

DOCTOR WHO
Series 1 - Episode 3
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YELLOW REVISIONS
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1 EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DUSK

1

An infernal sky, lit by explosions and fires.

Tilting down to - a muddy, hellish BATTLEFIELD. Drifting fire-lit fog, huge craters. This area is deserted, the fighting is distant. Like a quieter stretch (for the moment) of No Man's Land. There is gunfire, distant shouting, explosions. Somewhere over there a war is going on.

Tracking through this, Pushing through the murk and smoke and fog - there's a figure forming ahead, resolving into -

JOHN. Clearly a marine, in charred and ragged BATTLE FATIGUES. (In fact he's a Cleric - as in The Time Of Angels - wearing standard soldier gear but with a CLERICAL COLLAR.) He looks exhausted, breathing raggedly, head hanging forward.

As he fills the screen, a soft beeping. John raises his head - revealing a RAG wound tightly round his eyes. He is injured and obviously sightless. He raises a hand, presses a finger to his cheekbone. The beeping stops, a chime of connection (internal communicator.)

JOHN
Have you done your teeth?

CUT TO:

2 EXT. CLERIC ENCAMPMENT - DUSK

2

The encampment. Military: looks a bit like the MASH compound, TENTS and JEEPS and equipment, surrounded on all sides by a HIGH-TECH BARRIER - it's rough and battered and battle-worn, but obviously far-future technology. Marines everywhere.

Starting on: a little girl. This is SPLICE, in pjs. She's about nine - sweet, adorable, she has a finger pressed to her cheekbone and is walking around the busy encampment as she talks.

SPLICE
(Lying)
Yes.

3 EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DUSK

3

(Now intercutting as required.)

JOHN
Need to smell your minty breath.

SPLICE takes her finger from her cheekbone and huffs a breath at it, puts it back on her cheekbone.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Oh, you little liar! Teeth now!

SPLICE
How can you smell my breath over
the Comm?

JOHN
Dad skills. Wait a mo.

He takes his finger from his cheekbone, effectively putting her on hold. He speaks to someone off camera.

JOHN (CONT'D)
How are we doing?

Now on: CARSON. Another Cleric. Younger than JOHN, but more nervous too - clearly very freaked at the moment. He's scanning the surrounding area with a HAND-SCANNER.

CARSON
Less than a mile from base camp.
But we're right in the middle of a
mine field.
(Checking scanner)
There were no mines here yesterday.

JOHN
They must have migrated again.

CARSON
Fog's bad too.

JOHN
(Had this argument before)
It's just fog.

CARSON
Some of the men think the
Kastarions are *in* the fog. Like ...
they're *made* of fog. That's why we
never see them.

JOHN
Carson - the fog's been analysed
... it's just fog.

He motions Carson to silence as he resumes the call.

JOHN (CONT'D)
I'm really close, I won't be too
long. Find Mundy and get her to put
you to bed. And do your teeth,
okay? Kiss kiss.

Splice glances round. A few feet from her is MUNDY, a young female Cleric. She's arguing with a taller, lankier male Cleric - CANTERBURY.

SPLICE
Kiss kiss.

They break the connection - removing fingers from cheekbones.
(We stay with John and Carson.)

JOHN
Carson?

CARSON
(Checking scanner)
Due North is our best bet, but ...
(Hesitates; bad news)
I think there might be an
ambulance.

John's face changes, tenses slightly. Clearly, for some reason, this is not good news. Brave smile.

JOHN
I'll be fine.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. CLERIC ENCAMPMENT - DUSK

4

MUNDY and CANTERBURY as last seen - now close enough to hear. SPLICE is now next to them, anxious to get Mundy's attention.

MUNDY
- come on, I'm just asking you to
switch patrols with me - it's not
exactly loaves and fishes, is it?

CANTERBURY
I'm not a Bishop, I'm not allowed -

MUNDY
You're a Verger.

CANTERBURY
I don't have the divinity.

He uses the word like 'authority'.

SPLICE
Mundy -

MUNDY
Give us a moment, love!
(To Canterbury)
Canto, listen, seriously.
(MORE)

MUNDY (CONT'D)

As God is my witness, on my soul
eternal ... I'll let you see my
tattoo.

CANTERBURY

Your tattoo?

MUNDY

It's not on general view which
makes it more exciting given the
romantic tension between us.

Canterbury, hugely embarrassed, starts tapping at his HAND-SCANNER (similar to the one used by Carson.)

CANTERBURY

Look, I'm only doing this because I
want you to stop annoying me.

MUNDY

Great, thanks, thanks a million.

(Turning to Splice)

What's up, Splice?

CANTERBURY

Oi!

MUNDY

What?

CANTERBURY

Tattoo!

MUNDY

Oh, sorry, yeah. It's on Posh
Graham - I finished it yesterday.
You'll love it.

(Bundling Splice off)

Come on, Splice!

Canterbury stares after her - cross, a little hurt.

SPLICE

You should be nice to Canto. He
likes you.

MUNDY

No, he doesn't, I was joking about
that.

SPLICE

He's not joking.

MUNDY

Where's your Dad?

SPLICE

You're joking, but he's not.
Everybody knows he likes you.

MUNDY

Splice, your Dad, where is he?

CUT TO:

5 EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DUSK

5

CARSON and JOHN, making their way along, currently circling a CRATER. (This crater is the setting for much of the episode - it's large. About 50 FEET ACROSS and 12 FEET DEEP.) Carson is helping John while constantly checking his HAND-SCANNER. They come to a halt.

JOHN

What's wrong?

Carson, peering into the murk, trying to make something out.

CARSON

Ambulance. Dead ahead.

JOHN

Okay.

CARSON

Sir ... Respectfully. Your eyes. It might detect the injury.

JOHN

Well it might help me then.

CARSON

Sir, the algorithm is haywire right now. You know what happened to Wilson.

JOHN

The algorithm's been upgraded.

CARSON

No. They ran out of money.

JOHN

Doesn't matter, we don't have a choice. We have to keep moving.

Now they start making their cautious way forward. Carson's eyes fixed on the LOOMING THING they call an AMBULANCE ahead.

CARSON

I guess it could be dormant. It's a long way from the fighting.

JOHN

They're combat-activated. They power down if there's nothing going on but their sensors stay active.

CARSON

(Checking scanner)

You know, I'm not even sure it's online.

His eyes on his HAND-SCANNER, he misses his footing...

- stumbles and now staggers sideways, over the lip of the crater they are circling. Now he's falling head over heels -

JOHN

Carson??

Carson hits the bottom of the crater, rolls to a halt.

John flailing - where the hell did he go??

JOHN (CONT'D)

Carson, where are you??

(Silence)

Are you okay?

CARSON

(Calling up)

I'm fine, I'm okay. I'm not injured.

On Carson. Scrambling to his feet. Takes one step forward -

CARSON (CONT'D)

Stay where you are, I'll just -

On his foot as it steps down on a half-buried WHITE CIRCLE. It looks like porcelain, with a black rim. The moment his foot contacts, the BLACK RIM activates. Super-fast, GREEN LIGHTS zoom round the circle - when the loop closes -

FATOOM!!

Carson glows a terrible, fierce white. For a moment his skeleton is visible - the blood vessels are lines of fire. Then the scorching white light explodes in an upward rush.

Then the light snaps off, and the white circle is empty and pristine again. It half fades from view - chameleon-like, it takes on the hue of the mud around it, making it sort of half-invisible. The green lights round the rim snap off again.

On John: terrified, and isolated, breathing hard, trying to control his shock -

JOHN
Carson? Carson?

- and beyond him, something is happening that he can't see. On top of the dimly seen AMBULANCE CREATURE a blue light has started to flash: a REVOLVING BLUE LIGHT exactly like you'd see on top of a contemporary ambulance. The whine of an engine, a clank, a grinding of gears.

Now a sustained *ding ding ding*, like a reversing lorry - and the Ambulance starts to move.

John hears this, stiffens. Oh shit! He reaches up, tears the rag from his eyes - he's trying to conceal his injury. And now he turns to face the approaching Ambulance. There is a terrible BRUISING across the top part of his face, but he forces his eyes to open.

