

DOCTOR WHO

SERIES 8

EPISODE 10

"In The Forest of The Night"

by

FRANK COTTRELL BOYCE

SHOOTING SCRIPT

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(SHOOTING BLOCK 7)

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1 **EXT. A FOREST - EARLY MORNING - DAY**

1

We're deep in a forest. Twisted branches. Rattling leaves.
Slashes of light and ... the drumming of footsteps. *

Someone is running. Someone is scared. Someone is lost. A
girl in school uniform - MAEBH - hurries through the trees.
Twigs snap at her face, bracken scratches her legs. She
stops, looks around. She swats at the air as though molested
by mosquitos.

She spots a path. Relieved, she follows it. Comes to a fork. *
Which way now? Mosquitos again. She tries to bat them away.
Takes the left fork. But then stops. Something rattles in the
bracken. A thick cloud of what looks like mosquitos rise out
of it. She turns and runs.

Crash. Whatever was in the bracken has heard and is chasing
her. She keeps running until she comes to a clearing.

There, incongruously, is a blue police box. Without a
backward glance she dashes over to it. Reads the sign
"Assistance Available". Perfect. She knocks on the door and
keeps knocking until the door opens and THE DOCTOR looks out.

THE DOCTOR is taken aback to see a visitor.

MAEBH:
I'm lost. Please can you help me?

THE DOCTOR:
(DISMISSIVE) It's ... that way.

He goes back in, closing the door behind him. But then comes *
back.

THE DOCTOR: (cont'd)
Are those ... trees?

MAEBH:
I need the Doctor. Are you the
Doctor?

THE DOCTOR:
Yes. Do you have an appointment?
You need an appointment to see a
doctor.

MAEBH:
Please. Something's chasing me.

He goes in, leaving the door open for her. She follows him
in.

CUT TO:

2 **INT. TARDIS - DAY**

2

MAEBH comes in. THE DOCTOR hurries to the console. *

THE DOCTOR:

When you drink a glass of Coke,
it's only this big (small) but it's
actually got this much (huge) sugar
in it? It works a bit like that ..

MAEBH:

What does?

THE DOCTOR:

This. The TARDIS. It's bigger on
the inside than on the outside. Or
did you not notice?

MAEBH:

I just thought it was supposed to
be bigger on the inside so I didn't
say anything.

THE DOCTOR:

Of course it's supposed to be. Most
people find that confusing.

MAEBH:

I find everything confusing nearly.
So I don't say anything. That's how
come I'm in the woods. I thought
Miss Oswald told me to find the
Doctor, but it wasn't her. It was
just in my head.

THE DOCTOR looks up.

THE DOCTOR:

Miss Oswald? Dark hair. Highly
unpredictable? Surprisingly round
face?

MAEBH:

Everyone says she's in love with
Mr. Pink.

THE DOCTOR:

The PE teacher?

MAEBH:

Maths. I really like him. I was in
his group.

THE DOCTOR busies himself starting up the TARDIS.

THE DOCTOR:

Mr. Pink was looking after you.
That explains why you're lost. It
doesn't surprise you that I know
all about your school?

MAEBH:

Everyone seems to know everything
about everything apart from me.

THE DOCTOR:

Not quite everything. I for instance have no idea why - when the terrestrial navigator boots up - it closes down all the other systems.

MAEBH:

You should ask someone who knows.

THE DOCTOR:

Another of the drawbacks of being the last of your species. No one to ask when your TARDIS won't start.

The TARDIS boots up. But almost immediately a Tom Tom type voice announces "You have arrived at your destination" and the engines close down again. THE DOCTOR howls.

MAEBH:

Where are you trying to get to?

*

"You have arrived at your destination."

THE DOCTOR:

No! We haven't. (TO MAEBH) We're supposed to be in the middle of London.

"You have arrived at your destination."

THE DOCTOR: (cont'd)

(TO THE SATNAV) Stop saying that!

MAEBH:

She's only saying it because it's true. We are in the middle of London.

*

THE DOCTOR:

We're in the middle of a forest.

MAEBH:

Come and see ...

*

She grabs his hand and leads him out.

CUT TO:

3

EXT. TRAFALGAR SQUARE - DAY

3

MAEBH leads THE DOCTOR through the trees, past a massive statue of a lion - half-obsured by the undergrowth. Beyond that, there's a colossal plinth and rising from it, up through the branches, a huge, fluted column.

MAEBH:

... Nelson's Column. D'you like it?

THE DOCTOR:

Do I ... I'm sorry, what?

MAEBH:

D'you like the forest being in
Trafalgar Square? I think it's
lovely.

THE DOCTOR stares at her. Then he stares at Nelson's column.

FX: Off THE DOCTOR's gaze the camera travels upwards, up the
trunks of the trees, through the branches above the canopy
itself ...

FX: We see the familiar landmarks of the London skyline - the
Post Office Tower, Big Ben, the Shard and the dome of St.
Paul's dawning over a billowing cloudbank of leaves.

TITLES: In The Forest of The Night ...

4

INT. MUSEUM - MORNING - DAY

4 *

Come in on the a life-sized stuffed wolf.

*

Spread out on the floor beneath is a group of CHILDREN from
Coal Hill School, packed into sleeping bags. It's the end of
an "enrichment sleepover." Suddenly a flash of blinding light
blasts the faces of the groggy CHILDREN. One of the kids -
BRADLEY - is shining an incredibly bright torch right into
the face of one of the other kids - SAMSON.

*

SAMSON:

Brad-ley!! Sir!! Tell him, sir.
He's blinding me.

His pleading has no effect on BRADLEY.

DANNY:

Give me that, Bradley.

BRADLEY:

I'm allowed a torch, sir. I've got
a note. I'm darkness phobic.

SAMSON:

Just because he's scared of the
dark, sir, does that mean he's
allowed (... to blind me?).

DANNY:

You're allowed a torch, Bradley,
not a pocket supernova.

The teachers in charge are DANNY and CLARA. DANNY is already
addressing the KIDS ...

DANNY: (cont'd)

OK listen up. A few things to run
through before we head home. Put
your phone away, Bradley.

(MORE)

DANNY: (cont'd)
First of all, collect any rubbish
you've generated through midnight
feasts or whatever ...

CUT TO:

5 **INT. MUSEUM. MAIN DOOR / EXT. MUSEUM - DAY**

5 *

DANNY is now leading the KIDS towards the main door. It's
still locked. There seems to be no sign of life.

DANNY:
Hello, hello!

The lack of response is unsettling. The KIDS are unsettled.
SAMSON buries his head in the hood of his coat.

DANNY tries the door. It won't budge. From somewhere unseen,
there's a cough. An unhappy elderly security guard (GEORGE)
appears. *

GEORGE:
I'm supposed to have been relieved
you know.

DANNY:
Coal Hill School. Sleepover.

GEORGE shushes him. Apparently opening the doors is a taxing
process, including key codes, something to do with a green
button and the drawing of the noisy bolts.

DANNY: (cont'd)
Our coach back to school should be
here.

GEORGE stops what he's doing and stares at DANNY.

GEORGE:
It's not like opening a jar of
pickles you know. This is a high
security installation. *

DANNY accepts the need for quiet. GEORGE gets on with it. *

CLARA notices that RUBY has drifted off to the tree cross-
section.

RUBY:
Why is this one so fat, Miss?

CLARA:
Because it was alive so long.

RUBY:
This ring though. All the other
rings are thin but this one's fat
and red, see?

CLARA:

Must have been a good year to be a
tree. Come on, Ruby.

Finally the door unlocking is completed. GEORGE tries to
barge it open, but nothing happens.

GEORGE:

Hang on. There's a knack to this.

He tries to begin the whole thing again.

DANNY:

No. It moved. It's not locked, it's
jammed. Come on team ...

He puts his shoulder to the door. The KIDS don't move. He
strains against the door. Notices he's on his own.

DANNY: (cont'd)

I said, come on, team.

SAMSON:

What team?

CLARA shoves them all against the door. Even GEORGE joins in.
The door creaks open a little way. Enough for SAMSON to slip
through. From the other side of the door ...

SAMSON: (cont'd)

Wow. Sir, where are we?

DANNY:

What d'you mean where are we?

RUBY goes through next and also expresses amazement. Finally
DANNY and CLARA wriggle through ... and we see what the
others have been seeing.

They are not looking out onto London but into a thick,
deciduous forest.

RUBY:

We can't have been asleep that
long, can we?

Her first instinct is to take a picture with her phone. The
other KIDS all get their phones out and start taking
pictures. The moment they do so their phones buzz.

*
*

SAMSON checks his.

*

SAMSON:

Woah look at this. That's our
Robbie. That's outside school. Coal
Hill is bare trees, too.

*
*
*
*

CLARA looks at the phone. There's a picture of a couple of
TEENAGE LADS giving the thumbs up in front of the Coal Hill
sign, in what seems to be the middle of the greenwood.

