

DOCTOR WHO

Episode 6

by

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BLUE REVISIONS

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1 EXT. MANOR GARDENS - NIGHT

1

We are in a lush and deserted garden in 1813. CHATTER and MUSIC can be heard in the distance, coming from inside a large 19th-century manor house.

The light from inside SPILLS out onto the DARKLY LIT grounds, Everything feels very still, serene, then... FOOTSTEPS...

Heading towards us are two well-dressed gentlemen, LORD GALPIN (20s, noble, uptight) and LORD BARTON (20s, dashing and he knows it). Both are in the middle of a fiery debate, it feels like we've stepped into an episode of Bridgerton.

LORD GALPIN

Lord Barton, you are a rake, a cad!  
You have dishonoured my sister.

Lord Barton smiles viciously, clearly enjoying himself.

LORD BARTON

Lord Galpin, remind me to which  
"dishonouring" are you referring?  
The one in the kitchen? In your  
study? ...in the stables?

LORD GALPIN

You will marry her, sir!

LORD BARTON

I will do no such thing. Now I am  
awfully bored of your shouting. If  
you want to challenge me to a duel,  
please sir, do. Then I can shoot  
you dead.

Lord Galpin and Lord Barton lock eyes. It's intense. Then Lord Galpin's expression changes, he looks impressed.

LORD GALPIN

Wow. You really are wonderfully  
bad, aren't you?

LORD BARTON

I beg your pardon?

LORD GALPIN

You gamble, have affairs, you're an  
absolute snake. Meanwhile I'm all  
noble and serious. Look at me. I'm  
sooo dull! I'd rather be YOU.

Lord Barton looks very confused. But not for long -- as his red waistcoat is GRABBED by Lord Galpin.

LORD BARTON  
(sputtering)  
Unhand me!

Lord Barton PUSHES at Lord Galpin but he holds fast. He STRUGGLES as Lord Galpin LIFTS him up with ease.

LORD BARTON (CONT'D)  
What are you...? What...? But...  
(he sees...)  
No. No. No, that's impossible - !

An other-worldly THRUM of TWISTING and STRETCHING flesh.

The SILHOUETTE of a BEAKED CREATURE falls over him. A HIGH-PITCHED TRILL calls into the night air as a blue vein-like GLOW passes across Lord Barton's face. We see him WITHER and WASTE away. Then.... THUMP!

Lord Barton DROPS to the floor -- DEAD.

On the grass, lies the corpse of Lord Barton. Same clothes, but his body is drained of life, dried out like a sultana. His eyes are closed but his mouth open, FROZEN in terror.

A MAN steps calmly over it. We look up to see the doppelgänger of LORD BARTON, brushing down his new "outfit."

LORD BARTON (CONT'D)  
Now I get to be the bad one.

CUT TO TITLES.

2 INT. BALLROOM - NIGHT

2

A Regency ball is in full swing. A DANCING COUPLE spin revealing RUBY. She tears up the dance floor, Regency style.

RUBY  
Oh. My. Bridgerton. This is my  
actual dream!

Reveal the gentleman dancing with her, it's the DOCTOR, in full Regency wear. They are a striking pair. He GRINS at her.

THE DOCTOR  
Brilliant isn't it. And the dances  
Ruby, oh the dances!

The Doctor and Ruby excitedly SPIN along the dance floor under an archway made by the arms of the other dancers.

RUBY

But I can't dance, not like this,  
how do I know the moves?

The Doctor gestures at Ruby's PEARL earrings.

THE DOCTOR

Psychic earrings! Choreography  
beamed into your motor system, tap  
twice to choose your moves. It's  
like instant Strictly!

The MUSIC ENDS. Ruby curtseys and the Doctor bows.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Just don't set them to Battle Mode.

They are interrupted by ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE from the  
DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON (40s, elegant, queen of throwing shade).

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

Marvellous! I thought I knew  
everyone at my ball but it appears  
not... What a delight!

(admires the Doctor)

Travellers from afar, no doubt?

THE DOCTOR

Further than you'd think. Wonderful  
party, your Grace.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

Some are saying best of the season.  
A triumph. A new standard set. I,  
of course, could not comment.

(turns to Ruby)

But I think the real estimation of  
an evening is in the matches made.  
Don't you agree, Miss...?

RUBY

Er, Ruby. Lady Ruby... Sunday of  
the... Notting Hill estate. And  
this is the Doctor.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

A physician as a chaperone? My  
dear, you aren't unwell?

RUBY

No. He's just a friend.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

Oh good! Well, a young lady needs  
suitors, not friends. Come!

The Duchess sweeps away, Ruby left behind for a second:

RUBY

She's so posh, I LOVE her!

Ruby winces as she hears a high pitch sound in the earrings.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Ow! I'm getting feedback!

The Doctor leans in, placing his ear next to hers.

THE DOCTOR

Interesting. Sonar interference.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON (O.S.)

Lady Ruby! Attend!

THE DOCTOR

I'll handle this. Just try not to  
get engaged or accidentally invent  
tarmac, 1902 got away from me. Go  
and enjoy!

Ruby rushes off as the Doctor pulls out his SONIC and starts  
to scan. He spots the source of interference...

Up on the balcony is a very handsome stranger, ROGUE (early  
30s, brooding, mysterious, probably writes poetry).

CUT TO:

3

INT. BALLROOM - MOMENTS LATER

3

The Duchess leads Ruby around the room. MISS TALBOT (23,  
chatty, fun) hurrying past, quick curtsey -

MISS TALBOT

Oh your Grace, it's the most super,  
super party, I'm quite delirious!

She HURRIES AWAY, but passing...

LORD BARTON, who starts walking over to them.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

My dear! Stand tall. Eyes bright!  
Lord Barton is approaching.

RUBY

That's a tall glass of heartbreak.

Lord Barton arrives, and smiles lasciviously at Ruby.

LORD BARTON

Your Grace, where have you been  
hiding this heavenly delight? With  
hair like golden strands, spun in  
the rays of the evening sun.

RUBY

Oh, you're not a tall glass at all,  
you're half a pint of shandy.

LORD BARTON

I think, my dear, you should learn  
to be admired in silence.

RUBY

Yeah, if you spoke to me and the  
girls like that down the Spinning  
Wheel on a Friday night, we'd rip  
you a new one, mate, now get out of  
my way, Lord Stilton.

Ruby walks on past him to the Duchess's delight.

LORD BARTON

...stilton?

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

It is a very difficult cheese.

And the Duchess runs after Ruby, so happy!

Ruby's stopped by a painting of a REGENCY LADY (or as we know  
her, the Recurring Woman who appears throughout).

RUBY

Your Grace, who is that?

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

The Duke's late mother. Her eyes

still follow me about the room.

Constant judgement.

(more confidential)

But I must say. The way you spoke  
to Lord Barton. You were rather  
splendid, is it always like that in  
the north?

RUBY  
 Fellas like that are ten a penny.  
 He's moved on, who's he with now?

As she sees, FAR ACROSS THE ROOM:

LORD BARTON now with an upset woman, MISS EMILY BECKETT (25, wallflower, fanning herself). He TAKES her elbow strong, muttering something, glowering. But she says 'No, no!'

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
 Miss Emily Beckett. She is bookish and vapid, I fear. But good teeth.  
 (but then she spots - )  
 By the saints! Lady Wallace, no, no, no. Wait here, dear.

The Duchess runs off, but Ruby keeps watching the dumb show.

