NOT FUNNY, DOCTOR. IT WASN'T MEANT TO BE! IT'S TIMES LIKE THIS WHEN WE GET COMPLACENT THAT BAD THINGS HAPPEN!



NO. IT'S TIMES LIKE THIS WHEN YOU SHOW UP THAT BAD THINGS HAPPEN. THE TRANSDUCTION BARRIERS ARE IN PLACE. WE ARE SAFE!



YOU DO ENOUGH DAMAGE JUST BEING FAMOUS! WE'VE HAD 14 YOUNG TIME LORDS TAKE OFF IN JUST THE LAST 375 YEARS BECAUSE OF THE EXCEPTIONS WE MAKE FOR YOU!

FORTUNATELY WE WERE ABLE TO RECALL AND ROUND THEM UP BEFORE THEY DID ANY REAL DAMAGE.



IT'S ONLY MY RESPECT FOR YOU THAT KEEPS ME FROM GROUNDING YOUR CAPSULE RIGHT NOW.

DON'T MAKE ME CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT THAT.

ONCE YOUR TARDIS HAS BEEN REPAIRED, I SUGGEST YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LIBERTY WE GRANT YOU.

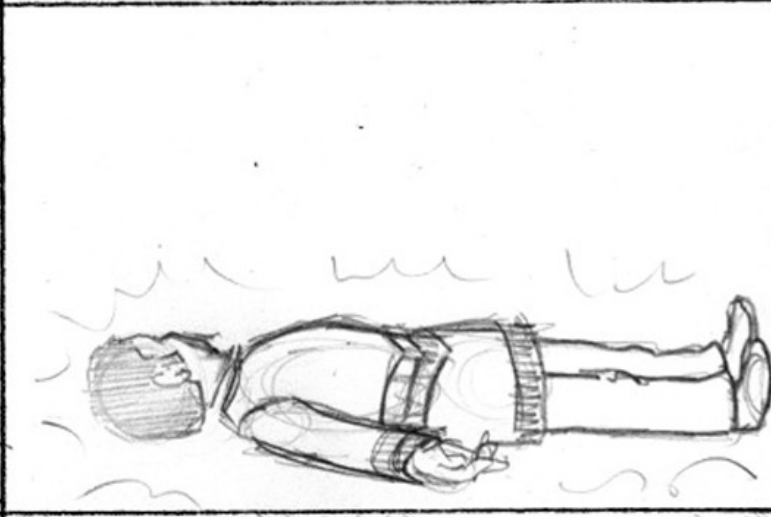
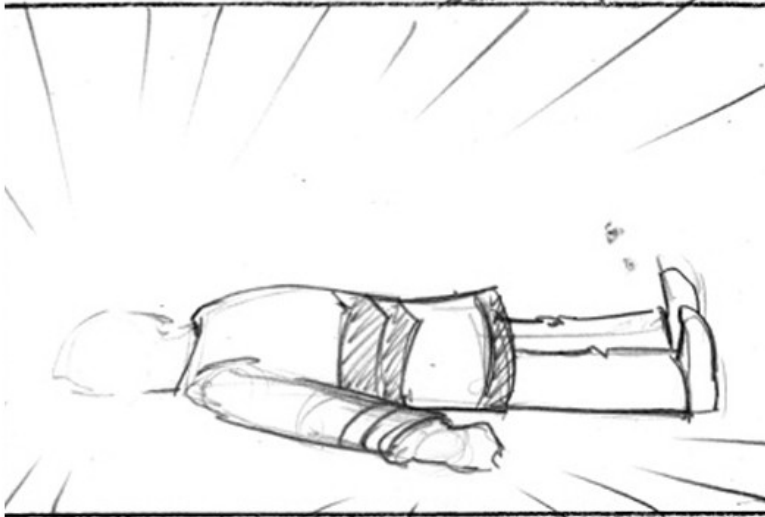
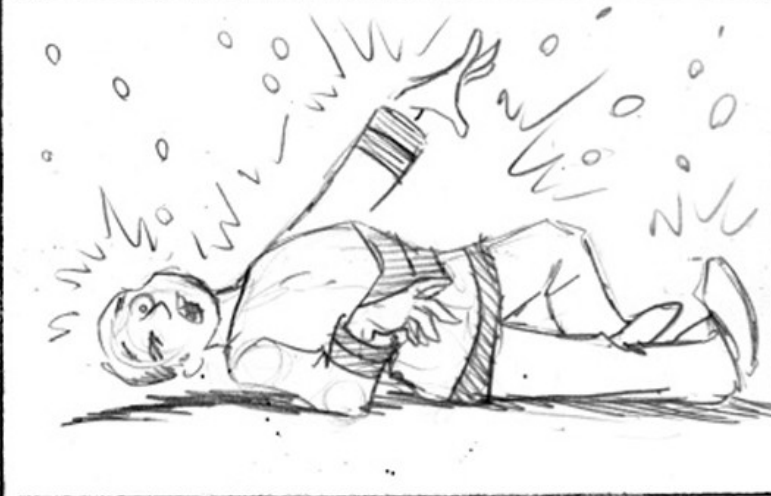


AS YOU WISH, MADAME PRESIDENT. I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.



-SIGH- VERY PRETENTIOUS DOCTOR.





ALRIGHT ALRIGHT. DOCTORS. SETTLE DOWN.
SETTLE DOWN.

NOW, 9 AND 10
HAVE GIVEN US
SOME VITAL AND
DISTURBING FACTS
THAT WE MUST
CONSIDER
CAREFULLY,
HMMMM?



A DEVASTATING TIME WAR WHICH WIPED AWAY
OUR OWN HOME PLANET.... HMMMM?

STILL, WE MUST STEEL OUR RESOLVE
AND FIGURE OUT WHY WE ARE ALL
HERE....

AND MORE IMPORTANTLY,
WHY 8 IS NOT.



WELL, IT SEEMS OBVIOUS TO ME THAT THIS
HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE OUTCOME
OF THAT WAR. SOMEONE'S TRYING TO
STOP 8 FROM
DOING SOMETHING
THAT CHANGED
THE COURSE
OF IT ALL?



OR TRICK HIM INTO
DOING SOMETHING
HE OTHERWISE
WOULDN'T.



IT'S GOT TO BE SOMEONE
WHO'S GOT SOMETHING TO
GAIN FROM THE ALTERNATIVE
OUTCOME.



'SURVIVOR OF A RACE
THAT
WAS
WIPED
OUT,
PERHAPS?

TRYING
TO
SAVE
ITS
OWN
KIND?