5 CONTINUED:

5

Off the picture we -

CUT TO:

6 **INT. BBC BREAKFAST - DAY**

6

BILL TURNBULL is speaking from the studio.

BILL:
Perplexing reports from all over
the country of; what would you call
it? An unexpected horticultural
development ... Jenny ...

CUT TO NEWSREEL
OF THE DISASTER
FROM ALL OVER
THE WORLD:

7 **EXT. WEST COAST MAIN LINE - DAY**

7

Footage of the reporter JENNY HILL standing on what seems to
be a disused railway line with a fine looking oak tree
growing up between the sleepers.

JENNY HILL:
Well, Bill, you've heard of leaves
on the line. This is going to be
slightly harder to clear. Believe
it or not this is the West Coast
Main line. Until midnight yesterday
it was carrying thousands of
passengers North from London. Today
... it's completely overgrown.
We're getting similar reports from
the M25 ...

Insert shots of the unexpected M25 alder grove.

JENNY HILL: (cont'd)
And the Scottish Parliament ...

A REPORTER stands outside the Scottish Parliament, but it
looks like he is in Center Parcs.

CUT TO:

8 **OMITTED**

8

9 **OMITTED**

9 *

10 **EXT. NOTRE DAME. PARIS - DAY**

10 *

A PARIS REPORTER is standing amongst the trees.

PARIS REPORTER:

C'est Bois de Boulogne? Non. C'est
L'ille de la Citie. Incroyable.
Caché dans les arbres - c'est Notre
Dame. Qu'est-ce se passe?

CUT TO:

11 **EXT. FOOTBALL PITCH. ACCRA - DAY**

11 *

An ACCRA REPORTER stands forlornly in front of some goal
posts that have trees growing in them.

*
*

ACCRA REPORTER:

In three hours time the Ghana Black
Stars are due to play Sierra Leone
in the African Cup of Nations. It
does not look like the pitch will
be ready.

*
*
*
*
*

CUT TO:

*

12 **INT. TARDIS - DAY / EXT. MUSEUM - DAY**

12 *

CLARA rings THE DOCTOR - who is rooting around in the
TARDIS's works while MAEBH hovers.

*

CLARA is on the steps of the museum, marvelling at the
forest.

*

CLARA:

You're always showing me amazing
things, I've finally got something
amazing to show you. Something even
you have never seen. Right here in
London.

*
*

THE DOCTOR:

There are some things I've never
seen, but that's usually because
I've chosen not to see them. Even
my incredibly long life is too
short for Les Miserables.

*

CLARA:

You're going to love this.

*

THE DOCTOR:

When you come to collect this
child, you can show me then.

CLARA:

What child?

He looks at MAEBH.

THE DOCTOR:

Well ... young human female.
Standard defenceless little girl.
(MORE)

*

THE DOCTOR: (cont'd)
Your friend Mr. Pink was supposed
to be looking after her ...

CLARA:
She probably has a name.

THE DOCTOR:
Good point. You. Do you have a name
at all?

MAEBH:
Maebh. My name's Maebh. What's
yours?

CLARA:
Maebh? No. Where are you?

*

THE DOCTOR:
Trafalgar Square. I found her
wandering in the brand new forest.

CLARA:
Brand new forest?

*

THE DOCTOR:
Like The New Forest. Only even
newer.

*

CLARA:
Is that the forest that's covering
London?

*

THE DOCTOR:
London, yes, and also the
surrounding planet. Oh. Was that
the amazing thing you were going to
show me? It is amazing, but I saw
it first.

CLARA:
Is she alright? Can you bring her
over?

THE DOCTOR:
No I can't bring her over. I'm a
Time Lord not a childminder.

*

CLARA:
You've got a space ship. All we've
got is Oyster cards.

THE DOCTOR:
And I've got a global Rapid
Afforestation crisis to deal with.

CUT TO:

13	<u>EXT. MUSEUM ROOF - DAY</u>	13 *
	DANNY is on the roof looking out over the city.	*
	FX: DANNY'S POV - the whole of London town covered in trees.	*
	DANNY heads back inside.	*
	CUT TO:	*

13A INT. MUSEUM - DAY 13A *

DANNY comes back in to address the KIDS. CLARA will walk in during the following, putting her phone away. DANNY is a whirling vortex of energy and decision-making. We're seeing him doing what he does best.

DANNY:
OK so it stretches for several miles at least. In all directions.

GEORGE:
Is it some kind of protest? It's very inconvenient.

DANNY:
An inconvenience, rightly viewed, is just another name for an adventure. Isn't that right, team?

He strides past the CHILDREN, expecting them to follow.

BRADLEY:
What team? This is confusing me.

SAMSON:
Yeah. If there was a team - why would anyone pick you?

DANNY stops as he passes CLARA.

DANNY:
What did they say?

CLARA:
Who?

DANNY:
School. Parents. You were just on the phone.

CLARA:
Oh. Yeah. Rang school and parents. Course. Thought that was the priority.

DANNY:
And?

CLARA:

Couldn't get through. Left
messages. I'll try again.

She takes out her phone again.

DANNY:

You didn't call the school. You
called him.

*
*

CLARA:

He called me actually. I can't stop
him calling me, can I?

*
*

DANNY:

I thought you weren't in touch.

*
*

CLARA:

London has just turned into a
forest. Who do you want to talk to?
Monty Don?

*
*
*
*

DANNY:

I want to do my job, which is to
look after the kids.

*
*
*

CLARA:

Oh really? How many kids?

*

DANNY:

What?

CLARA:

Where's Maebh Arden?

DANNY looks around in panic.

CLARA: (cont'd)

She's with the Doctor.

*
*

DANNY:

What? No, no. Maebh is a vulnerable
kid. She's on medication. She's had
an emotional trauma. He ... has he
even been CRB checked?

*
*
*
*

CLARA:

He didn't abduct her. She was lost.
He found her.

*
*

They're hissing at each other. Pick up on the fact that two
of the kids - BRADLEY and RUBY - are watching them from a
distance.

*

BRADLEY:

I thought you said they were in
love. Why are they shouting at each
other?

RUBY:
That's what people do when they're
in love. Don't you know anything?

CUT TO:

14 OMITTED

14

15 EXT. LONDON. CROMWELL ROAD - DAY

15

DANNY leads the KIDS through the trees.

DANNY:
Who wants to be navigator?

BRADLEY and SAMSON's hands shoot up. DANNY hands BRADLEY a
compass.

DANNY: (cont'd)
Good lad. Let's do this.

BRADLEY is chuffed but as they go, he asks SAMSON.

BRADLEY:
What's a navigator?

DANNY is already charging off through the forest.

DANNY:
Follow the lamp posts, that will
keep us on Cromwell Road. We'll be
able to orientate ourselves.

RUBY questions DANNY.

RUBY:
I thought we were getting a coach.
Where's the coach?

DANNY:
Well, Ruby, it seems the road is
blocked with trees.

RUBY:
Can't we just wait here until
they've gone?

DANNY:
Trees don't just go, Ruby.

RUBY:
They just came. Why wouldn't they
just go?

CLARA gets next to DANNY.

CLARA:

The question is, how did they get here? Can a forest grow over night? Or have we been asleep for years like Sleeping Beauty?

DANNY:

No. The question is, how do we get these kids home?

CLARA:

Oh. Absolutely. That's the big question.

He addresses the KIDS.

DANNY:

OK. Come on, keep up. It's crucial that we stick together. If you start to fall behind - don't. Bradley, we are going to head North East first to collect Maebh from Trafalgar Square, then we'll go South to the river. In densely forested terrain a river will always be your easiest form of transportation.

He pushes the pace. CLARA falls into step with him.

CLARA:

You're enjoying this a little bit too much. Are you not even a little bit curious about how? Who? Why?

DANNY:

I am curious. I am bewildered. I am in fact enchanted. But *I* am not the priority. These kids are.

CLARA:

See now that attitude is ... actually very attractive.

CUT TO:

16

INT. GOVERNMENT OFFICE - DAY

16

Shot of a GOVERNMENT MINISTER on television appealing for calm.

MINISTER:

The government emergency committee - Cobra - has formulated an action plan. We will create pathways through the trees, using carefully controlled fires. This will facilitate the movement of essential services. We are therefore asking you to stay in your homes.

*

(MORE)

16 CONTINUED:

16

MINISTER: (cont'd)

Fill your baths, sinks, and any
buckets with fresh water to ensure
a supply. We advise you to keep
your radios and mobile phones on so
that we can update you. Above all,
stay indoors.

*

CUT TO:

*

17 **EXT. TARDIS - DAY**

17 *

THE DOCTOR is scanning the trees with his sonic screwdriver.

*

MAEBH:

*

I thought everyone would like it.
But you don't like it.

