

TALES OF THE TARDIS

1. 'Earthshock'

by

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SHOOTING SCRIPT

15 September 2023

1 EXT. SPACE

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In the great expanse of space...

A BLUE BOX. The Doctor's TARDIS. Suspended, graceful and calm. Tracking in...

And the DOORS OPEN to reveal...

CUT TO:

2 INT. MEMORY TARDIS

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...inside, the TARDIS is an amalgam of every TARDIS that ever was. Consoles from the 60s. Costumes from the 70s. Sonic screwdrivers from the 80s to now. A mad, ramshackle, overflowing collection of props and clothes and memories. Dotted with old TV screens, fizzing analogue pictures, showing faint images of faraway worlds. At the centre, two chairs arranged around a CRYSTAL FIRE; a place where stories might be told and friendships remembered.

It's like a magician's cave. A toymaker's paradise. The inside of a Time Lord's mind. And standing there...

THE DOCTOR.

The Fifth Doctor. But the age he would be now, if he'd never regenerated. Still every bit as bemused and amused as he ever was. Happily pottering, he throws a few SWITCHES, and -

TEGAN JOVANKA, the Doctor's old companion - an airline steward from the early 80s - is sitting at the crystal fire. No FX, no swirl, no lights, she's just... there.

She looks up. At the Doctor. Blinks.

TEGAN

Okay.

THE DOCTOR

I think there must be a kettle in here. There's everything else. I can't remember, did we ever do tea? We had a pineapple once, remember?

TEGAN

But. I was fast asleep. In bed. I said goodnight to Nyssa and...

And then what the hell, she LEAPS, throws herself at the Doctor, big HUG! Absolute joy! He's a bit thrown.

THE DOCTOR

Oh. We never really did this sort of thing, did we?

TEGAN

We do now! Oh you got old!

TEGAN (CONT'D)

You didn't. Not one line.

TEGAN (CONT'D)

Don't get clever.

THE DOCTOR

Oh there's one. Hundred.

And she gives him a little clout.

TEGAN

That's enough! But it's so good to see you! I mean, how? What sort of gimcrack Tardis is this? Did you have an accident?!

THE DOCTOR

Believe it or not, I woke up in here myself. I think... it's a memory. It's a remembered Tardis.

TEGAN

I don't remember it being such a mess.

THE DOCTOR

No, but time is memory. And memory is time. So this is the memory of a time machine. And it's reached out and remembered... us!

TEGAN

(smiles)

I've missed you.

THE DOCTOR

I missed you too. Once or twice. But that's not the point! I think this thing needs feeding.

TEGAN

Oh great! I knew we'd be in trouble! Don't tell me, it's going to eat our brains!

THE DOCTOR

No, well, not literally, but... This Tardis is remembered. And memories thrive on stories. That's what it wants. Stories, being told. Around the fire. Like every storyteller across creation.

And he leads her back to sit at the crystal fire.

TEGAN

What sort of stories?

THE DOCTOR

Tegan. We lived through the most extraordinary times. We've got the best stories ever!

TEGAN

D'you mean, we sit? And tell stories? About ourselves.

THE DOCTOR

I think so.

They sit.

TEGAN

(smiles)

That's not so mad. I do that every day. All the things we did, Doctor. Truth be told, I think of nothing else.

THE DOCTOR

Maybe we should tell the story of...

(deep breath)

Tegan, I'm sorry, but if we're going to tell a story, maybe it should be the strongest of all. The day we met the Cybermen.

TEGAN

I can't.

Tegan gets up. But then she looks at him. And he's looking at her with such a grave smile, so much trust, she knows she's got to face this.

TEGAN (CONT'D)

Okay.

THE DOCTOR

Brave heart.

TEGAN

I'll do it for him.

Tegan sits back down. And they shake off the mood, settle down, to tell a tale.

THE DOCTOR

I wonder. Where to begin..?

TEGAN

It began with Adric. Cos he was travelling in the Tardis before I ever met you, he stowed away! From a different universe. But then he told you he wanted to go home.

THE DOCTOR

No, but before that. It's hard it tell where a story begins, isn't it? But before we came blundering in. It began on Earth. Think back, Tegan. It all started with those mysterious deaths. In the caves...

And MIX TO...

An omnibus of all four episodes of EARTHSOCK (1981), an adventure in which the Doctor's companion, Adric, dies in the fight to save the Earth from the Cybermen.

The final image is Adric's broken badge - his Badge of Mathematical Excellence - lying on the floor of the Tardis.

CUT TO:

3

INT. MEMORY TARDIS

3

THE DOCTOR and TEGAN. Both sitting at the CRYSTAL FIRE. Both shattered by the story.

Hold. Tegan wipes her face. Maybe the Doctor does too.

TEGAN

Poor soul.

THE DOCTOR

And here it is. Remembered.

He holds up Adric's GOLD STAR BADGE. Now intact.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

He was so...

TEGAN

Oh he was a nightmare!

And they laugh a little, still tearful.

THE DOCTOR

He was daft and silly and sulky, and... he was just a kid.

TEGAN

He loved you.

THE DOCTOR

Yes. I realise that now.

TEGAN

I can't believe... Looking back, I think, wow, we just kept running. He died, but we sailed on, we had more adventures! We never stopped, we didn't stop to think.

THE DOCTOR

That's because of me. I never look back.

TEGAN

Well, maybe that's what a Memory Tardis is for.

THE DOCTOR

Therapy.

TEGAN

About time.

THE DOCTOR

I think it's done me good. And telling the story keeps him alive.

(nice smile)

Now tell me stories about you! About life! About everyday things!

TEGAN

Oh little tiny boring human things, you mean?!

THE DOCTOR

They are the jewels. In this vault of memories, an ordinary life is the most shining thing of all.

TEGAN

Well. Okay. I left you, remember? Found myself on the banks of the Thames. With a load of dead Daleks. Long story, but in the end, I got myself home to Brisbane.

And the CAMERA starts PULLING OUT.

TEGAN (CONT'D)

And it took me a while. I think I was in shock. But I thought, what can I do with my life? What can I do that would make the Doctor proud?

(MORE)

TEGAN (CONT'D)

So I started campaigning, for the environment, and I used every trick you'd taught me, to never give up, to never be defeated, to keep fighting even in the darkest of days, oh there were so many times, I thought, he'd be proud of me...

CAMERA pulling out as the TARDIS DOORS CLOSE.

CUT TO:

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EXT. SPACE

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And the TARDIS sails away, carried on the tide of stories and memories and wonderful things-that-were.

END OF EPISODE.