

DOCTOR WHO 4

Episode 8

by

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1 EXT. FX SHOT 1

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

CUT TO:

2 INT. LEISURE PALACE SPA - DAY 2

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

DONNA

I said, no.

SCENE CONTINUES INTERCUT WITH SC.3

CUT TO:

3 INT. BOARDING DEPOT - DAY 3

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

THE DOCTOR

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

DONNA

Bet you say that to all the girls.

THE DOCTOR

Oh come on, they're boarding now.

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

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

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

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

DONNA

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

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

THE DOCTOR

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

DONNA

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

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

THE DOCTOR

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

DONNA

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

THE DOCTOR

See you later -

DONNA

Oy! And you be careful, all right?

THE DOCTOR

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

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

CUT TO TITLES

CUT TO:

4 INT. CRUSADER FIFTY - DAY

4

THE INTERIOR of the Crusader 50: a passenger-vehicle, with
elements of smartness and comfort, but really, it's more
of a tough explorer vehicle - basically a big, rectangular
box, all rivetted, studded metal. Left-to-right: two seats,
then aisle, then two more seats. This repeating back for
two rows, then with another central aisle bisecting across,
then two more rows going back. The tough-metal, sliding
ENTRANCE DOOR is centre of the right-hand-wall, a couple
of steps leading down.

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

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

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

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

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

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

HOSTESS bombarding the Doctor with plastic packets -

HOSTESS

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

THE DOCTOR

That'll be the peanuts.

HOSTESS

Enjoy your trip.

THE DOCTOR

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

HOSTESS

I'm sorry..?

THE DOCTOR

It's French, for let's go!

HOSTESS

Fascinating.

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

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

That's the headphones for -

PROFESSOR HOBBS

No thank you! Not for us!

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

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

PROFESSOR HOBBS (CONT'D)

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

DEE DEE

Yes sir.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

And my pills?

DEE DEE

All measured out, there you go.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

(leans over seats)

Hobbes! Professor Winfold Hobbes!

THE DOCTOR

I'm the Doctor, hello!

PROFESSOR HOBBS

It's my fourteenth time!

THE DOCTOR

Oh! My first.

DEE DEE

And I'm Dee Dee, Dee Dee Blasco -

PROFESSOR HOBBS

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

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

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

VAL CANE

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

BIFF CANE

Jethro! Do what your mother says.

JETHRO

I'm sitting here.

BIFF CANE

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

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (3)

4

VAL CANE

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

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

HOSTESS

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

And the ENTRANCE DOOR slams shut, *CHUNK!*

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

Shields down!

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

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

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

Over the intercom:

DRIVER JOE OOV

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (4)

4

DRIVER JOE OOV (CONT'D)

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

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

HOSTESS

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

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

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

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

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

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

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

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

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

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

Four hours of funtime! Enjoy!

She walks to the back.

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

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

The Doctor gets out his sonic.

Discreet little whirr.

All the entertainments snap off.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Well that's a mercy!

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (5)

4

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

HOSTESS

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

VAL CANE

But what do we do?!

BIFF CANE

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

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

THE DOCTOR

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

And on his smile, FADE TO BLACK.

Bring up GRAPHIC, lower left hand screen:

98 KLIKS LATER.

FADE UP...

5 INT. CRUSADER FIFTY - LATER

5

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

VAL CANE

- so Biff said, I'm going swimming -

BIFF CANE

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

VAL CANE

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

BIFF CANE

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

VAL CANE

- great big forehead! -

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

BIFF CANE

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

VAL & BIFF

'The pool... is abstract!'

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

VAL CANE

It wasn't a real pool!

BIFF CANE

It was a concept!

VAL CANE

It wasn't real!

THE DOCTOR

And you had a nose plug!

BIFF CANE

(mimes nose plug)

I was like this!

WIDE SHOT, the laughter.

FADE TO BLACK.

Bring up GRAPHIC: 150 KLIKS LATER.

FADE UP...

5A INT. CRUSADER FIFTY - LATER

5A

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

DEE DEE

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

THE DOCTOR

And did they ever find it?

DEE DEE

Find what?

THE DOCTOR

The Lost Moon of Poosh!

(CONTINUED)

5A CONTINUED:

5A

DEE DEE

(laughs)

No! Not yet!

THE DOCTOR

Well, maybe that'll be your great
discovery, one day.