OR SOMEONE HOPING TO GAIN POWER OVER
THE CHAOS OF THE DISTRUCTION?



WELL WE KNOW IT'S GOT
TO BE SOMEONE FROM
AFTER THE WAR, OTHERWISE
THIS WOULDN'T BE HAVING
AN EFFECT AT
ALL.



THAT DOESN'T NARROW
THE FIELD MUCH....
EXCEPT IN REGARDS
TO HOW
FEW RACES
SURVIVED
IT.



-AND THAT'S NOT AS FEW
AS YOU THOUGHT.



YES YES YES, MMM HMM.. TOO
MANY QUESTIONS, HMM? NOT
ENOUGH ANSWERS.



WE'VE GOT TO
TAKE MATTERS INTO
OUR OWN HANDS.

AND TRACK DOWN
NUMBER 8.

SERIALISED COMIC

AND THAT'S HOW, THROUGH INTERSTITIAL TIME AND INTERDIMENSIONAL VECTOR MANIPULATION,

WE AND THE DOCTORS CAN ALL BE HERE, TODAY.

OH, AYE!



HUNH?

WHEN THEY START TALKIN' A LOAD O' HOGWASH LIKE THAT, IT'S BEST JUST TAE AGREE WI'EM.

SOMETIMES IF THEY THINK YE GET IT, THEY'LL STOP TALKIN'.



WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN'T FIND SOME SORT OF EVIDENCE OF TEMPORAL TAMPERING BACK AT MY TARDIS.

THAT COULD BE A PROBLEM.



HMM? EH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WELL... BEFORE THE WAR, ALL TARDISES WERE POWERED THROUGH ON BOARD POWER COLLECTORS TETHERED TO THE EYE OF HARMONY.



BUUUUUUT... WELL... NO GALLIFREY NO EYE OF HARMONY

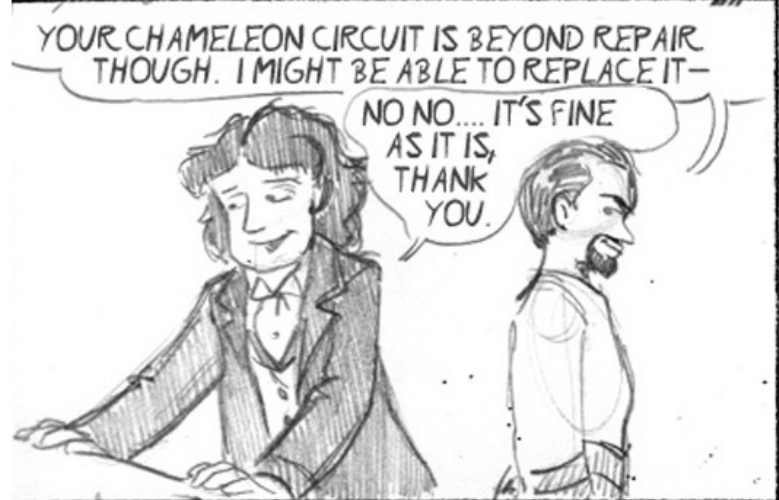
NO EYE OF HARMONY, NO POWER...

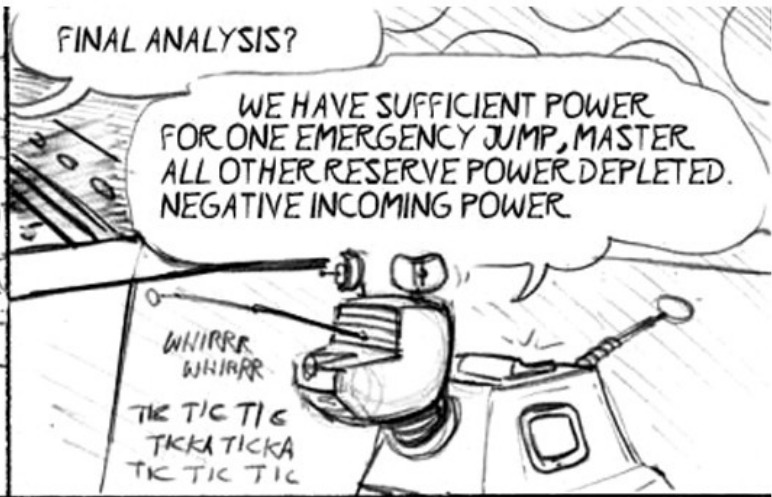
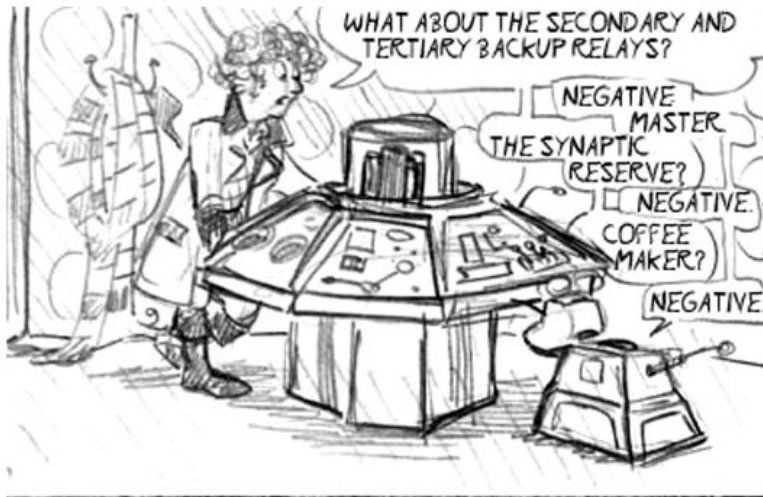
NO POWER, NO TARDIS...



GOOD GRIEF!









OH NO.... JUST AS I FEARED!
DEFINATE EVIDENCE OF TEMPORAL
INTERFERENCE!

JUST NEED TO BRING THIS TO THE
PRESIDENT.
EVEN SHE
CAN'T
DENY THIS
KIND OF
PROOF.

CAREFUL DOCTOR,
YOU'RE TALKING TO YOURSELF
AGAIN.

GOING SOMEWHERE, DOCTOR?

AH.... COMMANDER
MAXIL...

WHAT AN UNPLEASANT
SURPRISE. IF YOU
MUST KNOW I WAS
ON MY WAY
TO SEE
THE
PRESIDENT.

SHE DOESN'T WANT TO
BE DISTURBED. LEAST
OF ALL
BY YOU.

I HAVE INFORMATION
OF UNIVERSAL
IMPORTANCE!

AND I HAVE MY ORDERS,
DOCTOR.