Emily says 'No, no!', RUNS OUT, UPSET. Lord Barton glowers, huffs, glances round to make sure he's unseen and FOLLOWS.

And Ruby HURRIES across the room to FOLLOW.

CUT TO:

4 INT. BALLROOM BALCONY - NIGHT

4

On the balcony, with ROGUE, as he watches below.

THE DOCTOR  
 Brooding. Good look. Do you practice in a mirror? Bit more frown, maybe. Like this.  
 (frowns)  
 Yeah, like this.  
 (frowns)  
 Really, like this, yeah?

ROGUE  
 I didn't know the Duchess employs a court jester.

THE DOCTOR  
 Well, I'm hilarious!  
 (moves closer)  
 And you're kind of funny peculiar.  
 Standing here. Good vantage point, keeping an eye on the exits. Like you're expecting trouble.

Rogue turns to looks at The Doctor, suspiciously.

ROGUE

Are you?

THE DOCTOR

Honey, I'm here for fun.

ROGUE

Then go and pursue your facile  
pleasures, and leave me alone.

THE DOCTOR

Okay, rude, Lord...

ROGUE

Not a Lord.

THE DOCTOR

Does "not a lord" have a name?

ROGUE

Rogue.

THE DOCTOR

Nice to meet you, I'm the Doctor.

ROGUE

Just "The Doctor"

THE DOCTOR

Just "Rogue?"

Rogue turns his intense stare on the Doctor.

ROGUE

I think you and I should go  
outside.

Rogue walks off. The Doctor delighted.

THE DOCTOR

Fast mover. Okay!

And he follows!

CUT TO:

5 OMITTED

5

6 OMITTED

6

7

OMITTED

7

7A

EXT. MANOR FLOWER GARDENS - NIGHT

7A

The Duchess reaches Lady Wallace, outside.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

Lady Wallace, so brave of you to  
wear that gown this evening after I  
wore it so beautifully last season.

Lady Wallace, embarrassed, rushes away. The Duchess spots the  
HOUSEKEEPER deeper in the garden. She heads over.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON (CONT'D)

What on earth are you doing here?  
My housekeeper? Outside? Where you  
can be seen? You disgrace me!

The Housekeeper looks at Duchess with a cold smile.

HOUSEKEEPER

Thing is, Lady Muck, I made a  
stupid mistake, choosing to be  
staff. It's all work! Cooking,  
cleaning, mopping up, these knees  
are primitive enough, they only  
bend one way. While you lot are out  
here, having a right old shindig.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

Your... language! I'll have you  
sacked, woman, you'll not sour my  
evening. People look to me as an  
arbiter of taste.

HOUSEKEEPER

What, in that dress?

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

I beg your pardon? How dare you?!

The Housekeeper GRIPS a now BIRD-LIKE HAND over the Duchess's  
mouth and PINS her to a wall. She WHISPERS into her ear.

HOUSEKEEPER

Maybe it will look better on me.

We hear an other-worldly THRUM and CREAK of STRETCHING flesh  
as the Housekeeper changes form. Then a HIGH-PITCHED TRILL...

CUT TO:

8 OMITTED

8

9 INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

9

A dark library, lit only by a fireplace. RUBY creeps along the shelves of books towards the sounds of VOICES. She can see LORD BARTON and MISS BECKETT standing close, both upset.

LORD BARTON

Please, Emily, I beg of you.

EMILY BECKETT

But you consume me, sir. I think about you my every waking hour and I hate myself for it.

LORD BARTON

And what would you have me to do? I rely on the favour of my aunt. She would never approve this match. I would be destitute!

Emily, close to tears, goes to touch the Lord's arm but he looks away, trying to be strong.

EMILY BECKETT

But you'd have me. To love.

Ruby, behind the bookcase watches, moved, at this doomed encounter. Two hearts in turmoil.

LORD BARTON

I am sorry. I will not marry you. Not now. Not ever.

EMILY BECKETT

Then go! You beast. You stole my heart, leave me my reputation.

The Lord turns back, dramatically. They look at each other for a charged moment.

LORD BARTON

And yet... you tempt me still.

The two of them LAUNCH at each other and ALMOST KISS when...

CLANG! - Ruby smacks into a book ladder. A couple of books on it go flying. Lord Barton and Emily JUMP APART in SHAME.

LORD BARTON (CONT'D)

I should not be here. Good evening.

Lord Barton quickly exits as Ruby emerges, sheepishly.

RUBY

Sorry, I didn't mean to, er,  
interrupt... Are you okay?

EMILY BECKETT

I am ruined!

RUBY

What do you mean, ruined?

EMILY BECKETT

A couple caught alone is a scandal!  
If the man refuses to marry the  
lady, she will no longer be  
acceptable to polite society.

RUBY

Oh this is so Bridgerton!

CUT TO:

10 OMITTED

10

11 EXT. MANOR FLOWER GARDENS - NIGHT

11

THE DOCTOR and ROGUE walk along. The Doctor GAZES up at the night sky as Rogue checks who is around them.

THE DOCTOR

I love these old skies, ripe with constellations being found and named. The bear, the ram, the poop-deck.

ROGUE

(sarcastic)

The romance of the night's sky.

THE DOCTOR

Don't look at me, it was chosen by the astronomer, De Lacaille. Great with stars, bad with names. He called one star system Norma.

ROGUE

Do you never stop chattering?

The Doctor leans in closer to Rogue.

THE DOCTOR

Okay. Rogue. You're tall, handsome, arrogant, and you look great in that jacket, so there's one thing I have to ask... Is that a shoe?

He's looking past Rogue - and they both RUN, over to the edge of a flower bed, where they find a lone SHOE.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

No-one walks away from a situation with one less shoe. You'd notice.

ROGUE

I suggest, look for the other shoe.

THE DOCTOR

Over there!

The Doctor RUNS - the other shoe attached to a WITHERED foot.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

A shoe and a leg, oh no...

The Doctor pushes back the rose bush, we see a GLIMPSE of the withered DUCHESS. The Doctor horrified. Rogue doesn't flinch.

The Doctor gets out his sonic and examines the body of the Duchess. Rogue looks at the sonic with interest.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Oh. Ohh man. I'm sorry. It's the Duchess, those clothes are the Duchess. Oh my Lady. Your Grace. This is no way to die. In the cold and the dark and all alone.

Then the Doctor turns to Rogue with quiet FURY.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

And you knew. Mr so-called-Rogue. You didn't even flinch.

But Rogue meets his stare, confident, equally cold.

ROGUE

Because it's obvious. This is a murder far beyond the technology of Planet Earth. It could only be done by someone brilliant -

THE DOCTOR

- and monstrous -

ROGUE

- and ruthless -

THE DOCTOR

- and contemptible.

Pause.

THE DOCTOR & ROGUE

You.

Pause.

THE DOCTOR & ROGUE (CONT'D)

You.

Pause.

THE DOCTOR & ROGUE (CONT'D)

No, you!

THE DOCTOR

Excuse me, I think you'll find -

Rogue, WHIPS out a STEAMPUNK-LOOKING COPPER BLASTER from his coat, with a glowing centre. Points it right at the Doctor.

ROGUE

You!

CUT TO:

12

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

12

A LOUD BLOW on a handkerchief by a tearful Miss Beckett.

RUBY

If you ask me, he's an idiot.  
Honestly, my friend Bex, she'd tie  
him to a lamppost, in his pants.

Emily anxiously FANS herself with an ornate lace fan.

EMILY BECKETT

The funny things you say! But his  
station in life is too tenuous, he  
must find a good match. And I have  
no dowry to speak of.