*

THE DOCTOR:

*

Why would there be no reading?
Because they are actually made of
wood. No circuits. No mechanism ...
wood.

*

He examines the growth nodes.

THE DOCTOR: (cont'd)

They're still growing. If you look
long enough you can actually see it
growing.

MAEBH:

What's this for?

*

She goes to touch the sonic screwdriver, but THE DOCTOR
snatches it away.

THE DOCTOR:

This is a sonic screwdriver. It
interacts with any form of
communication you care to mention
... Sadly trees have no moving
parts and don't communicate.

MAEBH:

They communicate a bit though.

THE DOCTOR:

What?

MAEBH:

Otherwise they wouldn't all grow at
the same time, would they?

THE DOCTOR:

You think that's how Spring
begins? With a group message on
Tree FaceBook? They send each other
texts?

MAEBH:

You don't need a phone to
communicate, do you? I haven't
phoned home, but I know my Mum is
worried about me.

CUT TO:

18 **INT. MAEBH'S HOUSE - MORNING - DAY / EXT. MAEBH'S HOUSE - DAY**18*

MAEBH's MUM is having a phone conversation whilst frantically
looking for her car keys.

MAEBH'S MUM:

You said you'd collect her. No. YOU
said you'd collect her. It's
alright, I'm collecting her. Soon
as I find my car keys. Can't see a
thing. Next door have planted
bloody leylandii and they've gone
mental. Taking all my daylight ...

She's looking at the window which is totally obscured by
leaves and branches. She spots her keys and heads for the
door.

MAEBH'S MUM: (cont'd)

I've had words with her about it
before. She's...

She has now opened the front door. Outside the front door
there is a forest.

MAEBH'S MUM: (cont'd)

Oh. I'll call you back.

CUT TO:

19 **EXT. MAEBH'S HOUSE - DAY**

19

Entranced and bewildered, MAEBH's MUM drifts out into the
woods. The NEIGHBOURS are out - similarly enchanted and
confused. But also charmed.

NEIGHBOUR ONE:

*

I think we should have been
consulted. What's it in aid of
even? How am I going to get my car
out?

The cars are blocked in the drives by the sudden trees.

MAEBH'S MUM:

Maebh's on a school trip. She needs
her medication. I was supposed to
collect her. How far does this go?

She looks up and down the street, hoping to see an end to it,
but there's no end in sight.

CUT TO:

20

EXT. LONDON. KNIGHTSBRIDGE. FOREST - DAY

20 *

DANNY leads the CHILDREN through the lovely, inexplicable
forest. Blossom blows by on the breeze. Every now and then
their way is illuminated by a lamp post.

RUBY:

Miss, in the museum, right, I was
reading about Reproduction.

CLARA:

Oh, Ruby, this isn't really the
right moment.

RUBY:

And that said trees have blossom
and then that turns into fruit or
nuts or seeds. Right?

CLARA:

Right, Ruby.

RUBY:

These trees have got blossom and
nuts on at the same time. See?
Blossom and nuts.

CLARA:

That is strange. And that's very
good observation skills, Ruby.

*

SAMSON:

Nuts. That's unlucky for you isn't
it, Bradley, because you've got an
allergy, haven't you, Bradley? What
happens if one of them falls on
your head, Bradley? You'll die,
Bradley, yeah? You'll swell up like
a massive melon ...

BRADLEY:

Shut it.

They shove each other about. Meanwhile, RUBY pulls at CLARA.

*

RUBY:

Maebh's on medication, Miss.
What'll happen if we don't get to
her in time? When her medication
wears off she'll go mental. Her
head goes funny. It's like ...

*

*

*

*

CLARA:

I think Mr. Pink will get us there
in time, don't you? I think we're
in good hands with Mr. Pink.

She looks ahead to where he is chivvying the CHILDREN along
and feels a rush of fond admiration for him.

CLARA: (cont'd)

Yes. We are in really good hands.

*

CUT TO:

21 **INT. TARDIS - DAY**

21

THE DOCTOR is talking to himself, trying to work things out.

THE DOCTOR:

They are already blocking roads and
railway lines. So no food is being
delivered. No medical supplies.
Plus they're still growing so it's
only a matter of time before the
roots cut through the power lines,
water mains. Water, electricity and
wood - great combination. You know,
if it wasn't a forest it would be a
very effective weapon.

Meanwhile, MAEBH is muttering (it's coming, it's coming). She
seems to be having some kind of dialogue with herself.

*

*

MAEBH:

Ssssh! Stop talking. Leave me
alone.

*

He stares at her.

MAEBH: (cont'd)

Not you. I'm talking to ... myself.

*

THE DOCTOR:

I was talking to MY self but you
interrupted.

MAEBH looks increasingly agitated. Her medication is wearing
off. She's making that swatting gesture we saw earlier.
She's muttering to herself - or possibly not to herself.

CUT TO:

22 **EXT. TRAFALGAR SQUARE - DAY**

22

CLARA has spotted the TARDIS. She heads for it.

CLARA:

There it is. Come on.

The KIDS are more interested in the great stone lions gazing
at them through the leaves and branches.

The streetlights dotted around the square are all illuminated, making the leaves shimmer and glow. And there's that column of stone.

There's no one else there but the children.

DANNY:
Trafalgar Square! Well done
Bradley. Excellent navigation
skills.

*

BRADLEY beams. This is magical. The KIDS are amazed.

CLARA's heading straight for the TARDIS.

CLARA:
Nearly there. All sorted now.

DANNY grunts his agreement. She's tickled by his distrust of THE DOCTOR.

Meanwhile, the KIDS are excited by the stone lion.

BRADLEY:
Can we have pictures with that
lion, sir? Please?

DANNY:
Stay together. But OK.

The KIDS go off to take selfies with the stone lion.

CLARA:
Can't believe that Bradley said
please.

DANNY:
Really.

CLARA:
Yeah he usually prefers other means
of persuasion ...

CUT AWAY TO:

INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - DAY

A glimpse of BRADLEY's usual method. He's threatening a YOUNGER KID. CLARA isn't looking at him.

BRADLEY:
Miss, he won't lend me his
calculator, Miss.

CLARA doesn't look up but does make a suggestion.

CLARA:
You could try saying please,
Bradley.

23 CONTINUED:

23

There's a crash. Now she does look up and there's a KID crying on the floor, a desk on its side and the door swinging on its hinges.

BACK TO:

24 **EXT. TRAFALGAR SQUARE - DAY**

24

CLARA and DANNY are still watching the KIDS. BRADLEY is going to take a picture. RUBY bosses everyone into position. *

CLARA:

And Ruby ...

CUT AWAY TO:

25 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL. MATHS LESSON - DAY**

25

DANNY is teaching a maths lesson. He's drawn a right angled triangle on the white board and marked the hypotenuse "X".

DANNY:

How do we find X? ... Ruby.

RUBY looks like she's been tasered. She stares at the white board.

RUBY:

"X"? It's there, sir. At the top.

DANNY:

How do we find ...

RUBY:

It's not lost. It's there. At the top, look. *

DANNY:

... the VALUE of X?

RUBY:

Why am I being asked all the questions? Give someone else a go. *

BACK TO:

26 **EXT. TRAFALGAR SQUARE - DAY**

26

CLARA and DANNY still discussing the KIDS.

CLARA:

You bring out the best in them. And you got us here. Thanks. *

She tugs him towards the TARDIS but he hangs back. *

CLARA: (cont'd)

The Doctor will help get us the
rest of the way home. In fact he'll
probably be able to sort out this
whole forest thing. Come on then.

*
*
*
*

DANNY:

I'll keep an eye on the kids.

Suddenly there's a yelp of fear from BRADLEY and SAMSON. And
a cry of alarm from DANNY.

*

Nelson's Column groaned and shook.

*

RUBY meanwhile has broken a branch. She brings it to DANNY.

*

RUBY:

Look, Sir. No rings. Trees normally
have rings to tell you how old they
are. This one's got no rings. Why's
that then, Sir?

THE DOCTOR has appeared, unnoticed, next to her.

THE DOCTOR:

The rings mark the years of growth.
One ring for each year. This grew
up over night. That whole tree is
just one night's growth. And
they're still growing.

RUBY is thrown but CLARA smooths things.

CLARA:

Everyone, this is the Doctor and
he's going to sort everything out.
Isn't that right, Doctor? That's
what he does.

THE DOCTOR:

Well having looked into things I
think the answer to that is
probably no.

CLARA:

He always says that. He's really
clever.

We reveal that MAEBH has hidden herself behind a tree. She's
peering out, watching the others anxiously.

*
*

THE DOCTOR:

Oh I am really clever. But I'm
afraid clever isn't much use
against trees. They don't listen to
reason. You can't lie to them. You
can't plead with them. They have no
moving parts, no circuits, no wi-
fi. You wave your sonic screwdriver
at them all you like and ...