John's POV. His vision is terribly damaged, hopelessly blurred. What he can see - defocussed, distorted: lumbering out of the drifting fog ... the Ambulance. What can be made out: it's eight feet tall, seems quite ramshackle, tottering along.

On John's COMBAT-BOOTED FEET: a pair of CATERPILLAR TRACKS come to halt a little way in front of them. For now, the Ambulance is only seen in glimpsed details, and in John's blurred vision. Now a calm, pre-recorded FEMALE VOICE. (In fact it is the voice of the mysterious recurring woman encountered in previous episodes.)

AMBULANCE
Combat detected, patient acquired.

A LIGHT BEAM shoots out, illuminating John.

AMBULANCE (CONT'D)
Sharp scratch.

Two TASER-LIKE WIRES fire out from the Ambulance, clamping on to John on his right arm and his chest. He cries out in pain.

AMBULANCE (CONT'D)
You're doing very well.

A sizzling noise as clamp-wires activate. A rusty sort of clicking from inside the Ambulance - computations!

Now a clear shot of a SCREEN on the front of the Ambulance: what is obviously a computer-simulated face of a KINDLY WOMAN. The voice is soothing to the point of infuriating. (Again, this is the mysterious recurring woman seen before.)

AMBULANCE (CONT'D)
Patient name: John Francis Vater.
Calendar age 42. Next of kin.
Spouse Alison Vater.
(MORE)

AMBULANCE (CONT'D)

(Clicking, computing.)

Vital signs in normal range. Blood pressure high. Cardiac function good. Liver mildly inflamed.

Heads-up display: GREEN TICKS appear over each body part.

AMBULANCE (CONT'D)

Diagnosis.

Now two RED Xs appear over eyes.

AMBULANCE (CONT'D)

Blind.

JOHN

(Forced calm)

I'm not blind, my vision is temporarily impaired.

AMBULANCE

Eyesight recovery time estimated

...

(Click. Click. Click.)

... four weeks. Evaluation: unacceptable. Combat medical ... failed.

A BIG RED X appears over all of John.

JOHN

Listen! I have a child at base camp - check my records. My next of kin, Splice, she's my daughter and I am exclusively responsible for her - check my records.

Click. Click. Click. Click.

John, tensely waiting. Will this work, will it be enough?

AMBULANCE

(Click. Click. Click.)

Leave a message at the tone.

A tone. JOHN knows what this means - keeps his voice steady.

JOHN

Kiss. Kiss.

A ping - recording over.

AMBULANCE

Next of kin -

(Whoosh of email sending)

- informed.

John knows what comes now. Closes his eyes, readies himself.

AMBULANCE (CONT'D)
Sharp scratch.

The taser-like wires and clamps start to glow fiercely, causing John to gasp in pain.

AMBULANCE (CONT'D)
The Villengard Corporation would like to extend its deepest condolences on your upcoming loss.
Thoughts and prayers.

On the Ambulance screen the woman's face is replaced by the words *Thoughts And Prayers* in flowery script. Syrupy music now plays. Holding on the screen as a terrible fiery glow flares across it -

- and a terrible, agonised scream, now echoing across the battlefield -
- round the shattered fenceposts, the abandoned jeeps, round the craters and the rocks -
- all the way to -
- *the TARDIS!*

CUT TO:

6

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DUSK.

6

Tracking in fast on the police box doors as they slam open -
THE DOCTOR!

THE DOCTOR
Did you hear that?

RUBY
(From inside)
Gimme a sec.

THE DOCTOR
Someone's in trouble. Stay there.

And he launches himself out the doors, racing across the battlefield.

RUBY
(From inside)
Okay, coming.
(Appearing at the doors)
Doctor?

On the Doctor, running for dear life across the mud and gravel. He skids to a halt. The screaming has stopped - where was it coming from?? Looks wildly round -

- he's next to a huge crater (the one where Carson died) and on the far side of it - just visible through the battlefield murk - a SLOWLY DYING GLOW. That was where the scream came from.

There's a *ding ding ding* too - the noise the Ambulance made on approach - but this time it's fading as it moves away.

The Doctor races towards the sound - there's the crater right in front of him (the one where Carson died) and he opts just to run right through the middle of it -

Clunk!

He freezes, stranded on one foot. On his face: what? *What?? What's he standing on?*

Close on the Doctor's foot. He's standing on the WHITE LAND MINE. It has de-cloaked and the rim lights are coming on.

As the lights race round to complete the loop -

CUT TO:

THE OPENING TITLES

7

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DUSK

7

Ruby now a few feet from the TARDIS, looking tentatively around. She's clearly dressed for a fun day out..

RUBY
Doctor? Doctor?

Now carried on the wind ... singing.

THE DOCTOR
(From off; singing)
*Speed bonnie boat, like a bird on
the wing
Onward! The sailors cry
Carry the lad that's born to be
King
Over the sea to Skye*

RUBY
Doctor, is that you?

THE DOCTOR
(From off)
Everything's fine.

RUBY
Who said it wasn't?

THE DOCTOR
Completely fine. Can you see my
footprints?

RUBY
Yeah, kind of.

THE DOCTOR
(From off)
Step in them, come towards me but
keep exactly to my footprints,
okay?

Troubled, curious, she does as she is told. (NB. At this moment, it is dark and foggy and she's keeping her eyes on the ground - it's not emphasised but there's nothing right now to tell her she's not on Earth.)

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
(Singing)
*Loud the wind howls, loud the waves
roar
Thunderclaps rend the air
Baffled our foes, stand on the
shore
Follow, they will not dare*

RUBY
Why are you singing?

THE DOCTOR
(From off)
It's the Skye Boat Song. Like it?

Ruby has now arrived at the lip of the crater. Looking down, she sees -

- the Doctor. Standing exactly as last seen, on one leg. He's remarkably stationary - almost serene in this improbable position. Still singing, calm, concentrating.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
(Singing)
*Speed bonnie boat, like a bird on
the wing
Onward! The sailors cry
Carry the lad that's born to be
King
Over the sea to Skye.*

RUBY
I didn't ask what you were singing,
I asked why.

THE DOCTOR
I'm getting my Zen on. My landmine
Zen.

She looks to the Doctor's foot - the white disk. *Oh!*

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
I need you to describe to me what
I'm standing on - I'm fairly sure I
know, but details are important and
I can't risk looking down - the
sensors will be on hair-trigger.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. THE CRATER - DUSK.

8

Ruby starts, carefully, to descend into the crater. She's directly behind the Doctor. The Doctor is calm, measured.

RUBY
Why hasn't it gone off already?
When you stepped on it?

THE DOCTOR
Impact activates the sensors. Now it's confirming if there's a live target standing on top of it. One wrong move and boom, I go all food mixer.

RUBY
Where are we?

THE DOCTOR
In the middle of a war.

RUBY
I was kind of hoping for a beach.

THE DOCTOR
What do you call this?

RUBY
Not a beach.

THE DOCTOR
Give it time. Everywhere's a beach eventually.

RUBY
Okay. I'm down, about ten feet directly behind you.

THE DOCTOR

Look at my right foot, describe
what I'm standing on.

RUBY

It's a sort of - disk. A white
disk. It's really thin. There are
lights round the edge. Round the
rim, green lights.

THE DOCTOR

Okay. Very slowly, very carefully,
can you move around me and see if
there's a gap in the lights. It
hasn't gone off, so there must be a
gap. Hoping for quite a big gap.

Ruby starts to move in a rough circle round the Doctor,
keeping a careful distance.

RUBY

(As she moves)
Why does a land mine have lights on
it?

THE DOCTOR

Capitalism.

RUBY

Excuse me?

THE DOCTOR

Flashy lights play well in the
showroom. Modern warfare - death by
salesman.

RUBY

... Okay, found the gap. Right
under your foot, at the front.

Ruby's eyes go to: his left foot, hanging in the air just
above the ground, a little way behind his right foot. The
left foot is shaking: the sheer effort of holding still.

THE DOCTOR

How big a gap?

Closer on the rim of the mine: the green line is made up of
tiny illuminated segments: this close the next dark segment
is visibly flickering the faintest green...

RUBY

Three fingers.

The Doctor: not good news. Struggles for the bright side.

THE DOCTOR

Well. Okay. I mean, *yeah*. That's way better than two fingers, for instance. Is there a V on it?

