

DOCTOR WHO 4

Episode 10

By

Russell T Davies

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1 EXT. FX SHOT 1

FX: DMP, alien world. A rocky plain, black starry sky. But the rocks are jagged diamonds; the sun a fierce star. Standing proud on the landscape, a city of INTERCONNECTED GLASS BUBBLES, rising upwards; the LEISURE PALACE.

CUT TO:

2 INT. LEISURE PALACE SPA - DAY 2

Pool, pillars, luxury. DONNA's on a sunlounger, in a posh-hotel-type fluffy white robe. SMART WAITER brings her a PHONE on a tray. She takes it:

DONNA

I said, no.

SCENE CONTINUES INTERCUT WITH SC.3

CUT TO:

3 INT. BOARDING DEPOT - DAY 3

CLOSE ON THE DOCTOR on a wall-phone. All around him, dark, grimy concrete and smoke.

THE DOCTOR

A sapphire waterfall! A waterfall, made of sapphires! This enormous jewel, the size of a glacier, reaches the Cliffs of Oblivion, and then shatters into sapphires at the edge, they fall a hundred thousand feet into a crystal ravine.

DONNA

Bet you say that to all the girls.

THE DOCTOR

Oh come on, they're boarding now.

Two women (the HOSTESS & SKY) walk behind the Doctor -

FX: DMP WIDE SHOT. A big BUS-TRUCK, 'Crusader 50,' parked in an industrial garage. It's a solid, chunky tank, like the Mobiles in U.F.O., but twice the size; caterpillar treads, big headlights. Hostess & Sky walking across a gantry to get in, THE DOCTOR at the far end of the gantry, on a concrete loading bay, on the wall-phone.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

It's no fun if I see it on my own! Four hours, that's all it takes.

DONNA

No, that's four hours there and four hours back, it's like a school trip. I'd rather go sunbathing!

THE DOCTOR

You be careful. That's X-tonic sunlight.

DONNA

Oh, I'm safe. It says in the brochure, this glass is fifteen feet thick.

FX: WIDE SHOT FOYER, Donna on her sunlounger in front of the massive curve of a glass bubble; shafts of sunlight.

THE DOCTOR

All right, I give up. I'll be back for dinner, we'll try that antigravity restaurant. With bibs.

DONNA

That's a date. Well, not a date. You know what I mean, get off!

THE DOCTOR

See you later -

DONNA

Oy! And you be careful, all right?

THE DOCTOR

Naaah. Taking a big space truck with a bunch of strangers across a diamond planet called Midnight... what could possibly go wrong?!

And as he hangs up, with a smile, steps out of frame -

CUT TO TITLES

CUT TO:

4 INT. CRUSADER FIFTY - DAY

4

THE INTERIOR of the Crusader 50: a passenger-vehicle, with elements of smartness and comfort, but really, it's more of a tough explorer vehicle - basically a big, rectangular box, all rivetted, studded metal.

(CONTINUED)

4

CONTINUED:

4

Left-to-right: two seats, then aisle, then two more seats. This repeating back for two rows, then with another central aisle bisecting across, then two more rows going back. The tough-metal, sliding ENTRANCE DOOR is centre of the right-hand-wall, a couple of steps leading down.

At the back: the HOSTESS AREA, a little kitchen to one side, plus TOILETS. Back wall: a solid EMERGENCY DOOR.

Other end, front wall: a bigger, more airlock-type door, leading through to the DRIVER'S CABIN.

WINDOWS all along right and left-hand walls; murky glass, just the darkness of the garage outside.

THE DOCTOR in his seat, towards the front, left, all smiles.

The HOSTESS, on duty in the aisle. Beautiful, professional, a bit too sharp, smart uniform.

Just getting into two seats behind the Doctor: PROFESSOR HOBBS, late 50s, a bit shambolic, glasses, all enthusiasm. And his Plain Jane assistant, DEE DEE BLASCO, 20s, shy.

Just walking down the steps: BIFF CANE & VAL CANE - 40s, a nice, smiling couple, classic holidaymakers, and their 18 y/o son, JETHRO, bit of a Goth, sullen, moping. They find seats in the back half, right hand side.

At the front-right: SKY SILVESTRY, 40s, a businesswoman, in a suit. Strong, but quiet, alone, withdrawn.

HOSTESS bombarding the Doctor with plastic packets -

HOSTESS

- that's the headphones for Channels 1 to 36, modem link for 3D vidgames, complimentary earplugs, complimentary slippers, complimentary juicepack, and complimentary peanuts, I must warn you that some products may contain nuts.

THE DOCTOR

That'll be the peanuts.

HOSTESS

Enjoy your trip.

THE DOCTOR

Oh, I can't wait! Allons-y!

(CONTINUED)

4

CONTINUED: (2)

4

HOSTESS

I'm sorry..?

THE DOCTOR

It's French, for let's go!

HOSTESS

Fascinating.

A frosty smile, she moves on to bombard the Professor -

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

That's the headphones for -

PROFESSOR HOBBS

No thank you! Not for us!

Hostess moves off to the Cane family; stay on the Professor & Dee Dee, settling in with bags, etc, the Doctor listening:

PROFESSOR HOBBS (CONT'D)

...they call it a sapphire waterfall,
it's no such thing, sapphire's an
aluminium oxide, but the glacier's just
a compound silica with iron
pigmentation, have you got that pillow
for my neck?

DEE DEE

Yes sir.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

And my pills?

DEE DEE

All measured out, there you go.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

(leans over seats)

Hobbs! Professor Winfold Hobbs!

THE DOCTOR

I'm the Doctor, hello!

PROFESSOR HOBBS

It's my fourteenth time!

THE DOCTOR

Oh! My first.

DEE DEE

And I'm Dee Dee, Dee Dee Blasco -

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (3)

4

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Now don't bother the man, where's my
water bottle..?

Prof & Dee Dee settle, the Doctor catches Sky's eye,
smiles. She's not a smiler, gets back to her book.

Mrs Cane's calling across to Jethro, who's sitting apart,
on his own towards the back, left-hand-side.

VAL CANE

Now don't be silly, come and sit with
us. Look! We get slippers!

BIFF CANE

Jethro! Do what your mother says.

JETHRO

I'm sitting here.

BIFF CANE

Oh, he's ashamed of us. But he doesn't
mind us paying, does he?

VAL CANE

Don't start, you two. Should I save the
juicepack or have it now? Look, it's
peach and clementine!

Hostess now back at the front, giving her spiel.
Intercut with everyone; the Doctor, Dee Dee & the Canes
loving it, Jethro bored, the Professor dismissive, Sky
ignoring it.

HOSTESS

Ladies and gentlemen and variations
thereupon, welcome on board the Crusader
Fifty, if you could fasten your
seatbelts -
(they do so)
- we'll be leaving any moment. Doors!

And the ENTRANCE DOOR slams shut, *CHUNK!*

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

Shields down!

Thrummmmm.... METAL SHUTTERS descend over all the
windows. They're now completely sealed in a box.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (4)

4

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

I'm afraid the view is shielded until we reach the Waterfall Palace - as you know, the planet Midnight orbits an X-tonic star, which has fused the planet's surface into solid diamonds. Can't risk a little sunburn! And a reminder that Midnight has no air, so please don't touch the exterior door seals. The fire exit is at the rear, though, should we ever need to use it... You first. Ha ha. Now I'll hand you over to Driver Joe...

Over the intercom:

DRIVER JOE OOV

Driver Joe at the wheel, hello! There's been a diamondfall at the Winter Witch Canyon, so we'll be taking a slight detour, as you'll see on the map.

On the front wall, PLASMA SCREENS, one either side of the the CREW CABIN DOOR. Now lighting up with:

GRAPHICS: a simple representation of the CRUSADER 50, and its path, with arrows, over jagged contours. Hostess points out details, like air hostesses do.

DRIVER JOE OOV (CONT'D)

The journey covers 500 klicks to the Multifaceted Coast, duration is estimated at four hours. Thank you for travelling with us, and as they used to say in the olden days... Wagons roll!

Rumble, slight CAMERA SHAKE, and they're moving; continue this movement until p.10. Hostess takes over again:

HOSTESS

For your entertainment, we have the Music Channel playing retrovids of Earth Classics -

On the DOCTOR, as a TV SCREEN slides down in front of him - it's playing a VIDEO (or TOTP footage), Raffaella Carra, 'Do It, Do It Again'. 70s Italian pop!

And the screens-on-arms have come down in front of everyone.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (5)

4

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

Also, we have the latest Artistic
Installations from Ludovic Klein -

PROJECTIONS on left & right walls; simple oil wheels, all
moving blob-shapes. The projection spilling across
faces.

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

Plus, for the youngsters, a rare treat
from the Animation Archives -

She pulls down a BIG WHITE SCREEN from the roof, in front
of the CREW CABIN DOOR. PROJECTED on to it: those odd
1940's cartoons - Betty Boop.

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

Four hours of funtime! Enjoy!

She walks to the back.

It's now a BOX OF NOISE & COLOUR. The pop song, the oil
wheel, comedy boings from the cartoon. The Doctor in
sensory overload! Dee Dee handing the Professor ear
plugs. Val with headphones on, trying to hear Biff,
'What? What did you say?,' Jethro even more sullen.

The Doctor catches a look from Sky. She rolls her eyes.

The Doctor gets out his sonic.