(raises coffee)

Here's to Poosh!

DEE DEE

Poosh!

And they clink cardboard cups.

FADE TO BLACK.

Bring up GRAPHIC: 209 KLIKS LATER.

FADE UP...

6 INT. CRUSADER FIFTY - LATER

6

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

THE DOCTOR

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

SKY

No. Just me.

THE DOCTOR

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

SKY

I'm still getting used to it.

Silence. The Doctor just waiting. Then:

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

SKY (CONT'D)

Found myself single, rather recently. Not by choice.

THE DOCTOR

What happened?

SKY

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

THE DOCTOR

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

Pause.

SKY

Is this chicken or beef?

THE DOCTOR

I think it's both.

FADE TO BLACK.

Bring up GRAPHIC: 251 KLIKS LATER

FADE UP...

7 INT. CRUSADER FIFTY - LATER

7

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

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS

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

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS (CONT'D)

It's a pet project, I'm actually the first person to research this. Cos you see...

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

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

PROFESSOR HOBBS (CONT'D)

The history is fascinating, because there is no history. There's no life in this entire system, there couldn't be. Not ever. Before the Leisure Palace Company moved in, no one had come here. In all eternity. No living thing...

JETHRO

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

VAL CANE

Oh, his imagination! Here we go!

THE DOCTOR

He's got a point, though.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

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

And the Crusader Fifty...

Stops.

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

VAL CANE

We've stopped. Have we stopped?

BIFF CANE

Are we there?

DEE DEE

Can't be, it's too soon.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

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

HOSTESS standing, going to the back -

HOSTESS

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

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

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

Joe? What's going on?

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

BIFF CANE

Maybe just a pit stop.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

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

SKY

(sharp)

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

JETHRO

(gleeful)

We've broken down!

VAL CANE

Thank you, Jethro.

JETHRO

In the middle of nowhere!

BIFF CANE

That's enough, now stop it!

Hostess coming off the phone:

HOSTESS

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

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

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

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

THE DOCTOR

(psychic paper)

Engine expert! Two ticks!

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

CUT TO:

8 INT. DRIVER'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

8

THE DOCTOR steps through, door whooshing shut behind him -

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

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

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

DRIVER JOE

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

The Doctor shows psychic paper, hunkers down between them.

THE DOCTOR

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

DRIVER JOE

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

THE DOCTOR

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

CAPTAIN JOE

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

MECHANIC CLAUDE

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

During this, the Doctor sonicking the dashboard.

THE DOCTOR

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

MECHANIC CLAUDE

Claude, I'm the mechanic. Trainee.

THE DOCTOR

Nice to meet you.

DRIVER JOE

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

THE DOCTOR

How long till they get here?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

DRIVER JOE

About an hour.

THE DOCTOR

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

DRIVER JOE

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

THE DOCTOR

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

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

Stark white light rising on their faces as...

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

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Ohhh, that's beautiful...

MECHANIC CLAUDE

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

THE DOCTOR

Joe, you said you took a detour?

DRIVER JOE

Just 40 klicks to the West.

THE DOCTOR

Is that a recognised path?

DRIVER JOE

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

THE DOCTOR

So we're the first..?

(entranced)

This piece of ground. No one's
ever been here before. Not in the
whole of recorded history.

Mechanic Claude suddenly alert -

MECHANIC CLAUDE

Did you..?

THE DOCTOR

What?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (3)

8

MECHANIC CLAUDE

No. Sorry. Nothing.

THE DOCTOR

What did you see?

MECHANIC CLAUDE

I thought... Something moved.
Over there.FX: THE DIAMOND SURFACE, unchanged, Claude indicating the
cliffs & rocks. Nothing moving. All staring. Unnerved.

THE DOCTOR

Where?

MECHANIC CLAUDE

Just over there. That ridge.

DRIVER JOE

Don't be stupid.

MECHANIC CLAUDE

Like... a shadow. Just for a
second.

DRIVER JOE

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

THE DOCTOR

What sort of shadow?

Small alarm goes off, *beep beep beep* -

DRIVER JOE

X-tonic rising! Shields up -

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

Claude craning down to see through the closing gap-

MECHANIC CLAUDE

There it is - !

THE DOCTOR

Where?!

Too late, *schunk!* Shutters down.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

What was it?

MECHANIC CLAUDE

(disturbed)

Like, just, something... shifting,
something sort of... dark. Like
it was... running.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (4)

8

THE DOCTOR
Running which way?