Ruby peers closer. There's an embossed V above the rim.

RUBY

Yeah. V for Victory?

THE DOCTOR

V for Villengard. Biggest weapons manufacturer in recorded history. Supplied all sides in all conflicts in this sector for over two centuries. Had to deactivate one of these before. At a lesbian gymkhana. Under water. For a bet. But I wasn't standing on it. And it wasn't a live one. And I lost the bet. Sorry, wrong moment for that story - first things first. Someone was screaming. It came from directly ahead of me, just up there. Check if anyone needs help.

RUBY

You need help.

THE DOCTOR

Yeah, but I'm not even screaming yet - priorities.

Ruby stares at him a moment - he's insane! Wonderful but insane. Shakes her head, turns, starts climbing up the crater.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Watch every step.

RUBY

I know.

On the Doctor: out of Ruby's sight for a moment, the strain on him shows. He's sweating, he licks his dry lips.

THE DOCTOR

While you're up there, see if you can find anything heavy. A good-sized rock or something. I can't keep standing on one leg - but if I put my other foot on the ground, my weight will shift. I need a counterbalance. I need to increase the load on the mine at the exact moment I decrease it.

RUBY
Gonna be tricky.

THE DOCTOR
It's gonna be a moment, yeah.

She straightens - she's now on the exact spot where the Ambulance killed JOHN. There is no sign of either of them.

Then she notices - CATERPILLAR TRACKS in the mud, leading off into the darkness (the Ambulance.) She peers off into the dark - is there a TALL FIGURE there? She can't exactly be sure.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
(Calling from below)
Anyone there?

RUBY
No, no one.

As she steps out of the frame, hold on the distant, tall figure.

Now, from the Ambulance's POV: LOW-RES IMAGE of Ruby stepping to something, squatting down to examine the tracks. Text starts scrolling...

Back to normal view of Ruby bending to look at something in the mud.

RUBY (CONT'D)
Hang on.

On what Ruby has found - a CYLINDER, just lying there in the mud. It's about a foot long, and a SMALL GREEN LIGHT is flashing on the top.

THE DOCTOR
(From off)
Found something?

Ruby picks up the cylinder. It is smooth and glossy and multi-coloured - in fact round the surface of the cylinder is a swirl of colours: the combat fatigues John was wearing, mixed in with his flesh tones, his hair. There is something that looks almost like an ear but stretched and pulled and flattened.

The body of the cylinder looks like a glossy ceramic. There is a metal band of technology at the top, in which the flashing green light is embedded.

She turns the cylinder over. There is brass plaque on the side, with embossed lettering:

JOHN FRANCIS VATER

CAUSE OF DEATH: BLIND.

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RUBY
A weird thing.

THE DOCTOR
(Calling from below)
If it's a heavy weird thing, bring
it.

Ruby moves to climb -

- and something whirrs and hisses past her face. She stumbles back - *what the hell was that?*

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
It's okay, you're fine, don't
worry!

She's looking round. Around flying her, at various distances, there are drones flying about. They seem to be sucking the fog away.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Vacuum drones, that's all.
Hoovering up the smoke, so nobody
chokes to death before they can be
safely shot.

RUBY
Oh. Oh, okay, I suppose that's -

She scrambles to her feet - and now is staring up, slumped silent in amazement.

Above her, a section of sky has been cleared of fog and cloud - and a giant, ringed planet is hanging right above her. She stares and stares.

THE DOCTOR
Ruby? You okay?

More and more sky is revealed, like curtains lifting. A fabulous, glittering sweep of stars, three moons -

- and awestruck, poleaxed, Ruby rotating on the spot, taking it all in -

RUBY
But we're not ... we're not ...

THE DOCTOR
What's wrong? Can you see
something?

RUBY

This ... this isn't Earth.

THE DOCTOR

Of course it isn't Earth, why would it be -

(Breaks off, realising)

Oh, Ruby, I'm sorry. I forgot. I forgot.

The battlescape now revealed. Fabulous crashed fighter ships. Impossible futuristic technology looming out of the mud. In the distance glass mountains glittering the triple moonlight. Like the cover of a golden age sci-fi paperback.

Ruby: almost tears in her eyes.

Tears for the Doctor too. This was him once, so long ago.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Flips your tummy, doesn't it. A new sky. We're on Kastarion 3, going by the rings on next door. Decent

enough. I mean, seven out of ten.

Good trees, great mountains!

Rainbow crystal - wait till you see the dawn! Mind you, this place is basically empty! Who'd get in a fight here?

RUBY

The stars - they're different. Different stars. *Space* stars.

THE DOCTOR

They're all space stars, Ruby.

She looks down - and sees him standing there, on one leg.

RUBY

God, Doctor, sorry! This isn't exactly the moment is it.

She starts scrambling down into the crater. The Doctor watches her, fondly.

THE DOCTOR

It's always the moment, Ruby.

Life's full of landmines but you keep looking at the stars. And here I am, branching out into greetings cards.

RUBY

I think it's maybe an urn or something. But it's kind of .. gross. What is it?

THE DOCTOR
Never mind.

RUBY
What do you mean, "never mind".
Tell me what you're not telling me.

THE DOCTOR
Okay. It's not an urn. There isn't
a body *inside* that - that *is* a
body. That *is* a dead body.

She looks at it in her hand. Horrified. The details - the
ear, the eye ...

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Compressed somehow. Like it's been
... I don't know, smelted.

RUBY
Seriously?

THE DOCTOR
I heard a scream. I guess that was
it.

RUBY
He was being ... smelted?

THE DOCTOR
It's a good word, smelted, isn't
it?

RUBY
Not at the moment.

THE DOCTOR
I'm not sure I've ever said
"smelted" before, it's never come
up. New planet, new word, landmine -
I'm having a day!

RUBY
Are you scared? Because you're kind
of babbling now.

THE DOCTOR
Toss it in your hand.

RUBY
Sorry?

THE DOCTOR
That thing, toss it in your hand
and catch it, please.

A little freaked, Ruby tosses and catches the cylinder - the Doctor watches intently.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Yeah, that's about the right weight.

RUBY
About?

THE DOCTOR
Okay, it's exactly 6.732217 Kilograms - I was trying not to show off. Throw it to me.

RUBY
No.

THE DOCTOR
Throw it to my right hand. I'm gonna use it as a counterbalance - at the exact moment I catch it, I will lower my left foot to the ground -

RUBY
I understand, but that's too unstable.
(Starts to approach.)
I'll hand it to you.

THE DOCTOR
No.

RUBY
You'll have a better chance if I just put it in your hand.

THE DOCTOR
If it goes wrong you would be caught in the blast.

RUBY
Okay - let's get it right then.

THE DOCTOR
Ruby, I forbid this.

RUBY
Yeah, good luck with that.

THE DOCTOR
You don't understand - it's a smart-mine. It's monitoring everything, any significant change.
(MORE)

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

I get too worried about you, my
blood pressure goes up and I don't
know how much leeway I have.

RUBY

Better not worry then. How are we
going to do this? Count of three.

THE DOCTOR

Please, listen to me -

RUBY

No arguing, Doctor - blood
pressure!

She places her hand holding the cylinder close to the
Doctor's hand. The Doctor resigns himself to it. She's doing
this.

THE DOCTOR

Ruby. If this doesn't work out. You
are brave and wonderful and I
forgive you for being incredibly
stupid.

RUBY

Good then.

THE DOCTOR

But if this *does* work out, I'm
gonna be very cross with you for a
very, very long time.

RUBY

Not that long, dear. You're
standing on a land mine.

A shared smile in place of a laugh. Then ... it's time.

THE DOCTOR

Count of three.

RUBY

No, wait. We need to get this
right. Something more rhythmic, I
need a beat. The song. Sing the
song.

THE DOCTOR

The song??

RUBY

Over the sea to Skye, yeah? That's
the last line? On the word *Skye*.

The Doctor: sombre, nods. Their hands, so close to touching,
poised for the handover.

THE DOCTOR
Love that song. It's about Bonnie
Prince Charlie.

RUBY
It's sweet. Let's go.

She starts clicking her fingers, like a metronome.