Discreet little whirr.

All the entertainments snap off.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Well that's a mercy!

As Hostess runs forward - a little nod from Sky to the
Doctor, a thank you.

HOSTESS

I do apologise, ladies and gentlemen and
variations thereupon. We seem to have
had a failure of the Entertainment
System...

VAL CANE

But what do we do?!

BIFF CANE

We've got four hours of this! Four
hours of just sitting here!

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (6) 4

The Doctor pops his head up, over the seat, to all:

THE DOCTOR
Tell you what! We'll have to talk to
each other instead! How about that,
then? Eh?

And on his smile, FADE TO BLACK.

Bring up GRAPHIC, lower left hand screen:

98 KLIKS LATER.

FADE UP...

5 INT. CRUSADER FIFTY - LATER 5

Less formal, now, THE DOCTOR, PROFESSOR HOBBS, DEE DEE, BIFF & VAL have moved to new seats, more-or-less in a circle at the central aisle crossroads, chatting, BIFF & VAL holding court. JETHRO sits a bit apart, HOSTESS at the back, bored. SKY stays front, reading. Mid-anecdote:

VAL CANE
- so Biff said, I'm going swimming -

BIFF CANE
Oh, I was all ready, trunks and
everything! Nose plug!

VAL CANE
He had this little nose plug, you
should've seen him -

BIFF CANE
So I went marching up to the lifeguard,
and he was a Shamboni, you know, those
big foreheads? -

VAL CANE
- great big forehead! -

BIFF CANE
- and I said, where's the pool? And he
said -

VAL & BIFF
'The pool... is abstract!'

The Doctor, Prof, Dee Dee, Biff, Val, hooting! Hostess too, a little. Even a grudging smile from Jethro.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

VAL CANE
It wasn't a real pool!

BIFF CANE
It was a concept!

VAL CANE
It wasn't real!

THE DOCTOR
And you had a nose plug!

BIFF CANE
(mimes nose plug)
I was like this!

WIDE SHOT, the laughter.

FADE TO BLACK.

Bring up GRAPHIC: *150 KLIKS LATER.*

FADE UP...

5A INT. CRUSADER FIFTY - LATER

5A

THE DOCTOR & DEE DEE at the back of the cabin, making themselves Max-pax-type coffees. Everyone else in b/g dotted about in their seats, the HOSTESS taking orders.

DEE DEE
...I'm just a second-year student, but I wrote a paper on the Lost Moon of Poosh. Professor Hobbes read it, and he liked it, so he took me on as a researcher. Just for the holidays. Well, I say researcher, most of the time he's got me fetching and carrying. But it's all good experience!

THE DOCTOR
And did they ever find it?

DEE DEE
Find what?

THE DOCTOR
The Lost Moon of Poosh!

DEE DEE
(laughs)
No! Not yet!

(CONTINUED)

5A CONTINUED:

5A

THE DOCTOR
Well, maybe that'll be your great
discovery, one day.
(raises coffee)
Here's to Poosh!

DEE DEE
Poosh!

And they clink cardboard cups.

FADE TO BLACK.

Bring up GRAPHIC: *209 KLIKS LATER.*

FADE UP...

6 INT. CRUSADER FIFTY - LATER

6

THE DOCTOR sitting next to SKY, both tucking into AIRLINE
FOOD-TRAYS. (HOSTESS in b/g, handing out trays to the
others.) Sky relaxing a little, but still uptight.

THE DOCTOR
...no, I'm with this friend of mine,
Donna, she stayed behind in the Leisure
Palace. And you?

SKY
No. Just me.

THE DOCTOR
Oh, I've done plenty of that.
Travelling on my own. Love it. Do what
you want! Go anywhere!

SKY
I'm still getting used to it.

Silence. The Doctor just waiting. Then:

SKY (CONT'D)
Found myself single, rather recently.
Not by choice.

THE DOCTOR
What happened?

SKY
Oh. The usual. She needed her own
space, as they say. A different galaxy,
in fact, I reckon that's enough space,
don't you?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

THE DOCTOR
Yeah. I had a friend who went to a
different universe.

Pause.

SKY
Is this chicken or beef?

THE DOCTOR
I think it's both.

FADE TO BLACK.

Bring up GRAPHIC: 251 *KLIKS LATER*

FADE UP...

7 INT. CRUSADER FIFTY - LATER

7

Lights lower, PROFESSOR HOBBS now at the front, using the WHITE PULL-DOWN SCREEN to display his own SLIDE-SHOW, DEE DEE in charge of an old-fashioned slide-projector, halfway down the aisle. Simple Open University-type slides. THE DOCTOR, DEE DEE, BIFF, VAL sitting towards the front, now joined by HOSTESS, all listening, intent. Even JETHRO's closer, loving this, SKY distant, but half-paying attention.

The Professor points at a big circle, M, a sun, and arrows.

PROFESSOR HOBBS
So this is Midnight, d'you see?
Bombarded by the sun! X-tonic rays, raw
Galvanic Radiation, and the history is
fascinating - Dee Dee, next slide, come
on!

Dee Dee changes slide, a pie-chart of Midnight's eras.

PROFESSOR HOBBS (CONT'D)
It's a pet project, I'm actually the
first person to research this. Cos you
see...

He sits. Voice low, like telling a ghost story.

PROFESSOR HOBBS (CONT'D)
The history is fascinating, because
there is no history. There's no life in
this entire system, there couldn't be.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

PROFESSOR HOBBS (CONT'D)
Not ever. Before the Leisure Palace
Company moved in, no one had come here.
In all eternity. No living thing...

JETHRO
But how d'you know? I mean, if no one
can go outside...

VAL CANE
Oh, his imagination! Here we go!

THE DOCTOR
He's got a point, though.

PROFESSOR HOBBS
Exactly! We look upon this world
through glass. Safe inside our metal
box. Even the Leisure Palace was
lowered down from orbit, no Human
footstep. And here we are, now.
Crossing Midnight. But never touching
it. A planet older than the Earth.
Shining in the sky, since before the
Human Race was born. And still unknown.

And the Crusader Fifty...

Stops.

Engines die. The LIGHTS blink back to normal. All
alert.

VAL CANE
We've stopped. Have we stopped?

BIFF CANE
Are we there?

DEE DEE
Can't be, it's too soon.

PROFESSOR HOBBS
They don't stop, Crusader vehicles never
stop. 'Scuse me, Hostess? Why have we
stopped?

HOSTESS standing, going to the back -

HOSTESS
If you could just return to your
original seats, thank you very much,
it's just a small delay.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

- as she goes to the back-wall phone, sotto -

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

Joe? What's going on?

Dee Dee starts to pack up the projector, with everyone moving back to their original seats:

BIFF CANE

Maybe just a pit stop.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

But there's no pit to stop in, I've been on this expedition fourteen times, they never stop.

SKY

(sharp)

Well evidently, we have stopped, so what's the point of denying it?

JETHRO

(gleeful)

We've broken down!

VAL CANE

Thank you, Jethro.

JETHRO

In the middle of nowhere!

BIFF CANE

That's enough, now stop it!

Hostess coming off the phone:

HOSTESS

Ladies and gentlemen and variations thereupon, we're just experiencing a short delay, the Driver needs to stabilise the engine feeds. It's perfectly routine. If you could just stay in your seats...

The Doctor getting up, heading for the DRIVER'S CABIN -

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

No, I'm sorry sir, if you could sit down, thank you -

THE DOCTOR

(psychic paper)

Engine expert! Two ticks!

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (3) 7

And he presses the button, the CABIN DOOR whooshes open -

CUT TO:

8 INT. DRIVER'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS 8

THE DOCTOR steps through, door whooshing shut behind him -

SMALL COCKPIT, dark, all blinking computer lights. Two seats, DRIVER & MECHANIC; DRIVER JOE is 40, big bloke; MECHANIC CLAUDE is 20, grease monkey.

In front of them, more blank METAL SHUTTERS, sloping, at a windscreen angle. GRAPHICS projected on to the surface: path contours, engine statistics, etc.

DRIVER JOE

Sorry, if you could just return to your seat, sir -

The Doctor shows psychic paper, hunkers down between them.

THE DOCTOR

Company Insurance, let's see if we can get an early assessment - so what's the problem, Driver Joe?

DRIVER JOE

We're just stabilising the engine feeds, won't take long.

THE DOCTOR

Um. No. Cos... that's the engine feed, that light there, and it's fine, and it's a micropetrol engine, so 'stabilising' doesn't really make sense, does it? Sorry! I'm the Doctor. I'm very clever. So what's wrong?

CAPTAIN JOE

Well. Don't tell the others, but, uh... No idea.

MECHANIC CLAUDE

We just stopped. Everything's working, look, all systems fine. But we're not moving.

During this, the Doctor sonicking the dashboard.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

THE DOCTOR

You're right. No faults. And who are you?

MECHANIC CLAUDE

Claude, I'm the mechanic. Trainee.

THE DOCTOR

Nice to meet you.

DRIVER JOE

I've sent a distress signal, they'll dispatch a rescue truck, top speed.

THE DOCTOR

How long till they get here?

DRIVER JOE

About an hour.

THE DOCTOR

Well. Since we're waiting... Shall we take a look outside? Just... lift the screens a bit?

DRIVER JOE

It's 100% X-tonic out there, we'd get vapourised.

