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**GOLDEN AGE**

**BY**

**JAMES GOSS**

**SCENE 1: A RAILWAY SIDING IN DELHI**

1. IANTO: Ok, Jack, I'm in position.
2. JACK: Can you see anything?
3. IANTO: Not yet. It's not easy with this many people around.

A steam train is pulling into the siding.

- Wait a minute. Woah! (disbelieving) There's a steam train pulling in!
4. JACK:(radio) The last time I rode a steam train in India . . . must have been 80 years ago.
  5. IANTO: (cutting in) They're unloading something. Hi-tech-looking metal crates. It's got to be the shipment from Silicon Valley!
  6. JACK: Can you see who's collecting it?

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7. IANTO: I'll have to zoom in. (digital noise) The guy who's paying is handing over a bag. I can't quite see ... hang on... Oh. He would appear to be paying in rubies.
8. JACK: Rubies? Quaint. We've got to find out where those crates are going.
9. IANTO: Just hacking into the courier's PDA. Oh. They're addressed to "Captain Jack Harkness".
10. JACK: (radio) That's got to be someone's idea of a joke! (urgent bleeping) Ianto, I need you back here - quick. We're in trouble.
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**SCENE 2: BUSY STREET MARKET IN DELHI**Tech bleeping

11. JACK: (urgent) Gwen, the energy field is starting again, it's spreading out across this whole area, leaving some kind of ion trace.

12. GWEN: What can we do?

13. JACK: We've got to get everyone out of range – now!

14. JACK: (into radio) Ianto! Where are you?

*During Jack and Ianto's conversation we hear Gwen in the background trying to clear the crowds. "Listen everybody. Hello! Everyone. We need to clear the area! Please!"*

15. IANTO (radio): Not far. Just round the corner from you. Outside Godbole Garment Factory.

16. JACK: The energy field is about to hit. Get everyone out of there before they're exposed to it.

17. IANTO (radio): I'll try my best.

Gwen is shouting, trying to make herself heard. It is futile.

18. GWEN: Hello! Listen to me! You need to move away! They're not taking any notice, Jack. This is stupid!

19. JACK: (more urgent technical bleeping) The energy field is spreading across Delhi like a fishing

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net and as it goes, it marks everyone with an  
ion signature. Like a hook. As it powers up,  
the net draws in...

20. GWEN: But all these people, what's going to happen  
to them?

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**SCENE 3: FACTORY – the sound of sewing machines**

21. IANTO: (shouting) Please stop working and get out of the building. It's very important! Everyone has to leave now!
22. IANTO: (into radio) Jack, it's no good, no one's moving.
23. JACK:(Radio) Ianto! It's coming! Get them out!
24. IANTO: Right. (He hits the fire alarm)
25. IANTO: Fire! Fire! Come on everyone... that's it - run!
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**SCENE 4: INDIAN STREET – we hear the fire alarm in the background**

26. JACK: (grim) Gwen, Everyone's been exposed already. The net's about to be drawn in.

27. GWEN: Look get home to your parents please as fast as you can.

Urgentest technical bleeping.

28. JACK: Here it comes.

Jack's machine flatlines.

And the sounds of India turn up to 11. It builds and builds like an experimental Beatles track.

And then, with a sound like the cracking of ice, there's sudden echoing silence.

29. GWEN: (shock) Everyone's gone.

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**SCENE 7: INDIAN STREET**

Ianto comes running in.

30. IANTO: (breathless, shocked) The factory. They all vanished. I'm sorry. I tried.
31. GWEN: What happened? Where did everybody go?
32. JACK: I dunno. But if we're going to get them back, we have to find the source. (using his scanner) Those people were already marked by the energy net before we got here. So the source must be nearby... behind this street somewhere. Wait a minute. I've been here before... a long time ago. Hmm (as in 'that's strange').
33. GWEN: What is it?
34. JACK: That building shouldn't exist. I shut it down. Over 80 years ago.

HE STRIDES FORWARD. THEY FOLLOW.

35. JACK: Come on.

HE SWINGS THE DOOR OPEN

36. JACK: Welcome to Torchwood India.

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**SCENE 8: TORCHWOOD INDIA CLUB RECEPTION**

AS THEY STEP IN, INDIA FADES AWAY, REPLACED WITH THE  
SWOOSH-SWOOSH OF A FAN, A GENTLE TINKLING OF A BELL, POLITE  
BIRDSONG.

37. GWEN: Wow. Was this really a Torchwood base? It's more like a five star hotel.
38. IANTO: Lots more marble than Torchwood Cardiff.
39. GWEN: It's even got a tiger's head on the wall.
40. MR DAS: Good afternoon gentlemen, madam.
41. JACK: Captain Jack Harkness.
42. MR DAS: Welcome back to the Royal Connaught Club, Captain Harkness.

FOOTSTEPS ON WOODEN BOARDS.

43. GWEN: You're a member?
44. MR DAS: Indeed he is, ma'am, although it appears we haven't had the pleasure of the Captain's company for over eighty years.
45. IANTO: You are full of surprises.
46. JACK: (mock hurt) Ianto Jones. You live a few hundred years, you go to all the best places.
47. GWEN: Clearly you were a bit classier in the 1920s.



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48. JACK: (to Mr Das) We've come from Torchwood Cardiff. Who's in charge nowadays? I'd like to see them.
49. MR DAS: Very good, Captain Harkness. I'll inform the Duchess of your return. (rings bell)
50. JACK: The Duchess? She's still alive?
51. MR DAS: Oh, very much so, sir.
52. JACK: (uneasy) Okay.
53. IANTO: Who is this Duchess?
54. JACK: An old friend. She must be at least a hundred.
55. IANTO: Not early twenties and carrying a blunderbuss?
56. JACK: What?
57. GWEN: Get down!