RUBY

Sounds like he's choosing his cushy  
lifestyle over love.

Emily looks to Ruby in wonder of her words and attitude.

EMILY BECKETT

Cushy?

RUBY

Er, comfortable, like a cushion.

EMILY BECKETT

Cushy. I like it.

Ruby frowns -- *should she have taught her that?*

RUBY

Yeah, okay, don't use it a lot.

EMILY BECKETT

Yeaahhh, O.K! Okay! Ohhkay! Your words amuse me. It's such a pleasure to meet you, Miss..?

RUBY

Ruby.

EMILY BECKETT

And I'm Miss Emily Beckett. But most people here would delight in the gossip, not offer me comfort.

RUBY

Yeah. Well My mum always says, if it's not your life, why you telling it? She's annoyingly smart.

Emily and Ruby look to each other, smiling, a friendship made. Ruby gets up, holds out her hand.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Right! You know how I forget about a man?

Emily shakes her head. Ruby SMILES.

RUBY (CONT'D)

I go dancing!

EMILY BECKETT

Okay!

CUT TO:

13

EXT. MANOR GROUNDS - NIGHT

13

The Doctor walks across the misty lawn, followed by Rogue. Blaster still pointed at him.

THE DOCTOR

You know, this isn't a good look for you. In any century.

ROGUE

Keep moving.

THE DOCTOR

Who do you think I am?

ROGUE

I know, you're a Chuldur.

THE DOCTOR

The shape-shifters! I've heard of them but never met one. Or maybe I have.

ROGUE

Drop the act, Doc. There's a Chuldur at work on this planet, and I've been paid good money to find you.

THE DOCTOR

Okay firstly, "Doc"? Sir. No thank you. Please. Secondly, you're a bounty hunter? That's so cool. Catching monsters, getting into scrapes. Meeting handsome strangers.

ROGUE

I'm here for the money, nothing more.

THE DOCTOR

So where are you taking me?

ROGUE

My ship.

THE DOCTOR

Where'd you hide a spaceship in 1813?

ROGUE

It's cloaked. Past that shed.

The Doctor sees the TARDIS nestled amongst the trees.

THE DOCTOR  
Shed?! That's my ship.

ROGUE  
You travel in a shed?

THE DOCTOR  
Love the shed!

ROGUE  
Why isn't it cloaked?

THE DOCTOR  
It's behind a tree.

Rogue gets another gadget from his jacket and presses it.

A WHOOSH! As a large ship appears. Metal welded together, edgy and steampunk. The name "YOSSARIAN" on its side.

ROGUE  
Now, that's a ship.

CUT TO:

14 INT. BALLROOM - NIGHT

14

RUBY and EMILY dancing, good friends, full of joy.

The now alien DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON enters the ballroom, surveying all she sees. LORD BARTON walks up to her.

LORD BARTON  
A wonderful party, your Grace.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
Thank you.  
(sly smile)  
Nice costume, darling. Tight fit.

LORD BARTON  
Ohhh, you're the Duchess!  
(breathes deep)  
Of course, I should have scented  
you. I wanted to be her next.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
Too slow love, although I was  
hoping *someone* here would be Royal.  
Nevertheless! I have picked my  
outfit for the wedding.

LORD BARTON  
Oh really. Who?

The Duchess smiles at him, and guides his eyes back to the dance floor, where RUBY and EMILY are DANCING.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
Lady Ruby Sunday.

CUT TO:

15 INT. THE YOSSARIAN - NIGHT

15

Inside Rogue's ship, it's a mishmash of tech and half-made projects, tools and strange-looking things in piles or cages about the place. It has a mechanic's workshop kinda feel. A cockpit for flying and a hammock slung over the far corner.

ROGUE still aiming his disseminator at THE DOCTOR.

THE DOCTOR  
So, this place is a mess. Rogue, honey, you need company.

ROGUE  
I live alone.

THE DOCTOR  
Baby, I can see! But was that always the case?

Rogue caught out for a second, vulnerable, suspicious.

ROGUE  
Why d'you ask?

THE DOCTOR  
This is an old Asteroid Hawk from the 50-56. Piloted by two.

ROGUE  
Not any more.

Rogue gets back to work, gets a 3-PART METAL CONTRAPTION (the TRAP), throws down two pieces on the floor, a distance apart.

ROGUE (CONT'D)  
Stand there.

He indicates. The Doctor stands in front of the two PIECES.

THE DOCTOR  
And what do those things do?

ROGUE  
It's a trap.

And he throws down a THIRD PIECE, in front of the Doctor.

ROGUE (CONT'D)  
Tri-form, ON!

Below the Doctor's feet, the triangle of floor marked by the THREE PIECES turns JET BLACK. The Doctor's feet STICK to it, like a magnet. He wriggles but can't break free.

THE DOCTOR  
Oh. Nice. My name's bond, molecular bond.

ROGUE  
It works as a Transport Gate, just needs time to charge up.

Rogue goes to the CONTROLS, busy, calibrating CONTROLS.

THE DOCTOR  
Transport to where?

ROGUE  
The incinerator.

THE DOCTOR  
It's a death sentence?

ROGUE  
You're a killer.

THE DOCTOR  
Oh well, how about...

Holds up his SONIC SCREWDRIVER, WHIRRS.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
Tri-form OFF!

But no, he stays stuck. ROGUE holds up a SMALL CYLINDER with a BUTTON on top (the TRIGGER).

ROGUE  
It's deadlocked. Can't turn it off until it's charged, and when it's charged... I press send!

THE DOCTOR  
(of the sonic)  
Yeah well, my gadget can do more things than your gadget.

ROGUE

You're not scaring me, the ship  
would've registered that as a  
dangerous device.

(checks controls)

Instead it says: screwdriver.  
Which isn't going to save your  
life. Unless you're going to  
screw...

'...me,' no, stops himself. Oops. Pause.

THE DOCTOR & ROGUE

No.

On the SONIC, the Doctor unfolds the MAGNIFYING GLASS.

THE DOCTOR

But this thing does all sorts...

He peers through, seeing, across the room, a set of role-playing game dice(A d20, d12, d10, d%, d8, d6 and d4).

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Aha. Did you get your name from  
Dungeons and Dragons?

Rogue FLASHES a quick smile.

ROGUE

Roll for insight.

THE DOCTOR

Sorry, was that the tiniest smile  
from the most serious man in  
history?

(looks at the sonic)  
And it says you're wired for sound.

He holds up the SONIC, WHIRRS.

Kylie Minogue's "Can't Get You Out My Head" starts to PLAY LOUDLY around the ship. Rogue looks HORRIBLY EMBARRASSED.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Okay, that IS a surprise. Love  
this! Oh man. Classic.

Rogue all CLUMSY now, RACES to a CONSOLE, switches it OFF.

The Doctor WHIRRS, turns it on again.

Rogue hits the button, it doesn't work, he has to RUN to another set of controls, presses a BUTTON, turns it off.

The Doctor WHIRRS, on again.

Rogue, button doesn't work, RUNS, third BUTTON, clicks off.

The Doctor WHIRRS, on AGAIN!

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
I'm just standing still, baby!

Rogue marches up to him.

ROGUE  
Give me that device!

Rogue snatches the SONIC, music OFF.

ROGUE (CONT'D)  
Have your fun Doctor, you've got  
very little time left.

THE DOCTOR  
Rogue. Listen to me. You've got the  
wrong man. And I can prove it. This  
authenticates me as non-Chuldur.