(MORE)

THE DOCTOR: (cont'd)
they just keep growing. This is a
natural event.

*

More unsettling noises from Nelson's Column and more
expressions of fright from the KIDS.

DANNY:
How can it be natural for a tree to
grow in a night?

THE DOCTOR:
Exactly what they said about the
Ice Age. How can whole glaciers
just pop up out of nowhere? They
just did. That's how this planet
grows - a series of catastrophes.
The Ice Age is over. Welcome to the
Tree Age. Possibly. When it was the
Ice Age you lot learnt to cook
mammoth. You've got a forest. Eat
nuts.

*

*

*

*

*

He keeps staring into the trees, trying to figure it out.

*

BRADLEY:
I can't eat nuts. I've got an
allergy.

CLARA:
(TO DANNY) Don't worry. It's a
thing he does. He pretends he's not
interested and then he has an idea.
He's playing for time.

THE DOCTOR:
Time. Interesting.

CLARA:
See? Clever kicking in.

THE DOCTOR:
A tree is a time machine. Plant a
little acorn in 1795 and in the
year 2016 there's an oak tree still
in the same spot with a little bit
of 1795 still alive inside it. You
don't create an overnight forest
with extra special fertiliser. You
have to mess with the fabric of
time itself. And you have to
communicate ... with the trees.

Something has indeed clicked in THE DOCTOR's brain. He
hurries back into the TARDIS, followed by CLARA and the
others.

*

*

As he they go in, however, MAEBH slips away.

*

CUT TO:

27

INT. TARDIS - DAY

27

THE DOCTOR is working at the console. CLARA comes in pleading and reasoning. Neither really notices that DANNY has followed them in with the KIDS. DANNY watches the way THE DOCTOR and CLARA work.

*
*

CLARA:
So you're saying it's an act of aggression?

*
*

THE DOCTOR:
By trees?

CLARA:
By someone who needs trees.

THE DOCTOR:
Invasion of the Space Squirrels.

RUBY:
Trees clean the air.

CLARA:
Exactly. Well done, Ruby. Someone or something that needs to scrub the atmosphere prior to colonising or invading ...

SAMSON is taking a selfie against the TARDIS background.

*

CLARA: (cont'd)
This is Coal Hill Year Eight Gifted and Talented Group. This is Samson.

*

SAMSON:
What are the round bits for?

THE DOCTOR:
Ask your teacher. Come on. Out. And why by the way are none of you struck by the fact that it's bigger on the inside?

RUBY:
There wasn't a forest. Then there was a forest. Nothing surprises us any more.

While they're talking, DANNY notices a pile of school books in the corner. Puzzled, he flicks through them with a frown.

*
*

THE DOCTOR is still thinking out loud. CLARA is busy trying to control the KIDS.

*
*

THE DOCTOR:
These trees all appeared at once. That's not a coincidence. There's no such thing as an arboreal coincidence. Something, someone co-ordinated this. To co-ordinate you need to communicate.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

(MORE)

THE DOCTOR: (cont'd)

Every single communication channel
on the TARDIS is open ... and
nothing ... except ...

*
*
*

He's looking over DANNY's shoulder.

*

THE DOCTOR: (cont'd)

Let me see that.

DANNY:

Homework books. What are they doing
here?

*

THE DOCTOR ignores this question and concentrates instead on
Maebh's book. The lower part of every page is covered in
dense, energetic sketches of trees. But it's the top of the
page that captures his attention. There's a drawing of the
Sun - a kid's Sun with a face, but the face is angry - one of
its rays is jagged and violent like a flash of lightning. He
snaps it shut and reads the name on the front of the book.

*
*
*
*
*

THE DOCTOR:

Maebh Arden. Which one is Maebh?
Maebh?

*
*
*

They all look at each other.

*

RUBY:

Oh my God Maebh's gone. Maebh's
lost in the forest. Maebh's gonna
die.

*
*
*
*

CLARA:

That's enough, Ruby.

*
*

THE DOCTOR:

We need to find her.

*
*

CLARA is very flustered.

*

CLARA:

I know we need to find her. Her
sister went missing last year.
She's on medication. Her Mother's
barely functioning. The child hears
voices. She's very vulnerable.

*
*
*
*
*

THE DOCTOR:

What do the voices say?

CLARA:

Don't know. She takes her tablet
and they stop.

*
*

THE DOCTOR:

You people, when will you learn. If
a child is speaking ... listen!

*

DANNY:

Like you listened to her?

THE DOCTOR is now studying one of the TARDIS scanners. We can see something that clearly represents the Sun. A teardrop of energy is dripping from it. THE DOCTOR speaks while preoccupied with this.

THE DOCTOR:
You're right. He is right. She was
trying to tell me something and I
ignored her.

*
*

He points to all the screens and receivers.

THE DOCTOR: (cont'd)
Maebh Arden is tuned to a different
channel. She'll take us to the
source, the heart of the forest. We
have to find her and we have to
listen to her.

He takes out his sonic screwdriver. CLARA groans.

CLARA:
Not everything can be fixed with a
screwdriver. It's not a magic wand.

THE DOCTOR:
Does she have a phone?

CLARA:
Well, yes she does.

THE DOCTOR:
Got her number?

CLARA:
Hmm. Yes.

He zaps the phone with the screwdriver.

THE DOCTOR:
Maebh Arden ... 400 yards to the
South East ... I'll get her.

He goes, taking her phone. CLARA looks at DANNY. He talks to
her quietly.

*
*

DANNY:
I'll go with him.

*
*

CLARA:
I can go. You can ...

*
*

DANNY:
You haven't seen him for months?

*
*

CLARA:
Something like that.

*
*

DANNY:
You didn't even say hello. You just
clicked into action. Special unit.

*
*
*

27 CONTINUED: 27

THE DOCTOR looks in again. *

THE DOCTOR:
Do. Not. Touch. Anything. Anything.
OK?

He goes again. She goes after him. *

CLARA: *
Someone's got to go. Child *
protection. *

She goes. *

CUT TO: *

28 OMITTED 28 *

29 EXT. MAEBH'S MUM'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON - DAY 29 *

MAEBH's MUM is coming out of the house with an electric saw
attached to an extension lead. She sets about the tree that
is blocking her car in.

Her NEIGHBOUR comes to help her.

NEIGHBOUR ONE:
Siobhan, love, there's no point.
There's another tree just behind
that one.

MAEBH'S MUM:
Then I'll cut that one down. And
the next one. And the next one.

NEIGHBOUR ONE:
You'll need a bigger extension
lead. Come and have a cup of tea. *

MAEBH'S MUM:
I've lost one daughter. I'm not
going to lose another.

She fires up the saw but then it stutters to a halt.
Frustrated MAEBH's MUM goes back into the house

CUT TO:

30 INT. MAEBH'S MUM'S HOUSE - VARIOUS - DAY 30

MAEBH's MUM goes to the power point into which the saw is
plugged, turns it off and turns it on again. When she does
so, the lights in the kitchen go off.

The radio which has been playing in the background goes
quiet.

Unnerved, MAEBH's MUM tries turning the radio on and off.
Nothing.

It's suddenly frighteningly, impossibly quiet.

CUT TO:

31 **EXT. LONDON. FOREST - DAY**

31

The terrible creaking, squealing noise of stone on stone. The
column is about to fall. *

Somewhere below, the unsuspecting DOCTOR and CLARA ... *

THE DOCTOR: *

Gifted and talented? Really? *

CLARA: *

Furious. Fearful. Tongue-tied. *

They're all superpowers if you use *

them properly. Are they going to be *

alright? *

THE DOCTOR: *

They're in the TARDIS. Safest place *

on the planet. *

CRASH! Nelson's column comes crashing down. They manage to
get out of the way. Dust, twigs, noise, as it plunges through
the trees. The Doctor surveys the ruin. *

THE DOCTOR: (cont'd) *

If this is an invasion ... *

CLARA: *

What? *

THE DOCTOR: *

Then it's over. They're here. *

They've won. What do they want? *

CUT TO: *

32 **EXT. TRAFALGAR SQUARE - DAY**

32

The TARDIS door opens and DANNY and the KIDS come out to see
what the noise was. There's still dust in the air and a
massive stone stump.

RUBY: *

I'm not just going to stand here

and let her die ...

DANNY:

Who?

RUBY:

Miss. You let her go off with some

randomer into the forest.

(MORE)

RUBY: (cont'd)
I thought you were a soldier.
That's so not soldier. You're
supposed to be madly in love with
her.

DANNY:
I'm ... who said that?

RUBY:
Everyone.

*

SAMSON:
She's probably dead now anyway.
Crushed by Nelson.

RUBY:
What if the trees collapse on her
and kill her?

DANNY:
Trees don't just collapse.

RUBY:
Yes they do. And plus, they're only
a day old so they're can't be very
strong, can they?

DANNY:
You're worrying too much.