A GUNSHOT! EVERYONE DUCKS. THE DUCHESS HAS ENTERED AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS

58. DUCHESS: Captain Jack Harkness! You're back!

SHE RELOADS

59. JACK: Duchess! Did you miss me?

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60. DUCHESS: Only just. Didn't I promise if I saw you again  
I'd shoot you? Who's for seconds?

SHE FIRES AGAIN. IT HITS THE RECEPTION DESK. DAS CRIES OUT –  
IT'S A NEAR MISS.

61. DUCHESS: Whoops! Sorry Mr Das!

62. MR DAS: I'm fine, ma'am. Carry on.

63. DUCHESS: Rightyho! (RELOADS)

64. JACK: Duchess, you haven't aged a day.

65. DUCHESS: Not looking so bad yourself, Captain H.  
Goodbye. (AND SHE AIMS...)

66. JACK: Wait! We need to talk!

67. DUCHESS: Better be good. I never miss on my third shot.

68. IANTO: Not seen him for 80 years and starts shooting  
at him...

69. GWEN: Old flame?

70. IANTO: Yup.

71. JACK: (aside) Not now. (to the Duchess) Duchess!  
I wouldn't come back unless it was important.

72. DUCHESS: And? (GUN-COCKING NOISE)

73. JACK: (FAST) People are disappearing. There's an  
energy net. And we've tracked it, to India, to

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here. I think there's something very alien and very dangerous in this building.

74. DUCHESS: (LOWERING GUN) Promise it's the truth?

75. JACK: Absolutely. Would I lie to you? Again?

76. DUCHESS: (sighs) Fine. Save the world, shoot you later.  
(SHE SWEEPS DOWN THE STAIRS) And who are your charming friends?

77. JACK: Ianto Jones and Gwen Cooper. We're Torchwood Cardiff.

78. DUCHESS: Torchwood.... Cardiff, eh? (sniffs) Whatever next! Well, how d'y'do? Charmed! I'm Eleanor, Duchess of Melrose. Call me Nelly, do.

79. IANTO: Pleased to meet you.

80. GWEN: Hello. (friendly) I love your ballgown.

81. DUCHESS: You are too kind, Miss Cooper. And what fetching overalls you're wearing, you must give me the pattern! Dear me, what fun – we haven't had a crisis here since... well. Forever.

82. JACK: But Eleanor, what are you still doing here? I last saw you in 19... 19... (struggling)

83. DUCHESS: (hint of steel) 1924. February 28<sup>th</sup>. (all smiles again) So many questions! Let's get out of the

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way. Mr Das needs to pluck the shot out of the wainscoating, and we can't have the members alarmed by you Gwen, dear.

84. GWEN: What do you mean?
85. DUCHESS: Well, Miss Cooper, women just aren't allowed in the Royal Connaught. I'm the exception that proves the rule, haha. I'll just summon us some sniffers...
86. MR DAS: (Alarmed, confidential) Excuse me Duchess, may I have a word in private?
87. DUCHESS: (Quiet, firm) Not now, Mr Das! Haven't you a delivery to attend to? (LOUDER) *Burrah pegs*, chop chop!
88. MR DAS: Very good, ma'am.
89. DUCHESS: Come on through to my little parlour!
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**SCENE 9: THE DUCHESS'S PARLOUR**

90. DUCHESS: Now, my best-beloveds, sit down! Sit down! I'll take this old wicker horror, Miss Cooper, you must have the recliner. Captain Harkness to the chaise... (and she's sharp here) And perhaps Mr Jones would care to squeeze in next to you?

A SLIGHT CREAK OF LEATHER CHAIRS. THE LAZY CHIRRP OF A 100 YEAR OLD BIRD.

91. JACK: Now, Eleanor, [about this energy field] -

THE DOOR OPENS. DRINKS COME IN.

92. DUCHESS: Ah Mr Das! Now, whisky-sodas all round to take the heat off the morning!

93. DAS: Yes, milady.

94. IANTO: Would you mind if I had a cup of coffee?

95. DUCHESS: Very much so. Mr Das, pour him a lemonade. (Handing round drinks) That's for you Jack. Straight up, if I remember correctly. Now, Gwen dear, Whisky-soda, Sazerac, or Das does a mean G and T?

96. GWEN: (wrong-footed) Ah there's no need.

97. DUCHESS: Now, Gwen dear, this energy field of Captain H's. Are you absolutely sure it exists?

98. GWEN: We were detecting the energy spikes from Cardiff. From the record, it looks like thousands of people have vanished without trace over the last few months.
99. DUCHESS: That's just Delhi, my dear. The human tide. A bad harvest and people wash in from the villages – but a good rain rinses them all out again, you mark my words.
100. JACK: (PATIENT) We saw it happen Eleanor. The field centres on here.
101. GWEN: This used to be a Torchwood base. So is there some alien technology here that could be causing it? There's got to be something. I mean, you're a hundred and you look twenty.
102. DUCHESS: You're too kind. But a lady never reveals her age. No, Gwen dear, there couldn't be anything, really. Because eighty years ago Captain Jack Harkness took the lot!
103. GWEN: What do you mean?
104. JACK: I was only obeying orders.
105. IANTO: (whisper) since when have you obeyed orders? /
106. JACK: hush!
107. DUCHESS: Torchwood India was founded by Queen Victoria to gather up all the alien artefacts in the Raj, from the Yeti Spheres of the

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Himahlayah to a one-eyed-yellow idol to the North of Kathmandhu. A magnificent storehouse! And then, one sad day in 1924 Captain Jack Harkness brought official greetings and an armful of dance records, and... he had all that lovely alien plunder packed in tea chests and sent back to the Mother Country. He took everything away. We were left with only our memories and a copy of "Yes, we have no bananas". Now where is Gissing? (rings bell)

108. GWEN: (firm) Something here must be causing this this. Something Jack missed. We should look around, just to be sure.