THE DOCTOR
It's sweet and it's sad. It's all
about soldiers and fighting but
it's sad, like a lullaby. That's
right, isn't it? Songs about
soldiers should be sad, don't you
think, because -

RUBY
(Interrupting)
Doctor. I'm ready. You can stop
babbling now.

The Doctor's face: yeah, fair point.

THE DOCTOR
Okay, Ruby ... shall we dance?

A brave smile from Ruby - a nod.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
(Singing)
*Speed, bonnie boat, like a bird on
the wing,
Onward! the sailors cry;
Carry the lad that's born to be
king*

Nods to Ruby.

RUBY & THE DOCTOR
(Singing)
Over the sea to Skye.

Handover on the word "Skye". A moment of ballet - the Doctor takes the cylinder and lowers his other foot, Ruby steps back from the Doctor.

The Doctor now holding the cylinder. They stare at each other, breathing hard for a moment. Nothing happens. The Doctor on two feet now - a bit less wobbly.

THE DOCTOR
Okay. Okay, so that -

But Ruby's eyes have flicked to - the green lights round the mine - another segment flickers.

RUBY
Doctor - the lights are moving.

THE DOCTOR
Right. After effect, just
adrenaline. I need to focus, I need
to relax.

The segment goes fully green, the next starts flickering.
(Each segment is like a column of glowing horizontal lines,
building from bottom to top, like an equaliser.)

RUBY
Still going.

THE DOCTOR
Maybe don't keep mentioning that.

The next segment fills, the one after starts flickering ...
about two segments left.

On Ruby slowly moving back, can't drag her eyes from the
green, flickering advance. Now the Doctor muttering, almost
chanting some silly poem, eyes closed, soothing himself.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
*I went down to the beach and there
she stood,
Dark and tall, at the edge of the
wood.
"The sky's too big, I'm scared," I
cried.
"Young man," she replied, "There's
more to life
Than the moon and the president's
wife."*

The advance - stops. Only one segment not fully lit but
starting to glow very faintly - just two lines at the foot.

RUBY
Okay. Okay, I think it's stopped.
Close though. No margin for error.

THE DOCTOR
You know what's really great about
no margin for error? No more
errors.
(Looks to the cylinder)
Thank you, John Francis Vater.

Click. Click. The Cylinder: as if in response, the green
light winks out and a beams spirals out, resolving into -
- a full length HOLOGRAM (like Chris in Parting Of The Ways
or David in Blink.) It's JOHN, standing there in the crater.

He swivels to face them, as if revolving on a disk. This is pre-injury John, in immaculate uniform.

HOLOGRAM JOHN

Hello. I'm John Francis Vater, deceased. Apologies for your loss.

THE DOCTOR

Oh! Voice activated.

HOLOGRAM JOHN

These are my mortal remains. At your convenience, please return them to my parents, Agnes and Millicent Vater. The address will be supplied on request.

THE DOCTOR

Hey, John. Am I talking to an AI?

HOLOGRAM JOHN

I am an approximate AI reconstruction of the deceased John Francis Vater. Signature elements of my former personality have been incorporated into this interface. Kiss kiss.

THE DOCTOR

What happened to you, John?

HOLOGRAM JOHN

I was humanely terminated on discovery of the fatal condition - blindness.

RUBY

Blindness isn't fatal.

THE DOCTOR

You literally said that to a dead blind guy. Who terminated you, John?

HOLOGRAM JOHN

I was spared further suffering by a Villengard Automated Ambulance Unit. My recovery was estimated as beyond acceptable parameters for a conflict as budgeted.

RUBY

Sorry, killed by an *ambulance*?

THE DOCTOR

Life is cheap, patients are expensive. The Villengard algorithm.

RUBY

The what?

THE DOCTOR

Villengard battle products are fitted with an AI. The algorithm maintains a fighting force at just above the acceptable number of casualties - keeps you fighting, keeps you dying, keeps you buying. The medical services optimise the casualty rate for continued conflict. War is business - and business is booming.

RUBY

Do people *know* about that? The algorithm?

THE DOCTOR

It's in the brochure. You can purchase upgrades. Good to meet you, John.

HOLOGRAM JOHN

Kiss kiss.

The hologram snaps off - it spins and funnels back into the cylinder. A moment of silence between the Doctor and Ruby ...

... then, from above a child's voice from the darkness.

SPLICE

Daddy?

They look up. Standing there, at the top of the crater is SPLICE, the little girl from the Cleric Encampment - she's in her pyjamas. There is a smear of TOOTHPASTE on one side of her mouth and a TOOTHBRUSH still gripped in one hand.

Ruby and the Doctor just staring - *what the hell??*

SPLICE (CONT'D)

Is my Daddy there? I heard him.

The Doctor: horribly aware of the cylinder in his hand.

THE DOCTOR

Hello. Hello up there.

RUBY

You okay? You need help?

SPLICE
I'm looking for my Daddy.

On the Doctor and Ruby. No clue how to answer this.

RUBY
How did you - ... why did you come here.

On Ruby: an uncomfortable glance at the cylinder.

SPLICE
He sent me a message. I can read a geo-stamp. Where is he? Where's my Daddy? I heard him.

The Doctor and Ruby exchange another look. What the hell do they say, how the hell do they handle this?

THE DOCTOR
Shouldn't you be tucked up in bed?
What's a little girl like you doing out in a nasty war like this.

SPLICE
My Daddy got special permission to bring me.

THE DOCTOR
Oh, that's good isn't it?

SPLICE
Cos my Mummy got gathered up.

RUBY
She got what? Gathered?

SPLICE
She got gathered up. By God. He loved her so much he gathered her up early so she could be in heaven with him, like an angel.

The Doctor and Ruby exchange a glance, decoding this. Mum's dead.

SPLICE (CONT'D)
We'll see her again one day. Daddy explained. Where is Daddy?

The Doctor: uncomfortably aware of what's in his hand.

THE DOCTOR
This is Ruby and my name's the Doctor.

SPLICE
The Doctor isn't a name.

THE DOCTOR
Yeah, and I'm not even a doctor.
People don't usually bring that up,
you're good already.

SPLICE
I'm Splice.

THE DOCTOR
Love it, great name. Just Splice?

SPLICE
Splice Alison Vater.

As if in response to the name, the John hologram swirls out of the top of the cylinder. He swivels and faces Splice, that same bland, plastic smile.

HOLOGRAM JOHN
Splice Alison Vater. You have been identified as the next of kin of John Francis Vater. Apologies for your loss. I am an AI reconstruction of your deceased parent. Let's grieve together.

On Splice - big delighted smile. It's her Daddy.

And she starts to run at the smiling hologram - *and right at the Doctor who is standing directly behind.* (Now all in slo-mo.)

The Doctor: frozen in place - *oh God!*

Ruby - lunging to stop Splice.

RUBY
No, wait!!

Splice running -

Hologram John's plastic smile, directed right at Splice.

HOLOGRAM JOHN
Come to Daddy!

SPLICE
Daddy!

Close on Splice's fingers, inches from the hologram -
- and they just stop!

Wider - Ruby has just managed to grab hold of the back of Splice's pyjamas, stopping her.

It's so unstable though - one false move - if Splice just slipped out of Ruby's grasp - and she's thrashing, wriggling -

SPLICE (CONT'D)
Let me go, let me go!!

RUBY
Splice, no, please, please, no!!

Splice thrashing, Ruby clinging on, the Doctor rooted to the spot - not moving, *not moving*, keeping it together -

Now Ruby wrenching Splice around -

SPLICE
Get off me!!

HOLOGRAM JOHN
If I'm causing distress, perhaps I should come back later. Kiss kiss.

As the struggle continues, Hologram John swirls back into the cylinder.

Ruby now pulls Splice right off the ground spinning her away from the Doctor - but her foot slips, *she stumbles back towards the Doctor*.

THE DOCTOR
Ruby!

She ducks, twists, somehow avoids contact with the Doctor. She and Splice now sprawling in the dirt, a few terrifying inches from the Doctor's feet.

RUBY
Look at his foot!

SPLICE
(Still rolling, still thrashing)
Get off me!

RUBY
Look at his foot, look at what he's standing on!

Splice looks - stops thrashing.

RUBY (CONT'D)
You see that? You see what he's standing on?

Ruby is now pulling Splice away from the Doctor - back, back, to the six feet safety zone.