RUBY:
Yeah but what if they collapse on
her? What if wild animals come out
and eat her?

*

DANNY:
Ruby you're letting your
imagination run away with you.

*

RUBY:
No I'm not though am I? Because I
haven't got an imagination. You ask
Miss Oswald.

*

DANNY:
OK, team. Let's do this.

SAMSON:
We will. If you stop calling us
team.

Off they go.

CUT TO:

33 **EXT. THE FOREST - AFTERNOON - DAY**

33 *

THE DOCTOR and CLARA walking. The phone issues a fresh
direction. They follow it. It gets darker quickly as the
vegetation gets more dense.

*

CLARA:

Doctor look behind ... the path we
just walked down. It's overgrown
already ...

*
*
*

Which it is.

*

CLARA: (cont'd)

I'm talking to you.

*
*

THE DOCTOR:

Which is why you didn't notice
this.

*
*
*

On a rock at the side of the "path" is a mobile phone. CLARA
is taken-aback. Is it Maebh's? She calls it and it rings.

*

CLARA:

Why would she put her phone down?

THE DOCTOR:

Didn't want to be followed. Dropped
it. Lost hold of it in a struggle.
Left it as a clue ... so we'd know
where she was going ... trail of
breadcrumbs. Hansel and Gretel.

*
*

He looks around for other clues.

CLARA:

I'm actually frightened. I never
get frightened. Why am I
frightened?

*

THE DOCTOR:

You just lost a little girl.

CLARA:

That's a worry. But I know you'll
find her. This isn't a worry, this
is... a dread.(SHOUTS) Maebh!

*

THE DOCTOR:

You're pursuing a little lost girl
through a mysterious forest. The
path has disappeared. You're with a
strangely compelling masculine
figure ... (Shouts) Maebh!

CLARA:

Any minute now we're going to find
a gingerbread cottage with a
cannibal witch inside. Maebh!

THE DOCTOR:

Exactly. The Forest. It's in all
the stories that kept you awake at
night. The forest is mankind's
nightmare.

CUT TO:

34 **EXT. MAEBH'S HOUSE - DAY**

34

MAEBH'S MUM is on her doorstep, frantically trying to call Maebh's phone. Her NEIGHBOUR is trying to coax her out.

NEIGHBOUR:

We've got a little camping stove.
We're going to make a nice big pot
of tea. Number 6 are coming. Come
on Siobhan. We never have time to
just sit and talk. Before we know
it, they'll have this all sorted.

*

MAEBH'S MUM:

And just how do you sort out a
forest?

NEIGHBOUR:

Haven't you heard? It was on the
radio. It's quite clever. The army
are going use the Underground
tunnels to get around. They're
going to pop up out of every
station on the Central Line and
burn pathways North and South and
then they're going to do the same
on the Piccadilly Line so ...

*

She demonstrates the theory by interlacing her fingers but MAEBH'S MUM is just staring at her in absolute horror.

MAEBH'S MUM:

Burn it? They're going to set fire
to the trees? But ... Maebh's still
out there.

NEIGHBOUR:

Now you don't know that. The school
will look after her. And the army
know what they're doing. Come on.
The kettle's on. We've got ...

But MAEBH'S MUM has already disappeared around the back of the house. Now she reappears with a mountain bike. Jumps on and careers off into the trees.

NEIGHBOUR: (cont'd)

... Ginger Hob Nobs.

CUT TO:

35 **EXT. FOREST - DAY**

35

MAEBH is running and also still swatting and ducking whatever invisible presence it is that is flying around her head. That's what she's running away from - dodging and swerving.

She pauses and drops her lunch-box carefully in the middle of the trail.

Then she notices ribbons of smoke, thickening into blankets of smoke, blowing into her path. She coughs Stumbles forward.

She comes to a set of wrought iron railings, surrounding the entrance to a tube tunnel.

A team of soldiers in protective garments are running a hose pipe up from the underground. Also carting big chunky bits of kit into place - a sense that something massive is about to happen. MAEBH deliberately drops her school pencil case and turns it so that the school logo is uppermost.

*
*

MAEBH looks back the way she came. She'd like to run back to the TARDIS but then she starts to swat the air again. She's being driven on and on by the invisible mosquitos.

She keeps running.

*

CUT TO:

EXT. THE FOREST - DAY

THE DOCTOR and CLARA are still moving along. THE DOCTOR spots something.

THE DOCTOR:
Clara ...

He points to a Coal Hill pencil case he's just found.

*

THE DOCTOR: (cont'd)
Is it hers?

CLARA:
Yes. Clever girl.

THE DOCTOR:
Trail of bread crumbs. Hansel and
Gretel. Gingerbread cottage

CLARA:
You do know that the gingerbread
cottage was a very bad place to be?

They go on. CLARA is still clearly on edge.

Thick smoke is been piling up around them. CLARA coughs. They both go forward through the smoke.

*

An EMERGENCY SERVICES OFFICER bursts through the smoke in front of them. Breathing apparatus and heavy goggles give him/her the look of an alien.

EMERGENCY SERVICES:
Get back. We're burning here. Get
right back.

CLARA:
We're looking for a little girl.

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Right back. Right, right back.
We're about to burn ...

THE DOCTOR and CLARA watch as a team aims a flame thrower into the branches of the tree. A sheet of fire leaps out and ravages the branches. They burn brilliantly. Black smoke curling. Wood blazing. The crew cheer and move on to set up for the next tree. But then ... the fire goes out. Like a candle snuffed by invisible fingers.

EMERGENCY SERVICES: (cont'd)

Go again. Go on. Get on it. Move.

Another sheet of fire. Another immediate blaze. Another invisible hand snuffs it out.

PICK UP ON the OFFICER on his radio.

*

EMERGENCY SERVICES: (cont'd)

Copy for us. Not working here
either, Big Ben.

*

*

They go and inspect the equipment.

THE DOCTOR nods to CLARA that they should move on. They sneak through the crowd of pre-occupied emergency service workers.

THE DOCTOR:

The trees all held their breath
together so the fire has no
oxygen...

CLARA:

Clever.

THE DOCTOR:

*

What kind of forest is clever? What
kind of forest has its own in-built
fire extinguisher?

CLARA:

What do they want?

THE DOCTOR:

Why now?

CLARA:

What do you mean? Why now?

THE DOCTOR:

The whole natural order is turning
against this planet. Why? Why now?

*

CLARA:

What? What else?

He produces Maebh's homework book and shows her the drawing of the angry Sun.

THE DOCTOR:
How did she know this?

CLARA:
What is it?

THE DOCTOR:
This is a massive solar flare
headed for Earth. Like the one that
destroyed the Bank of Karabraxos. I
have an entire TARDIS and I didn't
notice this. But she knew. How?

CLARA:
This is Maebh's. Where did you get
this?

THE DOCTOR:
You left your marking on the
TARDIS.

*

CLARA:
Oh. That's just brilliant. You
don't think ... did Danny see this?

*

*

THE DOCTOR:
I've just informed you that a solar
flare is about to wipe out your
planet. You're worried about a row
with your boyfriend. How did she
know? Look she's even put the date.

*

*

CLARA:
I always make them date their
homework.

THE DOCTOR:
It's today's date.

CLARA:
But ... you can ... there must be a
way?

THE DOCTOR:
They want something. They're SAYING
something. If there is a way ...
the way is Maebh Arden.

CLARA:
You know she's not really Gifted
and Talented, don't you? I tell
them that to make them feel good.

*

*

*

*

THE DOCTOR:
She's lost someone. People who've
lost someone are always looking,
always listening, always hoping. So
they notice more. They hear more.

*

*

*

*

*

As if in response, somewhere horribly near, a wolf howls.

CLARA:

Was that a howl? Was that a wolf?!
No. That's impossible. We're in
London.

THE DOCTOR:

That would be the London with the
zoo. The zoo with the pack of
wolves. The zoo whose gates and
barriers have probably been mangled
by the trees. No, wolves are not
impossible. Stick to the path Red
Riding Hood.

CLARA:

There is no path.

THE DOCTOR:

Then we're lunch.

*

CUT TO:

*

37 **EXT. THE FOREST - DAY**

37

MAEBH is a little girl lost in the woods. She's frantic,
agitated, swatting things around her head, talking to
herself. She's unravelling.

MAEBH:

Here it comes. It's coming. It's on
its way and you can't stop it. Stop
it!!!

The howling of the wolves is heard again. Close this time.
She stops. Stares. There are eyes in the shadows.

MAEBH sees eyes glinting in the trees. Then more eyes and
more. A curl of hot breath. A howl. Wolves.

*

*

We see a WOLF leap out of the undergrowth hot on her trail
and followed by other WOLVES.

*

*

She screams and runs.

*

CUT TO:

*

38 **EXT. THE FOREST - DAY**

38

CLARA hears the scream.

CLARA:

That's her. She's over there.