And the Doctor holds up THE PSYCHIC PAPER.

Rogue steps forward, to inspect it.

ROGUE  
It says... 'You're hot.'

THE DOCTOR  
(oops, embarrassed, slaps  
the paper)  
Does it?! No, it's, broken, sorry -

ROGUE  
(loving it)  
Is that I'm hot, or you're hot?

THE DOCTOR  
No, it's just, um -

ROGUE  
Who's hot, Doctor? Cos you're not.

THE DOCTOR  
It means. The temperature.

ROGUE  
Suits you, flustered, it's a good  
look, you should try it more often.

THE DOCTOR  
Says the man about to kill me.

ROGUE  
Gotta do my job. And just to  
confirm, for the paperwork...

Rogue goes to a rectangular metal MACHINE, attached to the counter; the SCANNER. He presses CONTROLS, focusing it.

ROGUE (CONT'D)  
This job is so much paperwork, ever  
since we got that new Boss, it's  
all file this and categorise that..

A blue-light PROJECTS from it onto the Doctor's body. PING!

ROGUE (CONT'D)  
Deep Scan confirmed, shape-shifter.

And in the AIR, a COMPUTER VOICE:

COUNTDOWN  
Transport Gate charge completing.  
Press SEND in 10 vexils.

And DURING THE BELOW: a beam of WHITE LIGHT starts moving along the floor from one piece of the trap to the next...

Rogue holds up the TRIGGER device again, his THUMB poised above the BUTTON, loving it.

ROGUE  
I'm just so trigger-happy.

THE DOCTOR  
How long does a vexil last?

COUNTDOWN  
Nine.

THE DOCTOR  
Oh, that long.

ROGUE  
Nice knowing you, Doc.

COUNTDOWN  
Eight.

The Doctor more serious now, intense, fast:

THE DOCTOR

Rogue, I'm telling you, you've got  
the wrong man -

(seven)

- and if you kill me, you'll leave  
a Chuldur out there -

(six)

- on 19th Century Earth, never mind  
me, think of the havoc it could do -

(five)

- and if I've only got five vexils  
left, then I beg of you -

(four)

Look!

And the THROWS the PSYCHIC PAPER -

- the WALLET WHIPS across the room, whoosh whoosh whoosh -

COUNTDOWN

Three.

- it HITS the SCANNER -

- the scanner LIGHTS UP, casts its BLUE BEAM -

COUNTDOWN (CONT'D)

Two

- the WHITE LIGHTS closing the TRIANGLE -

- the LIGHTS in the room GO DOWN, the Doctor lit in BLUE -

COUNTDOWN (CONT'D)

One.

- and Rogue STARES. Wide-eyed.

COUNTDOWN (CONT'D)

Activate. Activate. Activate.

Rogue's thumb over the button. But... he LOWERS THE TRIGGER.

Staring, seeing...

Lit by the scanner, on the Doctor's face: different faces of  
the Doctor appear on top of our current Doctor's face.

Rogue, watches amazed. Who is this person?

The Doctor looks back at Rogue. As IMAGES OF HIS PAST SELVES  
now FLICKER AROUND his head. Revealing his true heart, his  
age, his power, his strength, at his most SUPREME:

THE DOCTOR

I'm not a Chuldur. I am something  
much older and far more powerful.  
I am a Lord of Time from the lost  
and fallen Planet of Gallifrey.  
Now let me go, Bounty Hunter. We  
have work to do.

Pause...

ROGUE

...WOW.

CUT TO:

16 OMITTED

16

17 INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

17

RUBY and EMILY giggling, best mates, as they run in, HUSHED.

EMILY BECKETT  
We can't keep hiding!

RUBY

We can! They all want to find you a  
husband downstairs, but you don't  
have to do anything!

EMILY BECKETT  
Oh you are revolutionary.

RUBY

I mean it, you can do what you  
like. Without Lord Barton. What  
d'you want to do with your life?

Emily SIGHS.

EMILY BECKETT  
I'll marry someone lesser. And  
smaller. There may not be love. But  
perhaps, a kindly smile at dinner.  
And then a shared grave.

RUBY

You mean... till death?!

Emily turns away, embarrassed.

EMILY BECKETT  
What choice do I have?

RUBY

Oh! So much more. Emily. This life might seem small, but let me tell you, there are... horizons out there, there are adventures, there are mountains to be climbed.

Emily bursts into tears.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Hey, all right, when I say mountains, they're not real mountains, it was like a metaphor. Unless you go skiing. Have you got skiing, has that been invented?

EMILY BECKETT

No. That!

And she POINTS, horrified.

Ruby moves closer, to find, in the corner...

The WITHERED body of the HOUSEKEEPER.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. MANOR GROUNDS - NIGHT

18

THE DOCTOR with the TRAP, arriving at the Tardis, with ROGUE.

THE DOCTOR

Ready for this?

ROGUE

It's not my first shed.

The Doctor holds the door open for Rogue as he steps inside.

THE DOCTOR

(singing)

Come with me, and you'll be, in a world of pure imagination.

CUT TO:

19 INT. TARDIS - NIGHT

19

THE DOCTOR

(singing)

Take a look and you'll see, into your imagination.

ROGUE looks around in awe.

ROGUE  
I'm in LOVE!

The Doctor raises an eyebrow.

ROGUE (CONT'D)  
Er - with this machine!

As they walk to the console:

ROGUE (CONT'D)  
Dimensionally transcendental. And  
so clean!

THE DOCTOR  
Yes, the things you don't recognise  
are surfaces. Man, you make me  
sound boring.

The Doctor puts the TRAP on the console to work on it, but...

The Tardis makes a sinister GROAN, as in Special 2 & Ep.2.

ROGUE  
What was that?

THE DOCTOR  
Nothing. Indigestion.  
(taps the console)  
She gets upset by bounty hunters.  
The moral void. No offence.

And he plugs a WIRE from the console into the trap, as Rogue looks round in amazement.

ROGUE  
And this. Is from the ancient and  
fallen world of Gallifrey. Where  
the hell is that?

THE DOCTOR  
I might take you one day.  
(the trap bleeps)  
Alright! Just a few minutes and it  
will no longer be a death trap.  
You're welcome.

ROGUE  
Why, what does it do now?

THE DOCTOR

Whatever that Chuldur has done, I can't let you kill it. I also can't let it kill others. So, instead we'll transport it to a random, barren dimension. No-one to hurt, and no way back.

Rogue heading back to the Doctor, as the Doctor turns to him:

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Who did you lose?

ROGUE

What?

THE DOCTOR

You lost someone.

ROGUE

How d'you know that?

THE DOCTOR

Because I know.

Rogue, defences down, honest for the first time.

ROGUE

There was... yeah. We travelled together. We had... fun, y'know? And then a day came along. And by the end of that day... I lost them.

(pause)

What about you?

THE DOCTOR

I lost everyone.

ROGUE

At the party. I saw you with that woman.

THE DOCTOR

My best friend. And she is the light of my life.

ROGUE

D'you ever wonder? Why keep going?

THE DOCTOR

Because we have to. We have to live each day because they can't.

(pause; smiles)

(MORE)

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

You don't have to stay a bounty  
hunter. You could travel with me.  
Oh, the worlds I could show you.

ROGUE

What if I like what I do? Would you  
travel with me?

The Doctor SMILES, considering.

THE DOCTOR

Well, that's quite an argument.  
Tell you what. When we get out of  
this, let's argue across the stars.

ROGUE

I'd like that.