On the Doctor's face - staring off madly, trying to control his panic -

RUBY (CONT'D)
Doctor, you okay?

Her eyes flick to the green lights. The last segment is glowing again. The horizontal lines ascending -

THE DOCTOR
Adrenaline rush, gotta control it.

Ruby - oh God, oh God!

Ruby looks to the green lights - another line up, another line, just past half-way

Is it slowing? Maybe a bit. Not enough, not enough - come on, Doctor!

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Down, down, moving down, sliding
down, all the way down, down, down -

The green lights - stable? No, flickering!!

In relief, Ruby looks to the Doctor - but what's happening?? A white glow is flickering across his skin. His veins are fire for a moment. (The mine is turning him into explosive.)

RUBY
Doctor? What's happening?

THE DOCTOR
Me. I'm happening. I'm the
explosive.

He looks haunted - for the first time, he looks properly afraid.

And then: a beam of harsh light slams on to the Doctor and now a shouting voice from above the crater.

MUNDY
(From off)
You are in my sights, I can drop
you where you stand.

A RED LASER LIGHT pops on to the Doctor's chest. He despairs.

THE DOCTOR
No! No, no, no.

Ruby looks madly round - what the hell *now??* Someone - Mundy - standing at top the crater, a torch pointed straight at the Doctor and some sort of rifle aimed at him too.

MUNDY

(From off)

Do you understand? Signal your understanding.

On the Doctor - a roaring ferocity of concentration. Controlling his panic, lowering his blood pressure, fighting the adrenaline - he looks almost insane with the effort.

MUNDY (CONT'D)

Signal your understanding.

THE DOCTOR

I understand. Please, I understand.

The last green segment - flickering, flickering.

RUBY

(Calling up to Mundy)

He's on a landmine, he's standing right on one.

MUNDY

Ma'am, I am fully apprised of what he is standing on. Splice, you down there?

SPLICE

I'm here, Mundy. I'm trying to find Daddy.

Mundy flashes the torch down on to Splice who waves at her.

Mundy's eyes go to: the cylinder in the Doctor's hand.

MUNDY

I'm sure you are, Splice.

Mundy is now clambering down into the crater.

MUNDY (CONT'D)

Sir. My name is Mundy Flynn. I'm an ordained Anglican Marine. Are you guys civilians? What are you doing out here?

RUBY

Anglican what?

THE DOCTOR

Great name, Mundy Flynn. You should marry Ruby.

(MORE)

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Then you'd be Mundy Sunday. Go on,
get married, I'd laugh every day.

RUBY
What's an Anglican marine? Since
when was the Church an army?

THE DOCTOR
Since most of your history, you're
living in a blip.

Mundy has taken up position a safe distance from the Doctor,
leveled her rifle at him. A beeping sound.

MUNDY
Sir. The casket in your right hand?
Are you aware those are the sacred
remains of an ordained Anglican?

THE DOCTOR
Are you aware your face is ringing?

She glowers at the Doctor, presses a finger to her cheekbone.

MUNDY
Did you like the tattoo?

CUT TO:

9 EXT. CLERIC ENCAMPMENT - DUSK

9

CANTERBURY, finger to cheekbone. (Intercut with Mundy.)

CANTERBURY
I geo-stamped you, I know where you
are. Get back to the compound.

MUNDY
What, giving me orders now?

CANTERBURY
I'm not giving you orders, I'm
worried. The fog drones have been
out, the Kastarions could be
planning an attack.

MUNDY
Shut up, you're worried! You don't
even like me!

CANTERBURY
Of course I -

Before he can say "like you" the connection goes dead in his ear, as Mundy breaks the call. *Damn it!*

CUT TO:

10 EXT. THE CRATER - DUSK

10

THE DOCTOR, MUNDY, RUBY and SPLICE as we left them.

THE DOCTOR

Okay, so this idiot little war -
who are you fighting?

MUNDY

The Kastarions.

THE DOCTOR

Yeah? The Kastarions? Go on, tell
me about the Kastarions.

MUNDY

We've never seen them.

THE DOCTOR

Excuse me?

MUNDY

They're in the mud. That's what ...
well that's what we think. Some of
us. Or the fog.

THE DOCTOR

What, sentient mud? Seriously?

MUNDY

Sir, I do not have time for this -

THE DOCTOR

Do you know how ridiculous you
sound. I've met sentient mud.
Lovely girls. I mean, grumpy yeah,
but you try lying around all day
with a face full of mammals -

MUNDY

I'm gonna have to ask you to let go
of that casket. Just let it fall.

RUBY

If he drops the casket, he'll
trigger the landmine. It will kill
him!

MUNDY

He's dead already.
(To the Doctor)
(MORE)

MUNDY (CONT'D)

Sir. When you stepped on the mine you triggered a countdown. It's now trying to assess if it has acquired a viable target. If it can't within the specified time, it will fail safe - it will blow anyway.

The red dot moves from the Doctor's chest - a moment of hope!

- and then it moves along the Doctor's right arm - positions itself on his wrist, inches from where his fingers are grasping the cylinder.

MUNDY (CONT'D)

Drop the casket.

THE DOCTOR

Immolation, how does it work?

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

There's no explosive in the land-mine, right?

MUNDY

Immolation triggers a quantum level chain reaction in the subject's DNA. You are the explosive.

THE DOCTOR

I'm a Time Lord. I'm not human, I'm a Time Lord -

She fires

Blam! A BEAM OF CRACKLING ENERGY blasts at the Doctor's arm. His arm glows white hot and crackles round the impact point (NB No blood, no bullets.)

On the Doctor's face: wide-eyed a silent scream - and somehow, impossibly, he stays absolutely still!

RUBY

Doctor!!

He doesn't reply, staring straight ahead, eyes wide, in a world of his own agony.

The green lights! The last segment flickering brighter, brighter, the lines rising up ...

The Doctor: controlling the pain of the gunshot - fixes Mundy with a blazing stare. He speaks again, his voice strained and fractured ...

THE DOCTOR

I'm a higher dimension life form.
I'm a complex space time event.

MUNDY
I'm Anglican.

Blam! Blam! The Doctor - his arm now lost in a blaze of CRACKLING FIERY ENERGY - but he doesn't move, *doesn't move!!*

RUBY
No, no, *stop it!!*

She's lunging at Mundy, but she's got to keep hold of Splice too.

THE DOCTOR
I'm a bigger bang than you bargained for. I'm a lot more explosive than I look, and honey, *I know how I look!* Put a quantum chain reaction through me, I'll shatter this silly little battlefield of yours into dust. All of it, in a heartbeat, into dust!

MUNDY
That's not possible.

THE DOCTOR
Of course it's possible, everything's possible. Everywhere's a beach eventually.

On Mundy - she scrabbles her HAND-SCANNER from her jacket, scans the Doctor and the mine. Wide-eyed at what she sees. Her rifle lowers, fractionally. She looks in shock at the Doctor.

MUNDY
You could blow up half this planet.

Under this, faint but building - *ding ding ding ding*. Now there's a blue light flashing across the Doctor's face.

Now registering the blue light, the *dinging...* He frowns, looks up. What? *What??*

The others turn, following his look. Their POV: from somewhere beyond the crater, directly ahead of the Doctor, a flashing blue light is lighting up the sky...

... louder: *ding ding ding ...*

... and faintly a calm recorded voice.

AMBULANCE
(From off)
Combat detected. Combat detected.

Lumbering into view at the top of the crater -

- the AMBULANCE!

First clear sight: eight feet tall, a ramshackle construction, all pipes and cables and rivets. It looks basic, welded together; brutalist, functional. In place of a head it has the revolving blue light, and in place of feet it has a pair of caterpillar tracks. Steampunk, battle-blackened, terrifying.

A beam of light shoots out, sweeps over all of the crater - zeroes on the Doctor!!

AMBULANCE (CONT'D)
Patient acquired.

And it tips over the edge, and starts lumbering towards him!!

THE DOCTOR
Stop it! Please, you've got to stop
that thing.

Now - everything at once!

SPLICE
(Scared, panicking)
Daddy! Daddy!

And HOLOGRAM JOHN blips into life again, smiling down at Splice -

- the Ambulance has swiveled round to face the Doctor again.