THE DOCTOR

No, those windows are Finitoglass, they'd give you a couple of minutes. Oh go on! Live a little!

Joe sighs, presses button, *thrumm*, FX: METAL SHUTTERS rise..

Stark white light rising on their faces as...

FX (AND REPEAT): DMP PLANET'S SURFACE. FLAT DIAMOND PLAINS, rising to, half a mile away, jagged DIAMOND CLIFFS. Glinting; the black sky above, the unrelenting sun. Hushed:

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Ohhh, that's beautiful...

MECHANIC CLAUDE

All those diamonds. Poisoned by the sun. No one can touch them.

THE DOCTOR

Joe, you said you took a detour?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

DRIVER JOE
Just 40 klicks to the West.

THE DOCTOR
Is that a recognised path?

DRIVER JOE
No, it's a new one, the computer worked
it out, on automatic.

THE DOCTOR
So we're the first..?
(entranced)
This piece of ground. No one's ever
been here before. Not in the whole of
recorded history.

Mechanic Claude suddenly alert -

MECHANIC CLAUDE
Did you..?

THE DOCTOR
What?

MECHANIC CLAUDE
No. Sorry. Nothing.

THE DOCTOR
What did you see?

MECHANIC CLAUDE
I thought... Something moved. Over
there.

FX: THE DIAMOND SURFACE, unchanged, Claude indicating the
cliffs & rocks. Nothing moving. All staring. Unnerved.

THE DOCTOR
Where?

MECHANIC CLAUDE
Just over there. That ridge.

DRIVER JOE
Don't be stupid.

MECHANIC CLAUDE
Like... a shadow. Just for a second.

DRIVER JOE
It's the diamonds, that's all.
Reflecting the sunlight. Starts to play
tricks on you.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (3)

8

THE DOCTOR
What sort of shadow?

Small alarm goes off, *beep beep beep* -

DRIVER JOE
X-tonic rising! Shields up -

FX: *thrummmmm*, the METAL SHUTTERS lower...

Claude craning down to see through the closing gap-

MECHANIC CLAUDE
There it is - !

THE DOCTOR
Where?!

Too late, *schunk!* Shutters down.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
What was it?

MECHANIC CLAUDE
(disturbed)
Like, just, something... shifting,
something sort of... dark. Like it
was... running.

THE DOCTOR
Running which way?

MECHANIC CLAUDE
Towards us.

DRIVER JOE
Now come on! That's enough. Doctor,
back to your seat. And not a word.
Let's not panic them, the rescue's on
its way. If you could close the door,
thank you.

The Doctor doesn't argue, steps back through -

CUT TO:

9 INT. CRUSADER FIFTY - CONTINUOUS

9

THE DOCTOR steps through, door whooshes shut. PROFESSOR
HOBBS, DEE DEE, SKY, VAL & BIFF & JETHRO back in
original seats (the slide-projector cleared away),
HOSTESS at the back. Sky more on edge than anyone -

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

SKY

What did they say? Did they tell you?
What is it, what's wrong?

THE DOCTOR

Oh, just stabilising, happens all the time.

SKY

I don't need this. I'm on a schedule.
This is completely unnecessary!

HOSTESS

Back to your seat, thank you.

And the Doctor does so. Dee Dee leaning forward, quiet:

DEE DEE

Excuse me, Doctor, but they're
micropetrol engines, aren't they?

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Now, don't bother the man.

DEE DEE

But my father was a mechanic, and...
micropetrol doesn't stabilise, what does
'stabilise' mean?

THE DOCTOR

Well. Bit of flim-flam. Don't worry,
they're sorting it out.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

(worried)

So it's not the engines?

THE DOCTOR

Just a little pause, that's all.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

...how much air have we got?

THE DOCTOR

Professor, it's fine -

Edgy now, a jag of tension, as Val calls across:

VAL CANE

What did he say?

THE DOCTOR

Nothing!

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

VAL CANE
Are we running out of air?

PROFESSOR HOBBS
I was just speculating...

BIFF CANE
(panicky)
Is that right? Miss? Are we running
out of air?

SKY
(panicky)
Is that what the Captain said?

HOSTESS
If you could all just remain calm...

VAL CANE
How much air have we got?

HOSTESS
I can assure you, everything is under
control -

Frantic outburst, all 6 speeches at once (not too loud):

VAL CANE
Well he said it, and
he's a Professor! He
should know! He
started it!

BIFF CANE
Doesn't look like it to me!
I'm entitled to ask! Are we
or are we not, running out
of air?!

JETHRO
Mum, just stop it, oh
my God, you're shaming
me -

PROFESSOR HOBBS
Mrs Cane, I'm not an expert
in mechanics, it was just
idle speculation -

DEE DEE
It's a circular filter,
it's fine, just read
the manual -

SKY
I want to see the Driver!
Hostess! I demand to see
the Driver -

The Doctor standing up in his seat, taking control -

THE DOCTOR
Oy, now hush hush, everyone, hush,
thank you, QUIIIIIET!!!

And they're silent. Glad of someone taking charge.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (3)

9

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Thank you. Now, if you'd care to listen
to my good friend Dee Dee...

DEE DEE

Oh! Um. It's just that... the air's on
a circular filter. We could stay
breathing for ten years. Although, that
would be a bit silly.

THE DOCTOR

But there you are! And I've spoken to
the Captain, I can guarantee you,
everything's fine -

Tap tap.

On the left hand wall. Towards the front.

From outside.

Everyone freezes. Looking at the wall.

Hushed:

VAL CANE

What was that?

PROFESSOR HOBBS

...it's just the metal. We're cooling
down, it must be settling...

HOSTESS

I've never heard it make a noise like
that before.

DEE DEE

Rocks. Could be rocks falling.

BIFF CANE

What I want to know is, how long do we
have to sit here -

Tap tap.

A bit louder. Everyone tense.

SKY

What is it?

VAL CANE

Someone's out there.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (4)

9

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Now, don't be ridiculous.

DEE DEE

Like I said, it could be rocks.

HOSTESS

We're out in the open. Nothing could
fall against the side.

Tap tap.

It's moved, three feet back. Everyone's stare following.
The Doctor grim, but fascinated; Jethro too, both spooky:

THE DOCTOR

Knock knock.

JETHRO

Who's there?

Sky's wound up tight, brittle:

SKY

Is there something out there? Well?
Anyone? What the hell is making that
noise?

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Excuse me! I must insist. I'm sorry,
but the light out there is X-tonic, that
means it would destroy any living thing,
in a split-second, I mean *any* sort of
lifeform - carbon-based, hydrogen-based,
silicates, gaseous, every form of life
in the known universe, it's impossible,
literally impossible, for someone to be
outside -

TAP TAP! Louder. Further back, left. All flinch, look
in that direction (though it's hard to tell *exactly* where
it came from - all look at slightly different points).

SKY

What the hell is that then?!

The Doctor scoots round to where the last tap came from,
presses his face against the wall -

HOSTESS

Sir! You really should stay in your
seat -

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (5)

9

SKY
Bit late for that!

On the Doctor. Listening.

THE DOCTOR
Hello...?

Tap tap. Further back, left wall. All faces following.

JETHRO
It's moving...

Tap tap. Even further back, left wall.

And then...

Tap tap. On the back-wall EMERGENCY DOOR. Pause, then worse, the door gives a tiny *rattle*.

The Hostess backs away from the back-wall.

VAL CANE
It's trying the door.

PROFESSOR HOBBS
There is no 'it', there's nothing out there. Can't be.

Another tiny *rattle* of the door.

Hold the pause. All staring at the door...

Then all jump - as the next *tap tap* comes from the middle of the ceiling!

All looking up...

Tap tap. Crossing over to the right hand corner....

Tap tap. On the right hand wall, the ENTRANCE DOOR.

VAL CANE
That's the entrance. Can it get in?

DEE DEE
No, that door's on two hundredweight of hydraulics.

PROFESSOR HOBBS
Stop it. Don't encourage them.

DEE DEE
Then what do you think it is?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (6)

9

Biff walks towards the door...

VAL CANE

Biff, don't...

THE DOCTOR

Mr Cane, better not...

BIFF CANE

Naah, cast iron, that door...

He knocks on it. Three times. *Tap tap tap.*

Pause.

Hold.

Then the knock's returned, *tap tap tap.*

Woah! That really freaks everyone, Biff retreating, all (except Sky) shifting away to the left-hand-side -

VAL CANE

Three times! Did you hear that, three times?!

JETHRO

It answered!

VAL CANE

It did it three times!

THE DOCTOR

All right, everyone, calm down -

SKY

But it answered, that was an answer, don't tell me that thing's not alive, it answered him!

TAP TAP TAP!!! Louder!

Everyone flinching back further, against the left-hand wall, but the Doctor runs to the Entrance Door, to listen -

HOSTESS

I really must insist, get back to your seat -

But Sky's really losing it, terrified:

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (7)

9

SKY

Don't just sit there telling us the rules, you're the Hostess, you're supposed to do something!

The Doctor knocks four times, *tap tap tap tap*.

In reply, *TAP TAP TAP TAP!!!*

All freaked out! But now losing it completely -

SKY (CONT'D)

What is it? *What is it?* What the hell is making that noise?? She said she'd get me, just stop it, make it stop, *someone make it stop!*

But her panic triggers the others to focus their fear on her - all speeches simultaneously, Sky standing, backing into the front-right-corner, accusing them all -

VAL CANE

You're not helping!
Tell her to shut up!