FINE. THERE'S GOT TO BE
SOMEONE ON THIS PLANET
WHO WILL
LISTEN
TO
REASON.

HE HASN'T GIVEN UP.

OF COURSE NOT.
NO MATTER
GIVEN ENOUGH
ROPE, HE'LL
HANG HIMSELF.

KEEP AN EYE ON
HIM, MAXIL.

YES, MY LORD.

TO BE CONTINUED...

art by [carrie_ko](#)

REVIEWED INSIDE



EPISODES

The Curse Of The Black Spot
The Doctor's Wife
The Rebel Flesh
The Almost People
A Good Man Goes To War

NOVELS

Dead Of Winter
The Way Through The Woods
Hunter's Moon

FILM

The Company of Wolves

**Who's
Views**



"...I'D LIKE A BEARD..."



Starring Arthur Darvill (Rory Williams), Karen Gillan (Amy Pond) & Tony Lucken (Pirate)

Rory Williams: Oh great. That's your plan put my fingers in my ears. Come on Doctor, let's go. Let's get back to the... the uh...

RORY LOOKS ODD, ACTING AS THOUGH HE'S DRUNK

Pirate: The music, it's working on them. Look.

Rory (to Amy): You are so beautiful.

Amy Pond (Surprised): What?

Rory: No, I love your get-up. Oh, that's great.

You should dress as a pirate more often. Huh?

Hey, hey, cuddle me shipmate.

Amy: Rory, stop.

Rory: Everything is totally brilliant isn't it. Huh?

Look at these brilliant pirates! Look at their brilliant

beards! I'd like a beard. I'm gonna grow a beard.

Amy: You're not.



- The Curse Of The Black Spot (2011)



TELEVISION REVIEW

THE CURSE OF THE BLACK SPOT

The Curse of the Black Spot is the low-point of the first seven episodes of Series Six. The episode has a solid story, interesting characters, but in the end the episode falls flat.

The characters of the story are the perfect examples of a good idea falling a little flat, for no apparent reason. The two main characters, excluding our regulars, Captain Avery and his son are solid characters. The Captain is quite a nice character, with a lovely touch of humanity to him. Hugh Bonneville clearly loves portraying the character and as such, Avery comes across as quite a friendly man. The problem with Avery is that he accepts the Doctor far too quickly. A larger amount of hostility between the characters might have been very interesting and a good play on the fact that the Doctor just seems to waltz in and take over the situation, which happens at a frustrating regularity. The second, more significant, problem is that much is made over why Avery left the his life and family behind for a life of murder and pirates. When the reason is revealed it is the one of the oldest reasons ever, that of money and gold. Sigh. It is small moments like this that make the author seem as though he can't think of an interesting answer to a question raised, and as such falls back on a cliched response. If you're going to make a big deal of anything in a story, make sure there is some sort of pay-off that is satisfying and innovative. As this doesn't happen, the episode begins to feel very tired.

The Captain's son, young Toby Avery, suffers from an ailment of an altogether different kind. The young boy is a stock standard character designed to give the Captain a bit of humanity. The character succeeds from that point, but again there still feels as though there really should have been more dimensions here. What is odd is that the Captain and his son (and the Siren) are really the only characters which could have been developed. It feels weird that despite having fewer characters those are not given a good level of character development. Disappointing.

Our regular TARDIS trio fare a little better. The Doctor is at his controlling best, amusingly coming up with various theories, all of

which are wrong. His best scene in the episode comes when he realises that it is through reflection that the Siren enters the ship. The Time Lord then decides it would be a good idea to smash all of the windows and the mirrors in the Captain's quarters. For a moment there, the thought crossed your reviewer's mind that the Doctor had gone around the bend... Very funny and one of the episode's better moments.

Amy, meanwhile, is clearly having bucketloads of fun, dressing up as a pirate and acting as a protective mother figure for Toby. Her best scene comes when she must save her husband and she believes he is dead. The scene is incredibly moving and saddening. Some people have asked why the Doctor doesn't perform the CPR to save Rory, but I would argue that the reason is that Rory asked Amy, *not* the Doctor to save him. It would not be fair for the Time Lord to intervene, and take away this beautiful, precious moment. However, it is with Rory that the episode becomes something worth watching. His characterisation is fantastic, but it is when the hapless husband goes out of his mind upon hearing the Siren's song that the episode gains it's best scenes. Wonderfully odd and actually quite funny, especially the line about Rory wanting a beard (don't worry, you'll get one next episode), the scene is memorable and unique. Well done. Plus, we also learn that Rory likes a bit of cosplay, making him Rory the kinky Roman...

The Siren, the reason behind the curse that has been haunting the pirates, is a solid plot device. Lily Cole gives the role her all, with small movements to add to the character. Unfortunately, there isn't a character here to speak of and the end twist regarding her falls flat. One of the main reasons for this is that it feels rushed. Many of the major plot revelations are left to the final five minutes, which leaves a feeling of a lack of pace becoming prevalent. Pacing in the story is a real issue, which is not just limited to this scene but is a major part of the episode being a minor failure. Oddly, the same pacing issue happened in the Series Five episode *The Beast Below* which was also in the same story slot.

One aspect of the Siren that your reviewer did like was her song. The melody is genuinely spine-chilling and beautiful, making it easy to see why the victims are hypnotised so easily. I sincerely hope that the track is featured on the soundtrack album of the series. In fact, music is one of the episode's strongest points, with the score being suitably pirratey, especially in the overly silly ending. Music is usually quite powerful and that is seen clearly here.

The settings of the story are both quite fun, but are completely different. The first is the pirate ship. As one would assume, the boat is part of a wonderful atmosphere of loneliness and spookiness. Being a pirate tale, we expect a scene in which a savage storm menaces our

PACING IN THE STORY IS A REAL ISSUE





heroes. Viewers are not disappointed. The TARDIS trio plus Avery and son are battered in a semi-convincing barrage of water. As Rory and Toby are taken, the Doctor, Amy and Avery let the Siren grab them. The story suddenly takes an astonishing backflip, as the trio realise that they are on a spaceship and a pirate ship. The idea behind the two ships in one place is very clever, but is skimmed over in seconds. The spaceship is a terribly boring set, looking like several other ships featured in the series in the past. Like much of the story and the episode in general, it feels like a whopping great disappointment, as this problem could have been fixed quite easily.

The conclusion of the story ain't much better. The ending, in which Avery and son decide to stay behind on the ship feels overly silly. The scene doesn't really make much sense. Where will they go? How can he fly the ship? Okay, the latter question was sort of explained, but even a bit of Captain's instinct can't learn every control mechanism. The ending of the story is quite a bit like the entire episode itself, overly silly and a plotless piece of visually exciting material.