109. DUCHESS: Well, you won't find a bean. (rings bell again) Captain H took everything that wasn't nailed down. But how exciting!

DOOR OPENS. ENTER GISSING

110. DUCHESS: Ah, Gissing, there you are! What kept you?

111. GISSING: (Clipped, English, 60s) I am sorry I'm late, Duchess. I was helping Das deal with a delivery. I didn't know we had guests.

112. DUCHESS: My dears, Mr Gissing is my right hand man! These are Miss Cooper and Mr Jones from Torchwood... (pauses) Cardiff. They've come all this way looking for an alien artefact.

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Fancy. I think it'd be capital if you could show them round the club.

113. GISSING: Mr Jones. Delighted. How nice to see a young chap properly dressed.
114. IANTO: Thank you.
115. GISSING: And Miss Cooper...
116. GWEN: Hello!
117. GISSING: How modern of you to be wearing Trousers for Ladies.
118. DUCHESS: Do try and keep Miss Cooper out of sight. We don't want to startle the Colonels now, do we?
119. GWEN: Oh absolutely not.
120. DUCHESS: Captain Harkness and I have much to catch up on. What say we split up and search the club from top to bottom and meet at the Retiring Room in half an hour?
121. GISSING: This way, if you please.



GISSING, IANTO AND GWEN LEAVE

122.       DUCHESS:       You and me, eh Captain H, looking for aliens.  
                                  Just like old times.

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**SCENE 10: TORCHWOOD INDIA ICE CELLARS**

Dark and damp and vast.

123. GISSING: Mind your heads on the way down.  
This is the ice house where we used to keep  
the alien archive, in the good old days.

124. IANTO: It's enormous.

125. GWEN: What do you know about Torchwood India's  
alien artefacts, Mr Gissing?

Over next speech, the sound of Gwen and Ianto exploring and scanning.

126. GISSING: Not really my area of expertise. I'm more of a  
strategy johnny than a boffin. All I know is  
there used to be stacks of alien objects down  
here. Now it's just the Amontillado.

Wet footsteps. Tech bleeping.

127. GWEN: (scanning) I'm only picking up low-levels of  
Nelson Seepage. Nothing to match the recent  
energy spike. Ianto?

128. IANTO: Nothing over here.

129. GISSING: There you are. Clean as a whistle.

130. GWEN: Over the last few months thousands of people  
have disappeared from this city. You must  
have heard something Mr Gissing.

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131. GISSING: We don't concern ourselves with the locals here. And call me George, I insist.
132. GWEN: We've just seen it happen, **George**.
133. GISSING: How terrible for you, my dear. Perhaps a lie down would calm your nerves?
134. IANTO: Can we get on?
135. GISSING: Certainly sir. The kitchens are through here...
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**SCENE 11: PARLOUR****THE DUCHESS HAS DROPPED HER MANNER, SLIGHTLY.**

136. JACK: Eleanor, how come you don't look a day older than when I left? I thought I'd closed this place down. And that you would be...
137. DUCHESS: Dead? Like good manners and toothache, we persist. Torchwood India became what we'd always pretended to be - just a nice little private club on a nice little street. Our one rule was that Nothing Would Change.
138. JACK: Including you?
139. DUCHESS: Oh, I've been lucky. The whole building is soaked with leftover radiation from the alien loot. It's kept me alive. It's not all good, of course. The woodworm are the jolly devil.
140. JACK: (doubtful) You've been kept going by residual radiation? You expect me to believe that?
141. DUCHESS: Believe what you like, Captain H! Have I ever lied to you? *Au contraire!* Look at us both, just as we were over 80 years ago. Those same blue eyes. (She laughs, but it fades away) I never thought I'd see you again.
142. JACK: Neither did I. We had quite a time, didn't we?
143. DUCHESS: Ah yes. 1924. It was a very good year. Well, until you left...

144. JACK: I sometimes wish I could have stayed.
145. DUCHESS: Me too. We'd have had an absolute ball! It's been ever so quiet in here since you went. (smiles) But where have you been all this time? Surely not at Torchwood, ah... (pretending to forget)
146. JACK: Cardiff.
147. DUCHESS: Cardiff, yes of course. (snide) And what a lot of aliens must choose *that* as their first port of call.
148. JACK: Oh, you'd be surprised. (smiles) We've got a rift.
149. DUCHESS: Oh, if only we'd had one of those! I'm positively jealous.
150. JACK: Of the rift?
151. DUCHESS: Perhaps. Mr Jones... he's very good looking. Is he your -?
152. JACK: Assistant.
153. DUCHESS: No doubt.
154. JACK: (smirks) And what about you? Still the only deb in the Royal Connaught?
155. DUCHESS: Oh, I'll always have my colonels. Darling old fusspots. Are you absolutely sure your energy thing is in this club?

156. JACK: I'm afraid so.

157. DUCHESS: I'm sure you're wrong. But what a thrill to think  
we're in deadly danger. So, search you must!  
Let's go to the Library. We've ever so many  
Wisdens. Who knows what they may be  
concealing?