DEE DEE

Mrs Silvestry, just
calm down...

JETHRO

She's gone mad.

DRIVER JOE OOV

What's happening back
there?

HOSTESS

(on phone)

Passenger in distress,
are you getting these
noises from outside?

SKY

What are you looking at me
for? It's not my fault, he
started it -

(the Professor)

- with his stories - and he
made it worse -

(at Biff)

- why couldn't you leave it
alone? Stop staring at me!
Just tell me what it is -
what is it?, *what's out
there???*

But all silenced as -

The tapping becomes constant. *Tap tap tap tap tap tap
tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap* -

The Doctor moving back from the door, to study it,
everyone's faces following the noise, as ...

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (8)

9

Tap tap tap tap tap tap tap, moving up and down, tracing a path like a snake, but heading forwards, all the way along the right-hand-wall...

All scared, eyes trying to follow its path...

And their eyes flick ahead, to the noise's destination -

Sky. At the very front. It's heading for her!

And she shrinks down into her corner, sinking down on to the floor, helpless, wailing -

SKY (CONT'D)

- it's coming for me, it's coming for me, *it's coming for me* - !

The Doctor running forward -

THE DOCTOR

Get out of there -

But before he can reach her -

WHAM!!!!!! PRAC FX, the wall above Sky buckles -

She screams -

And the whole room plunges into DARKNESS!

And the whole bus MOVES! Glimpses of the chaos as the whole room LURCHES RIGHT - everyone tumbling, holding on -

PRAC SPARKS EXPLODING from wall-panels, illuminating them all for sudden seconds, then dark again -

Whole room lurches left, everyone flying -

Whole room lurches level again -

And... stops.

Silence.

On the Doctor, slowly lifting himself up...

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Arms. Legs. Neck. Head. Nose. I'm fine, everyone else?

But he's distracted by...

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (9)

9

A broken TV-pivot-arm is in front of him. For a second, it flickers into life. Rafaella again, distorted; an echoey pop song, haunting. The Doctor staring. Then it dies.

The Doctor shakes it off, stands -

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

How are we? Everyone all right?

Stay on the TV screen for a second. A flash, a glimpse of -

ROSE. To CAMERA. Desperate, mute, but mouthing 'Doctor!'

Then it's gone. The Doctor didn't see it.

In the rest of the cabin: whimpering and moans from all round, but everyone's survived, now standing, dazed.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

...earthquake, must be...

DEE DEE

That's impossible, the ground is fixed, it's solid.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Don't tell me what's possible!

Then torchlight lances out, from the Hostess -

HOSTESS

We've got torches, everyone, take a torch, they're in the back of the seats... /

The Doctor grabs one, then the Professor, Dee Dee, Val, Biff, Jethro - pitch darkness, torchbeams lancing across -

CU faces caught in torchlight, everyone checking everyone else, all bewildered.

Val going to Jethro, hugging him -

VAL CANE

Oh sweetheart, come here...

JETHRO

Never mind me, what about her?

He's shining his torch over at Sky.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (10)

9

The Doctor does the same. Then heads over to her.

Sky's still huddled on the floor, in the corner, but now facing the wall. Like a child, thinking they're hidden. Visibly breathing hard. NB, during the camera shake & darkness, the seats around Sky have been flattened, so she's huddled in a little clearing - crucially, with no seats blocking everyone's view of her.

VAL CANE

What happened to the seats?

BIFF CANE

Who did that..?

The Doctor reaches her, strokes the top of her head, kind:

THE DOCTOR

It's all right, it's over, we're still alive, look...

He shines his torch on the wall above her. A big DENT, like something's punched in. But the metal's not broken.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

The wall's still intact. D'you see?
We're safe.

Since / above, Hostess on the back-wall phone, repeating -

HOSTESS

Joe, can you hear me? Joe? Claude?
Driver? Can you hear me?

- and now she's striding forward, down the aisle -

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

I'm not getting any response, the
intercom must be down -

Front wall, she opens the DRIVER'S CABIN DOOR -

WHOOOSH! For a second, the doorframe is full of PRAC FX: WIND, SMOKE BLASTING ACROSS, like a contained hurricane, RAW WHITE LIGHT, with only BLACK BEYOND, outside the door -

All shocked - Val screams - !

Hostess slams the button - DOOR SLAMS SHUT! PRAC FX stop!

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (11)

9

VAL CANE
What was that? What
happened?

BIFF CANE
Is it the Driver? Have we
lost the Driver?

The Hostess backing away down the aisle, horrified. All
shining torches on her, and the sealed door. (Except
Jethro; keeping his torch on Sky throughout, watching.)
At the same time, the Doctor's leaping across to a wall-
panel on the front wall, left-hand-side, sonicking.

All tense now, but low-level. Grim, not hysterical:

HOSTESS
...the cabin's gone.

PROFESSOR HOBBS
Don't be ridiculous. It can't be gone,
how can it be gone?

DEE DEE
Well you saw it!

HOSTESS
There was nothing there, like... it's
been ripped away.

Biff shines his torch at the Doctor.

BIFF CANE
What are you doing?

And now all (except Jethro) turn their torches on the
Doctor, moving forward, just a little, to look at him.

He's opened the panel, is digging through wiring.

THE DOCTOR
That's better, little bit of light,
thank you. Molto bene!

VAL CANE
D'you know what you're doing?

BIFF CANE
But the cabin's gone, you'd better leave
that wall alone -

PROFESSOR HOBBS
- the cabin can't be gone - !

THE DOCTOR
No, it's safe, any rupture would
automatically seal itself, but...

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (12)

9

He pulls out thick, severed wires.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Something sliced it off. You're right.
The cabin has gone.

HOSTESS
But if it gets separated...

THE DOCTOR
It loses integrity. I'm sorry. They've
been reduced to dust. The driver, and
the mechanic.

Quiet, awful reaction; stillness, just a moan from Val.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
But they sent a distress signal. Help
is on its way. They saved our lives!
We're gonna get out of here, I promise,
we're still alive, and they're gonna
find us.

But all through this, Jethro keeps his torch on Sky.

She's still facing the wall. Breathing.

JETHRO
Doctor. Look at her.

THE DOCTOR
Right, yes, sorry - have we got a
medical kit?

JETHRO
Why won't she turn around?

And now everyone shines their torches on Sky.

All unnerved. Just... something strange about her.

PROFESSOR HOBBS
What's her name?

HOSTESS
Silvestry. Mrs Sky Silvestry.

With everyone a good distance back from Sky, still
pointing torches, the Doctor moves round, to approach
her. Crouches down, gentle. Though keeping a distance
back, wary.

She's just *breathing*.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (13)

9

THE DOCTOR

Sky? Can you hear me? Are you all right? Can you move? Sky, just look at me.

JETHRO

That noise, from outside, it's stopped.

VAL CANE

Well thank God for that.

JETHRO

But what if it's not outside any more? What if it's inside?

VAL CANE

Inside where?

JETHRO

It was heading for her.

Everyone sick with dread, now. Staring. Torches.

As the Doctor inches forward, just a little.

THE DOCTOR

It's all right, Sky. I just want you to turn around. And face me.

And she starts to turn. Swivelling round.

Slowly.

The Doctor, Jethro, Professor Hobbes, Dee Dee, Hostess, Val and Biff all staring....

And slowly, shifting her body...

Sky turns her head...

Stares at them. In the light of all the torches.

And she's insane.

Eyes wild and glittering. But *clever*. No special make-up, no FX, just the stare of something... different.

All shocked. Val & Biff step back. Keep aiming torches.

But the Doctor is fascinated.

Absolute silence.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (14)

9

Sky barely moving, still shrunk into the corner - as though her body has little power - but her eyes do all the work. Darting at the Doctor, Professor Hobbes, Dee Dee, Jethro, Hostess, Val, Biff; all of them, one by one.

Like they're new.

Hold the silence. The Doctor shifting forward, just an inch. She suddenly *whips* her stare back to him -

Val flinches, Sky's slightest move scaring her -

Sky concentrates on the Doctor now. Tilts her head left, then right, as though studying every detail of him. The Doctor mimicking the move, gently, calmly.

Then, quietly:

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Sky?

Pause. As though Sky is wondering. And then...

SKY

Sky?

THE DOCTOR

Are you all right?

Pause.

SKY

Are you all right?

THE DOCTOR

Are you hurt?

Just a beat.

SKY

Are you hurt?

THE DOCTOR

You don't have to talk.

And now, no pauses, Sky's responses right on the line -

SKY

You don't have to talk.

THE DOCTOR

I'm trying to help.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (15)

9

SKY
I'm trying to help.

THE DOCTOR
My name's the Doctor.

SKY
My name's the Doctor.

THE DOCTOR
Okay, can you stop?

SKY
Okay, can you stop?

THE DOCTOR
I'd like you to stop.

SKY
I'd like you to stop.

PROFESSOR HOBBS
Why's she doing that?

Sky darting a glance at everyone who talks - repeating,
but not actually impersonating them:

SKY
Why's she doing that?

BIFF CANE
She's gone mad.

SKY
She's gone mad.

VAL CANE
Stop it.

SKY
Stop it.

VAL CANE
I said stop it!

SKY
I said stop it!

DEE DEE
I don't think she can.