Rogue and The Doctor are standing close, so close that they  
almost could... PING! The trap on the console chimes.

THE DOCTOR

The trap! Is ready!

Rogue picks up the TRAP, puts it in a bag and slings it over  
his shoulder. The Doctor picks up the TRIGGER DEVICE.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Now let's go save that party!

CUT TO:

20

INT. BALLROOM - NIGHT

20

RUBY and EMILY push past GUESTS, rushing towards...

THE DOCTOR and ROGUE, just arriving in the ballroom. They all  
rush to each other, and meet, low & intense as GUESTS pass to  
and fro, and all the time, all of them aware of...

ACROSS THE ROOM: THE DUCHESS, with LORD BARTON, laughing,  
chatting to guest who pass by, absolutely in her element

RUBY

Doctor, there's a body  
upstairs, it's been drained,  
someone or something killed  
her.

DOCTOR

Ruby, there's an alien shape-  
shifter killing people!  
Disguised as the Duchess...  
oh you know.

ROGUE

Should we be telling humans?

THE DOCTOR  
(explains to all)  
Ruby, 2024, Rogue, outer-space-  
bounty-hunter, nice lady -

EMILY BECKETT  
- Emily -

THE DOCTOR  
- Emily, 1813, Duchess, shape-  
shifting Chuldur, okay?

EMILY BECKETT  
I know the word okay!

RUBY  
But what does anyone get out of  
murdering this lot? They might be  
posh nobs and all that, but we  
found the housekeeper. Dead. Why  
would anyone do that?

The Doctor looks at the DANCE. Shifts to a realisation.

THE DOCTOR  
The dance. The drama. The emotion.  
Ohh man, it's cosplay! All of this!  
The Chuldur is cosplaying!  
(to Rogue)  
You said, a Chuldur comes to a  
planet, tries on people like  
outfits, all for the fun of it!  
Exactly like cosplay!

RUBY  
D'you mean it's... literally  
playing at Bridgerton?

THE DOCTOR  
Could be. Those TV signals beam out  
across the stars.

EMILY BECKETT  
What are these... tee vee signals?

The musicians start a TANGO. The Doctor getting an idea...

THE DOCTOR  
No time. We need to get the Duchess  
outside, on her own, and if there's  
one thing that attracts her, it's  
scandal and outrage and plot  
twists, so come on, Rogue -  
(MORE)

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
(holds out his hand)  
Shall we?

And the Doctor and Rogue leads Rogue to the dance:

ROGUE  
I don't see how us dancing will  
create a scene.

THE DOCTOR  
Then you should have researched  
this era more. We are scandalous!

THE DOCTOR and ROGUE walk to the dance floor as a TANGO starts a second verse. People start to turn and WHISPER. But Rogue and the Doctor focus on each other. Their hands touch as they dance in the candlelight. They do look good doing it.

RUBY & EMILY watching the Duchess.

The DUCHESS and LORD BARTON watch, amazed.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
Quite the sight.

In the crowd, MISS TALBOT with FRIENDS, shocked, delighted.

MISS TALBOT  
Oh my ladies. This is shocking.  
This is astonishing. This is...  
(but then...)  
Ooh it's rather lovely.

But for a moment, for the Doctor and Rogue, the world around them falls away, this is just about them as they both let their guards down.

Circling each other, dancing, staring...

And then, the Doctor snaps out of it, remembers.

THE DOCTOR  
We need to make more of a scene.

ROGUE  
That's not my kind of thing. I  
watch from the shadows.

THE DOCTOR  
No, we need a big fight so I can  
storm off alone and draw her to me.

ROGUE  
The Chuldur cosplays, not me.

THE DOCTOR

This is the wrong time to be strong  
and silent and...  
(damn it)  
...so attractive.

And the Doctor suddenly pulls away from Rogue, GASPS LOUDLY.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

How dare you, my Lord!

Rogue looks nervous. The MUSICIANS stop. Silence.

The Duchess watching, loving it.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

Oh, this is new.

Miss Talbot is sad.

MISS TALBOT

I liked it when they were happy and  
carefree and gay.

The Doctor aware of EVERYONE WATCHING, a performance:

THE DOCTOR

You would ask me to give up my  
title, my fortune. But what future  
can you promise me?

ROGUE

I'm... Uh... I'm...

THE DOCTOR

(under his breath)

Say anything.

ROGUE

Um.

THE DOCTOR

(out loud)

You cad! Now tell me what your  
heart wants, or I shall turn my  
back on you, forever!

The Doctor turns his back on him!

ROGUE

WAIT!

Rogue steps forwards. The crowd GASP.

ROGUE (CONT'D)  
I just can't... I mean.

The Doctor turns back round, slowly. Rogue takes a DEEP BREATH, steadyng himself.

ROGUE (CONT'D)  
I just can't get you out of my head. Boy, your loving is all I think about.

The Doctor turns back, smiling. He clocks it but unknown to the crowd, Rogue has started to recite the words to Kylie Minogue's "Can't Get You Out of My Head"

ROGUE (CONT'D)  
I just can't get you out of my head.  
(takes a breath)  
Boy, it's more than I dare to think about.

Rogue pauses as he realises where he's got to in the song.

ROGUE (CONT'D)  
(stated, unsure)  
La, la, la, la, la, la.

The Doctor has to try really hard not to laugh. Rogue glares at him. The Doctor steadies himself and helps.

THE DOCTOR  
There's a dark secret in me. Don't leave me left in your heart. Set me free.

Rogue, getting into it, fully commits to the emotion.

ROGUE  
But every night, every day, just to be there in your arms.

Rogue gets on one knee and takes a gold ring off his finger. He looks INTENSELY into the Doctor's eyes as he proposes.

ROGUE (CONT'D)  
Won't you stay? Stay forever and ever? With me.

The Doctor is genuinely a little flustered as he takes the ring off Rogue. He is better at this than he expected.

EVERYONE in the hall is looking at them now. It worked.

THE DOCTOR  
Sorry. I can't.

The Doctor pockets the ring then walks DRAMATICALLY out of the ballroom. Then Rogue RUNS AFTER HIM.

The Duchess to Lord Barton:

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
Oh we must play them!

LORD BARTON  
Intercept! You go that way!

Lord Barton hurries ONE WAY, the Duchess the OTHER -

Emily watching -

EMILY BECKETT  
Lord Barton, we must warn him - !

She RUNS to FOLLOW HIM.

Ruby RUNS to FOLLOW Emily.

RUBY  
- no, Emily, don't - !

ACROSS THE ROOM, MISS TALBOT seeing THE DOCTOR & ROGUE leave -

MISS TALBOT  
I must see the denouement!

She RUNS in the same direction as the Duchess, Doctor, Rogue -

BUTLER  
I will assist you, ma'am - !

And HE runs in the same direction as Miss Talbot, Duchess -

CUT TO:

21	OMITTED	21
21A	OMITTED	21A
21B	OMITTED	21B
21C	OMITTED	21C

22 OMITTED 22

23 INT. GRAND STAIRCASE - NIGHT 23

THE DOCTOR and ROGUE run out -

CUT TO:

23A OMITTED 23A

23B OMITTED 23B

23C INT. BALLROOM, DOORWAY TO MANOR PATIO - NIGHT 23C

LORD BARTON running out of the DOORWAY -

Behind him, EMILY, then RUBY, race to catch up -

CUT TO:

23D EXT. MANOR PATIO - NIGHT 23D

On the other side, Lord Barton emerges in CHULDUR FORM, as he SHRIEKS his BIRD CALL into the night.