THE DOCTOR:

No wait. Sound can be misleading.

CLARA:

Wait till she screams again?!
That's not a plan ...

38 CONTINUED:

38

But Maebh does scream again and CLARA instinctively runs towards it. THE DOCTOR follows. *

CUT AWAY TO:

39 OMITTED

39 *

40 EXT. THE FOREST - DAY

40

MAEBH running with the WOLVES on her trail. *

We intercut between the WOLVES, THE DOCTOR, CLARA.

In the depths of the forest she runs past a taxi cab, a pillar box, a belisha beacon.

PICK UP ON the WOLVES passing the same landmarks.

Then BLAM! Suddenly MAEBH's stopped dead in her tracks. There's a high metal railing in front of her. How can she climb over? She can't. She looks behind her. The WOLVES are coming closer and closer.

She looks through the railing.

On the other side, THE DOCTOR and CLARA burst into view.

CLARA:
Maebh! Quick!

CLARA runs to the fence to try and help her over.

CLARA: (cont'd)
(to the Doctor) Give me a boost so
I can pull her over ...

The WOLVES howl ever nearer.

MAEBH walks away from the fence. At first CLARA thinks she's going back to the WOLVES.

CLARA: (cont'd)
Maebh!

In fact, MAEBH has spotted something a little way off in the fence ... a gate! With complete composure, she opens it, dodges through, and shuts it firmly behind her. As she walks away, a WOLF slams into it.

MAEBH:
Hi.

She does not seem surprised to see CLARA.

CLARA:
Maebh.

THE DOCTOR gets straight into questioning MAEBH.

THE DOCTOR:

You came looking for me. You didn't
just stumble into the TARDIS. You
know who is doing this. Tell me
what you know ...

*
*

She is about to speak when there is a terrible crash of
undergrowth and clang of metal behind her.

By now the WOLVES are hurling themselves at the fence.

CLARA:

Could we possibly deal with the
wolves first, Doctor?

THE DOCTOR:

This is important.

CLARA:

Doctor!

The first WOLF is scrambling up the fence.

THE DOCTOR:

All we have to do is look like
we're too much bother to eat. Stay
still. Stay together. Look big.
Like a three headed six legged
scary thing.

*
*
*
*
*
*

They group themselves together, arms in the air, legs out.

*

THE DOCTOR: (cont'd)

The gruesome reputation of the
timber wolf is completely
undeserved. It comes from fairy
stories, not from zoology. Plus
these are zoo wolves. They're not
used to hunting.

The first WOLF flies over the fence. Then the NEXT and the
NEXT. They barely look at THE DOCTOR or CLARA or MAEBH but
just go flying off into the forest - a blur of fur.

*

Everyone breathes a sigh of relief except THE DOCTOR.

*

MAEBH:

I didn't do the wolves. They
weren't me. The wolves just came.
And something worse is coming.

*

THE DOCTOR:

Listen. Those wolves were
terrified. They were blind with
fear. So ...

*

CLARA:

What are wolves frightened of?

*

There's a deep, deep throaty growl on the other side of the
fence ... a flash of eyes in the undergrowth, a heavy tread.

40 CONTINUED: 40

Now we can see that it's a TIGER. *

CUT AWAY TO:

41 **EXT. MUSEUM - DAY** 41 *

MAEBH's MUM skids and bumps up to the door of the museum. She hammers on the door and calls MAEBH's name. No response of course. *

CUT TO: *

42 **OMITTED** 42 *

43 **EXT. THE FOREST - DAY** 43

THE DOCTOR, CLARA and MAEBH are paralysed with fear watching the TIGER patrol the fence, working its way up to a jump ...

CLARA:
Please tell me the tiger's
reputation is based on fairy tales
and not on zoology ...

THE DOCTOR:
There are very good solid
scientific reasons for being really
quite frightened just now. *

MAEBH:
I'm sorry! *

This is her response to the fact that the TIGER is taking a run at the fence and is ready to leap. This is it. *

The TIGER recoils, snarls, bites the air in fury and frustration. Its eyes blaze. A figure is reflected in them. *

Only as the TIGER turns tail to flee do we see what has happened. DANNY has appeared out of the undergrowth with his "team" behind him. DANNY has just shone BRADLEY's improbably bright torch straight into the tiger's eyes - confusing and frightening the creature.

As it retreats, BRADLEY, SAMSON and RUBY are almost over the fence hurling branches and insults after it, yelling - full of confidence and energy.

They turn to face CLARA, THE DOCTOR and MAEBH.

CLARA:
Mr. Pink ... errrrmmm ... thank you
very much.

DANNY:
No problem. Decided it was better
not to leave you alone. With him. *

BRADLEY:

See what we did? We totally put the
fear on a tiger!

They're thrilled with themselves.

DANNY:

They've worked well together.
Noticeable increase in confidence
and energy levels.

CLARA:

Well done - and for saving us from
a tiger, too.

BRADLEY:

We totally rule this forest.

DANNY:

Has she had her medication yet?

*
*

She realises she's still carrying MAEBH's homework book and
tries to hide it.

CLARA:

Oh. No. I ...

She roots around in her bag.

THE DOCTOR:

No. Not the medication. Don't shut
her up. We need to know what she
knows. Maebh, why do you keep doing
this?

*

He imitates MAEBH's swatting gesture. This annoys DANNY.

DANNY:

Apart from being almost savaged by
a tiger and abducted by a Scotsman,
Maebh Arden has recently
experienced a personal trauma.
She's allowed any nervous tics she
likes. OK?

*
*
*

THE DOCTOR:

That is not a nervous tic. She is
(... reacting to something).

RUBY:

Please just give her her tablet.

*
*

MAEBH gets more agitated. She plunges off into the forest.

*

DANNY:

Maebh!

*

THE DOCTOR is the first to go after her. They all crash
through the trees.

CUT TO:

44

EXT. HEART OF THE FOREST / THE MALL - DAY

44

MAEBH charges into a clearing. The moment she does, great shafts of light stab through the branches - as though the Sun has just risen to tree height - making a kind of cage of light. Huge spider webs are draped through the sunlight. Millions of tiny mites dance in the light.

Beyond the clearing we can see what must be the Mall. There are flags and a glimpse of Buckingham Palace.

First THE DOCTOR, then the CHILDREN and their teachers all follow her into the clearing. All step back in surprise at the sight, the sense of magic.

RUBY:
Miss, what is it, Miss?

MAEBH:
It's coming. It's coming for everyone. I can't unthink it.

The shafts of sunlight increase in intensity.

THE DOCTOR:
Maebh, this forest is communicating. With you. Nobody else. No technology can hear what it's saying. But you can. Tell us what it wants. Where it came from.

*
*
*
*

MAEBH:
I can't.

THE DOCTOR:
Why not?

MAEBH:
I'll get into trouble.

THE DOCTOR:
Who with?

*

MAEBH:
Everyone.

THE DOCTOR:
Maebh, I'm the Doctor. Whoever is doing this, I can deal with them. Just tell me who did this?

*

*

She takes a breath. She's going to tell him.

MAEBH:
It was me!

That's not what he was expecting.

MAEBH: (cont'd)
I did this. I did these trees.

*

THE DOCTOR:

No. Maebh. You didn't make a global forest grow over night. How could you do that?

MAEBH:

I thought it would be nice.

THE DOCTOR:

You didn't go all over the world with a bucket of acorns and some manure. What did you do?

MAEBH:

I'm sorry.

THE DOCTOR:

You need to tell us all you can.

MAEBH:

Thoughts come to me. Ever since Annabel went missing. I look for her everywhere. I don't find her but I find thoughts - like they're waiting for me - like the big forest was one. I thought everyone would love it. Then it came and it was tigers and fire. I'm sorry.

*

*

*

*

*

She gets more agitated, speaking as if in a fever.

DANNY:

This has gone far enough.

*

RUBY:

Just give her her tablet!

*

*

THE DOCTOR:

You've tried giving her tablets. You've tried taking her on special trips. Try the one thing she needs ... someone to listen to her.

MAEBH is swatting at the air. It's unnerving.

SAMSON:

Errm ... She's not actually saying anything.

THE DOCTOR:

Maebh what are you trying to shoo away?

MAEBH:

The thoughts. The thoughts.

*

THE DOCTOR:

You can see the thoughts?

MAEBH:

Too fast. They go so fast.

She's looking everywhere around her now as though surrounded by some invisible host.

BRADLEY:

This is stressing me now. If I get stress I forget my anger management.

CLARA is watching MAEBH's face.

*

CLARA:

Maebh, can you see something we can't see?

MAEBH:

Nearly. Too fast. Everywhere.

THE DOCTOR takes out his sonic screwdriver.

THE DOCTOR:

Everything is subject to gravity. If I can create a little local increase ...

The sonic screwdriver does its stuff. The shimmer increases around MAEBH. DANNY is immediately concerned.