SKY
I don't think she can.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (16)

9

PROFESSOR HOBBS

All right, now stop it, this isn't funny -

SKY

All right, now stop it, this isn't funny -

THE DOCTOR

Husssh, all of you -

SKY

Husssh, all of you -

JETHRO

My name's Jethro!

SKY

My name's Jethro!

THE DOCTOR

Jethro, leave it, just shut up!

SKY

Jethro, leave it, just shut up!

Everyone else clamming up, still staring. Though the incessant repetition makes the cabin more and more tense.

THE DOCTOR

Why are you repeating..?

SKY

Why are you repeating..?

THE DOCTOR

What is that, learning?

SKY

What is that, learning?

THE DOCTOR

Copying?

SKY

Copying?

THE DOCTOR

Absorbing?

SKY

Absorbing?

Pause. The Doctor trying to work it out, then...

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (17)

9

THE DOCTOR
The square root of pi is
1.77245385090/5516027298167483341...
wow!

SKY
(starts at /)
The square root of pi is
1.772453850905516027298167483341... wow!

Everyone freaked out by that.

PROFESSOR HOBBS
But that's impossible.

SKY
But that's impossible.

DEE DEE
She couldn't repeat all that -

SKY
She couldn't repeat all that -

VAL CANE
Tell her to stop!

SKY
Tell her to stop!

VAL CANE
She's driving me mad -

SKY
She's driving me mad -

VAL CANE
Just make her STOP!!

SKY
Just make her STOP!!

Sky raising her voice tips the room over the edge -
rising panic - all 4 speeches below simultaneous -

VAL CANE
Stop her staring at me,
shut her up, someone
shut her up -

HOSTESS
It's gotta be a trick -
Doctor, did you plan that
with her?

BIFF CANE
Just stop it, you're
scaring my wife, I'm
telling you to stop -

THE DOCTOR
Now stop it, all of you,
keep it down, just keep it
down -

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (18)

9

But during this, Sky's eyes darting like crazy, as she *repeats all voices*. 4 speeches at once - ie, technically: shoot Sky's version of all 4 speeches and INTERCUT with the others, fast, cut-cut-cut, so it's simultaneous:

SKY

Driving me mad/scaring my wife/ Doctor
did you plan/keep it down -

And without stopping, this runs into the below, with Sky's ability panicking everyone, now with SIX speeches colliding, simultaneous, the volume rising and rising -

VAL CANE

Stop talking! D'you
hear me? Stop talking,
just stop talking, I
said, stop talking!!!
Biff, don't just stand
there, do something,
make her stop!

HOSTESS

Mrs Silvestry, you're
scaring the passengers, I
don't know why, or how, but
you've got to stop, right
now, we're safe, we've got
air, and the rescue services
are on the way -

BIFF CANE

I'm telling you.
Whatever your name is.
If you don't shut up,
so help me... That's
an order! I'm ordering
you! D'you hear me,
stop repeating!

PROFESSOR HOBBS

It's not just the voice,
it's her eyes, Doctor, look
at her eyes, what's wrong
with her eyes?? What is
that? You're a Doctor, what
is it, what's wrong with
her?

JETHRO

She can copy anything!
Five! Ten! Sixteen!
Thirty five! Forty
nine! Five hundred!
Six six six! Look at
her, Doctor, just look
at her, one million
seven hundred and
twenty six!

DEE DEE

That's impossible, that's
physically impossible,
that's not the same woman,
that's something else,
inside her, just look at
her, Professor, she's
changed, she's different,
she's something else -

The Doctor boggling at Sky, transfixed as *simultaneously*, with the above, she's even *faster*, all 6 speeches at once:

SKY

Stop talking/so help me/
Silvestry/sixteen, thirty five!
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (19)

9

SKY (CONT'D)
/scaring the passengers/Doctor look/not
the same woman/I'm ordering you!/stop
repeating/rescue services/one million
seven/else inside her/make her stop - !

Rising, rising, voices at fever pitch until -

The lights come back on!

Low-level, darker, emergency lighting (though not coloured). Everyone shocked into silence, looking up and round - and with their attention away from Sky, for the next few lines, they don't immediately notice what's happened...

Because Sky's repetition has now caught up with them. The frenzy above has got her up to speed; she now says lines *with* people. Not after, no delay, not just repeating; she's absolutely synchronised. (Speech headings denote this from now on, as Sky says every line.

EG, instead of THE DOCTOR, it's THE DOCTOR & SKY, as they say the lines together. Sky a little quieter, so she's an undertone.)

So, looking round, at the lights, clicking off torches:

HOSTESS & SKY
It's the back-up systems.

BIFF CANE & SKY
Well! That's a bit better.

VAL CANE & SKY
What about the rescue, how long's it going to take?

HOSTESS & SKY
About sixty minutes, that's all.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY
Then I suggest we all calm down. This panic isn't helping. And that poor woman is evidently in a state of self-induced hysteria, we should leave her alone. Now sit down! Deep breaths. Hostess, I think a nice hot drink might do us all the power of good.

But Jethro's still watching Sky. Even he's unnerved, now:

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (20)

9

JETHRO & SKY

Doctor...

THE DOCTOR & SKY

I know.

Because he's been watching her too.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

Doctor, now step back, I think you
should leave her alone -

But in looking at Sky, the Professor sees her saying his
own words.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY (CONT'D)

What's she doing..?

(pause)

How can she do that?

VAL CANE & SKY

But... she's talking *with* you -

(horrified)

And with me! Oh my God! Biff, what's
she doing?

JETHRO & SKY

She's repeating at exactly the same
time.

DEE DEE & SKY

That's impossible.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

...there's not even a delay.

JETHRO & SKY

Ohh man, that is weird.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

I think you should all be very, very
quiet, have you got that?

VAL CANE & SKY

How's she doing it??

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Mrs Cane, please, be quiet -

VAL CANE & SKY

But how can she do that? She's got my
voice, she's got my *words*!

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (21)

9

BIFF CANE & SKY

(holds her)

Sweetheart, be quiet, just... Hush now.
Hush.

(at Sky)

She's doing it to me!

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Just stop it, all of you. Stop it.
Please.

All silent now. Staring at the Doctor, as he faces Sky.
Close; absolutely in synch:

THE DOCTOR & SKY (CONT'D)

Now then, Sky. Are you Sky? Is Sky
still in there? Mrs Silvestry?

(pause)

You know exactly what I'm going to say,
how are you doing that?

(pause. Suddenly:)

Roast beef!

(pause)

Bananas.

(pause)

The Medusa Cascade.

(long pause)

BANG!

(pause)

Rose Tyler, Martha Jones, Donna Noble,
Tardis!

(pause)

Shamble bobble dibble dooble.

(pause)

Oh Doctor, you're so handsome. Yes I
am, thank you.

(pause)

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O -

Sudden stop, hoping she'll race on to 'P'. But Sky stops
too. Quiet, now, like no one dares to be too loud:

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

She's synchronised.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

First she repeats. Then she catches up.
What's the next stage...?

DEE DEE & SKY

Next stage of what?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (22)

9

JETHRO & SKY

But that's not her, is it? That's not
Mrs Silvestry any more.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

...I don't think so, no.

Horror. Val puts her hands to her mouth, starting to
cry. Little sobbing noises, as Biff holds her.

Sky stares at her. Little sobbing noises, in synch.
Though throughout all this she never loses that slight
smile.

The Doctor stands, carefully backing away from her.

THE DOCTOR & SKY (CONT'D)

I think, the more we talk, the more she
learns. Now, I'm all for education, but
in this case, maybe not. Let's just...
move back. Come on. Come with me.

He's heading for the back -

THE DOCTOR & SKY (CONT'D)

Everyone, get back, all of you, as far
as you can.

VAL CANE & SKY

Doctor, just make her stop.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Val, come on, with me, come to the back,
stop looking at her, come on, Jethro,
you too, everyone, come on...

All moving to the back of the bus, still glancing back at
Sky, so scared of her.

Sky stays where she is. Staring.

The others huddle at the back, as far away from Sky as
possible. She still keeps saying everything they say, in
synch. But more of a mutter, now. Speech designations
stay as 'THE DOCTOR & SKY', but with the Doctor easily
more prominent now; use Sky and her muttering as a
CUTAWAY, as and when, because the others can't help
glancing back at her, throughout. The Devil in the
corner.

And now, the back-of-the-bus becomes a drama in itself.
The Doctor, Professor Hobbes, Val, Biff, Jethro, Dee Dee,
Hostess, all quiet, intense. With such a sense of *dread*.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (23)

9

THE DOCTOR & SKY (CONT'D)
Fifty minutes. That's all we need.
Fifty minutes till the rescue arrives.
And she's not exactly strong, look at
her, all she's got is our voices.

VAL CANE & SKY
I can't look at her. It's those eyes.

DEE DEE & SKY
We must not look at Goblin Men.

BIFF CANE & SKY
...what's that supposed to mean?

THE DOCTOR & SKY
It's a poem. Christina Rosetti.

DEE DEE & SKY
We must not look at Goblin Men/We must
not buy their fruits/Who knows upon what
soil they fed/Their hungry, thirsty
roots?

Pause.

THE DOCTOR & SKY
Actually, I don't think that's helping.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY
She's not a goblin, or a monster, she's
just a very sick woman.

JETHRO & SKY
Maybe that's why it went for her.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY
There is no 'it!'

