

DOCTOR WHO

The Fifteenth Doctor
Audition Piece

by

Russell T Davies

1 December 2021

1

INT. ROOM

1

The room has PLAIN WALLS. No door. A COMPUTER on a plinth.

THE DOCTOR is with ROBIN, a 21 year old modern-day HUMAN. They barely know each other; they've just been chased, by monsters, turned round a corner, ran into this room, and whup!, they were sealed in. Now they're calming down; though the Doctor is always thinking of 500 things at once, mind spinning, ticking, racing. And having fun too, nice & fast!

ROBIN

Those things. Those monsters.
Chasing us. What were they?

THE DOCTOR

They were Spikes.

ROBIN

And what are Spikes?

THE DOCTOR

Well, they looked all spiky, didn't they? You know when you get angry? Or mad? Or you suddenly have an idea? Or maybe you fall in love, like bang! That's your brain, spiking. And those things were spiky thoughts, brought to life.

ROBIN

Thoughts brought to life?

THE DOCTOR

Yup.

ROBIN

But... They were nasty. Falling in love is a nice thought.

THE DOCTOR

Yeah, they were at the back, kissing, sorry, who are you?

ROBIN

My name's Robin, who are you?

THE DOCTOR

I'm the Doctor. Nice to meet you, Robin. Really, really nice. Great hair! Don't know about the shoes, what year is it?

ROBIN

2023.

THE DOCTOR

I really don't know about the shoes.

ROBIN

How d'you not know what year it is?

THE DOCTOR

Easily. But listen to me.

(suddenly intense)

We're trapped. And that computer says we'll run out of air in 100 seconds. But I will get you out of here alive.

ROBIN

We've got 100 seconds?!

THE DOCTOR

And I will get you out. You will go home. And see your mum. And your brother. Okay?

ROBIN

How d'you know about them?

THE DOCTOR

They're in your eyes.

The Doctor staring. And somehow, Robin believes.

ROBIN

...okay.

THE DOCTOR

(brisk again)

THANK you, now stop wasting my TIME! So! Maybe this thing can show us a way out.

The Doctor starts typing away madly on the keyboard.

ROBIN

But. I've got a question.

THE DOCTOR

Who put the bop in the bop shoo bop shoo bop?

ROBIN

No.

THE DOCTOR

Who put the ram in the rama langa
ding dong?

ROBIN

No.

THE DOCTOR

Why, why, why Delilah?

ROBIN

This is annoying. I just want to
know, who locked us in here? That
man. With the gun. In charge of
the Spikes. Who was he?

THE DOCTOR

Well, yes, that's a really
important question, except...
(can't help it)
Technically, we're not locked in.

ROBIN

Yes we are.

THE DOCTOR

No we're not.

ROBIN

Yes we are! We can't get out!

THE DOCTOR

Yes, but there's no door, and no
lock. We can't be locked in
without a lock. Can we?

ROBIN

But... same difference!

THE DOCTOR

No, sometimes a word can change the
whole world! We're not locked in,
we're sealed in.

ROBIN

Right. Good. Fine. Pedantic!

THE DOCTOR

Yes and pedant comes from the
Italian for teacher, oh God I can't
stop, except!

(so happy)

I refuse! To apologise! For
knowing things. D'you know why?

(MORE)

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Because knowing things is
absolutely lovely!

ROBIN

Okay, 100 seconds, can you find us
a way out?!

THE DOCTOR

Yes!

And the Doctor gets back to the keyboard.

ROBIN

But there's one more question.

THE DOCTOR

How much wood would a woodchuck
chuck if a woodchuck could chuck
wood?

ROBIN

No.

THE DOCTOR

Is it the Governess, Anne Hegarty?

ROBIN

This is so annoying.

THE DOCTOR

Who shot Phil Mitchell?, I
literally cannot stop.

ROBIN

All I want to know is: how did that
blue box appear out of nowhere?

THE DOCTOR

Ah. That was me. Arriving.

ROBIN

What d'you mean, arriving?

THE DOCTOR

That box...

Stops. Looks at Robin.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

It's a time machine. It travels in
time and space. Because I'm not
from Earth. I'm a Time Lord.

(MORE)

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

I came from another universe but
the Time Lords adopted me and
that's my heritage now; the very
last Time Lord in existence.

And it's so honest, Robin believes every word, in awe.

ROBIN

Travelling where?

THE DOCTOR

Everywhere.

ROBIN

What for?

THE DOCTOR

To see it. To experience it.
Every single thing that happens.

ROBIN

But. You can't see everything.

THE DOCTOR

I know. And that kills me. Right
now, 505 miles south west of the
North Pole, there is a mountain of
ice falling from a glacier into the
freezing blue sea and it is so
beautiful, and I'm missing it. And
that hurts. It actually hurts.

ROBIN

But you said it was a time machine.
So you can go back in time. And
see it.

THE DOCTOR

Exactly.
(presses a button)

The WALLS FALL AWAY. And there's the BLUE BOX.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

So the real question is. Robin.
From Earth. With a mother and
brother waiting at home. D'you
want to come with me?

ROBIN

What, to travel in time?

THE DOCTOR

Yep.

ROBIN
In that box?

THE DOCTOR
Together.

ROBIN
...yes, but there's still... oh God
help me, I'm so sorry, but there's
still more one more question.

THE DOCTOR
To be or not to be?

ROBIN
No!

THE DOCTOR
Aren't you a little short for a
stormtrooper?

ROBIN
Oh God.

THE DOCTOR
Have the lambs stopped screaming,
Clarice, I literally cannot.

ROBIN
The question is! Doctor who?

THE DOCTOR
(delighted)
D'you want to find out?

ROBIN
Yeah. Come on. Let's go!

THE DOCTOR
Good good good, or why don't we
just stop?

And in the blink of an eye, the Doctor is as cold and ancient
as that far-off glacier.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Because your name's not Robin, is
it?

ROBIN
I don't know what you mean.

THE DOCTOR

You know exactly what I mean. You know the mother and the brother will sit there for a very long time. Until the police arrive. Because Robin is behind that wall. Cold and dead with a broken neck. Sixteen years old with a broken neck and a life that just stopped, thanks to you. The Spikemaster.

ROBIN

(grins, delighted)
How did you know?

THE DOCTOR

Your eyelashes are growing 0.5 millimetres per second faster than the human eyelash.

ROBIN

Clever.

THE DOCTOR

That's me.

ROBIN

Bit too late. Time Lord. The Tardis is mine, and all of Time and Space -

THE DOCTOR

(furious)
- but I think someone who creates a room with 100 seconds of air has created a trap for themselves, like *this!*

The Doctor whirrs the SONIC SCREWDRIVER, and the walls SEAL UP again, Robin gone, trapped inside. Just a muffled howl.

The Doctor goes up to the wall. Quiet.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

And now, I should be kind, and show mercy, and let you go.
(pause)
'bye.

The Doctor turns and goes.

The COMPANION steps out of the Tardis! All bright! The Doctor completely normal again.

COMPANION

Sorry, I turned around and you were gone, you okay?

THE DOCTOR

Yeah. Fine. Yep.

COMPANION

What did I miss?

THE DOCTOR

Oh. Just... Daft things really, love. Silly. Boosh! Gone!

(big smile)

But what about you? Where do you want to go next?

COMPANION

I don't know. How about Mars?

THE DOCTOR

No. We can have more fun than that. Tell you what. Let's go to Cardiff!

Happy, delighted, they both head into the Tardis, off to adventures new.

END