CUT TO:

23E INT. BALLROOM, DOORWAY TO MANOR PATIO - NIGHT 23E

EMILY watches from the other side of the window horrified, seeing Barton's true form. RUBY catches up with her.

EMILY BECKETT  
But. What?! By the Lord!

RUBY  
It's him! Not the Duchess -

EMILY BECKETT  
What is he? How can you even talk like this? Who are you?!

Emily FLEES back into the house -

CUT TO:

24

EXT. MANOR GARDENS - NIGHT

24

ROGUE giving THE DOCTOR a briefing:

ROGUE

Now keep the Duchess talking. A Chuldur is strong and if she starts to change you, it won't stop.

The Doctor turns and his face drops.

THE DOCTOR

Quick question. How many does this trap hold?

ROGUE

One.

THE DOCTOR

Because there's only one Chuldur, yeah?

Rogue looks round and sees what the Doctor sees --

The DUCHESS, MISS TALBOT and the BUTLER. All TRANSFORMING into their CHULDUR forms, with bird-like talons and heads.

And now LORD BARTON, Chuldur-form, RUNS IN from the side, to join them, so they all STRIDE ALONG TOGETHER. Hunting!

They look EXCITED.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

I want to be the Doctor. Who wants to fight for the other one?

ALL THE CHULDUR

(savage, gleeful)

Me, me, me, me, me!

Rogue horrified, realising:

ROGUE

It's a Chuldur *family*.

(grabs the Doctor's hand)

RUN!

THE DOCTOR

I'm the one who says tha - !

- *whup - !*, the Doctor yanked along -

THE DOCTOR &amp; ROGUE run, HAND-IN-HAND. Iconic image: two men, in 1813, running together, wild, exhilarated.

They RUN into a walled garden with hedges boxing them in.

Behind them, we hear the sounds of LAUGHING and FOOTSTEPS as the Chuldur approach.

Both frantically look for an exit as-

MISS TALBOT  
Boo!

Miss Talbot, a distance away, has spotted them.

MISS TALBOT (CONT'D)  
FOUND THEM!

Behind them are MULTIPLE SHRILL CRIES of excited Chuldur.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON (O.S.)  
Gentlemen, we just want some fun!

The Doctor and Rogue RUN down a cobbled archway -

CUT TO:

24A EXT. CARRIAGES AREA - NIGHT

24A

THE DOCTOR and ROGUE run into an AREA containing PARKED CARRIAGES -

CUT TO:

25 EXT. MANOR GARDENS - NIGHT

25

THE DUCHESS, LORD BARTON, the BUTLER and MISS TALBOT, hurrying along, loving the chase.

MISS TALBOT  
This way, this way, this way!

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
I will have such fun as a Doctor!  
Breaking spines. Removing tonsils.  
Live vivisection!

They both arrive at the end of the cobbled archway.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON (CONT'D)  
Now find them! I want a new look!

The Chuldur start to fan out.

CUT TO:

26 EXT. CARRIAGES AREA - NIGHT

26

MISS TALBOT runs into the AREA CONTAINING CARRIAGES.

She looks at a CARRIAGE. Its CURTAINS DRAWN. Surely..?

Yes...

She creeps closer, closer, tip-toe, cat-and-mouse...

Reaches the carriage, WHIPS the DOOR OPEN -

Empty!

MISS TALBOT

Ugh! Where are they? It's not like  
they can fly.

She steps back, and there's THE DUCHESS, LORD BARTON, and the BUTLER approaching.

MISS TALBOT (CONT'D)

Any luck?

LORD BARTON

The stables are empty.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

Back to the house! We must advance  
with the wedding!

They stalk away, and back at the CARRIAGE...

CUT TO:

26A INT. CARRIAGE - CONTINUOUS

26A

Back inside the final carriage, the Doctor and Rogue are both wedged UP INSIDE THE ROOF.

Leaning against each other, to hold the other up. Heads close together. Smiling at each other.

THE DOCTOR

She said, wedding.

ROGUE

But four of them. We've only got a  
trap for one. What do we do?!

CUT TO:

26B EXT. CARRIAGES AREA - MOMENTS LATER

26B

BUMP! They hit the floor and THE DOCTOR and ROGUE exit the carriage, the Doctor SONICKING the TRAP, concentrating hard.

THE DOCTOR  
With a little bit of zizz....

ROGUE  
Zizz?

THE DOCTOR  
Technical term. I can make this  
Transport Gate carry four.

ROGUE  
There might be others.

THE DOCTOR  
(whirrs, click)  
Right. Six. Maximum. Problem is,  
too much weight. Now it can only  
work once. We've got one try at  
this, Rogue. Just one. We've got to  
get it right, first time.

CUT TO:

26C OMITTED

26C

27 OMITTED

27

28 OMITTED

28

29 EXT. MANOR PATIO - NIGHT

29

The DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON, LORD BARTON, MISS TALBOT and THE BUTLER arrive back on the patio, still in Chuldur form.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
I warn you, when we start the  
action, these humans beings will  
panic and scream. It will ruin the  
authenticity of the evening.

MISS TALBOT  
I like the panic and screaming bit.  
I can always spot a fainter.

BUTLER

I want to change. I'm sick of being the butler. Not one person has accused me of murder.

MISS TALBOT

I told you, wrong era.

BUTLER

I don't even know what buttling is.

Lord Barton tries to settle them.

LORD BARTON

Family, cousins, please! This is what came for, gossip, romance, scandal. The full Bridgerton experience, seasons one to five plus spin-offs!

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

We still have the big finale wedding to come. And then, London. We can play our games on a magnificent scale! Parliament first and then royalty! I can be King!

LORD BARTON

I can be Queen!

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

And we will start wars with the French and the Spanish and the Portuguese and everyone who doesn't look British. Bloodshed and cannons and gunpowder, oh, we're going to cosplay this planet to death!

CUT TO:

30 OMITTED

30

31 INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

31

RUBY finds EMILY, sobbing, goes to her.

RUBY

I'm sorry, Emily. I know it's hard but trust me. There are scary things out there in the universe but the good things always outnumber them.

EMILY BECKETT

How can you say these things? You  
with your tee vee and your okay...?

RUBY

Look. The truth is. You've seen  
enough... I'm not from your world.  
I come from the future.

Emily stops crying and FANS herself while she considers Ruby.

EMILY BECKETT

You are... truly remarkable. I  
thought I was interesting. A  
bookish little wall-flower, risking  
it all for a secret love.

And now she's becoming SAVAGE. Ruby HORRIFIED. Backs away.

EMILY BECKETT (CONT'D)

But you! You are wild. And brave.  
And rude. And gorgeous! Living a  
life of adventure, from times yet  
to come. Oh, Ruby Sunday -

Emily reaches out a CLAW-LIKE hand and CLASPS Ruby's.

EMILY BECKETT (CONT'D)

- I want to be you!

CUT TO:

31A OMITTED

31A

32 INT. GRAND STAIRCASE - NIGHT

32

We push-through the crowd of GUESTS, their smiling faces  
turning to horror and GASPS as -

In marches the DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON, in her Chuldur-form.  
Behind her are MISS TALBOT and THE BUTLER, also full Chuldur.

The MUSICIANS abruptly stop playing as the Duchess takes  
centre-stage to address the shocked crowd.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

Attention, s'il-vous plait, merci,  
wilkommen and bienvenue, c'est moi!  
Come now, loves, a party isn't a  
party without a costume change and  
don't I look *fabulous*!