SHE OPENS A DOOR AND SWEEPS AHEAD.

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**SCENE 12: THE KITCHENS**

COOKING SOUNDS. PANS FRYING AND SHOUTING. DISTANT  
SHOUTING OF ORDERS.

158. GISSING: I don't know if you'll find any of your alien whatdyamacallits in the kitchens, but you're welcome to hunt around. Over there is a genuine *tandoor*, and all our knives are Swiss Steel.
159. IANTO: We're not looking for alien cutlery, Mr Gissing.
160. GISSING: But, I thought you wanted to search the premises.
161. GWEN: This is just the guided tour isn't it? Why do I get the feeling we're being kept out of harm's way?
162. GISSING: Not at all, Miss Cooper!
163. GWEN: Gwen, I insist. Where shouldn't we be looking, George?
164. GISSING: I am doing my best, Miss Cooper. You asked to explore the club. And we've covered most of the basement. If you wish we can head up to the Retiring Room now. I'm afraid I can't let you into the main corridor.
165. GWEN: Being a woman.
166. GISSING: Quite.

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167. IANTO: What about the gardens?
168. GISSING: Why d'you ask?
169. IANTO: Because, those crates I saw this morning  
being unloaded from that train, I swear they're  
being carried past the window.
170. GISSING: They're just one of Mr Mahajan's deliveries.  
Probably just onions being taken across the  
lawns.
171. GWEN: In bomb-proof metal containers? (firm) I think  
we should take a look at these lawns.
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**SCENE 13: THE LIBRARY**

A grandfather clock chimes. The Duchess flips through a book.

172. DUCHESS: Oh there's nothing like a well-thumbed  
Kipling, is there, Captain H? Takes me back.  
All those honeyed words. Those promises.  
Those cheekbones. And all that time you just  
wanted to get into my
173. JACK: Treasure house.
174. DUCHESS: Yes – remember how we danced?  
(sings, and Charlestons)  
*Yes, we have no bananas*  
*We have no bananas today!*
175. JACK: (grabs her to stop this) We're running out of  
time, Duchess. We've got to find the source of  
that energy field. Is there something you're  
not telling me?
176. DUCHESS: (close-up) Jack, what happened to all our  
alien bounty after you took it away?
177. JACK: Packed into storage. Forgotten about.
178. DUCHESS: (sadly) Just like me. You never gave me  
another thought, did you? (suddenly hopeful)  
Not the tiniest little thought of dear Nelly?
179. JACK: (truth) Yes. Yes I have thought about you. You  
were everything good about Torchwood.

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180. DUCHESS: (moved) Was I? (tease) And you were everything bad. Mummy always told me never to trust a *boxwallah*. Why did you close us down?
181. JACK: They were my orders. The Torchwood Institute knew the Empire was coming to an end.
182. DUCHESS: (teasing) And they didn't want all that alien loot left lying around? Imagine if the locals had got their grubby hands on something lethal?
183. JACK: They were different times, Eleanor.
184. DUCHESS: For you, maybe. But perhaps Torchwood had a point.
185. JACK: I'm not saying it was the right thing to do. If I had another chance... if I could do it over again... No, I don't think I'd have done the same thing.
186. DUCHESS: (Jack's suddenly said the right thing) Really? Do you mean that? Gosh! Come, let's go to the rose gardens!
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**SCENE 14: THE CROQUET LAWN**

Outside – the sounds of a perfect quiet summer's day. Distant rhubarb of Colonels whacking balls through hoops.

187. GWEN: Where are the crates, George?
188. GISSING: No sign of them on our croquet lawn, my dear! Isn't it topping out here? Do you play croquet in Wales?
189. GWEN: Can you see them Ianto?
190. IANTO: No, just a lot of old men asleep in wicker chairs.
191. GISSING: Croquet's a wonderful way of passing a quiet summer's afternoon. A genteel game of cunning and misdirection.
192. IANTO: (scanning bleeping) And the same low levels of Nelson Seepage out here. That lawn's amazing – it looks like you cut it with nail scissors.
193. GISSING: We do. This is our tiny little perfect corner of the Empire. Why not forget about your boxes and enjoy the sunshine?
194. GWEN: Is the weather always this good?
195. GISSING: Always. Ever since I've been a member.
196. GWEN: Really? And how long has that been?

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197. GISSING: (smile) Since you ask, for over a hundred years.
198. GWEN: What? How old are you, George?
199. GISSING: Not looking bad for a fella of 143, eh?
200. GWEN: So it's not just the Duchess?
201. GISSING: (casual) Spot on! No one in the club has aged a day. (calling) Oh, good shot, sir! Look at that, a triple peeler!
202. IANTO: We've got to tell Jack.
203. GWEN: He's going to feel a lot less special.
204. GISSING: Well, why don't we head up to the Retiring Room?
205. GWEN: Or you could explain about the crates hidden behind the privet and the . . .
206. IANTO: What is that?!?
207. GWEN: Come on, Ianto. Let's have a look. (teasing)  
Coming George? (she runs off)
208. GISSING: (shouting to them) No! Come back you ragamuffins! (to himself) Oh, the Welsh.

He sets off at a puffing run

## **SCENE 15: ROSE GARDENS**

A feeling of a courtyard, with a trickling fountain.