AMBULANCE
Hold still! HOLOGRAM JOHN
Hello, Daughter Splice - can
I assist you with any
persistent regrets?

AMBULANCE (CONT'D) SPLICE
Sharp scratch. Daddy!

- Splice stepping forward to Hologram John -
- the taser-like wires firing out -
- Splice reaching up for her father's hologram hand -
- the wire-clamps slamming on to the Doctor's chest and arm -
- the Doctor's face, twisting in a new spasm of pain caused by the clamps, fighting it, controlling it -
- Splice's hand passes right through Hologram John's hand -

HOLOGRAM JOHN
Would you like to see some old
photographs so we can remember the
good times?

Now, through the hologram, FAMILY SNAPS start appearing - revolving round the image of John.

AMBULANCE
Patient name: Unknown,
unidentified.
(Clicking, computing.)
Vital signs - vital signs - vital
signs - vital signs -

It's looping, stammering, like it's confused.

Mundy (now clinging on to Splice who is looking in wonder at the family photos) looks uncomprehending.

RUBY
He's not human.

Mundy looks round - Ruby has scrambled to her feet now watching the Ambulance. It is about fifteen feet directly in front of the Doctor, facing him.

The Doctor! Sweating, eyes screwed shut, teeth bared - oh the pain! The wire clamps on his arm and chest - burning fiercely white. Don't feel it, don't feel it!

THE DOCTOR
Get. It. Off. Me.

On Ruby: thinking, thinking. What does she do, how does she help? The Doctor, the Ambulance - got it!

RUBY
Combat!
(Off Mundy's look)
"Combat is detected", that's what
she said!

Ruby races over, snatches up Mundy's rifle, now scrambling up the side of the crater (the side directly ahead of the Doctor.)

MUNDY
What are you doing?

Ruby at the top of the crater - now firing the gun in the air, over and over again.

RUBY
Combat! Combat right over here,
can't you hear the lovely combat.
Combat right this way.

On Mundy - *good idea!*

MUNDY
(To Splice)
You stay here, okay, right here.

SPLICE
(Entranced by the
photographs)
Look! That's when we saw the
Antelope.

On the Doctor - eyes squeezed open, he's watching as Mundy starts scrambling up the side of the crater, where Ruby is still firing the gun -

AMBULANCE
Combat detected! Combat detected!

The searchlight on the Ambulance now swivels off the Doctor (the wire-clamps remain in place) searching again.

Mundy at the top of the crater, scrambling to join Ruby. She grabs the rifle, ratchets it. Now steps back.

MUNDY
Shoot me. It needs to detect an
injury or it won't triage - shoot
me, now!

She's positioned herself a few feet in front of Ruby - spreads her arms and legs, making herself a target -

RUBY
No - I can't -

MUNDY
It's fine, I put it on setting one -
just do my arm or something -

RUBY
I can't - I can't, no -

MUNDY
You have to, you really have to -
come on, you can do it - shoot me a
little bit, just my arm -

Ruby: hating this, raises the rifle, clumsily takes aim -

MUNDY (CONT'D)
Left one please.

RUBY
Yeah, sorry, yeah.

On the Doctor, watching this, hating this - Ruby with a gun - more agony than ever -

Now ... in nightmare slo-mo -

Hurrying through the murk, CANTERBURY - he stumbles to a halt, seeing -

- CANTERBURY's POV. Ruby taking aim at Mundy, Mundy standing there, with her hands apparently in the air -

- shock and panic across Canterbury's face, raising his RIFLE - *Mundy's in danger!!*

On the Doctor's face as he hears -

Blam! Blam! Blam! Blam!

On Ruby: the energy bolts slamming into her.

On the Doctor, trying to make sense of what he hears. What?? But Ruby didn't even fire!!

The Doctor's POV, looking up at Ruby. The rifle drops from her hands. She rocks on her feet for a moment -

- and then - still in nightmare slo-mo - she twists round, starts to topple. Falling into the crater. Rolling, rolling -

- the Doctor, frozen in place, can only watch -

- Ruby now slamming to the crater floor. Gasping, choking, eyes wild with panic -

On the Doctor. Motionless, staring. His mind is screaming, no, no, no! Can't get to her, can't help, *can't do anything!!*

Close on the Doctor's eyes, panicked - the worst has happened, the very worst -

From off, Mundy shouting, as she scrambles down to Ruby -

MUNDY
Oh my God, are you okay?? Are you okay??

The Ambulance swiveling its searchlight on to Ruby (though the wires stay attached to the Doctor -

AMBULANCE
Patient acquired. Sharp scratch.

THE DOCTOR
Ruby? Ruby, can you hear me??

RUBY
(Faint, so weak)
Doctor? What's happened?

As a third taser-like wire fires at Ruby, Canterbury is scrambling down into the crater.

CANTERBURY
She was going to shoot you, I saw her!

AMBULANCE
Patient identified: Ruby Sunday.
Calendar age 3082. Next of kin ...
(Judders, clicks - like
stammer)
Next of kin - next of kin - next of
kin -

Click. Click. Click. The Ambulance is shaking and juddering - like it's trying to answer the most difficult question in the universe. On the front-mounted screen - the spinning wheel of death (just like on a modern Mac.)

On the Doctor - transfixed! Is there gonna be an answer?

On Ruby's, eyes flickering. She's heard that question. Is there going to be an answer?? Is she going to know?? A last surge of energy.

RUBY
Who? Who's my next of kin?

AMBULANCE
(Juddering, stammering)
Next of kin - next of kin - next of
kin -

... and SNOWFLAKES start landing on her.

Wider: a fall of SNOW, out of nowhere. Mundy and Canterbury - what??

CANTERBURY
That's not possible. It doesn't snow here, it never snows.

THE DOCTOR
No, it's Ruby. This happened before.

AMBULANCE
(Juddering, stammering)
Next of kin - next of kin - next of
kin -

RUBY
(Faltering, slowing)
Who. Please, tell me ... who ...

THE DOCTOR
It's good, the snow's good. While
there's snow there's hope -

The word "hope" dies in his mouth - because the snow just stops falling. It just *hangs there*. Motionless.

The Doctor: no! *No!!*

On Ruby: the light is going from her eyes, now they're flickering shut ...

And now the snowflakes are just disappearing, one by one - like stars going out.

On Ruby: the snowflakes disappearing from her face and hair.

AMBULANCE
Vital signs: failing. Mortality estimate - 432 seconds.

On the Doctor's face. Horror - so little time.

- now, inside the Doctor's head - voices sound distant, as heard from underwater - the roar of his breath, the furnace of his concentration, the *boom-boom* of his hearts -

Boom-boom!

AMBULANCE (CONT'D)
Patient: non-ordained. Treatment - withheld.

On the last segment of the green lights - seven tenths filled.

Boom-boom!

- on the Doctor's eyes - forces himself to look away from Ruby -

Boom-boom!

- now there are ragged, glimpses of the world around the Doctor, as he turns himself inwards, forcing himself to slow down, to feel *nothing!* No pain, no anger, nothing. Voices watery and distant, images defocussed -

Boom-boom!

- Splice is standing, staring in horror at the fallen Ruby -

- Mundy tending to Ruby, behind her we can see Canterbury pulling some equipment from inside the Ambulance (a blanket, some gadgets.)
- Hologram John just standing there in a hologram carousel of family photographs -
- on the last segment of the green lights - 8 tenths -

Boom-boom!

- Canterbury and Mundy arguing - as they make Ruby comfortable. She's now on a sort of field medical bed, under a blanket. There's a beeping device on her arm, monitoring her life signs -

CANTERBURY
(Barely heard.)
She was gonna shoot you - I don't understand -

MUNDY
Doesn't matter, doesn't matter.
Look at the readings.

- on the last segment of the green lights - 9 tenths.

Boom-boom!

MUNDY (CONT'D)
- if that mine blows, it's gonna blow everything!

On the last segment of the green lights - nearly full, nearly finished...

Boom-boom!

On the Doctor's eyes. Slowly closing. Concentrate, concentrate! Now there's just the roaring in his head, the booming of his hearts. Keeping it all inside, clamping down on everything.

Boom-boom!

Now, cutting through all this, Mundy's voice - absolutely clear.

MUNDY (CONT'D)
Sir! Sir, please!