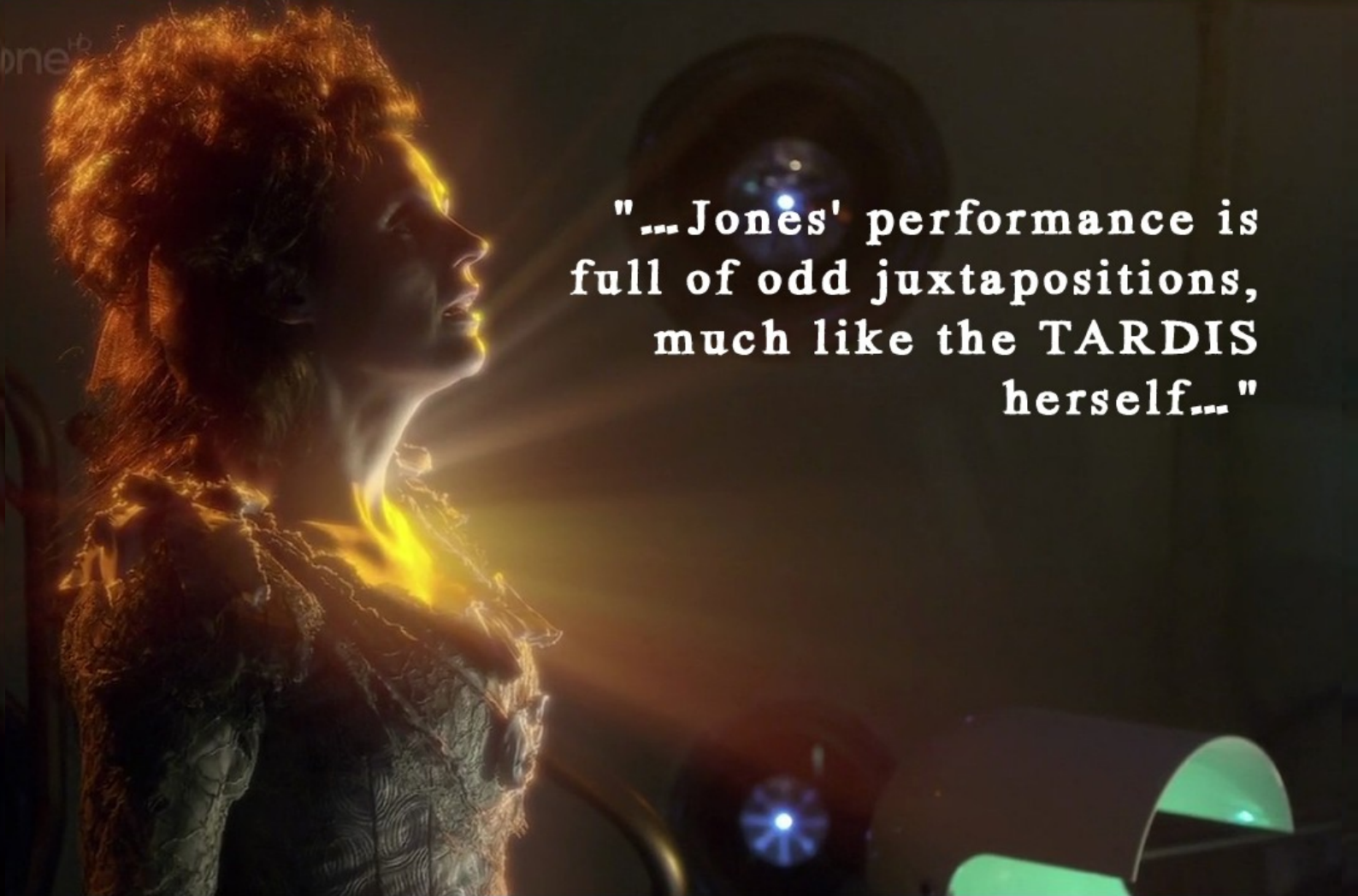
Looking back over that review, I think I may have been overly savage on the story. The episode is not terrible. If you have the ability to switch your brain off and watch a basic romp, then you will undoubtedly find it enjoyable, at the very least. The production is visually stunning, but it can't cover for deficiencies in script and story. What's most frustrating is that the problems could have been ironed out if just a little more time, effort and motivation had been provided. As those things didn't happen, we end up with a story that could have been so much more, but as it stands it's instantly forgettable stuff. Such a waste.

- Editor's Note: If you want to hear a good Doctor Who pirate story, buy the Big Finish audio Doctor Who and the Pirates, you won't regret it...



VERDICT:
5.5/10





"...Jones' performance is full of odd juxtapositions, much like the TARDIS herself..."

CLASSIC SCENE



Starring Surrane Jones (Idris) & Matt Smith (the Doctor)

The console room glows with light.
IDRIS (whispering): Doctor, are you there?
 The Doctor turns around and sees a glowing Idris. It's so very dark in here.
DOCTOR: I'm here.
IDRIS: I've been looking for a word. A big, complicated word but so sad. I've found it now.
DOCTOR: What word?
IDRIS (quietly): Alive. I'm alive.
DOCTOR: Alive isn't sad.
IDRIS: No, I just wanted to say hello. "Hello, Doctor. It's so very nice to meet you."
DOCTOR (tears in his eyes): Please, I don't want you to.
IDRIS begins to glow more. The TARDIS makes the standard dematerialisation noise.
IDRIS (whispering): I love you.
IDRIS vanishes leaving the Doctor in tears.



- The Doctor's Wife (2011)



Television Review

The Doctor's Wife

The Doctor's Wife is one of the most anticipated **Doctor Who** episodes ever. Written by author Neil Gaiman (famous for among others, *Coraline*), the episode is quite simply wonderful.

The appeal of the episode can't really be categorised into just one area with all of them on seemingly top form. Characterisation, excellent and moving. Story, strong and disturbing. Acting, pitch perfect. Production, gorgeous. With so much excellence it is not hard to see why the episode succeeded.