MECHANIC CLAUDE
Towards us.

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

The Doctor doesn't argue, steps back through -

CUT TO:

9 INT. CRUSADER FIFTY - CONTINUOUS

9

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

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

THE DOCTOR
Oh, just stabilising, happens all
the time.

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

HOSTESS
Back to your seat, thank you.

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

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS
Now, don't bother the man.

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

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

PROFESSOR HOBBS
(worried)
So it's not the engines?

THE DOCTOR
Just a little pause, that's all.

PROFESSOR HOBBS
...how much air have we got?

THE DOCTOR
Professor, it's fine -

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

VAL CANE
What did he say?

THE DOCTOR
Nothing!

VAL CANE
Are we running out of air?

PROFESSOR HOBBS
I was just speculating...

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

SKY
(panicky)
Is that what the Captain said?

HOSTESS
If you could all just remain calm...

VAL CANE
How much air have we got?

HOSTESS
I can assure you, everything is
under control -

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

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

DEE DEE It's a circular filter, it's fine, just read the manual -	SKY I want to see the Driver! Hostess! I demand to see the Driver -
--	--

The Doctor standing up in his seat, taking control -

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

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

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Thank you. Now, if you'd care to
listen to my good friend Dee Dee...

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

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

Tap tap.

On the left hand wall. Towards the front.

From outside.

Everyone freezes. Looking at the wall.

Hushed:

VAL CANE
What was that?

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

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

DEE DEE
Rocks. Could be rocks falling.

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

Tap tap.

A bit louder. Everyone tense.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (3)

9

SKY

What is it?

VAL CANE

Someone's out there.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Now, don't be ridiculous.

DEE DEE

Like I said, it could be rocks.

HOSTESS

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

Tap tap.

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

THE DOCTOR

Knock knock.

JETHRO

Who's there?

Sky's wound up tight, brittle:

SKY

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS

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

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

SKY

What the hell is that then?!

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

HOSTESS

Sir! You really should stay in your seat -

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (4)

9

SKY

Bit late for that!

On the Doctor. Listening.

THE DOCTOR

Hello...?

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

JETHRO

It's moving...

Tap tap. Even further back, left wall.

And then...

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

The Hostess backs away from the back-wall.

VAL CANE

It's trying the door.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

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

Another tiny *rattle* of the door.

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

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

All looking up...

Tap tap. Crossing over to the right hand corner....*Tap tap.* On the right hand wall, the ENTRANCE DOOR.

VAL CANE

That's the entrance. Can it get in?

DEE DEE

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Stop it. Don't encourage them.

DEE DEE

Then what do you think it is?

Biff walks towards the door...

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (5)

9

VAL CANE

Biff, don't...

THE DOCTOR

Mr Cane, better not...

BIFF CANE

Naah, cast iron, that door...

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

Pause.

Hold.

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

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

VAL CANE

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

JETHRO

It answered!

VAL CANE

It did it three times!

THE DOCTOR

All right, everyone, calm down -

SKY

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

TAP TAP TAP!!! Louder!

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

HOSTESS

I really must insist, get back to your seat -

But Sky's really losing it, terrified:

SKY

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

The Doctor knocks four times, *tap tap tap tap.*In reply, *TAP TAP TAP TAP!!!*

All freaked out! But now losing it completely -

(CONTINUED)

9

CONTINUED: (6)

9

SKY (CONT'D)

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

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

VAL CANE

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

DEE DEE

Mrs Silvestry, just calm down...

JETHRO

She's gone mad.

DRIVER JOE OOV

What's happening back there?

HOSTESS

(on phone)

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

SKY

What are you looking at me for? It's not my fault, he started it - (the Professor) - with his stories - and he made it worse - (at Biff) - why couldn't you leave it alone? Stop staring at me! Just tell me what it is - what is it?, *what's out there???*

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But all silenced as -

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SKY (CONT'D)

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

The Doctor running forward -

9 CONTINUED: (7)

9

THE DOCTOR

Get out of there -

But before he can reach her -

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

She screams -

And the whole room plunges into DARKNESS!

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

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

Whole room lurches left, everyone flying -

Whole room lurches level again -

And... stops.

Silence.

On the Doctor, slowly lifting himself up...

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

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

But he's distracted by...