209. JACK: You always were a great gardener, Duchess.
210. DUCHESS: I've had time on my hands. And English roses thrive in Indian beds.
211. JACK: (playful) That so?
212. DUCHESS: Indeed. There's some wonderful Evergreens, and I'm particularly proud of my *Eden Romantica*. Aren't they dainty?
213. JACK: And that's all you've done for nearly ninety years? Grow roses?
214. DUCHESS: You save the world by blowing things up. My methods are different. I preserve the world. All that's good about it. An English Country Garden.
215. JACK: In the middle of India? (tech bleeping) Not a word from Gwen or Ianto. Well, everything's clear here. Eleanor, we're running out of time.
216. DUCHESS: Not necessarily. (carefully spontaneous) Jack, do you remember that day when we got a train into the country before dawn?
217. JACK: (fond) We ate boiled eggs and watched elephants playing in the fields.
218. DUCHESS: (delighted) You remember? (pause) It was the day before you betrayed me. After that, I hid

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myself away. I couldn't bear what was happening in the world outside.

219. JACK: But why?
220. DUCHESS: Jack - The End of the Empire! Partition! We spent centuries holding this country together with vinegar and brown paper. But we managed it. And then Great Britain let it all go.
221. JACK: The Empire had had its day.
222. DUCHESS: No! Some fool drew a jiggy little line down India between the Moslem and the Hindoo. And it's been a bloodbath ever since! Jack, the twentieth century was when everything changed. What wouldn't you give for another go at it?
223. JACK: The sun's set on the Empire. And a lot of people are glad about that.
224. DUCHESS: Oh, that's just so British of them. Embarrassed by our successes. Before we came the Indians were just peasants.
225. JACK: You're talking about the world's oldest living civilisation. India goes on, outlasting everyone who conquers it.
226. DUCHESS: Nonsense! This country needed the Empire. History took a wrong turn after 1924. I'd far rather stay in here where there's plenty of gin and *The Times* is still ironed neatly down the

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middle. Why, look at you, Jack. You've been just the same for hundreds of years now.

227. JACK: I didn't choose to be immortal. I just can't die. No matter how hard I try. And that's wrong.
228. DUCHESS: Is it? I think it's rather wonderful.
229. JACK: Eleanor, everything changes. You can't stop it. We can't turn back the clock.
230. DUCHESS: In a way that's just what we're doing. You see... I haven't been quite candid. Perhaps we kept back just one teensy weensy bit of alien technology...
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**SCENE 16: WIFI MAST JUST OFF CROQUET LAWN**

Sounds of drilling and hammering. Labourers shouting. Above this, Mahajan.

231. MAHAJAN: (shouting) You! You there, be careful, damn you! That equipment is A1 delicate.
232. IANTO: (breathless) It's you! From the train station!
233. GWEN: (running in) Hi!
234. MAHAJAN: (annoyed) Mr Gissing! Who are these people?
235. GISSING: (puffing in) Mr Jones! Miss Cooper! This is Mr Mahajan!
236. GWEN: (to Ianto) Is that what was in those crates?
237. IANTO: Straight from Silicon Valley!
238. MAHAJAN: Oh yes. It's the very latest wireless communications transmitter. The parabola almost eliminates cross-polarity rejection!
239. GWEN: And they're letting you put it up on the croquet lawn?
240. GISSING: Oh now Miss Cooper, we're not the fogies you take us for. In some ways, we're avid fans of progress.
241. MAHAJAN: It's a wonderful act of charity – it will help provide Delhi with first class wifi. Even a shoeshine boy at the stadium will have more



internet in his pocket than a Wall Street  
Trader.

242. IANTO: And this is your idea, Mr Mahajan?
243. MAHAJAN: Heavens no! I'm a mere servant. I just do and die.
244. GISSING: Mr Mahajan is our local fixer. You see, we can live forever in the Royal Connaught Club, but we can never leave it.
245. GWEN: You've spent nearly 90 years in the same building?
246. GISSING: It's a small price to pay, my dear. And at least we have the creature comforts.
247. MAHAJAN: I arrange the food and the gin, the newspapers and the wireless masts. It is an honourable position. And jolly well-paid.
248. GISSING: Oh yes, we've had generations of Mahajans. I don't know where we'd be without you, old chap.
249. MAHAJAN: Thank you, sir. I'm proud to serve the club.
250. IANTO: And why do you have to do all your business in jewels? I saw you paying for this lot in rubies.
251. MAHAJAN: You know a lot, Mr Jones. The Duchess is far too old-fashioned to trust banks.

252. GWEN: So whose idea was this?
253. MAHAJAN: I was approached by a phone company. Apparently this is a prime location for a hot spot. I took the idea to the Duchess, and she thought who were we to stand in the way of progress? Especially if we could make it a really first class mast...
254. GISSING: We're doing it for the people of Delhi.
255. GWEN: (working it out) Mr Mahajan, this mast - I don't suppose it could be used to boost an energy field?
256. GISSING: No! No! Not at all! (relieved) Ah, there you are, Mr Das!
257. MR DAS: (entering across the lawn) Good afternoon, sir. I've taken the liberty of bringing out a bottle for your guests. (uncorks it)
258. GISSING: (rubs hands) Splendid!
259. GWEN: (annoyed) Not for me, thank you.
260. GISSING: Oh, it's not booze.
261. DAS: No sir, it's good old-fashioned **chloroform**.
262. IANTO: What?
263. GISSING: Splendid! If you would Mr Das?

GWEN and IANTO give shouts of protest, which become muffled cries and

then silence.