Suranne Jones as the TARDIS was doomed before she started. How could one person possibly convey the intense emotion that is the Doctor's time ship? How do you play that? Fortunately, the actress takes the role and makes it her own in a way that no other person on the planet could. Idris is the episodes' biggest surprise. The character is quite brilliant, one of the greatest characters ever to appear in the series. At times the character is moving and hilarious, joyful and terrified. At all times the character lights up the screen with her unique appeal. One scene sells Idris as the TARDIS more than any other. It is the scene where the Doctor and the TARDIS finally talked. The Doctor's annoyance at the TARDIS is very amusing, but what makes the scene brilliant is Idris' reaction. The Doctor is annoyed at her for not taking him

where he wanted to go. She says I always took you where you needed to go. The statement packs such a punch as this statement fits in so well with the series and yet it has never been said before. It is a beautiful idea and really confirms the fact that this woman *is* the TARDIS. In fact, a significant part of the episode's appeal is the way that Suranne Jones plays the character. It is an incredibly Helena Bonham-Carter-esque, and yet it is quite unique. The performance is full of odd juxtapositions, much like the TARDIS herself.

Despite the sheer intensity of Surrane Jones' performance, the episode does not just belong to her. No, this episode is shared between both her and Matt Smith. The young actor is simply incredible throughout the story displaying a wonderful range of emotions, from rage to weakness, surprise to shock, and from joy to sadness. The episode is great for the Doctor because it would be a massive occurrence in his life. Meeting the ship you travel in, what an odd, joyous day. The actor seems to realise this and really gets into the role, making it his own in a way that has strangely remained unseen. While in other episodes, it seemed as though old Smithy was settling into his role, but here he seems completely at home. As such, we finally get to see the Eleventh Doctor's emotions. The sheer amount of character development afforded to the Doctor within this episode has not been seen since the 60s (*The War Games*) and the 70s (*The Deadly Assassin*). It's astonishing that Neil Gaiman can write one 45-minute episode and develop the character in a new and interesting way. "Hello, Doctor" indeed...

Minor characters also play a significant role within the story. The characters of Auntie and Uncle are great fun, yet also slightly sinister. The idea of replaced body parts and the casual way in which they speak about it is deeply chilling. A slight problem with those two is that they are not really developed, but we are given character insight through the way in which dialogue is written and then the way in which it is spoken. The duo add some detail to the story, and what is interesting is when they are killed off. After the Doctor has met Idris and she has revealed who she is, Auntie and Uncle walk in and promptly die. It's as if the writer knew that as soon as Idris' identity is solved, people would be rightly

too distracted by that bombshell to pay any attention to the minor characters. So he kills them. Clever, Neil Gaiman, clever.

The subplot with Amy and Rory exploring the TARDIS is wonderful. No, wonderful's not the right word, awesome. That's much better. There are more reasons than I have room to discuss in detail, but there are a couple I'll chat about. The first is we finally get to see more of the TARDIS. In the classic series, we often had the privilege of seeing inside the time ship, past the console room, quite regularly. But, since the new series began we have seen very little of TARDIS corridors. *The Doctor's Wife* does much to rectify this grave error. That leads to my second reason as to the greatness of the subplot. Many of the scenes are scary as hell. Particularly, when House tricks Amy into thinking that every time she is locked away from Rory, time progresses faster until finally her husband is a dead husk. That scene with the shocking close-ups of Rory's scrawled words such as "Kill, Hate, Die Amy" is quite possibly the most disturbing scene in *Doctor Who* ever. It's a true "Oh my God" moment (it's also another "They Keep Killing Rory" Moment) that's terribly unnerving and freaky. Thanks for scaring the pants out of me. There are several other surreal moments inside that subplot making even filler fascinating to watch.

What is odd about the story is the use of continuity. Kisses to the past are readily apparent within the episode. These include the use of the 'little boxes' (previously seen in *The War Games*), an Ood and the old console room. These kisses are great fun for the *Doctor Who* fan as we fans happen to love continuity references (unless the production is overflowed with them, like what happened in the 80s). What is great about this episode's use of references is that they don't limit the casual viewer. The audience is not limited to any one group, ensuring that the episode can be enjoyed by every viewer.

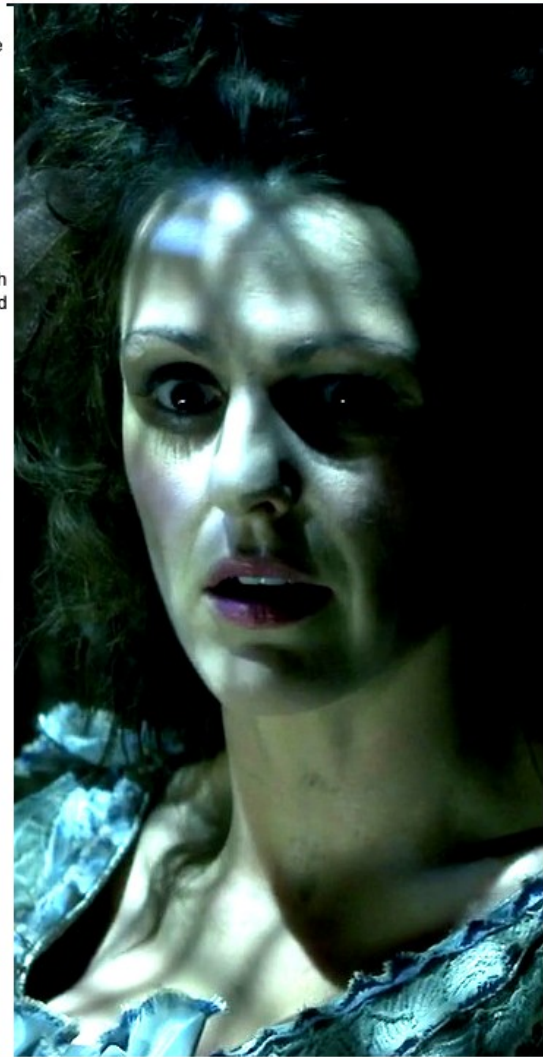
The production of the story is excellent, making the story a visual feast. The production team somehow managed to turn a quarry (another kiss) into a spectacular alien planet, that actually looks very convincing. This planet is supposed to look like a bit of a junkheap and does in the broadcast program. Nice, original setting. But the production's most visually exciting sequence is the final

defeat against House and the goodbye. The whole scene is gorgeous with time energy spilling from Idris' mouth filling the console room with a lovely glow. Then, after House is defeated, the room goes dark, suddenly a light illuminates one corner. It is Idris, who wishes to say her final goodbye to the Doctor. The scene is incredibly touching with some of the most moving lines in the episode, causing this reviewer to find something in his eye... The beautiful production certainly attributes to the greatness that is *The Doctor's Wife*.