DANNY:

No. You're not experimenting on her.

*

But he's interrupted by a whoop of joy from MAEBH who stands up and stares happily into the glimmer. Everyone is entranced. It's a host of tiny, shining CREATURES, struggling to get free of the extra gravity.

*

*

*

MAEBH:

They're lovely. They don't like it that you're holding them. They want you to let them go ...

THE DOCTOR:

Who are they?

*

The shining host speaks in a thousands strong chorus of tiny voices. MAEBH repeats what they're saying but in unison with them - as though she's thinking in tune with them.

*

*

MAEBH: / THE HERE:

We are Here. Here always since the beginning and until the end.

*

*

When she speaks the others hear a faint shimmer in her voice - as though they can pick up the echo of the "Here".

THE DOCTOR:

"Here" that's it?

MAEBH: / THE HERE:

We are Here. Always. We are the
green shoot that grows between the
cracks, the grass that grows over
the mass graves. After your wars
are over. We'll still be here. We
are the Life that prevails.

THE DOCTOR:

Why now? What do you want now?

MAEBH: / THE HERE:

We hear the call and we come. As we
came before to the great North
Forest where we lie still in a
great circle. As we came to the
vast Southern forest.

THE DOCTOR:

Now. Who is calling you now?

MAEBH: / THE HERE:

The Sun. The Sun that creates. The
Sun that destroys. You are hurting
us. Let us go ...

THE DOCTOR:

You sent for me. The girl came
looking for me. Why? Why me? What
did you ...

MAEBH: / THE HERE:

We did not send ... pain ... did
not send for you ... we don't know
you ... we were here before you and
we will be here after you ..

*
*
*
*

THE DOCTOR turns off the local gravitational field. The HERE
scatter. MAEBH gives a little cry.

SAMSON:

That was actually quite cool.

THE DOCTOR crouches down in front of MAEBH - who is flustered
and phased.

THE DOCTOR:

Maebh, you came looking for me.
Think. You came looking for the
Doctor. Who sent you? Who sent you
for the Doctor.

*
*
*

MAEBH:

It was a thought. A thought that
came. I think it came from Miss ...

*

This is not the news THE DOCTOR was hoping for. It somehow
confirms his worst suspicions.

It provokes a look from DANNY to CLARA.

*

When MAEBH recovers herself ...

MAEBH: (cont'd)
They've gone! Why does everything
have to go?

But THE DOCTOR has walked away, lost in thought. CLARA goes
to talk with him.

CLARA:
This is really going to happen,
isn't it?

THE DOCTOR:
Stars implode. Planets grow cold.
Catastrophe is the metabolism of
the universe. I can fight monsters.
I can't fight physics.

CLARA:
Why would trees want to kill us? We
love trees.

THE DOCTOR:
You've been chopping them up for
furniture for centuries. If that's
love no wonder they've been calling
down fire from Heaven ...

CLARA:
Fire from Heaven?

THE DOCTOR:
You weren't listening? The Northern
Forest - the Tunguska Blast, 1908.
An asteroid smashed into Siberia.
Equivalent to a thousand atom
bombs. Almost destroyed the Earth.
Cruça Event 1930 - same again in
the Amazon. They seem to have hit
the bullseye this time.

CLARA:
But we saw ... the future ... lots
of futures ... Earth futures.

THE DOCTOR:
They're about to be erased.

THE DOCTOR seems lost.

CLARA:
If you can't save it all, save what
you can.

THE DOCTOR looks puzzled.

CLARA: (cont'd)
The TARDIS. It's a lifeboat, isn't
it? Not everyone has to die.

44 CONTINUED:

44

THE DOCTOR: *

Yes. Yes you're right of course. *

She's already gone back to the KIDS and DANNY. *

CLARA: *

OK, let's do this. *

DANNY: *

Do what? *

CLARA: *

The best we can. *

CUT TO: *

45 **EXT. THE FOREST. HEADING TO TRAFALGAR SQUARE - DAY** 45

DANNY leads the KIDS along behind THE DOCTOR and CLARA. *

DANNY:

Everywhere we gooooo! (kids repeat)

People wanna knooooowww (kids repeat)

Who we are (repeat) So we tell them (repeat)

We are Coal Hill Gifted and Talented (repeat)

The mighty mighty Coal Hill Gifted and Talented (repeat)

and if they can't hear us ... (repeat) ... we tell them againnnnn ...

CUT TO: *

46 **EXT. FOREST - DAY** 46

MAEBH's Mum on her bike, brakes, holds her breath and hears, not too far away, children singing. *

MAEBH'S MUM:

Maebh!

CUT TO:

47 **OMITTED** 47

48 **OMITTED** 48

49 **EXT. TRAFALGAR SQUARE / INT. TARDIS - DAY** 49

CLARA, DANNY, the KIDS and THE DOCTOR emerge onto Trafalgar Square. In the corner is the TARDIS - overgrown with brambles. *

DANNY: *

Come on, team.

The KIDS, still singing, hack off a layer of brambles from the outside of the TARDIS. SAMSON and BRADLEY work as a team. As they continue, CLARA talks to THE DOCTOR. *

CLARA: *

Well, it's been fun. *

THE DOCTOR: *

But ... you're coming. *

CLARA: *

I can't. *

THE DOCTOR: *

Oh. When I say "you" I obviously mean you plural. You can bring the gifted and talented and the maths guy. We could find a viable planet. You could start up a colony with ... *

CLARA: *

Shush. Inappropriate. *

The KIDS whoop. They've cleared the TARDIS door. *

THE DOCTOR: *

This is unexpectedly difficult. *

CLARA: *

No. Like you said you've done it before. On the bank of Karabraxos. *

THE DOCTOR: *

(quoting Clara's words) *

I walk your Earth. I breathe your air. *

CLARA: *

You couldn't save this plant, but there are others that need saving. Go on. Go and save them. Into your lifeboat. *

THE DOCTOR: *

I'm not sure I've made myself clear. You're going to die. All of you. Soon. *

CLARA: *

That's why they should be with their families. Goodbye. *

She turns to go. *

THE DOCTOR: *

You can save them. If you bring them. Why not? *

CLARA: *

Because if I did, they'd be the *

last of their species. That's too *

much. For anyone. *

He nods. He understands. *

THE DOCTOR: *

Maebh! *

She comes over to him. CLARA watches - what's this about? *

THE DOCTOR: (cont'd) *

I'm sorry I couldn't help you.

MAEBH:

You helped me loads! I thought it

was all my fault. I feel way better

now. Are you going to get rid of

the forest?

He doesn't answer. CLARA covers for his discomfort. *

CLARA: *

Hard to get rid of a flame proof

forest, Maebh. Come on. *

She leads MAEBH away. THE DOCTOR shuts the TARDIS door. *

SAMSON checks his phone. *

SAMSON:

Government crews have been deployed *

with the latest de-fo defoo ...

DANNY:

Defoliant agents, Samson. Takes all

the leaves off. So that they can

burn the trees more easily.

BRADLEY:

That is harsh. *

But the TARDIS makes a sound like a TARDIS starting up.

BRADLEY: (cont'd)

Where's he going?

CLARA:

Home. He's going home. Which is

exactly where we're all going. *

The TARDIS now beginning its take-off procedures. *

CUT TO:

56 **INT. TARDIS - DAY**

56

THE DOCTOR is braced for take-off, still watching the solar flare on one of his monitors. A thought strikes him, a thought that burns through his body like electricity.

THE DOCTOR:
Flame proof forest. Flame. Proof.
Forest. A thousand atom bombs and
no one hurt ... I am Doctor Idiot.

CUT TO:

57 **EXT. TRAFALGAR SQUARE - DAY**

57

DANNY, CLARA, and the CHILDREN are heading through the trees when THE DOCTOR's voice booms through the shade. *

THE DOCTOR: (OOV)
Clara! Come back here! Come back!

DANNY:
He's calling you.

CLARA:
Let him call. This is more
important. *

THE DOCTOR: *
Clara! Mr. Pink! Maebh! All of you! *
Quick! *

The KIDS go running back. *

CUT TO:

58 **INT. TARDIS - DAY**

58

THE DOCTOR is flicking switches, tuning monitors. Some of the monitors flash up images of the things he's talking about ... he's excited.

THE DOCTOR:
It's there on the screen, look. Big
solar flare. Heading this way. A
thousand kilometers a second.
Coronal mass ejection. Geomagnetic
storm. Huge. It's brewing up a
solar wind big enough to blow this
whole planet away. I assume your
teachers have mentioned this. *

He looks at the CHILDREN to confirm this. They are staring at him, dumb-struck with horror. *

CLARA:
I thought it might spoil an
otherwise enjoyable walk. *

SAMSON:

This is intense.

THE DOCTOR:

OK. Well: that's the bad news. The
good news is it's happened before.