264. GISSING: (over this) Bad show, bad show.

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**SCENE 17: THE ROSE GARDEN**

As before

265. JACK: What is it?
266. DUCHESS: A time store. That's all. A space fridge. When you shut down Torchwood India, we knew the writing was on the wall for the Empire. And we didn't want that to happen. We vowed that nothing would change. We didn't want any part of the new India, not that ghastly Gandhi, none of it.
267. JACK: You adapted the time store?
268. DUCHESS: Yes. Hid it from you, patched it up and sealed ourselves away. Kept fresh as daisies while time moved on. You did say it was a perfect day.
269. JACK: Yes, but [Eleanor this is madness]
270. DUCHESS: And it is a perfect day. One of the very last in stock. It's been February 29<sup>th</sup> 1924 in here for ever such a long time.
271. JACK: You hid yourselves away?
272. DUCHESS: We let it all go by. Another World War, Independence, Partition...
273. JACK: But you can't just pretend it didn't happen!

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274. DUCHESS: Oh, imagine the horror, the horror of Modern India on our very doorstep. Sometimes they come and they beg to be let in, but we can't possibly. It's against the rules. But I've found a way to let everyone share in our perfect day.

275. JACK: What do you mean?

276. DUCHESS: Jack, you did say that, if you could have time over again, you'd do things differently?

277. JACK: Yes. But I'd never hide away like this.

278. DUCHESS: Stay with me. It gets so lonely. You see, the time has come to change things for the better.

AND A GONG SOUNDS

279. JACK: Dinner bell?

280. DUCHESS: (pleased) Not quite. That's Mr Gissing saying that he's ready for us. (steel) Everything is in place.

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**SCENE 18: THE TIME STORE**

A SINISTER DEEP TICKING OF AN OLD GRANDFATHER CLOCK.  
SOUNDS OF MACHINERY. ALIEN YET OLD-FASHIONED.

281. IANTO: Gwen.... Gwen.... wake up....

GWEN MURMURS BUT STAYS ASLEEP

282. IANTO: Gwen!

283. GWEN: (snapping awake) Woah! Ianto!

284. IANTO: Hello.

285. GWEN: Roofied by a colonel! Eurgh. How's your head?

286. IANTO: Quite bad, thank you.

287. GWEN: Great. Locked in?

288. IANTO: Yes.

289. GWEN: Communications?

290. IANTO: Taken.

291. GWEN: Marvellous. Anything else?

292. IANTO: You might like to take a look at that.

293. GWEN: Ianto, what is it? It looks like the shadows are moving.

THERE'S A SLOW, RUSTLING CRACKLING NOISE. IT IS THE SOUND OF  
TIME ON THE MOVE. THE TICKING OF THE CLOCK SLOWS AND  
ECHOES.

294. IANTO: They are. I think we've found the source of  
the energy net. That's what it looks like before  
it spreads out. I think this is where all those  
people were brought to.

295. GWEN: Then where have they gone?

THE NOISE AGAIN, BUT LOUDER. IT IS THE SOUND OF TIME  
FREEZING.

296. IANTO: I've got an idea, but I don't like it very much.

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**SCENE 19: THE CORRIDORS OF THE CLUB**

297. JACK: Where are we going? We should be getting back to Gwen and Ianto.
298. DUCHESS: Stay on here with me, Jack. We're a perfect match. Perhaps that's what you've been kept alive for. To make up for lost time...
299. JACK: (firm) Eleanor, what do you power your time store on?
300. DUCHESS: Oh, the power source is totally renewable. In some ways we're very modern. Why, I believe we may even be carbon neutral.
301. JACK: Where'd you pick up a term like that?
302. DUCHESS: Oh, from our go-between, Mr Mahajan. He's a native, but quite trustworthy. His family are ingenious. Always finding ways of keeping the time store going. Why, for his latest scheme he's even sent off to America for a wireless!
303. JACK: A what?
304. DUCHESS: (impatient) A wireless. Radiogram. Thing.
305. JACK: From San Francisco? In crates labelled "Jack Harkness"?
306. DUCHESS: Why yes! My little joke. Why? Has Nelly done a bad thing?



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307. JACK: (careful, thinking) Duchess, how exactly is it powered? You see, I know exactly what a time store is. Ideal for keeping a bacon sandwich fresh for a few years. But you've kept an entire Indian Club in a time bubble for over eighty years.
308. DUCHESS: We've adapted to survive.
309. JACK: But as each year passes and the club gets further away from 1924, the power needed would increase... Increase incredibly until you reached a point where....? Duchess?
310. DUCHESS: (distraction) Mind that elephant's foot, there's an absolute darling. We keep brollies in the old thing, although, of course, it never rains. Oh how I long to nip out into the real world... just to feel the rain. Heaven! (giggles)
311. JACK: The power, Eleanor. Where does it come from?
312. DUCHESS: (proud/sad) You're right, you know. At first it powered itself, a little marvel. Then we tried tapping into the electricity. But that wasn't enough.
313. JACK: (guttured) No, I don't believe it...

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314. DUCHESS: (sad) We found an almost inexhaustible supply of fuel. And no-one (laughs) no-one even noticed. Until you came. Yes, Jack, we've been using the one thing India has a surplus of. People.

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**SCENE 20: TIME STORE****A STRANGE WIND OF WRONG CLOCKS AND ECHOES, GETTING LOUDER.**

315. GWEN: Ianto! Keep back! If we're at the centre of the energy net, then those shadows are the hooks. And once they latch onto us, we're marked.

316. IANTO: And the fact that they're on the move means the energy field is building up again.

317. GWEN: When it goes off, I think we'll die.

318. IANTO: Right. (gentle panic) Try the door.

**IANTO HAMMERS AND BANGS ON THE DOOR.**

319. IANTO: I... don't... like... India.

**GWEN JOINS HIM.**

320. GWEN: (in between blows) Perhaps we're not ... seeing it... in the best light, you know.

321. IANTO: If I wanted to be... knocked out and... murdered, I'd have stayed at home.

**THEY STOP BANGING ON THE DOOR.**

322. IANTO: It's useless. Those shadows are getting closer.

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323. GWEN: We're running out of time. Jack, where are  
you?