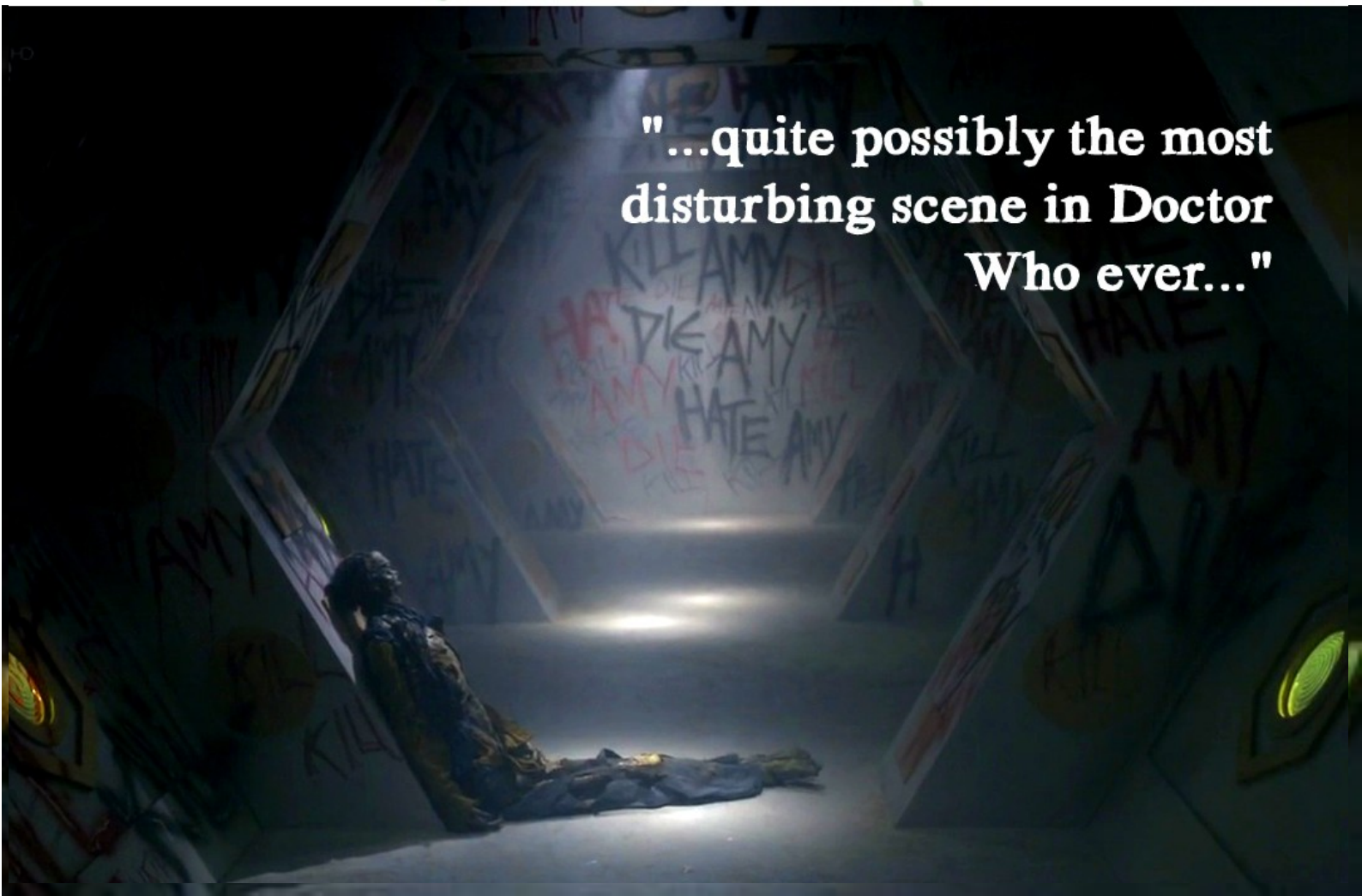
The episode is certainly the high-point of the Matt Smith era, and possibly the entire new series. Continuity is used liberally, but not overused, the story is completely absorbing. The actors and actresses involved are all on top form, and the whole production team seems to have given this episode that little extra something. All of these, and more culminate in making an episode that is very brilliant and just a touch off perfect...



VERDICT:
10/10



"...quite possibly the most disturbing scene in *Doctor Who* ever..."



"I FEEL EVERYTHING SHE HAS EVER FELT"



Starring Arthur Darvill (Rory Williams) and Sarah Smart (Jennifer Ganger)

JENNIFER GANGER IS SITTING AND NOTICES THAT RORY CAN SEE HER. SHE SPEAKS

Jennifer: When I was a little girl, I got lost on the moors. Wandered off from the picnic. I can still feel how sore my toes got inside my red welly boots.

SHE IS HOLDING A PHOTO OF HERSELF AS A LITTLE GIRL

Jennifer: Then, I imagined another little girl. Just like me in red wellies. She was Jennifer, too. Except she was a strong Jennifer, a tough Jennifer. She'd lead me home.

SHE LOOKS AT HERSELF IN A MIRROR BEFORE FINDING A CURRENT PICTURE OF HERSELF

Jennifer: My name is Jennifer Lucas. I'm not a factory part. I had toast for my breakfast, wrote a letter to my mum (SHE TURNS TO RORY) and then you arrived. I noticed your eyes right off.

Rory: Did you?

Jennifer: Nice eyes, kind.

RORY LEANS DOWN TO HER

Rory: Where's the real Jennifer?

Jennifer: I am Jennifer Lucas. I remember everything that happened in her entire life. Every birthday, every childhood illness. I feel everything she has ever felt and more. I'm not a monster! I am me!



- The Rebel Flesh (2011)



TELEVISION REVIEW THE REBEL FLESH

The Rebel Flesh is an episode that is unfairly pushed aside. This review (and the review for *The Almost People*) will attempt to fix this inaccuracy, by stating that this story is worthy of high praise.

When looking at the two episodes together, the genre in which they fit is as a character piece. In this type, story takes a backseat to character development and exploration. That is certainly seen here. The TARDIS trio are particularly well explored. The Doctor is given some great material within this episode, acting as a mediator between the Humans and the Gangers. Also, there's the very amusing scene in which the Doctor loses his shoes, and then the part where the Time Lord tries to impersonate the people there which includes the nonsensical line, "Eee by - by - by gum". That line is quite funny being one of the episode's few light moments. In fact, throughout the episode the only relief comes from the Doctor. Odd that. The Amy of this episode actually gets a bit of her own medicine. Rory sees that Jennifer is having a difficult time of it, so, being the caring person he is, comforts her. Amy sees this and just nods. This demonstrates not only feeling a bit of what Rory must go through, but also some important character development. The old Amy of last season would have gone straight up to Rory and told him exactly what she thought of him and what he was doing. But no, she just stands there and nods. Through her time with the Doctor, she has mellowed into a nicer, caring human being. All of this shown with a nod and a smile. Very impressive.