JETHRO & SKY
Think about it, though. That knocking,
it went all the way round the bus. Till
it found her. And she was the most
scared, out of all of us, maybe that's
what it needed. That's how it got in.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY
For the last time! Nothing could live
on the surface of Midnight.

(CONTINUED)

9

CONTINUED: (24)

9

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Professor, I'm glad you've got a
absolute definition of life in the
universe, but perhaps the universe has
got ideas of its own. Now trust me.
I've got previous! I think there might
well be some... consciousness inside Mrs
Silvestry, but maybe she's still in
there. And it's our job to help her.

BIFF CANE & SKY

Well you can help her, I'm not going
near.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

No, I've got to stay back. Cos if she's
copying us, maybe the final stage is
becoming us. I don't want her becoming
me, or things could get a whole lot
worse.

VAL CANE & SKY

Oh, like you're so special.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

As it happens, yes I am. So that's
decided. We stay back. And we wait.
When the rescue ship comes, we can get
her to hospital -

But given the tension, the Doctor, for once, hasn't got
authority. The Hostess is cold, fixed:

HOSTESS & SKY

We should throw her out.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

I beg your pardon?

VAL CANE & SKY

Can we do that?

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Don't be ridiculous -

HOSTESS & SKY

That thing, whatever it is, killed the
driver, and the mechanic, and I don't
think she's finished yet -

THE DOCTOR & SKY

She can't even move!

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (25)

9

HOSTESS & SKY
Oh just *look* at her!

They all look. Sky's eyes; her muttering; the slight smile.

HOSTESS & SKY (CONT'D)
Look at her eyes! She killed Joe, and she killed Claude, and we're next.

BIFF CANE & SKY
She's still doing it -
(sudden fury, rages
across at Sky)
Just stop it! Stop talking!! STOP
IT!!!

*
*
*
*
*

VAL CANE & SKY
Biff, sweetheart, don't...

*
*

BIFF CANE & SKY
She won't stop!
(calms down)
We can't throw her out though, we can't
even open the doors -

*
*
*
*

THE DOCTOR & SKY
No one is getting thrown out!

DEE DEE & SKY
Yes we can.

All looking at Dee Dee, now. Nervous, but determined:

DEE DEE & SKY (CONT'D)
Cos...there's an air pressure seal.
(to the Hostess)
Like when you opened the cabin door, you weren't pulled out, you had a couple of seconds, cos it takes the pressure-wall about six seconds to collapse. Well, six seconds exactly. That's enough time to throw someone out.

THE DOCTOR & SKY
Thanks Dee Dee, just what we needed -

VAL CANE & SKY
Would it kill her? Outside?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (26)

9

DEE DEE & SKY

I don't know, but she's got a body now,
it would certainly kill the physical
form -

THE DOCTOR & SKY

No one's killing anyone -

HOSTESS & SKY

(ignoring him)

I wouldn't risk the cabin door twice.
But we've got this one -

The Emergency Door, right behind them.

HOSTESS & SKY (CONT'D)

All we need to do is grab hold of her.
And throw her out.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Now listen! All of you! For all we
know, that's a brand new lifeform over
there. And if it's come inside, to
discover us, than what's it found? This
little bunch of Humans, what d'you
amount to? Murder? Cos this is where
you decide. You decide who you are.
Could you actually murder her? Any of
you? Really? Or are you better than
that?

Pause. But just as he should be changing their minds:

HOSTESS & SKY

I'd do it.

BIFF CANE & SKY

So would I.

VAL CANE & SKY

And me.

DEE DEE & SKY

I think we should.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

(shocked at her)

What?!

DEE DEE & SKY

I want her out.

(CONTINUED)

9

CONTINUED: (27)

9

THE DOCTOR & SKY
You can't say that!

DEE DEE & SKY
I'm sorry, but you said it yourself,
Doctor, she's growing in strength.

THE DOCTOR & SKY
That's not what I said!

DEE DEE & SKY
(upset)
I just want to go home. I'm sorry. I
want to be safe.

THE DOCTOR & SKY
You'll be safe, any minute now, the
rescue truck is on its way -

HOSTESS & SKY
But what happens then, Doctor? If it
takes her back to the Leisure Palace, if
that thing reaches civilisation...what
it it spreads?

THE DOCTOR & SKY
No, cos when we get back to base, I'll
be there to contain it.

VAL CANE & SKY
Well you haven't done much so far!

BIFF CANE & SKY
You're just standing at the back with
the rest of us!

HOSTESS & SKY
She's dangerous. And it's my job to
keep this vessel safe. We should get
rid of her.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY
Now hold on, just hold on, I think,
perhaps, we're all going a little bit
too far.

THE DOCTOR & SKY
At last! Thank you.

HOSTESS & SKY
Two people dead.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (28)

9

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Then don't make it a third! Jethro,
what d'you say?

JETHRO & SKY

I'm not killing anyone.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Thank you.

VAL CANE & SKY

But he's just a boy!

JETHRO & SKY

What, so I don't get a vote?

THE DOCTOR & SKY

There isn't a vote, it's not happening!
Ever. If you try to throw her out of
that door, then you'll have to get past
me first.

Pause.

HOSTESS & SKY

...okay.

BIFF CANE & SKY

Fine by me.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Ohhh, now you're being stupid.

(at Biff)

Just think about it! Could you actually
take hold of someone and throw them out
of that door?

BIFF CANE & SKY

Calling me a coward?

And now, cold, hard paranoia is taking hold, as they all
start to look at the Doctor. A witch-hunt.

VAL CANE & SKY

Who put you in charge, anyway?

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

I'm sorry, but... you're a Doctor of
what, exactly?

HOSTESS & SKY

He wasn't even booked in.
Rest of you, tickets in advance. He
just turned up, out of the blue.

(CONTINUED)

9

CONTINUED: (29)

9

DEE DEE & SKY

Where from?

THE DOCTOR & SKY

I'm just... travelling, I'm a traveller,
that's all...

VAL CANE & SKY

Like an immigrant?

HOSTESS & SKY

Who were you talking to? Just before
you got on board, you were talking to
someone, who was it?

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Just, Donna, just my friend -

BIFF CANE & SKY

What were you saying to her?

VAL CANE & SKY

Hasn't even told us his name.

JETHRO & SKY

...thing is though, Doctor. You've been
loving this.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Ohh, Jethro, not you -

JETHRO & SKY

No, but ever since the trouble started,
you've been loving it.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

It has to be said, you do seem to have a
certain... glee.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

All right, I'm interested, yes, I can't
help it, cos whatever's inside her, it's
brand new, and that's fascinating -

VAL CANE & SKY

What, you *wanted* this to happen?

THE DOCTOR & SKY

No!

BIFF CANE & SKY

And you were talking to her, all on your
own, before the trouble,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (30)

9

BIFF CANE & SKY (CONT'D)
right at the front, you were talking to
that Sky woman, the two of you together,
I saw you -

VAL CANE & SKY
We all did!

HOSTESS & SKY
- and you went into the cabin -

BIFF CANE & SKY
- what did you say to her?

THE DOCTOR & SKY
I was just talking!

BIFF CANE & SKY
Saying what??

JETHRO & SKY
You called us Humans like you're not one
of us.

VAL CANE & SKY
He did! That's what he said!

DEE DEE & SKY
And the wiring, he went into that panel
and opened up the wiring -

THE DOCTOR & SKY
That was *after*!

BIFF CANE & SKY
But how did you know what to do??!

THE DOCTOR & SKY
(exasperated)
Because I'm *clever*!

Which makes them all step away from him a fraction.
Colder, now. Hostile. The Doctor truly unnerved, for
once. Quiet:

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY
I see.
(pause)
Well. That makes things clear.

BIFF CANE & SKY
What are we, then? Idiots?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (31)

9

THE DOCTOR & SKY

That's not what I meant -

DEE DEE & SKY

If you're clever then what are we?

VAL CANE & SKY

You've been looking down on us from the moment we walked in.

HOSTESS & SKY

If he goes, then he's practically volunteered.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Ohh come *on*, just listen to yourself, *please!*

BIFF CANE & SKY

D'you mean..? We throw him out as well?

HOSTESS & SKY

If we have to.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Look, just... right, sorry, yes, hold on, just... I know, you're scared, and so am I, look at me, I am, I swear! But we all need to calm down, and cool off, and think.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

Perhaps if you told us your name.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

What does it matter?

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

Then tell us.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

...John Smith.

Scorn and 'hah!' from all.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Your real name.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Doctor John Smith.

BIFF CANE

He's lying, look at his face.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (32)

9

VAL CANE

His eyes are the same as hers.

JETHRO

Why won't you tell us?!

Still hushed, fierce - four of them burst into -

VAL CANE

He's been lying to us,
right from the start -

BIFF CANE

No one's called John
Smith! Come off it!

JETHRO

Just tell us, Doctor, just
say it.

HOSTESS

It's a simple enough
question, what's your name??

All attacking the Doctor, breaking off when -

The Doctor steps back. Scared of them. So he's now
between Sky and the others, with his back to Sky.
Furious:

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Now listen to me! Listen to me, right
now, because you need me, all of you, if
we're going to get out of this, then you
need me -

PROFESSOR HOBBS

So you keep saying! You've been
repeating yourself more than her -

VAL CANE

If anyone's in charge, it should be the
Professor, he's an expert!