AND THE ECHOING WIND BUILDS

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**SCENE 21: CLUB CORRIDOR**

324. JACK: Eleanor! What have you done? All those people! This isn't you! This isn't who I knew all those years ago.
325. DUCHESS: Then perhaps I have changed, after all.  
(bitter) You changed me, Jack.
326. JACK: No, I don't believe it!
327. DUCHESS: You took everything away. You broke my heart. But I carried on. Perhaps that's the problem.
328. JACK: You're saying this is my fault?
329. DUCHESS: We've killed thousands and thousands Jack, and no one has noticed. Few less beggars on the streets, empty houses in the slums, bit easier to get a seat on the train... La! That's the true horror of modern India.
330. JACK: Where are Gwen and Ianto?
331. DUCHESS: I'm afraid they're already doing their bit for the Empire.
-

**SCENE 22: THE TIME STORE**

THE SOUNDS OF BROKEN TIME ARE VERY LOUD. AND, WE CAN JUST HEAR...

332. GWEN: The shadows are getting very close!

333. IANTO: We need to switch off the energy net. I don't think we can stop it from in here.

334. GWEN: Ianto! The shadows are on you!

335. IANTO: (pain) Stay back! Oh, they're so cold!

336. GWEN: Ianto! I can't see you!

337. IANTO: Gwen? Gwen!

AND HE SCREAMS. AND A WIND STARTS TO BLOW.  
GWEN GASPS.

338. GWEN: It's so dark...

THEIR VOICES ARE LOST IN THE WIND.

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**SCENE 23: CLUB CORRIDOR**

Jack and the Duchess are walking

339. JACK: Eleanor, what are you doing with Gwen and Ianto?

340. DUCHESS: Jack, don't be tiresome. Last chance. Join me. Stop pouting like a drowning fish and have a jolly hard think. No?

341. JACK: No. Take me to my friends.

And they stop walking.

342. GISSING: (distant) Milady?

**ENTER GISSING & MAHAJAN**

343. DUCHESS: Mr Gissing and Mr Mahajan! How goes the energy wave?

344. GISSING: Everything is in place, dear lady.

345. MAHAJAN: The wireless network is all set up, Duchess. The energy wave will shortly fire up from the Time Store and be relayed through the wireless mast across Delhi. The time store will have all the power it needs.

346. JACK: To do what, exactly? To keep it going a little bit longer? You do know she's killed thousands, Mr Mahajan? And with your help, it'll be millions. And what happens next time, when it needs even more power? How many will die then?
347. DUCHESS: Oh, you're so right Jack. The power needed to keep us in our bubble is going to grow and grow and grow until one day we'll need Everyone to fuel it.
348. JACK: So even you can see it's futile?
349. DUCHESS: Ah! Ha! Instead, that's why we need Mr Mahajan's wireless. You see, this time we're going to get enough power to put the whole world inside the bubble. One big whoosh, and we're taking the whole Earth back to 1924. We're going to start all over again.
350. JACK: You can't do that, Eleanor. You can't change history.
351. DUCHESS: Oh really? Didn't you say that you were all for change? That you'd change the past if you could...
352. JACK: You can't turn back the clock. Time has moved on. You don't get another go.
353. MAHAJAN: (gentle, reasoning) Captain Harkness, the Duchess is planning a new Golden Age for India. They've already done so much for me –



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they really just want to give everyone a better life.

354. DUCHESS: 1924 is when it all started to go wrong. But not this time. First we'll take care of Mr Churchill and all his talk of Independence. And if we make a mistake, then we'll keep going and going until we get it right.
355. JACK: And what about all the people who you've killed? Don't they get a say?
356. DUCHESS: But that's the beauty of the scheme! They'll never have existed, so I'll never have killed them.
357. JACK: The machine's changed you. You're no longer human.
358. DUCHESS: Oh, but I'm still British.
359. JACK: Stop this madness, Eleanor. Take me to Gwen and Ianto.

They turn a corner, and stop.

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360. DUCHESS: Here we are outside the Time Store. Your friends are inside. Along with the energy wave. And I'm sad to say you shall join them. George, dear?
361. GISSING: (cocks gun) Would you care to step inside sir?
362. JACK: You know that gun's not going to kill me.
363. DUCHESS: But I bet it stings like hell. Well, let's see how long you last against our machine. Now, Mr Mahajan?
364. MAHAJAN: I am at your disposal, dear Duchess.
365. DUCHESS: Quite. But, you see.... now our energy wave is all set up... well.... well done my good and faithful servant.
366. MAHAJAN: I'm sorry?
367. DUCHESS: Everything you've done, it's all so enterprising. But it's like those jolly natives slaving for tiny wages in call centres taking jobs from decent Englishmen. I'm afraid there's just no place for people like you in my Golden Age. I'd far rather a rotten Rajah than a simple spiv like you.
368. MAHAJAN: After all I've done for you? You're just going to kill me?
369. DUCHESS: Without a second thought. Open the doors George!

AND THE DOORS OPEN AND A WHIPPING, WIND FILLS THE  
CORRIDOR.

370. MAHAJAN: No! No! George, please [ don't ]

And Mahajan is thrown into the room with a scream.

371. JACK: Eleanor, you've become a monster.

372. DUCHESS: Are you sure you won't join us?

373. JACK: I'd prefer to take my chances with your  
machine.

HE STEPS FORWARD.