A SCARED GUEST faints. Miss Talbot leans in to the Butler.

MISS TALBOT  
See. There's always a fainter.

CUT TO:

33 INT. GRAND STAIRCASE BALCONY - NIGHT

33

CLOSE on the DOCTOR & ROGUE hidden, watching below.

THE DOCTOR  
Any sign of Ruby?

ROGUE  
Not seen her. They've locked the doors. This is the endgame.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
Silence!

CUT TO:

33A INT. GRAND STAIRCASE/GRAND STAIRCASE BALCONY - CONTINUOUS 33A

THE DUCHESS presiding over all, GUESTS terrified.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
Darlings, now it is time for the season finale. And what could be better than... a wedding! And here they are! Bride and groom!

There is movement from the back of the crowd, several of the GUESTS part to reveal: LORD BARTON walking forward and holding his hand out -- which is taken by RUBY!

Only she doesn't look like our Ruby anymore. She FANS herself with Emily's fan and mannerisms, delighted by the engagement.

GRAND STAIRCASE BALCONY: the Doctor watches HORRIFIED. Rogue sees his face and knows what has happened.

ROGUE  
I'm sorry.

THE DOCTOR  
They got her.

On the Doctor.

The horror.

Closer. Closer.

A voice in the nothing... it's Carla.

CARLA (O.S.)  
Doctor.

A bright light like SUNLIGHT shines on the Doctor's face.

CUT TO:

33B INT. RUBY & CARLA'S FLAT, KITCHEN - MORNING

33B

We're in a memory. The SUNLIGHT BEAMING through the window into Carla and Ruby's kitchen. The Doctor is sat at the table with Carla, cups of tea in front of them, as a BLUR of RUBY rushes past, packing a suitcase.

RUBY (O.S.)  
I'll just be a minute!

CARLA  
Doctor, look, you know I can't stop her and I wouldn't want to do that.

The sound of a CLATTERING in the room next door.

CARLA (CONT'D)  
And if there's anyone who deserves to see it all, feel it all, it's Ruby but I'm still her mum. It's hard.

The Doctor looks at her empathetically.

CARLA (CONT'D)  
I just... I need to know, she'll be okay? You'll keep her safe?

The Doctor takes Carla's hand gives it a little squeeze

THE DOCTOR  
I'll keep her safe. I promise.

Off Carla's concerned face to...

CUT TO:

33C INT. GRAND STAIRCASE/GRAND STAIRCASE BALCONY - NIGHT

33C

THE DOCTOR startled out of his MEMORY. Staring at...

DOWN BELOW, THE DUCHESS in her element:

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
Every wedding needs a vicar, step  
forward, sir! We must do these  
things legally.

MR PRICE, the VICAR, is SHOVED forward by the BUTLER.

MR PRICE  
Madam. Your Grace. Your...  
Birdiness. I'm sorry. But this  
flies in the face of all my  
teachings. I cannot sanction  
wedlock. For creatures from hell.

BUTLER  
Oh, I get to murder after all!

The BUTLER's hands reach out and GRIP Mr Price's face. He lets out A HIGH-PITCHED TRILL.

The CROWD start to PANIC as MR PRICE starts to wither in the Butler's grasp until--THUD!

The body of Mr Price hits the floor. The Butler has the SAME CHULDUR FACE, but now in the VICAR'S CLOTHES.

He turns to the CROWD, a victorious SQUAWK!

People in the crowd FLINCH and SCREAM!

CUT TO:

34

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

34

THE DOCTOR staggers out into the corridor, with ROGUE. Desperate. The Doctor pleads with him.

THE DOCTOR  
But. Chuldur. What do they do?  
Maybe they don't always kill? Maybe  
they kept her body alive, maybe  
they've got her, maybe she's safe,  
maybe...

ROGUE  
You've seen the bodies. They kill.  
They can only change by killing.

THE DOCTOR  
Can we reverse it? Is there a way  
of reversing it?

ROGUE  
She's gone, Doctor. I'm sorry. But  
she's gone.

The Doctor NODS, understanding, then turns from Rogue and RAGES. In a terrible SILENCE, in case the Chuldur hear. Full of fury. His grief overtaking his every thought.

Rogue so kind, just waits.

Then he reaches out. Just a hand on the Doctor's shoulder.

The Doctor with his head down. Recovering.

Then, calm, very quiet.

THE DOCTOR  
How long do they live?

ROGUE  
Chuldur? They have a lifespan of  
six hundred years.

THE DOCTOR  
Good.

Then the Doctor looks up. And he is the Lord of Time again, the ancient and the fallen; he is ALL REVENGE.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
That's a long time to suffer.

CUT TO:

35-36 OMITTED

35-36

37 INT. GRAND STAIRCASE - NIGHT

37

The WEDDING MARCH plays as RUBY walks down the aisle, as scared guests stood either side watch on. It's a strange pantomime. The Duchess watching, joyous.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
Splendid. Absolutely splendid.

Miss Talbot dabs her eyes with a handkerchief.

MISS TALBOT  
It should have been me. Oh, it  
should've been me.

WEDDING MARCH stops as Ruby steps onto the altar next to LORD BARTON. BUTLER-as-vicar stands between them. Sly smiles:

LORD BARTON  
I knew we would end up together.

RUBY  
No-one else would put up with you.

BUTLER, AS VICAR  
Dearly beloved, we are gathered  
here today in the sight of unholy,  
whatever, etcetera, praise be,  
holibobs, to witness the marriage  
of Lord Barton to Miss Ruby-

BANG!!! -- The doors of the ballroom EXPLODE inwards.

SCREAMS from the CROWD as the Chuldur turn to see THE DOCTOR walk in, holding his sonic. He STOPS, FACING the Chuldur.

THE DOCTOR  
I OBJECT! Had we reached that bit  
yet? It was hard to hear from out  
there. I object to this wedding and  
to everything you are, Chuldur.

MISS TALBOT  
He knows our name, he said Chuldur!

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
(breathes in deep)  
Ohh yes, taste his inhuman scent...

THE DOCTOR  
Breathe it in deep, baby. Cos I am  
exuding, and I'm one of a kind.

And he's proud; manipulating this to happen, as...

The Duchess goes CENTRE, to the ALTAR, with Lord Barton, Ruby and Butler-as-Vicar, all BREATHING in DEEP.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
That's not human.

LORD BARTON  
He is quite unique.

MISS TALBOT steps forward, joining the others to breathe in deep (NB, so they're all now gathered around the altar).

MISS TALBOT

Oh he's something unknown, that's  
the biggest thrill of all. I want  
to be him, I want, I want!

THE DOCTOR

And I want you. Standing exactly  
there. For this.

And he HOLDS UP...

ONE THIRD of the TRAP.

The Chuldur stare...

...and then laugh.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

How sweet.

LORD BARTON

One third of a Transport Gate.

MISS TALBOT

One third of a trap.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

One third of a brain, Doctor.

THE DOCTOR

Of course, I need the other two  
pieces, I wonder where they are?  
Since you gave away spoilers about  
your ending and ruined the plot...

The Duchess realises...

Looks BEHIND, to the LEFT.

Another THIRD of the TRAP.

All the Chuldur look BEHIND, to the RIGHT.

Another THIRD of the TRAP.

And they TURN TO LOOK BACK at the Doctor -

As he HOLDS UP his THIRD OF THE TRAP. Stares at RUBY. COLD.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

For the desecration of Ruby Sunday.  
You deserve. Only this.