Despite some wonderful characterisation for the Doctor and Amy, the Rory third of the TARDIS trio is this episode's shining regular. Throughout the story, he is able to demonstrate his incredibly caring nature several times, particularly to the character of Jennifer Ganger. She is a great character for Rory to be with, as she really brings out the best in his personality. Rory adds much to this episode, making the episode quite enjoyable.

Jennifer Ganger is perhaps the episode's greatest character. She is our viewpoint into the actions that the Human's inhumanity have caused. Her personality is incredible, giving the episode some of

the story's greatest scenes. This month's classic scene is definitely the best of those. The scene sets up perfectly the episode's moral dilemma, having Jennifer remember both her 'real' life and her 'ganger' life. This speech sets up a course for the remainder of the story, giving it some depth. By the end, the weak Jennifer Ganger finds it necessary to become stronger by leading the fight against the people who have oppressed the Gangers. It's so sad to see one character who had absolutely no choice in who she is, who must fight for her own survival. Audiences feel so sorry for these Gangers, making us take their side over our fellow humans. By seeing just one character's progression, we gain a new understanding of the dilemma in which everyone involved faces, causing an intense emotional reaction.

Cleaves is another of the episode's great characters. She is the leader of the group and the 'real' woman isn't someone you'd want to be friends with. She is angry, frustrated and confused about the Ganger situation, and reacts with violence. Her small action of killing one Ganger is the catalyst for the deaths and disasters which both the Gangers and the Humans would later experience. The scene ruins the hopes for the two groups to live together and meet an arrangement, as she murders one of them in cold blood. Cleaves' Ganger, however, is quite a different character. She is disappointed by the actions going on and really doesn't want to be going to war with the Humans. The best line in the episode is given to the character. As the 'real' Cleaves produces her weapon, the Ganger Cleaves remarks 'that is so typically me'. The Ganger becomes more human (as in emotions and reactions) than the humans are. This scene helps us feel disappointment at the humans involved in the situation.

One of the episode's strongest aspects is how blooming frightening it is. To achieve this result, a very specific type of scare is employed, that being body horror. This type uses the body to create some deeply unnerving chills. That is clearly demonstrated in not just a few scenes, but is a vein that runs throughout the entire story. The Flesh itself is body horror. The Flesh duplicates of the principal cast are freakish, especially when they transform into their 'incomplete' face. There is something incredibly unnerving, an unplaceable feeling about someone's face not being complete. Recognisable, but not clear, enough. Anyway, the greatest body horror moment in the episode is the bathroom scene. Jennifer has realised that she's a Ganger and runs into one of the cubicles. Rory is with her and is standing at the other end of the room. Jennifer punches Rory, shatters the mirror and as the shocked man watches, lengthens her neck, projecting her head forward and yells 'Let us live'. The scene is gobsmacking and is very weird and ever so slightly disturbing. Through the use of body

...GREAT CHARACTERISATION...



BBC one HD

A FASCINATING MORAL DILEMMA



horror, this episode is given a uniqueness and a seriously spinechilling feel.

However, it is impossible to view this episode without stumbling into difficulty. The most obvious problem that one encounters is pace. The plot stops and starts for no apparent reason, which can lead to an occasional feeling of boredom. It's like you're waiting for the plot to kick in again. It's quite frustrating and seems to be the main issue as to why this episode isn't very highly regarded.

However, the pacing and various other negative factors cannot detract from the enjoyability of the central moral dilemma on display here. What makes a human? Is it emotions or physical being? What is more important human life or the Flesh? Did humanity have the right to do such disgusting actions? These questions are actually quite deep, and it's really rather wonderful that a Saturday tea-time drama contemplates life's biggest questions. To this reviewer, that is why this episode excels. It is deep and meaningful and thought-provoking. Who doesn't love a television series that makes you think?

The success of the story can be determined by how satisfying the questions are answered in the next episode. Plus, next time we have a Ganger version of the Doctor! Sounds like more body horror and sci-fi philosophy next episode. Oh, just you wait...



VERDICT:

7/10

The review for *The Almost People* does not follow. Due to timing delays it will be published on the website www.thetamorbius.weebly.com very soon. TMT apologises for the inconvenience...

"...HOW FAR YOU'VE COME..."



Starring Matt Smith (the Doctor) & Alex Kingston (River Song)

River Song: I couldn't have prevented this.
The Doctor: You could've tried!
River Song: And so, my love could you. (RIVER LOOKS TO AMY AND RORY) I know you're not all right, but hold tight, Amy, because you're going to be.
The Doctor (RAGING): You think I wanted this? I didn't do this! This... This wasn't me.
River Song: This was exactly you, all this. All of it. You make them so afraid. When you began all those years ago, sailing off to see the Universe, did you ever think you would become this? The man who can turn an army around at the mention of his name. 'Doctor', the word for healer and wise man throughout the Universe, we get that word from you, you know. But if you carry on the way you are, what may that word come to mean? To the people of the Gamma Forests, the word 'Doctor' means mighty warrior. How far you've come. And now they've taken a child. The child of your best friends and they're going to turn her into a weapon, just to bring you down. And all this, my love, in fear of you.
The Doctor: Who are you?



- A Good Man Goes To War (2011)



TELEVISION REVIEW A GOOD MAN GOES TO WAR

A Good Man Goes To War has no right to be as enjoyable as it is. This is an episode designed to provide some of the answers to questions that have lingered ever since 2008. As the episode gets to it's shocking revelation in such style, the 50-minute run time of the *A Good Man Goes to War* is utterly absorbing.

A significant part of why the episode shines so brightly is characterisation. The characters that appear in this episode are all fleshed out to their full potential and feel real. Characters with odd nuances that would sound ridiculous on paper (a Sontaran nurse?!) are explored in an incredible level of detail. The characters are forced to deal with real issues and real problems in a way rarely seen in the series.