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

The Doctor shakes it off, stands -

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

How are we? Everyone all right?

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

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

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

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS

...earthquake, must be...

DEE DEE

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (8)

9

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Don't tell me what's possible!

Then torchlight lances out, from the Hostess -

HOSTESS

We've got torches, everyone, take
a torch, they're in the back of
the seats... /The Doctor grabs one, then the Professor, Dee Dee, Val,
Biff, Jethro - pitch darkness, torchbeams lancing across -CU faces caught in torchlight, everyone checking everyone
else, all bewildered.

Val going to Jethro, hugging him -

VAL CANE

Oh sweetheart, come here...

JETHRO

Never mind me, what about her?

He's shining his torch over at Sky.

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

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

VAL CANE

What happened to the seats?

BIFF CANE

Who did that..?

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

THE DOCTOR

It's all right, it's over, we're
still alive, look...He shines his torch on the wall above her. A big DENT,
like something's punched in. But the metal's not broken.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

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

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

HOSTESS

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (9)

9

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

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

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

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(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (10)

9

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

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

All shocked - Val screams - !

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

VAL CANE

What was that? What happened?

BIFF CANE

Is it the Driver? Have we lost the Driver?

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

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

HOSTESS

...the cabin's gone.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

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

DEE DEE

Well you saw it!

HOSTESS

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

Biff shines his torch at the Doctor.

BIFF CANE

What are you doing?

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

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

THE DOCTOR

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

VAL CANE

D'you know what you're doing?

BIFF CANE

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS

- the cabin can't be gone - !

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (11)

9

THE DOCTOR

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

He pulls out thick, severed wires.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Something sliced it off. You're right. The cabin has gone.

HOSTESS

But if it gets separated...

THE DOCTOR

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

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

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

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

But all through this, Jethro keeps his torch on Sky. She's still facing the wall. Breathing.

JETHRO

Doctor. Look at her.

THE DOCTOR

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

JETHRO

Why won't she turn around?

And now everyone shines their torches on Sky.

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS

What's her name?

HOSTESS

Silvestry. Mrs Sky Silvestry.

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

She's just *breathing*.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (12)

9

THE DOCTOR

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

JETHRO

That noise, from outside, it's stopped.

VAL CANE

Well thank God for that.

JETHRO

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

VAL CANE

Inside where?

JETHRO

It was heading for her.

Everyone sick with dread, now. Staring. Torches.

As the Doctor inches forward, just a little.

THE DOCTOR

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

And she starts to turn. Swivelling round.

Slowly.

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

And slowly, shifting her body...

Sky turns her head...

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

And she's insane.

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

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

But the Doctor is fascinated.

Absolute silence.

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (13)

9

Like they're new.

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

Val flinches, Sky's slightest move scaring her -

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

Then, quietly:

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Sky?

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

SKY

Sky?

THE DOCTOR

Are you all right?

Pause.

SKY

Are you all right?

THE DOCTOR

Are you hurt?

Just a beat.

SKY

Are you hurt?

THE DOCTOR

You don't have to talk.

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

SKY

You don't have to talk.

THE DOCTOR

I'm trying to help.

SKY

I'm trying to help.

THE DOCTOR

My name's the Doctor.

SKY

My name's the Doctor.

THE DOCTOR

Okay, can you stop?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (14)

9

SKY
Okay, can you stop?

THE DOCTOR
I'd like you to stop.

SKY
I'd like you to stop.

PROFESSOR HOBBS
Why's she doing that?

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

SKY
Why's she doing that?

BIFF CANE
She's gone mad.

SKY
She's gone mad.

VAL CANE
Stop it.

SKY
Stop it.

VAL CANE
I said stop it!

SKY
I said stop it!

DEE DEE
I don't think she can.

SKY
I don't think she can.

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

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

THE DOCTOR
Husssh, all of you -

SKY
Husssh, all of you -

JETHRO
My name's Jethro!

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (15)

9

SKY
My name's Jethro!

THE DOCTOR
Jethro, leave it, just shut up!

SKY
Jethro, leave it, just shut up!

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

THE DOCTOR
Why are you repeating..?

SKY
Why are you repeating..?

THE DOCTOR
What is that, learning?

SKY
What is that, learning?

THE DOCTOR
Copying?

SKY
Copying?

THE DOCTOR
Absorbing?

SKY
Absorbing?

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

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

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

Everyone freaked out by that.