*

No one is sure that this is a good thing.

THE DOCTOR: (cont'd)

And you're still here. The Tunguska
Blast. 1908 - that should have
thrown the planet off its axis. But
it didn't. It knocked a few trees
over. Well, a few tens of thousands
of trees over. Curuça in Brazil.
Same story. Earth should have been
smashed but it wasn't. What do
these things have in common?

*
*
*
*
*
*

RUBY:

They're really, really scaring us.

THE DOCTOR:

Trees! Whenever there's a planet-
threatening extra terrestrial
impact - trees. Massive forest.
Filling the atmosphere with oxygen.
Pumping it up like a massive highly
airbag so when trouble hits ...

*
*

SAMSON:

Everyone dies.

THE DOCTOR:

No. The impact burns off the excess
oxygen. You have some hectic
weather for a few days and some
fairly trippy looking sunsets but
basically you'll be alright. I was
wrong. The trees are not your
enemy. They're your shield. Since
forever, they've been doing this.
Protecting you from everything that
space can throw at you.

*
*
*
*
*

CLARA:

The wide ring. The red ring.

They look at her.

CLARA: (cont'd)

In the museum, Ruby saw the cross
section of a tree. One of the rings
was wider than the others and red.

THE DOCTOR:

Atmospheric dust captured by the
trees. The finger print of an
asteroid. Happy Red Ring Day.

*
*
*

RUBY:

I don't get it. If they're good,
why are we chopping them down then?

*
*

THE DOCTOR looks puzzled. DANNY explains.

DANNY:

The government are sending out
defoliating teams.

THE DOCTOR thinks, then snaps into action ...

THE DOCTOR:

What is it with you people? You
hear voices you shut them up. Trees
come to save you, you chop them
down.

*

CLARA:

Or you think you need to save the
World when it's saving itself.

*
*
*

THE DOCTOR:

I did mention that I was wrong.

*
*

He gets to work on the communication equipment.

*

THE DOCTOR: (cont'd)

Excellent. Mobile networks are
still operative. We are going to
call everyone on Earth and tell
them to leave the trees alone.

*
*

*

MAEBH:

Can I do it?

*
*

They look at her.

*

MAEBH: (cont'd)

I started it. I should finish it.

*
*

THE DOCTOR:

OK. Class project: save the World.

*
*

PICK UP ON the KIDS helping MAEBH write an announcement.
MAEBH picks up the finished speech.

THE DOCTOR flicks a switch. Every phone in the TARDIS rings.

*

CUT TO:

MAEBH's MUM is in the square. Her phone rings. She answers
and hears MAEBH's voice ...

MAEBH:

Essential services have been
disrupted due to an Unexpected
Forest

MAEBH'S MUM:

Maebh! Where are you?

CUT TO:

60

INT. TARDIS - DAY

60

MAEBH continues with her announcement.

MAEBH:

We'd like to reassure you that the
situation will be rectified very
soon. We apologise for any
inconvenience. In the meantime,
please don't be scared. And please
don't chop, spray or harm the
trees. They're here to help. Be
less scared. Be more trusting. Oh.
And Annabel Arden, please come
home.

*
*
*
*
*

The KIDS all applaud her.

RUBY:

So we're definitely not going to
die then.

THE DOCTOR:

Definitely's a big word. If I'm
right, you should be OK.

*
*

They all look frightened again, but he doesn't notice.

THE DOCTOR: (cont'd)

OK who wants to witness a once in a
billion years solar event at close
quarters?

*

CLARA's excited. DANNY is hesitant.

CLARA:

I mean this is supposed to be an
enrichment day and as enriching
experiences go ...

MAEBH:

Mum! There's my Mum!

MAEBH has spotted her mother wheeling her bike around
Trafalgar Square on the TARDIS exterior monitor. She flies to
the door and yanks it open.

CUT TO:

61 **EXT. TRAFALGAR SQUARE - DAY**

61

MAEBH hugs her MUM. Her MUM sobs with relief and happiness.

MAEBH'S MUM:
I thought I'd lost you, too.

*
*

MAEBH:
Never. Not ever.

*
*

When they look up, the other CHILDREN have all followed MAEBH out and are watching this emotional reunion - it's making them feel emotional, too.

CLARA:
So ... trip to space anyone?

*

RUBY:
I want my Mum.

SAMSON:
I slightly want my Mum, too.

CLARA:
Tell them, Mr Pink, what an educational opportunity ...

*

DANNY is clearly going to say nothing of the sort.

He goes to one side and speaks to her quietly.

DANNY:
You go. This is enough for me.

*

CLARA:
What?! Coronal ejection.
Geomagnetic storm. How often do you
get a playlist like that?

*
*
*

DANNY:
I was a soldier. I put myself at
risk. I didn't try too hard to
survive but somehow here I am. And
now I can see what I nearly lost.
And it's enough. I don't want to
see more things. I want to see
these things in front of me more
clearly. There are wonders here,
Clara Oswald. Bradley saying
please. That's a wonder. A wonder.
One person is more amazing - harder
to understand - but more amazing
than universes.

*
*
*

CLARA:
Really? What person is that then?

*

He doesn't answer. She reaches up and kisses him.

There's a raucous cheer from all the CHILDREN - who they've forgotten about until now.

61 CONTINUED:

61

RUBY:
I told you! I said so, didn't I!?

CUT TO:

62 **EXT. KNIGHTSBRIDGE - DAY**

62 *

The group are walking along. CLARA falls in step with DANNY.

CLARA:
We could have a picnic.

DANNY:
You can't. You've got marking.

She's taken aback to find him chilly and remote.

CLARA:
Ah. Oh. They're from ages ago. What
happened was ...

DANNY:
They always write the date neatly
at the top of the page.

CLARA:
They do, don't they.

DANNY:
Last Friday. You were on the TARDIS
last Friday. Today you thought the
World was going to end. You still
didn't tell me the truth.

CLARA:
I tried. He interrupted. He ...

DANNY:
I want to know the Truth. I don't
care what it is. But I want to know
it. Like Maebh said. Like the
forest - fear a bit less, trust a
bit more.

CLARA:
Ok. Well ...

DANNY:
Not now. Go home. Do your marking.
Think it over. Then tell me. I
saved you from a tiger. I deserve
that much.

CLARA:
Yes you did. Yes you do.

CUT TO:

63 **EXT. SPACE / INT. TARDIS - DAY** 63 *

FX: Space is still. The green Earth hangs there. The solar flare comes in - a tidal wave of light.

FX: THE DOCTOR looks down at it anxiously. The wave of light breaks over the planet. *

THE DOCTOR:
I hope I'm right. It would be
slightly awkward if Earth really
was destroyed at this point. *

CLARA:
What?!? *

There's a whoosh. *

THE DOCTOR:
There goes the planet-sized airbag.
That's the trees harvesting the
solar fire. *

CLARA:
That. Is. Amazing. *

THE DOCTOR
Now you've seen it. Who are you
going to tell? *

CLARA:
Well now I ... *

THE DOCTOR:
If you have to keep things like
this to yourself, you might as well
be the last of your species. *

CUT TO: *

64 **INT. CLARA'S FLAT - DAY** 64

FX: The TARDIS materialises in the flat. *

CLARA and THE DOCTOR look out of the bedroom window. *

FX: From here they can see London covered in trees, under a trippily vivid sky.. Suddenly all of the trees crumble and scatter in a billion fluttering fragments. *

CLARA:
How will they explain this
tomorrow? *

THE DOCTOR:
You'll all forget it ever happened. *

CLARA:
We are not going to forget an
overnight forest. *

THE DOCTOR:

You all forgot last time. You
remembered the fear and put it into
fairy stories. Forgetting is a
human superpower. If you remembered
what things felt like you'd've
stopped having wars. And stopped
having babies.

*
*
*

*

As if to illustrate the point we:

CUT TO:

65 **EXT. MAEBH'S MUM'S HOUSE - DAY**

65

MAEBH and her MUM are heading home. As they turn the corner,
they see in the middle of the road, a fortress of leylandii
around the next door house.

*

The branches rattle. MAEBH rushes forward.

*

FX: the leylandii dissolves into a thousand little fireflies,
revealing a little girl who looks like MAEBH.

*
*

MAEBH'S MUM:

Oh my God. Annabel. My Annabel.

*

MAEBH:

I knew you'd be here. The thought
of you came to me.

CUT TO:

*

66 **EXT - SPACE DAY**

66

FX: The green planet fades to blue. Pin pricks of lights
stipple the surface of the continents as electricity is
restored. Soon Earth is glowing with life and activity.

*

MISSY:

Now that was surprising ...

PULL BACK TO FIND we've been watching this on a screen in ...

CUT TO:

67 **INT. THE NETHERSPHERE - DAY**

67

Where MISSY is staring at the planet escaping destruction on
a screen.

MISSY:

I love surprises.

THE END.