JETHRO

(quiet)

Mum, just stop, just look...

VAL CANE

You keep out of this, Jethro.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (33)

9

JETHRO

But look at her!

DEE DEE

She's stopped...

Jethro and Dee Dee have been staring *past* the Doctor...

The Doctor turns round to look at Sky, everyone else staring too. Because for the last page or so, discreetly, Sky has stopped talking in synch. Except for the Doctor's speeches.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

When did she..? No she hasn't, look, she's still doing it.

VAL CANE

She looks the same to me...

(realises - joy!)

Oh she's stopped! Look, I'm talking, and she's not!

BIFF CANE

What about me? Is she..?

(relief)

Look! Look at that! She's not doing me, she's let me go!

HOSTESS

(testing her)

Mrs Silvestry..?

(relief)

Nor me! Nothing!

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Sky? What are you doing..?

DEE DEE

She's still doing him!

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Doctor. It's you. She's only copying you.

The Doctor facing Sky properly now.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Why me..? Why are you doing this?

VAL CANE

(vicious)

She won't leave him alone! D'you see?! I said so, she's *with* him.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (34)

9

BIFF CANE

They're together!

PROFESSOR HOBBS

How d'you explain it, Doctor? If you're so clever.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

I don't know.

(unnerved)

Sky, stop it. I said stop it. Just *stop it!!*

He stops himself, almost losing it, for the first time.

Then approaches her; he's *got* to. Val contemptuous:

VAL CANE

Look at the two of them...

He kneels in front of her. Everyone craning forward to watch, just a little, now scared of both Sky and the Doctor.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Mrs Silvestry. I'm trying to understand. You've captured my speech, what for? What d'you need?

(realising)

You need my voice in particular. The cleverest voice in the room. Why? Cos I'm the only one who can help? Ohh, I'd love that to be true. But your eyes. They're saying something else.

He moves closer. Face to face. More his old self:

THE DOCTOR & SKY (CONT'D)

Listen to me. Whatever you want, if it's life, or form, or consciousness, or voice, you don't have to steal it. You can find it, without hurting anyone. And I'll help you. That's a promise. So. What d'you think?

Pause, and then as he goes to finish his speech:

SKY

Do we / have a deal?

THE DOCTOR

/ Do we have a deal?

Because then, *Sky spoke first*. The Doctor just two words behind. *He's copying her!* (The / denoting where, in Sky's speech, the Doctor starts his repeat.)

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (35)

9

Silence, both staring, as this sinks in.

And the others saw it too:

DEE DEE

Hold on, did she just..?

JETHRO

She spoke first.

VAL CANE

She can't have.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

She did!

JETHRO

She spoke first!

SKY

Oh look at that, / I'm
ahead of you.

THE DOCTOR

/ Oh look at that, I'm ahead
of you.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Did you see? She spoke before he did!
Definitely!

JETHRO

He's copying her.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Doctor..? What's happening?

SKY

I think it's moved. / I
think it's letting me
go.

THE DOCTOR

/ I think it's moved. I
think it's letting me go.

She's getting stronger. The delay in the synch slightly longer, the Doctor now a few words behind. And the Doctor knows it. Fear in his eyes. Boggling! His face is trying to say: *this is wrong!* But he can't stop his mouth from saying what Sky says, and nothing else.

And at the same time, Sky is getting physically stronger, Sitting upright. The Doctor, weaker. Stuck, kneeling.

DEE DEE

What does that mean, letting you go from
what?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (36)

9

BIFF CANE

But *he's* repeating now, he's the one
doing it! It's him!

JETHRO

They're separating.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Mrs Silvestry? Is that you?

SKY

Yes, yes it is, it's
me/, I'm coming back.
Listen. It's me!

THE DOCTOR

/Yes, yes it is, it's me,
I'm coming back. Listen.
It's me!

But saying that, the Doctor's face is saying, *no no no!*

JETHRO

Like... it's passed into the Doctor.
It's transferred. Whatever it is, it's
gone inside him.

But Dee Dee's very still, quiet, watching carefully:

DEE DEE

No, that's not what happened.

VAL CANE

But look at her!

Sky flexing an arm, like she's waking.

SKY

I can move... I can
feel again, I'm coming
/ back to life. And
look at him. He can't
move.

THE DOCTOR

/ I can move... I can feel
again, I'm coming back to
life. And look at him. He
can't move.

Sky goes to stand, feeble, reaches out for help - and now
the Doctor's losing his overlap, he's a plain repeat:

SKY

Help me.

THE DOCTOR

Help me.

SKY

Professor...?

THE DOCTOR

Professor...?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (37)

9

SKY

Get me away from him.

THE DOCTOR

Get me away from him.

SKY

Please.

THE DOCTOR

Please.

The Professor holding back, still scared of her... But she's weak, begging, and he can't help himself -

He goes to her, helps her to stand. She clasps hold -

SKY

Ohh thank you.

THE DOCTOR

Ohh thank you.

He leads her away from the Doctor. The Doctor, with no strength, still on his knees, now has his back to everyone, so they can't see the panic on his face. And it's easier to blame him, when they don't have to look at him.

JETHRO

They've completely separated.

BIFF CANE

It's him, it's in him, d'you see, I said it was him all the time -

VAL CANE

She's free! She's been saved!

SKY

It was so cold.

THE DOCTOR

It was so cold.

SKY

I couldn't breathe.

THE DOCTOR

I couldn't breathe.

Sky tearful, pathetic, reaching out for Val.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (38)

9

SKY

I'm sorry.

THE DOCTOR

I'm sorry.

SKY

I must've scared you, so much.

THE DOCTOR

I must've scared you, so much.

Val runs to her, hugs her, tearful.

VAL CANE

No, no, it's all right, I've got you,
there you are, my love, it's gone,
everything's all right now.

DEE DEE

I wouldn't touch her.

BIFF CANE

(to Dee Dee)

But it's gone, she's clean, it's passed
into him.

DEE DEE

That's not what happened.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Thank you for your opinion, Dee, but
clearly, Mrs Silvestry has been
released.

DEE DEE

No.

The Doctor's face, unseen: *listen to her!!*

VAL CANE

(defending Sky)

Just leave her alone! She's safe, isn't
she? Jethro? It's let her go, hasn't
it?

JETHRO

...I think so, yeah. Looks like it.
Professor?

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Well, um, I'd say, from observation...
The Doctor can't move, and when she was
possessed, she couldn't move, so...

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (39)

9

BIFF CANE

Well there we are! Now the only problem
we've got is this Doctor.

Now Sky's clever; fear controls this lot. She starts
twisting up the tension. During the below, all stare at
the Doctor, in growing terror. Except for Dee Dee, and
unnoticed, at the back, the Hostess.

SKY

It's inside his head.

THE DOCTOR

It's inside his head.

SKY

It killed the Driver.

THE DOCTOR

It killed the Driver.

SKY

And the mechanic.

THE DOCTOR

And the mechanic.

SKY

And now it wants us.

THE DOCTOR

And now it wants us.

VAL CANE

I said so!

SKY

He's waited so long.

THE DOCTOR

He's waited so long.

SKY

In the dark.

THE DOCTOR

In the dark.

SKY

And the cold.

THE DOCTOR

And the cold.

(CONTINUED)

9

CONTINUED: (40)

9

SKY
And the diamonds.

THE DOCTOR
And the diamonds.

SKY
Until you came.

THE DOCTOR
Until you came.

SKY
Bodies so hot.

THE DOCTOR
Bodies so hot.

SKY
With blood.

THE DOCTOR
With blood.

SKY
And pain.

THE DOCTOR
And pain.

VAL CANE
(terrified)
Make him stop, oh my God, make him stop,
someone make him stop -

DEE DEE
But *she's* saying it!

BIFF CANE
(angry)
And you can shut up!

DEE DEE
I'm sorry, but it's not him, it's *her*,
he's just repeating!

BIFF CANE
But that's what the thing does, it
repeats!

Throughout, watching, quietly: the Hostess. All that
training coming to the fore, keeping her calm:

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (41)

9

HOSTESS

Let her talk.

BIFF CANE

Oy, what do you know? Fat lot of good you've been!

HOSTESS

Just let her explain.

All eyes on Dee Dee. Which she hates.

DEE DEE

I think... I mean, from what I've seen... It repeats, then it synchronises, then it goes to the next stage, that's exactly what the Doctor said would happen!

BIFF CANE

What, and you're on his side?

DEE DEE

No, but that's what I just saw! She took his voice!

JETHRO

But the voice is the thing!

DEE DEE

(upset)

And she's the voice! She stole it! Listen to her! It's not possessing him, it's draining him!

Quiet, more to herself; the Hostess is the only one who believes her, no one paying her any attention:

HOSTESS

She's got his voice...

VAL CANE

(at Dee Dee)

No, but that's not true, cos it can't be, cos I saw it pass into him, I saw it with my own eyes!

BIFF CANE

So did I!

DEE DEE

But you didn't!

(CONTINUED)

9

CONTINUED: (42)

9

VAL CANE

It went from her, to him.

(to Jethro)

You saw it, didn't you?

JETHRO

(scared kid)

I don't know.

VAL CANE

Don't be stupid, Jethro, of course you did!

JETHRO

I suppose... He was right next to her.

VAL CANE

There we are then!

BIFF CANE

Everyone saw it, everyone!