The great characterisation of the regulars is fantastic and is very well done. What is odd about this aspect of the story is that these characters are changed realistically by the events of the story, yet the development of the trio feels like a logical and consistent continuation of what has been seen beforehand. Amy is the most affected as she is forced to come to terms with not only having a child, but having that child taken away from her. Throughout the episode, she remains hopeful that the Doctor and her husband will save her baby. It is one of the most shocking scenes in the whole episode when Amy's baby disintegrates into a puddle of fleshy (he, he) gunk. The Amy of this episode learns that being with the Doctor is not always fun. There are losses and casualties beyond the companion's control. Rory undergoes a similar transformation. At the commencement of the episode, Rory is undeniably brave, facing up against a legion of powerful Cybermen, all to get his wife

back. As the episode continues, Rory learns that the Doctor was completely wrong and must fight to save his wife and his friends. As the battle of Demons Run is lost, Rory's willingness to believe and trust the Doctor also diminishes as he watches as both Commander Strax and Lorna Bucket are eliminated. Rory and Amy both learn throughout the course of the episode both learn that the Doctor is not invincible and makes mistakes, and sometimes these mistakes cost the lives of those that we love. This affects viewers incredibly as we also question the Doctor and his actions, but we'll come back to that in a moment.

The minor characters are a major part of the episode's unique appeal. Let's get the bad stuff out of the way first. The characterisation of Madame Kovarian leaves much to be desired. After the spookiness invoked every time that her face appeared through a wall, it was disappointing to see her here as a very archetypal villain, with no other purpose other than being to menace the good guys. Your reviewer deeply hopes that she is improved in the other half of series six. The other Madame of the story is much more interesting. Madame Vastra is at times; menacing, hilarious and touching. Vastra is a stereotypical character with a difference. While the re-introduced Silurians were cardboard and boring, Vastra is completely fascinating. From her first appearance having apparently slayed and eaten Jack the Ripper to her confusion between male and female human beings, she is a scene stealer pure and simple. And who ever knew that the series would be so blasé about not only an inter-special relationship, but a same-sex inter-special romance? Hilarious and well handled.

Other minor characters on the side of the Doctor are also wonderful. Commander Strax is a clever idea, again taking a familiar race of characters and adding a new spin. As the Sontarans are such an honorable race, it's a wonder that no-one else came up with the idea of a Sontaran nurse to ensure the honor of their people. For much of the episode, the nurse is pre-occupied with death and battle. When his death in combat actually comes, the Sontaran is not as enamored with the idea as he once was. The scene is deeply moving, with Strax moving away from his roots having experienced a life that most Sontarans would not, in a way similar to that of the companion. Commander Strax is not the best minor characterisation of the episode. No, that honor goes to Lorna Bucket.

Lorna is a wonderful character for Amy to bounce off,

...being with the
Doctor is not
always fun...





Steven Moffat's unwavering genius...

having also met the Doctor in her past, when she was a child. Lorna throughout the episode is consistently brave and it makes her noble death all the more moving. The scene where the Doctor comforts her is both moving and worrying. Moving as the Doctor attempts vainly to comfort her as she becomes one more of the casualties of the Doctor's Darkest Hour. The scene is worrying as if the Doctor has met Lorna in the past, and he has forgotten her, then the scene demonstrates the impact that the Doctor has on every single human being, even if it is for the shortest period of time. Lorna nobly sacrifices herself to save the Doctor and his companions and he doesn't even remember her! And the Doctor has met her. In a scene which is almost a mirror to *Day of the Moon's* emotional connection confirmation, it rams home the message of the episode that the Doctor affects people more than he can even begin to know.

Indeed, the Doctor and his actions are a distinct theme of the episode and are given ample screen time accordingly. While the positive effect the Doctor has on his companions is a significant aspect of the series' appeal, the series has rarely depicted the negative effect the Doctor can have on those that he is forced to defeat. This episode justifiably attempts to rectify this misdemeanour. In fact, the whole episode is designed to display this. *A Good Man Goes To War* is a wonderful title as the viewer knows that the Doctor is a force for good. What is clever about this episode is the way it forces viewers to re-evaluate their view of the Doctor and what he has become. The Doctor's enemies hate the enigmatic Timelord but the series has never before taken that concept and ran with it so well. Despite the fact that the entire episode displays this in detail, one scene shows the flippancy and the ferocity that the Doctor projects on to his enemies. It is probably the best scene of the whole episode. It is the scene where River first materialises and explains to audiences why this whole thing was the Doctor's fault. The scene is beautifully shot and conveys the intense scorn that audiences are forced to feel, as we acknowledge that the Doctor isn't always right. What is fascinating about the scene and about much of the whole episode is that this fundamentally re-writes the basic mantra of post-2005 regenerated **Doctor Who**. If you ask any fan what the series is about they will no doubt tell you, "a 900-year old man travels around the Universe in a police box defeating aliens and all manner of bad guys". The episode takes this and uses it in such a new way. How do the enemies *feel* when they are defeated? If the Doctor is an enigma then how do

the peoples of the Universe hear about the Doctor? From his enemies. *A Good Man Goes To War* is clever in that it takes a seemingly familiar concept and spins it into something brand new and forces audiences to re-organise their opinions of the wisest man on television. Any episode that uses one paragraph and forces readers to think more deeply is clearly doing something right.

While "the Doctor and his actions" speech change viewers' perceptions of the series, one piece of cloth with a Gamma Forest translation can change the series forever. The episode had been slowly, slowly building up audience anticipation of finding out who River Song is, so that when her identity is revealed the tension is almost completely unbearable. Within the first 10 minutes, we see River Song joyful, having returned from a trip where Stevie Wonder sang to her. What's odd about the scene is that River is having *fun*. She is wonderful here, and Alex Kingston does a fantastic job at portraying a younger River. It's great to see her finally enjoying herself and not feeling as angry, that is until Rory shows up and calls her to her destiny. Her re-appearance at the end of the episode, is odd as we see River being the moral authority, with the Doctor being the one who lacks this characteristic. River Song's reveal is genuinely shocking and surprising. The reveal also demonstrates Steven Moffat's unwavering genius. Only he could find an answer to the Song identity that at once answers some of the questions, but also raises far more questions. The unopened answers to these questions keep viewer's hooked and ensure that they come back for more. While River is absent for a large part of the episode, it is a testament to the character that she is the most significant part of the episode that will be remembered long after viewing.

Overall, *A Good Man Goes to War* is an incredible tour-de-force of an episode that will be most remembered for its incredible moments of beautiful characterization. It is an episode that takes concepts familiar to viewers' hearts and manipulates them into something that is both brand new and so blindingly obvious you wish you'd thought of it yourself. It is an episode that despite revolving around a single revelation that will be remembered long after viewing ensures that the elements of story, character and production are also unique and memorable. And I loved it.



VERDICT:
9.5/10

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I JUST WANTED TO SAY...
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DIFFICULT TIME FOR ME LATELY.
THANKYOU!**

ART BY REI-NO BAKKA