374. DUCHESS: Well goodbye, dear Jack! I offered you a  
chance, can't say I didn't play fair.

AND THE WIND BUILDS AND SNAPS OFF AS THE DOOR SHUTS.

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**SCENE 24: THE MEMBERS' RETIRING ROOM**

JACK AND MAHAJAN HAVE STEPPED INTO THE SCREAMING WIND, WHICH BUILDS LOUDER AND LOUDER AND THEN DIPS SLIGHTLY SO THAT WE CAN HEAR THE TALKING.

375. JACK: Gwen! Ianto! They're like ghosts! What's happened to them, Mr Mahajan?
376. MAHAJAN: It's the energy wave. It feeds potential life into the Time Store. They're fading away. It's taking away whatever time they have left. Slowly at first, and then, when it goes critical... whoosh! You've got to get us out of here.
377. JACK: And I'm presuming those moving shadows...
378. MAHAJAN: Are the forefront of the energy net. Seeking out life. They're heading towards us.

**JACK HOWLS WITH PAIN**

379. MAHAJAN: What's happening?
380. JACK: (pain) Get behind me. I've got a whole lot of life to give. That should keep them off you... buying you time. We need to stop the energy net from spreading out.
381. MAHAJAN: There's no way. It's controlled from the mast. There's nothing I can do in here.

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382. JACK: Come on, think! The wireless mast is the most advanced technology you could find. There must be a way of patching into it!
383. MAHAJAN: I can't remember! There's some kind of access from my phone, but I've never used it!
384. JACK: (with an effort) Okay. (pain) Please hurry.
385. MAHAJAN: Right. The access code is an algorithm based on my son's and my wife's birthdays. That's all. I just... I just can't... remember... So cold....
386. JACK: Mahajan! What's your son's name?
387. MAHAJAN: I.... I.... Arvind. Three this October.
388. JACK: Brilliant. And I bet your wife's pretty. Never forget her birthday would you?
389. MAHAJAN: Ha ha! Do I look that brave? She's.... Got it! (TAPS INTO his phone)
390. JACK: Thank you. (AND HE PASSES OUT WITH A GROAN)

AND THE ROOM WHISPERS AND CRIES AROUND THEM

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391. MAHAJAN: Captain Harkness! Captain! It's not working!  
It's not working! (His voice rises, but the  
sound cuts out, so he bellows over silence)  
It's Not Work- oh.

SILENCE

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**SCENE 25: CLUB CORRIDOR**

392. DUCHESS: What's that man done now? He's nothing but a *thug*. Open the doors, George! Let's see what's going on.

THE DOORS FLY OPEN. JACK, GWEN, IANTO AND MAHAJAN STRIDE OUT. BEHIND THEM IS AN OMINOUS CREAKING NOISE.

393. JACK: Duchess! We're all fine, thanks for asking.

394. MAHAJAN: Duchess, I resign from the club.

395. GWEN: I wouldn't dream of joining.

396. DUCHESS: Wouldn't dream of letting you in.

397. DUCHESS: (defiant) You've turned off the energy wave. We'll just turn it on again.

398. JACK: No. We just switched the wireless mast off. The energy wave is still building up. It's about to go critical. And without the mast, there's nothing for your time store to feed off. Except the club.

399. IANTO: I really think we should run. Come on, Gwen.

400. GWEN: Mr Mahajan, George - coming?

401. MAHAJAN: Oh yes!

THEY START TO RUN. AN ECHOING SOUND OF BEATING WINGS AND

WHISPERING.

402. JACK: Gwen! Get as many people out of here as you can!

403. GWEN: Jack! Leave her!

GWEN RUNS AWAY, HER FOOTSTEPS ECHOING ODDLY AND  
WRONGLY.

404. DUCHESS: (brave) Well, Captain H? Leaving the sinking ship?

405. JACK: Come on Eleanor – the time store's rupturing. When it breaks open, it will destroy the entire club. You've got to get out.

406. DUCHESS: Jack! All those people who died... they will have died for nothing.

407. JACK: softer) We've got to go now.

408. DUCHESS: There's no place for me in your Brave New World, Jack. You know that. It's against everything I believe in.

409. JACK: Run, Eleanor! Please! Come outside. Change your mind!

410. DUCHESS: Never! As the dear Buddha said, "Everything dies. Just press on". (bitter) Leave me.

411. JACK: (sad smile) Goodbye, Eleanor.



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412. DUCHESS: (to herself) Time is finally catching up with me. (Her voice distorted as the energy wave sweeps over her) Goodbye..... Jack...

AND, ABOVE THE WIND, THE SOUND OF TIME CRACKING AND FREEZING.

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**SCENE 26: OUTSIDE THE CLUB**

WITH A GASP, JACK FALLS OUT INTO THE OPEN AIR. AND BANG! THE WIND FREEZES.

NOISE OF MODERN INDIA RESUMES. BUSTLE OF PEOPLE

413. GWEN: Jack! Are you all right?
414. JACK: I'll live. Did it work?
415. IANTO: Yes, still 2009. But there's nothing at the end of the lane. The club's gone.
416. JACK: Frozen in time forever. The end of Torchwood India.
417. IANTO: We got Mahajan out – but the rest preferred to sit in their chairs and wait for the end.
418. GWEN: Were they really that scared of the world outside? All those people...
419. JACK: The Duchess wanted a world in which nothing ever changed again. In a way, she's got what she always wanted. Come on, let's get back to Cardiff.

TORCHWOOD THEME.

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**THE END**

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