PROFESSOR HOBBS
But that's impossible.

SKY
But that's impossible.

DEE DEE
She couldn't repeat all that -

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (16)

9

SKY

She couldn't repeat all that -

VAL CANE

Tell her to stop!

SKY

Tell her to stop!

VAL CANE

She's driving me mad -

SKY

She's driving me mad -

VAL CANE

Just make her STOP!!

SKY

Just make her STOP!!

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

VAL CANE

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

HOSTESS

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

BIFF CANE

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

THE DOCTOR

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

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

SKY

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

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (17)

9

VAL CANE

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

BIFF CANE

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

JETHRO

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

HOSTESS

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS

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

DEE DEE

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

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

SKY

Stop talking/so help me/
Silvestry/sixteen, thirty
five!/scaring the passengers/Doctor
look/not the same woman/I'm ordering
you!/stop repeating/rescue
services/one million seven/else
inside her/make her stop - !

Rising, rising, voices at fever pitch until -

The lights come back on!

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

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (18)

9

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

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

HOSTESS & SKY

It's the back-up systems.

BIFF CANE & SKY

Well! That's a bit better.

VAL CANE & SKY

What about the rescue, how long's it going to take?

HOSTESS & SKY

About sixty minutes, that's all.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

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

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

JETHRO & SKY

Doctor...

THE DOCTOR & SKY

I know.

Because he's been watching her too.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

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

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY (CONT'D)

What's she doing..?

(pause)

How can she do that?

VAL CANE & SKY

But... she's talking *with* you -
(horrified)

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (19)

9

JETHRO & SKY

She's repeating at exactly the same time.

DEE DEE & SKY

That's impossible.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

...there's not even a delay.

JETHRO & SKY

Ohh man, that is weird.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

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

VAL CANE & SKY

How's she doing it??

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Mrs Cane, please, be quiet -

VAL CANE & SKY

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

BIFF CANE & SKY

(holds her)

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

(at Sky)

She's doing it to me!

THE DOCTOR & SKY

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

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY (CONT'D)

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

(pause)

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

(pause. Suddenly:)

Roast beef!

(pause)

Bananas.

(pause)

The Medusa Cascade.

(long pause)

BANG!

(pause)

Rose Tyler, Martha Jones, Donna Noble, Tardis!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (20)

9

THE DOCTOR & SKY (CONT'D)

(pause)

Shamble bobble dibble dooble.

(pause)

Oh Doctor, you're so handsome.

Yes I am, thank you.

(pause)

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

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

She's synchronised.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

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

DEE DEE & SKY

Next stage of what?

JETHRO & SKY

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY

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

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

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

The Doctor stands, carefully backing away from her.

THE DOCTOR & SKY (CONT'D)

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

He's heading for the back -

THE DOCTOR & SKY (CONT'D)

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

VAL CANE & SKY

Doctor, just make her stop.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (21)

9

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

Sky stays where she is. Staring.

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

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY (CONT'D)

Fifty minutes. That's all we need.
Fifty minutes till the rescue
arrives. And she's not exactly
strong, look at her, all she's got
is our voices.

VAL CANE & SKY

I can't look at her. It's those
eyes.

DEE DEE & SKY

We must not look at Goblin Men.

BIFF CANE & SKY

...what's that supposed to mean?

THE DOCTOR & SKY

It's a poem. Christina Rossetti.

DEE DEE & SKY

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

Pause.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Actually, I don't think that's
helping.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

She's not a goblin, or a monster,
she's just a very sick woman.

JETHRO & SKY

Maybe that's why it went for her.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

There is no 'it!'

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (22)

9

JETHRO & SKY

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

For the last time! Nothing could live on the surface of Midnight.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

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

BIFF CANE & SKY

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY

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

VAL CANE & SKY

Oh, like you're so special.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

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

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

HOSTESS & SKY

We should throw her out.

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

I beg your pardon?

VAL CANE & SKY

Can we do that?

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Don't be ridiculous -

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (23)

9

HOSTESS & SKY

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY

She can't even move!

HOSTESS & SKY

Oh just *look* at her!

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

HOSTESS & SKY (CONT'D)

Look at her eyes! She killed Joe, and she killed Claude, and we're next.

BIFF CANE & SKY

She's still doing it -

(sudden fury, rages across at Sky)

Just stop it! Stop talking!!

STOP IT!!!