DEE DEE

But you *didn't*! You're just making it up! I know what I saw, and I saw her, stealing his voice -

VAL CANE

She's as bad as him, someone shut her up -

- said to the Professor, who's desperate to prove himself, all his impotent anger aimed at Dee Dee -

PROFESSOR HOBBS

I think you should be quiet, Dee -

DEE DEE

I'm only saying -

PROFESSOR HOBBS

And that's an order! You're making a fool of yourself! Pretending you're an expert in mechanics, and hydraulics, when I can tell you that you're nothing more than average, at best! Now shut up!

Dee Dee silenced, humiliated. Sky plaintive & mystical:

SKY

That's how he does it.

THE DOCTOR

That's how he does it.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (43)

9

SKY
He makes you fight.

THE DOCTOR
He makes you fight.

SKY
Creeps into your head.

THE DOCTOR
Creeps into your head.

SKY
And whispers.

THE DOCTOR
And whispers.

Whispered:

SKY
Listen.

THE DOCTOR
Listen.

SKY
Just listen.

THE DOCTOR
Just listen.

SKY
That's him.

THE DOCTOR
That's him.

SKY
Inside.

THE DOCTOR
Inside.

Val clutches her head, terrified, vicious -

VAL CANE
Don't let him whisper, shut him up, shut
him up, get him out of my head!

BIFF CANE
Throw him out. Yeah, we should throw
him out!

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (44)

9

VAL CANE

Well don't just *talk* about it! Don't be
so useless! *Do* something!

BIFF CANE

I will! You watch me! I'm gonna throw
him out!

SKY

Yes!

THE DOCTOR

Yes!

SKY

Throw him out!

THE DOCTOR

Throw him out!

SKY

Get rid of him!

THE DOCTOR

Get rid of him!

SKY

Now!

THE DOCTOR

Now!

And Biff goes to the Doctor. To throw him out!
Everything *wild* now -

DEE DEE

Don't - !

VAL CANE

It'll be you next!

Dee Dee scared, shrinking back, useless from now on. Her
moment has come, and she's failed.

Biff now hauling the Doctor up - panic on the Doctor's
face - but he's a dead weight, no strength - though that
actually makes him very difficult to pick up -

Biff hauling him round, into the centre aisle - and
everyone can see the Doctor's face now -

The Hostess stepping forward -

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (45)

9

HOSTESS

I don't think we should do this -

BIFF CANE

It was your idea!

VAL CANE

You thought of it!

Which shuts the Hostess up: it's true. (NB, Hostess now standing halfway down the cabin.)

Biff's shunting the Doctor forward, all the Doctor can do is try to dig his feet in -

BIFF CANE

Professor! Help me!

The Professor terrified, trapped -

PROFESSOR HOBBS

I can't... I'm not...

BIFF CANE

What sort of man are you? *Come on!*

And the Professor's too weak - he runs, to help Biff -

- though he's never done anything like this before, he's not strong, and he's upset, moaning with fear - he tries to hook himself under one of the Doctor's arms, but it's so clumsy, he's more of a hindrance - it's a *mess*, like any murder - Biff taking the weight, yelling -

BIFF CANE (CONT'D)

- just, grab hold of him - not like that, are you stupid?!, don't -

And at exactly the same time:

Val is a *constant* voice, standing to the side, never stopping, improvising around:

VAL CANE

Throw him out! Just throw him out!
Just do it! [Etc.]

At the same time, Dee Dee just backs away, into the seats, watching, crying, but useless.

At the same time, Jethro staring, frozen, horrified.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (46)

9

But Sky stands centre aisle! Vicious! Facing the Doctor but taking steps back with every line, towards the Emergency Door, as though physically leading Biff, the Professor and the Doctor towards the door by strength of will -

(There's a clear line between the Doctor & Sky, and as Sky backs away, the Hostess is now positioned between the Doctor & Sky, to the side - watching everything, so sharp.)

SKY
Cast him out!

Biff behind the Doctor, hooking both arms under his -

THE DOCTOR
Cast him out!

BIFF CANE
Get his legs - grab hold of his legs -

SKY
Into the sun

The Professor goes to the Doctor's legs - tries to lift him - the Doctor managing to twist a little, so it's not easy -

THE DOCTOR
Into the sun!

SKY
And the night!

BIFF CANE (CONT'D)
Jethro! Help him! Jethro!
Don't just stand there! Do as I say!!

THE DOCTOR
And the night!

SKY
Do it!

And Jethro is so scared -

THE DOCTOR
Do it!

- but he runs to help, desperate, still just a kid - picking up the Doctor's legs, with the Professor, with Biff at the head - so they've lifted him up -

SKY
Do it now!

THE DOCTOR
Do it now!

And now, Sky backing down the aisle, stronger and stronger:

SKY
Faster!

THE DOCTOR
Faster!

SKY
That's the way!

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (47)

9

THE DOCTOR
That's the way!

SKY
You can do it!

THE DOCTOR
You can do it!

SKY
Molto bene!

THE DOCTOR
Molto bene!

SKY
Allons-y!

THE DOCTOR
Allons-y!

ON THE HOSTESS.

Because now she knows.

Very quiet. No one listening to her.

HOSTESS
That's his voice.

She looks at Dee Dee.

HOSTESS (CONT'D)
That's his voice.

But Dee Dee's just crying.

Looking at the Doctor:

HOSTESS (CONT'D)
She's taken his voice.

Looking at Sky:

HOSTESS (CONT'D)
It's her.

But she's all on her own.

She looks round:

Biff, the Professor, Jethro clumsily hauling the Doctor forwards - Val yelling - Dee Dee crying - Sky exultant, moving back:

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (48)

9

SKY
The starlight waits!

THE DOCTOR
The starlight waits!

SKY
The emptiness!

THE DOCTOR
The emptiness!

SKY
The Midnight sky!

THE DOCTOR
The Midnight sky!

And the Hostess know what has to be done.

In one, fluid action, no struggle -

The Hostess strides forward, towards Sky -

- grabs hold of Sky, keeps marching, fast, just the last few steps towards the EMERGENCY DOOR, Sky taken with her -

The Doctor, Biff, Professor, Jethro, Dee Dee, Val, all frozen mid-action, seeing this -

The Hostess slams the BUTTON -

EMERGENCY DOOR whooshes open -

Both women in the doorway, which becomes a frame of LIGHT AND WIND AND SMOKE -

- the Hostess now holding Sky tight, face to face -

SKY
No - !

And it's like the Doctor, helpless, means this repeat:

THE DOCTOR
No - !

HOSTESS
...four, five, six -

WHOOSH! The Hostess and Sky are pulled out together - out of the door, fast, flying into the darkness, gone -

SCHUNK! The door slams shut.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (49)

9

And it's over.

Silence. Frozen.

Then...

The madness has gone. Biff, the Professor & Jethro drop the Doctor, like they're ashamed.

The Doctor can speak. Exhausted:

THE DOCTOR

It's gone, it's gone, it's gone, it's gone, it's gone...

As his litany fades away, and he just stays on the floor, wounded, aching, recovering.

Biff steps all the way back to the front wall, stunned. Sinking to the floor. Heaving for breath.

The Professor just curls up. Hiding his head.

Jethro retreating to one of the side-walls, like he can't believe what he just became.

Dee Dee crying, turns away, can't look at any of them.

Val staring at the Doctor.

Silence.

Hold. For a long time.

Then quietly:

VAL CANE

I said it was her.

The Doctor just looks at her.

Such a look.

And Val is silent.

CUT TO WIDE SHOT. All recovering.

Slowly FADE TO BLACK...

Bring up GRAPHIC:

20 minutes later

FADE UP...

10 INT. CRUSADER FIFTY - DAY 10

More lights on, now, though not full-power. All sitting apart; as far apart from each other as they can be.

Over this:

RADIO VOICE
...repeat, Crusader 50, rescue vehicle coming alongside in three minutes, door-seals set to automatic. Prepare for boarding, repeat, prepare for boarding.

The Doctor looks over to the Professor.

THE DOCTOR
The Hostess. What was her name?

PROFESSOR HOBBS
...I don't know.

The Doctor looks across at Dee Dee, Val, Biff, Jethro.

All shake their heads.

No one knows.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE UP...

11 EXT. FX SHOT 11

REPEAT FX SHOT 1, THE DIAMOND PLAINS, the LEISURE PALACE.

CUT TO:

12 INT. LEISURE PALACE, SPA - DAY 12

WIDE SHOT. THE DOCTOR walking across, still exhausted. DONNA, knowing that something's happened, running to him.

Big hug.

CUT TO:

13 INT. LEISURE PALACE, SPA - LATER 13

THE DOCTOR & DONNA sitting there. The Doctor more his old self, though quiet.

DONNA
...but what d'you think it was?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

THE DOCTOR

No idea.

DONNA

D'you think it's still out there?

No reply.

DONNA (CONT'D)

You'd better tell them. This lot.

THE DOCTOR

Yeah. They can build a Leisure Palace
somewhere else. Let this planet keep on
turning. Round an X-tonic star. In
silence.

DONNA

(smiles, gentle)

Can't imagine you, without a voice.

THE DOCTOR

(smiles)

Molto bene.

DONNA

'Molto bene!'

THE DOCTOR

No, don't do that. Don't.

And they sit in silence.

END OF EPISODE 4.10

*