And he THROWS the THIRD down on to the FLOOR in front of them.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
Tri-form, ON!

The TRIANGLE ACTIVATES!

The floor TURNS BLACK! The Chuldur are STUCK TO THE FLOOR.

The GUESTS, seeing the Chuldur trapped, start to RUN out of the hall, leaving only the protagonists. The Chuldur FURIOUS!

MISS TALBOT  
I can't move!

BUTLER, AS VICAR  
I'm a man of God, let me go!

LORD BARTON  
How dare you, sir?!

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
(furious)  
Oh. You. Doctor-creature-thing.  
You will pay for this!

THE DOCTOR  
I don't know when. Cos a Transport  
Gate with four passengers, that  
gives you eighty vexils.

But Ruby's now looking at the Doctor in quiet fear.

RUBY  
Doctor. How long's a vexil?

THE DOCTOR  
Oh, don't pretend.

RUBY  
I'm not. Doctor. It's me.

THE DOCTOR  
Nice try.

RUBY  
My mum's called Carla and my gran's  
called Cherry and it snowed when I  
was born and we met Space Babies  
and I'm really really sorry.

THE DOCTOR  
But. How...?!

RUBY  
I cosplayed.

And on CU Ruby, horrified, FLASHBACK -

CUT TO:

38 INT. LIBRARY - FLASHBACK

38

We're back with EMILY & RUBY earlier.

EMILY BECKETT  
- I want to be you!

And Ruby, terrified...

TAPS HER EARRING, twice.

RUBY  
Battle mode.

SOUNDTRACK: Bridgerton-style, orchestral cover of a pop-hit!

Emily RACES at Ruby, SWIPES a clawed hand at Ruby who BLOCKS it, with almost-NINJA SKILLS, surprised at herself.

Emily STRIKES her claws left and right, SHRIEKING at Ruby who DEFLECTS every attempted hit, in perfect time.

There is a fluid musicality to Ruby's movements. Emily LUNGES and Ruby SPINS out of the way, like swapping partners in a dance. Emily CLANGS into the ladder, breaking it into shards.

And as Emily staggers upright...

Ruby grabs a BIG, HEAVY BOOK, SPINS, and to CAMERA, WHACK!!!

CUT TO:

39 INT. GRAND STAIRCASE - NIGHT

39

EMILY BECKETT  
That's what she did to me!

ALL TURN -

And there's EMILY, coming through the DOORS, FURIOUS. She now has a SQUASHED appearance. Her beak is at a side angle. She CLICKS it back into place, "Death becomes Her" style.

EMILY BECKETT (CONT'D)  
How could you mistake her for me?

LORD BARTON stares at RUBY in amazement.

LORD BARTON  
She has the scent of a Chuldur.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
It's a false scent from that cheap  
psychic jewellery!

But THE DOCTOR IS TRAPPED, Emily behind him, Ruby stuck in front, looking from one to the other - what does he do?!

THE DOCTOR  
But... Ruby...

RUBY  
Doctor, I can't move!

THE DOCTOR  
Tri-form off! Tri-form OFF!

COUNTDOWN  
Fifty vexils and counting.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON  
You won't press send, you're too soft and feeble to dispatch your little blonde friend. And Emily. You have my full permission. Become the Doctor! Cosplay him, now!

Emily lifts up her CLAW and Hisses -

- and there's ROGUE - !
- coming from BEHIND Emily - grabs her, BARRELS her FORWARD -
- past the Doctor, Rogue SHOVES Emily the last few feet -
- and she skitters into the TRAP, her FEET STICK!

ROGUE runs over to the Doctor, calls to the air:

ROGUE  
How long have we got?

COUNTDOWN  
Forty vexils.

And the COUNTDOWN says '39, 38, 37...' throughout, as...

...the beam of WHITE LIGHT starts moving along the floor from pieces of the trap, surrounding the Chuldur and Ruby.

ROGUE

Press the button on zero. We've  
only got one chance.

The Doctor with a terrible dilemma.

THE DOCTOR

I can't.

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON

He's too much of a coward!

ROGUE

Doctor. Press the button.

THE DOCTOR

It'll send Ruby...

Ruby. Staring at him. Helpless.

RUBY

Doctor.

ROGUE

We've only got once chance. If you  
don't send. The Chuldur will  
escape. So Ruby dies anyway.

THE DOCTOR

But...

ROGUE

They'll kill us. Then this house.  
Then London. Then the world.

The Doctor so trapped, breathing hard, Rogue moves closer,  
intense, and yet KIND, making SENSE:

ROGUE (CONT'D)

And you know that. You absolutely  
know it. So can you do it? Can you  
lose your friend to save the world?

And the Doctor has to say...

THE DOCTOR

No.

And Rogue smiles.

ROGUE

I know.

He then SWOOPS the Doctor into his arms, for a kiss. It feels like time slows down as they both hold each other.

It's tender. It's romantic. It's theirs.

Rogue steps back, he reveals he now has the trigger device in his hand. Then... he runs. Fast.

He LEAPS into the TRIANGLE -

YANKS at RUBY, throwing her OUT OF THE TRAP -

- just as the beam reaches its third piece, '5, 4, 3...'

Rogue looks at the Doctor.

ROGUE (CONT'D)

Find me.

And the Duchess can only SCREAM -

DUCHESS OF PEMBERTON	COUNTDOWN
No, no, noooo-!	Two, one, activate.

The Doctor watches as...

A CRACKLE of YELLOW LIGHT arcs from each of the three pieces of the TRAP over the Chuldur. A WHOOSH of ferocious wind as they are SWALLOWED DOWN into the triangle, and then SCHWUP -!

The trap CLICKS and closes in on itself and VANISHES.

The Doctor walks over to the space where the trap had been, the floor is still SMOKING. He looks at the empty stage, sad.

All it took was a second.

CUT TO:

40

EXT. MANOR PATIO - EARLY MORNING

40

The Doctor, deep in thought, sits on the steps next to Ruby. The sun is now rising and WASHES everything in BLUE LIGHT. The Doctor just pressing the SONIC, which bleep-bleep-bleeps.

THE DOCTOR  
Just sending his ship into orbit.  
Around the moon. So it can wait.  
For as long as it takes.

RUBY  
But can't we use the Tardis? Go and find him?

THE DOCTOR

There are as many dimensions as  
there are atoms in the universe.

(pause, quiet)

I don't even know his real name.

Ruby leans in.

RUBY

I'm sorry.

But he won't take it, moves away, brisk, fine, happy.

THE DOCTOR

Anyway! It is what is it is, so  
onwards, fine, next, off we go,  
where shall we go? Anywhere!

RUBY

Doctor. You don't have to be like  
this -

THE DOCTOR

I have to be like this because this  
is what I'm like. Onwards. Upwards.  
Horizons. Keep on moving -

RUBY

- okay, just shut up for a bit.

And she goes into the MOST FIERCE HUG. HOLD on them. Needing  
this so much. Then they separate. The Doctor calm, so kind.

THE DOCTOR

It's good to have you back.

RUBY

And you, Doctor.

Ruby smiles at him then goes ahead, down the steps.

We stay with The Doctor, still deep in thought, as he takes  
in the morning. Then he feels it, something in his pocket.

He pulls out the small gold ring he took off Rogue on the  
dance floor earlier. He smiles looking at it, letting it roll  
through his fingers.

Then...

He pops it on his finger. It looks good. He smiles at it  
sadly. A little piece of Rogue to go with him.

END OF EPISODE.