VAL CANE & SKY

Biff, sweetheart, don't...

BIFF CANE & SKY

She won't stop!

(calms down)

We can't throw her out though, we can't even open the doors -

THE DOCTOR & SKY

No one is getting thrown out!

DEE DEE & SKY

Yes we can.

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

DEE DEE & SKY (CONT'D)

Cos...there's an air pressure seal.

(to the Hostess)

Like when you opened the cabin door, you weren't pulled out, you had a couple of seconds, cos it takes the pressure-wall about six seconds to collapse. Well, six seconds exactly. That's enough time to throw someone out.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Thanks Dee Dee, just what we needed -

VAL CANE & SKY

Would it kill her? Outside?

(CONTINUED)

9

CONTINUED: (24)

9

DEE DEE & SKY

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY

No one's killing anyone -

HOSTESS & SKY

(ignoring him)

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

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(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (25)

9

The Emergency Door, right behind them.

HOSTESS & SKY (CONT'D)

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY

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

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

HOSTESS & SKY

I'd do it.

BIFF CANE & SKY

So would I.

VAL CANE & SKY

And me.

DEE DEE & SKY

I think we should.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

(shocked at her)

What?!

DEE DEE & SKY

I want her out.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

You can't say that!

DEE DEE & SKY

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY

That's not what I said!

DEE DEE & SKY

(upset)

I just want to go home. I'm sorry. I want to be safe.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

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

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

HOSTESS & SKY

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

*
*
*
*
*

THE DOCTOR & SKY

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

*
*
*

VAL CANE & SKY

Well you haven't done much so far!

*
*

BIFF CANE & SKY

You're just standing at the back with the rest of us!

*
*
*

HOSTESS & SKY

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

*
*
*
*

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

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

*
*
*
*

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9 CONTINUED: (27)

9

THE DOCTOR & SKY
At last! Thank you.

HOSTESS & SKY
Two people dead.

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

JETHRO & SKY
I'm not killing anyone.

THE DOCTOR & SKY
Thank you.

VAL CANE & SKY
But he's just a boy!

JETHRO & SKY
What, so I don't get a vote?

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

Pause.

HOSTESS & SKY
...okay.

BIFF CANE & SKY
Fine by me.

THE DOCTOR & SKY
Ohhh, now you're being stupid.
(at Biff)
Just think about it! Could you
actually take hold of someone and
throw them out of that door?

BIFF CANE & SKY
Calling me a coward?

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

VAL CANE & SKY
Who put you in charge, anyway?

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY
I'm sorry, but... you're a Doctor
of what, exactly?

HOSTESS & SKY
He wasn't even booked in.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (28)

9

HOSTESS & SKY (CONT'D)

Rest of you, tickets in advance.
He just turned up, out of the blue.

DEE DEE & SKY

Where from?

THE DOCTOR & SKY

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

VAL CANE & SKY

Like an immigrant?

HOSTESS & SKY

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Just, Donna, just my friend -

BIFF CANE & SKY

What were you saying to her?

VAL CANE & SKY

Hasn't even told us his name.

JETHRO & SKY

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Ohh, Jethro, not you -

JETHRO & SKY

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY

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

VAL CANE & SKY

What, you wanted this to happen?

THE DOCTOR & SKY

No!

BIFF CANE & SKY

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (29)

9

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

VAL CANE & SKY
We all did!

HOSTESS & SKY
- and you went into the cabin -

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY
I was just talking!

BIFF CANE & SKY
Saying what??

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

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

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY
That was *after!*

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

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

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

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

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY
That's not what I meant -

DEE DEE & SKY
If you're clever then what are we?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (30)

9

VAL CANE & SKY

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

HOSTESS & SKY

If he goes, then he's practically
volunteered.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Ohh come on, just listen to yourself,
please!

BIFF CANE & SKY

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

HOSTESS & SKY

If we have to.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

Perhaps if you told us your name.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

What does it matter?

PROFESSOR HOBBS & SKY

Then tell us.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

...John Smith.

Scorn and 'hah!' from all.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

Your real name.

THE DOCTOR & SKY

Doctor John Smith.

BIFF CANE

He's lying, look at his face.

VAL CANE

His eyes are the same as hers.

JETHRO

Why won't you tell us?!

Still hushed, fierce - four of them burst into -

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (31)

9

VAL CANE

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

BIFF CANE

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

JETHRO

Just tell us, Doctor,
just say it.