The Doctor opens his eyes -

- normal sound and vision now. Mundy is standing right in front of him. Beyond her we can see Canterbury. He's moving between the Ambulance and the prone Ruby, making adjustments to connecting wires and the Ambulance controls.

MUNDY (CONT'D)

Sir, I scanned the device, I ran the numbers. You're right, you're gonna blow a very big hole in everything, you could wipe out every Anglican here.

The Doctor, still that chilling dead stare.

MUNDY (CONT'D)

Please. What do we do?

Finally: a single word from the Doctor.

THE DOCTOR

Ruby.

Not a question. Just stating her name. Mundy glances over at Ruby's prone form.

MUNDY

We're doing everything we can.

CANTERBURY

I'm reconfiguring the Ambulance protocols. It could revive her - but it's not programmed to assist non-believers.

MUNDY

(Checking hand-scanner)

The mine is cycling to the end of its countdown. We've got five minutes. Probably less. Please. What can we do?

It takes a moment for the Doctor to reply. He just looks over at Ruby. The slowing beep-beep from her arm unit. He's in a world of self-reproach. He brought her here. Finally:

THE DOCTOR

Surrender.

MUNDY

Excuse me?

THE DOCTOR

Surrender. Lose. Give in.

MUNDY

... even if that were possible, which it isn't - even if I had the divinity to authorise surrender ... that wouldn't switch off the land mine.

THE DOCTOR
Yes it would.

MUNDY
Why?

THE DOCTOR
Because it's *your* landmine.

A change in the note of the beeping from Ruby's arm-unit, more urgent now.

The Doctor looks over to his friend.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
No, Ruby, stop that, hang in there.
Still need you. I can't think
unless I'm talking, and I only talk
to you. Mundy thinks she's fighting
Kastarions, what do you think?
Figured it out yet? I don't think
Mundy's figured it out.

MUNDY
Figured out what?

THE DOCTOR
So Ruby. This lot - they showed up
here - what? - six months ago? They
set up their defences and fired
their warning shots in the air -
watch out, we come in peace. Yeah?

MUNDY
We advertised our presence. It's
standard procedure.

THE DOCTOR
You hear that, Ruby? They
advertised their presence. And you
know what that does? It activates
the Villengard algorithm. The
acceptable casualty rate algorithm.
Keeps you dying, keeps you buying.
(Shifts his gaze to Mundy)
Do you get it? Do you get it? Do
you get get get it?? There's nobody
else here! You declared war on an
empty planet. The Kastarions aren't
in the mud, they're not in the fog,
they're not in the snow. There are
no Kastarions. Just the algorithm
maintaining an acceptable casualty
rate in the face of nothing at all.
You're fighting your own hardware -
and it's killing you just often
enough to keep you buying more.

(MORE)

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

I mean, most armies would *notice* if they were fighting smoke and shadows. But not this lot, Ruby. You know why? They have *faith*.

MUNDY

Shut up!

THE DOCTOR

Faith! The magic word that means never having to think for yourself. Mundy, just surrender! Just stop. Stop and it's all over.

MUNDY

Prove it.

THE DOCTOR

What, seriously. Now you need proof, Faith Girl?

(To Hologram John: a command)

John Francis Vater! Father and AI!

Hologram John immediately swivels round to face the Doctor. The carousel of images disappears at this point.

HOLOGRAM JOHN

Sir!

THE DOCTOR

I need you to download yourself into the Villengard battle computer and report back on its current activity. Send to the scanner in Mundy Flynn's hand.

HOLOGRAM JOHN

Apologies, that is not possible. I'm not connected to the network.

THE DOCTOR

No, but the Ambulance is. And the Ambulance is connected to me and I'm connected to you. Shut up and google.

HOLOGRAM JOHN

It's against my digital protocol, sir.

THE DOCTOR

Listen to me. However little is left of you, you're still a father. Dad to Dad ... we don't let them down, do we? Ever!

(MORE)

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Anything for them, right? To the end, right? Dad to Dad, dust to dust. Am I right?

MUNDY

Sir, he can't He's just an AI simulant.

Hologram John is silent for a moment - then, abruptly, he swivels round to Splice.

HOLOGRAM JOHN

(Swivels round to Splice)

I'll be back. Do your teeth.

John spins, funnels back into the cylinder - a blue hologram flashes through the Doctor's eyes, then along the taser-like wire to the Ambulance.

SPLICE

Daddy?

THE DOCTOR

(To Mundy)

How much countdown left?

MUNDY

Three minutes maybe?

THE DOCTOR

(A grim look - then)

Thoughts and prayers.

She nods. Fair point. Now steps over to Canterbury, who is tending to Ruby.

MUNDY

Okay?

CANTERBURY

Hang on.

He hurries over to the opened back panel on the Ambulance, starts fiddling with something.

MUNDY

How's it going?

CANTERBURY

There are safeguards, hush!

She looks round the crater. Splice on her knees, waiting for her father. The Doctor, eerily motionless, eyes clenched shut - his final burst of concentration. No hope, no hope.

CANTERBURY (CONT'D)

I saw your tattoo.

MUNDY

You what?

CANTERBURY

The one you did on Posh Graham. It was ... beautiful.

MUNDY

You checked out my tattoo on Posh Graham?

CANTERBURY

Of course.

MUNDY

Why?

CANTERBURY

I wanted to see it.

MUNDY

But why?

He doesn't want to answer that. But isn't it obvious?

MUNDY (CONT'D)

Why did you even come out here? Why were you looking for me?

(Silence. It's dawning on her)

Canto ... do you like me?

For God's sake! Can't keep it in any longer.

CANTERBURY

Of course I like you! Everybody knows I like you. Except posh Graham, who now thinks I like him. I mean, it was on his upper thigh, you could've warned me.

Mundy gives a little laugh at this. Canterbury: resolving himself.

Canterbury: processes that. Oh!

CANTERBURY (CONT'D)

Hang on, does that mean you like me?

And as he says this, he turns to look at her - and his fingers slip.

And bzzsst! A blue light now flaring round Canterbury's fingers. And crack! An electrical discharge, a blast of energy. Mundy and Canterbury are thrown backwards, arcing through the air.

On Mundy crashing into the mud, rolling over and over.

THE DOCTOR
(Eyes still shut)
What is it, what's happening?

MUNDY
(Clutches her head, can't
see straight)
Canto, talk to me. Are you okay?

CANTERBURY
(From off: calm, serene)
I'm fine. How are you?

MUNDY
Where you are - I can't - are you
injured?

CANTERBURY
(From off: calm, serene)
I'm fine. How are you?

MUNDY
Okay, just shock, just -

She's blinking her vision clear - and now stares in horror.
No. No!

- because Canterbury is now standing a few feet from her, as a *hologram*. He has the same vacant, plastic smile as Hologram John. (The hologram is being projected from a still-glowing cylinder lying in the mud a few feet behind him.)

MUNDY (CONT'D)
Canto. Oh, Canto.

HOLOGRAM CANTERBURY
You are identified as Mundy Flynn,
my designated favourite person.
Here is a personal message recorded
just for you.
(Now, more human, less
serene - a recording)
If anything happens to me, I want
you to know, I love you. And
honestly, it's okay that you don't
love me back. Sorry.

He spins and funnels away into the cylinder. Closer on the Cylinder as he snaps back inside. The lettering on the plaque.

Canterbury James Olliphant

Cause of death: algorithm breach.

THE DOCTOR
I'm sorry about your friend

Mundy turns, trying to conceal the tears.

MUNDY
It was my fault. I distracted him

But the Doctor is looking at Canterbury's cylinder lying in the mud, the lettering on the side.

THE DOCTOR
No. No, it was nothing to do with you, it was an Algorithm breach.
It's the Villengard algorithm, it's protecting itself.

The Doctor looks up to the perimeter of the crater. The sky is flashing blue - and Ambulance after Ambulance is lumbering into view. They are taking up positions round the crater, surrounding them.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
We sent Daddy in there, it's fighting back. Look!

Panning round all their screens - they all have the flowery script: Thoughts & Prayers.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Of course! There's security, there's a fire wall - why didn't I think of that??

MUNDY
What's happening?

THE DOCTOR
The algorithm will do anything to protect itself. Anything at all.

