

TALES OF THE TARDIS

3. 'Vengeance on Varos'

by

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SHOOTING SCRIPT

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1 EXT. SPACE 1

Hanging in the majestic expanse of space - the TARDIS.

CUT TO:

2 INT. THE MEMORY TARDIS 2

It's peaceful. Silent, but for an old TICKING CLOCK. THE SIXTH DOCTOR sits by THE CRYSTAL FIRE reading an old book, but looks up to see a figure standing with their back to him, looking at the clock.

THE DOCTOR
Hello? You there, who are you?

The figure turns - PERI.

And both light up with recognition. Shock and joy.

PERI
Doctor! Is that really you?

THE DOCTOR
(getting to his feet)
Peri! After all these years!

They come together quickly, both happy and confused. But stop short. Hugging was never their thing. Awkward.

And then they hug.

PERI
Doctor!

They hold each other tightly. Then break.

THE DOCTOR
Let me look at you. The Warrior Queen!

PERI
It's so good to see you again. I've missed you... But you got older.

THE DOCTOR
And bigger. And beardier! Time marches on, Peri. Even for a Time Lord.

(laughs)
It really has no respect, at all!
But you - you've filled the years with adventures and legends in the making.

*

*

PERI

(grins)

Oh, you heard about that, did you?

THE DOCTOR

I've heard minstrels sing songs of the Warrior Queen from the Scorpion Nebula to the Outer Rings of the Medusa Cascade. Some of them are quite catchy!

PERI

Well, I'm glad you approve. I've done things a girl from Fell's Point could never dream of!

He takes her hands, eyes sparkling with pride.

THE DOCTOR

You have lived the life that Time intended from that day in Lanzarote. And it's a story that's very far from over.

PERI

For both of us, Doctor!

THE DOCTOR

Well, maybe, maybe. I was wondering what had brought you here.

PERI

I was kind of wondering that, myself. I mean, it looks like the Tardis, but...

THE DOCTOR

Smaller on the inside? *

PERI

Yeah.

THE DOCTOR

Cosy, though, isn't it?

He moves around, like the fond curator of his own museum, every thing he picks up and touches, a memory for him.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

This is a remembered Tardis, Peri. All the stories we ever shared, their memories live on here, like ripples on an eternal pond. Forever moving, forever repeating. *

He's wound back to the CRYSTAL FIRE, grasping his chair.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Sometimes those memories call out
to us across space and across time.
When you least expect them.

Curious, she takes the other seat at the fire.

PERI

And that's how I'm here now?

The Doctor smiles and sits down.

THE DOCTOR

You were always here. You never
left. The Tardis doesn't forget.
And neither did I.

PERI

I never forgot you, either. Every
night I'd look up at the stars and
wonder which one you were spinning
around in the Tardis. And I'd ask
myself, will I ever see him again?

THE DOCTOR

And here we are. Older. Wiser. Two
adventurers, and friends, reunited
across lightyears and time. It is
so good to see you again!

PERI

You, too. I guess we made a whole
lot of memories. Though, if I'm
honest, some I'd rather forget.

THE DOCTOR

You mean Sil - and Kiv? Not the
most likeable life-forms in the
universe.

*
*

PERI

You can say that again!

THE DOCTOR

But that first encounter on Varos,
really it was a prelude to your
whole life as the Warrior Queen.

PERI

I guess. In a way.

THE DOCTOR

Oh, there's no doubt. Good can come
from even the darkest of places...

He's looking into the CRYSTAL FIRE. Peri follows his eyes
into its strange flickering...

MIX TO: VENGEANCE ON VAROS.

CUT TO:

3

INT. THE MEMORY TARDIS

3

THE DOCTOR and PERI are still by the fire. She shudders. A feather drops lightly into the Doctor's hand. A memory.

PERI

Oh God, I can feel those feathers
all over me again!

He gets up and pats her shoulder comfortingly.

THE DOCTOR

Some memories can be a little
prickly, even after all this time.

PERI

It's not just that. I got back to
Earth. Eventually. Have you seen it
lately? It feels more like Varos.

*
*

THE DOCTOR

Yes. Sil would fit in well.
Everything has its price. Even the
planet, itself... But, Peri, do you
see what I mean?

He is energized as he heads for the console.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

How the inhumanity of Varos and
Sil's greedy manipulation of that
helped give you that fire to fight
evil wherever you found it?

*

Peri follows him, amused, but understanding.

PERI

You mean they didn't turn me into a
bird, they turned me into the
Warrior Queen?

THE DOCTOR

Well, marrying King Yrcanos had
something to do with it as well.
But do you see?

He motions to the MONITOR SCREENS - strange worlds, breath-
taking star clusters...

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

The universe can be chaos, but what it creates is ultimately always capable of being wonderful and good. Even, in the end, on Earth. You'll see.

*
*

She's gazing at the cosmic images, too. Smiles.

PERI

Yeah. I get it. We're warriors of the universe.

THE DOCTOR

I like that. It has a ring to it.

And he suddenly throws a lever on the console.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

So, what do you think? Where do we save first?

She can't believe what he's suggesting!

PERI

The Doctor and the Warrior Queen?

THE DOCTOR

Why not? We're older, but our stories are a long way from over!

She's smiling a massive grin as he spins dials and flicks switches, prepping the Tardis...

PERI

I guess those minstrel songs won't write themselves!

THE DOCTOR

We'll give them something to sing about!

As the ROTOR begins to rise and fall.

PERI

(suddenly)

There's just one thing.

THE DOCTOR

What?

PERI

I have to go back. To Yrcanos' memorial. Can we do that? Once a year. Just to keep an eye on things.

THE DOCTOR

It's a deal! In the meantime, there
are worlds out there waiting for us
to save them!

PERI

So what are we waiting for?!

Together again. And it's gonna be fun!

The Tardis engines roar.

CUT TO:

4

EXT. SPACE

4

The TARDIS travelling through space.

END OF EPISODE