And now, swirling back from the Cylinder in the Doctor's hand - Hologram John.

But this time he's unstable, flickering, randomly pixelating.

HOLOGRAM JOHN
Antelope. Antelope.

THE DOCTOR
John?

HOLOGRAM JOHN
Antelope. I saw. Antelope. We saw.
Antelope.

SPLICE

We saw the Antelope together. I remember. I remember, Daddy!

HOLOGRAM JOHN

We saw. Antelope. We saw. Antelope. Sorry.

THE DOCTOR

Tell her to run. John, tell your daughter to run, now. Dad to Dad!

SPLICE

I'm safe with Daddy!

HOLOGRAM JOHN

Antelope. Can't. Safe. Can't. Safe. Dad to Dad, dust to dust. Antelope.

Hologram John pixelates, disintegrates - and in a moment reforms as a different hologram. The same woman as seen on the Screens of the Ambulances. She is dressed in medical whites.

HOLOGRAM WOMAN

Any attempt to interfere with the Villengard algorithm will be met with severe fines.

THE DOCTOR

Where is John Francis Vater?

HOLOGRAM WOMAN

The AI known as John Francis Vater has been identified as a hostile data virus and permanently deleted. Thoughts and prayers.

A beeping from the below the Doctor. The land mine! The green lights have been replaced by flashing red ones. Now a flat metallic voice from the landmine itself.

LANDMINE

Attention. This landmine will induce fail-safe immolation shortly. If you are not the selected target, please stand clear.

THE DOCTOR

Run. Start running.

MUNDY

There's no point.

LANDMINE

Final countdown commencing.

THE DOCTOR	LANDMINE (CONT'D)
Both of you, run.	10 ... 9 ...
MUNDY	LANDMINE (CONT'D)
We'd never get far enough.	8 ... 7 ...
SPLICE	LANDMINE (CONT'D)
Where's my Daddy. I'm not leaving my Daddy.	6 ... 5 ...
MUNDY	LANDMINE (CONT'D)
And I'm not leaving you, Munchkin.	4 ... 3 ...

THE DOCTOR
I'm sorry then. So sorry. This is
it.
(Looks over)
Ruby ... I am so, so sorry.

He closes his eyes. Ready for the end.

LANDMINE
2 ... 1 ... Kiss ... Kiss.

The Doctor's eyes fly open. *What the hell??* He looks to the HOLOGRAM WOMAN. She flickers, flares -

HOLOGRAM WOMAN
Antelope. Antelope. Dad to Dad,
dust to dust.

She disintegrates, reforms ... and Hologram John is back!!

HOLOGRAM JOHN
Kiss kiss.

The Doctor: what??

Hologram John pixelates, disintegrates. The Woman reforms.

HOLOGRAM WOMAN
Virus alert! Virus al -

She pixelates, disintegrates, and turns back into John.

HOLOGRAM JOHN
Kiss kiss.

The Doctor, now looking around in wonder, in astonishment.
All the Ambulances ranged round the crater, one after the
other ...

AMBULANCES
Kiss kiss. Kiss kiss.

Now the Ambulance in the crater.

AMBULANCE
Kiss kiss.

Its search light blasts on to Ruby.

AMBULANCE (CONT'D)
Patient acquired. Sharp scratch.
(Taser-like wire flashes
out)
Revivification protocol initiated.

Ruby's body glows a healing blue - and suddenly she inhales a huge, shuddering breath!

A beep from below the Doctor. He looks down - his first movement! Leans out a bit. From this angle he can see the landmine is back on green lights - but they're arranged in a pattern of X X X X X, like kisses. He raises his foot, he steps off the mine - nothing happens!

MUNDY
How? How??

THE DOCTOR
Ruby? Ruby, can you hear me?

He's ripping off the taser-like wires, now runs to her side.

SPLICE
What's happening?

She's asking the Doctor. He gives her the biggest grin.

THE DOCTOR
Your father. Who art in heaven. Or
a kind of heaven anyway.

HOLOGRAM JOHN
Antelope. Do your teeth. Antelope.

THE DOCTOR
The Villengard algorithm ... the
whole Villengard arms industry, all
of it ... just got beat up by a
little girl's Dad.

A gasp from behind him. He turns - and there, in the fierce light, Ruby is stirring, spluttering.

RUBY
Doctor?

THE DOCTOR
Ruby! Why are you lying around
you're missing all the good stuff.
(MORE)

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

A war just got switched off and
very possibly sent to bed without
its supper.

RUBY

... I don't ... what happened?

THE DOCTOR

Well. It's hard to sum up. I mean
if I kept a diary, this would be
too exciting for just words, yeah?
I think I'd have to write it with
drums! Can you write a diary with
just drums, bet I could.

He starts miming thrashing hell out a whole drum kit as he
dances round the crater.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Boom! Bang! October the 5th! Tish!

RUBY

Doctor ...

THE DOCTOR

I sent her Dad for a look round the
software, just looking for proof,
but he must got a bit cross. Now
the whole Villengard mainframe is
getting taken down by parent power.

He grabs a piece of the Ambulance equipment that looks a bit
like a microphone and yells into it.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

*Basically, Villengard basically ...
just you wait till Daddy gets home!*

(Miming drums)

Boom! Tish!

CUT TO:

11

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAWN

11

The sun is over the rainbow crystal mountains. As promised,
it is breathtaking, spectacular.

Pulling back. THE DOCTOR, a fully restored RUBY, SPLICE and
MUNDY are watching the flaming, magical spectacle. Splice and
Mundy are holding hands. In their other hands, they hold
their cylinder. The Doctor sighs, happily. Then:

THE DOCTOR

Right, enough of that. Come on,
Ruby, moving on.

RUBY

We've had about two minutes of the awesome.

THE DOCTOR

Yeah, two minutes, no lingering.
There's a lot more universe to see
and frankly your lifespan sucks.
Splice, come here.

Splice steps to the Doctor - and he gives her the biggest hug.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

I'm sorry about your Daddy, Splice.

SPLICE

(Frowns, troubled)
Why are you sorry?

THE DOCTOR

Because he's gone now. But I know
Mundy is going to take very good
care of you.

SPLICE

Silly! He's not gone

A flicker of worry on the Doctor's face. Oh! Doesn't she understand?

SPLICE (CONT'D)

He's just dead - he's not gone.

A big smile on the Doctor's face. Hugs her again.

THE DOCTOR

That's right. That's exactly right.
Keep the faith, Splice.

MUNDY

I thought you didn't like faith
much, Doctor.

The Doctor straightens up - looks at Mundy. He's been so rough on her. Enough of that. He gives her the biggest hug.

THE DOCTOR

Just because I don't like it,
doesn't mean I don't need it.

(Breaks the hug)

Right, goodbye you two. I'll be
dropping in now and then, fish
fingers and custard is my
favourite. Come on, Ruby!

He's already striding off. Ruby looks apologetically at the other two, taking their hands.

RUBY

Sorry, we always have to dash off like this. I think he probably needs changing.

On the Doctor, now striding back to the TARDIS. Ruby, catching up with him.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Will she be all right?

THE DOCTOR

Splice? I'm thinking president of something. Till then she's got Mundy, she's got her Dad.

RUBY

Her Dad's dead. I mean, he's not gone, I know - that's sweet and everything, but really, actually, he's dead.

THE DOCTOR

We're all dead eventually. There's hardly any time at all we're not dead. Good thing too, gotta keep the pace up or we'd never get anything done. Dying defines us. Snow isn't snow till it falls.

Ruby - the word *snow* impacts her. Remembering, as they arrive at the TARDIS.

RUBY

Snow...

THE DOCTOR

Yeah, snow.

(Unlocking the TARDIS)

We all melt away in the end. But something stays. Maybe the best part.

He looks back - and stares at what he sees. Some distance away, Mundy and Splice are still watching the sunrise - and now Hologram John flickers into life. He's facing the Doctor and Ruby - now raises his hand in farewell. Ruby is amazed. The Doctor smiles, waves back.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

As a sad old man once told me - what survives of us is love.

A final wave from both of them, and they head into the TARDIS and close the door. As the TARDIS dematerialises, a SINGLE SNOWFLAKE whirls through the space it leaves.

END CREDITS