HOSTESS

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

All attacking the Doctor, breaking off when -

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS

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

VAL CANE

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

JETHRO

(quiet)
Mum, just stop, just look...

VAL CANE

You keep out of this, Jethro.

JETHRO

But look at her!

DEE DEE

She's stopped...

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

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (32)

9

THE DOCTOR & SKY
When did she..? No she hasn't,
look, she's still doing it.

VAL CANE
She looks the same to me...
(realises - joy!)
Oh she's stopped! Look, I'm
talking, and she's not!

BIFF CANE
What about me? Is she..?
(relief)
Look! Look at that! She's not
doing me, she's let me go!

HOSTESS
(testing her)
Mrs Silvestry..?
(relief)
Nor me! Nothing!

THE DOCTOR & SKY
Sky? What are you doing..?
DEE DEE
She's still doing him!

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

The Doctor facing Sky properly now.

THE DOCTOR & SKY
Why me..? Why are you doing this?

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

BIFF CANE
They're together!

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY
I don't know.
(unnerved)
Sky, stop it. I said stop it.
Just *stop it!!*

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

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (33)

9

VAL CANE

Look at the two of them...

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY

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

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

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

THE DOCTOR & SKY (CONT'D)

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

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

SKY

Do we / have a deal?

THE DOCTOR

/ Do we have a deal?

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

Silence, both staring, as this sinks in.

And the others saw it too:

DEE DEE

Hold on, did she just..?

JETHRO

She spoke first.

VAL CANE

She can't have.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

She did!

JETHRO

She spoke first!

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (34)

9

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

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

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

JETHRO
He's copying her.

PROFESSOR HOBBS
Doctor..? What's happening?

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

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

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

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

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DEE DEE
What does that mean, letting you
go from what?

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

JETHRO
They're separating.

PROFESSOR HOBBS
Mrs Silvestry? Is that you?

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

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

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

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

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

DEE DEE
No, that's not what happened.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (35)

9

VAL CANE

But look at her!

Sky flexing an arm, like she's waking.

SKY

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

THE DOCTOR

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

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

SKY

Help me.

THE DOCTOR

Help me.

SKY

Professor..?

THE DOCTOR

Professor..?

SKY

Get me away from him.

THE DOCTOR

Get me away from him.

SKY

Please.

THE DOCTOR

Please.

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

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

SKY

Ohh thank you.

THE DOCTOR

Ohh thank you.

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

JETHRO

They've completely separated.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (36)

9

BIFF CANE

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

VAL CANE

She's free! She's been saved!

SKY

It was so cold.

THE DOCTOR

It was so cold.

SKY

I couldn't breathe.

THE DOCTOR

I couldn't breathe.

Sky tearful, pathetic, reaching out for Val.

SKY

I'm sorry.

THE DOCTOR

I'm sorry.

SKY

I must've scared you, so much.

THE DOCTOR

I must've scared you, so much.

Val runs to her, hugs her, tearful.

VAL CANE

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

DEE DEE

I wouldn't touch her.

BIFF CANE

(to Dee Dee)

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

DEE DEE

That's not what happened.

PROFESSOR HOBBS

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

DEE DEE

No.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (37)

9

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

VAL CANE

(defending Sky)

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

JETHRO

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS

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

BIFF CANE

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

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

SKY

It's inside his head.

THE DOCTOR

It's inside his head.

SKY

It killed the Driver.

THE DOCTOR

It killed the Driver.

SKY

And the mechanic.

THE DOCTOR

And the mechanic.

SKY

And now it wants us.

THE DOCTOR

And now it wants us.

VAL CANE

I said so!

SKY

He's waited so long.

THE DOCTOR

He's waited so long.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (38)

9

SKY

In the dark.

THE DOCTOR

In the dark.

SKY

And the cold.

THE DOCTOR

And the cold.

SKY

And the diamonds.

THE DOCTOR

And the diamonds.

SKY

Until you came.

THE DOCTOR

Until you came.

SKY

Bodies so hot.

THE DOCTOR

Bodies so hot.

SKY

With blood.

THE DOCTOR

With blood.

SKY

And pain.

THE DOCTOR

And pain.

VAL CANE

(terrified)

Make him stop, oh my God, make him
stop, someone make him stop -

DEE DEE

But *she's* saying it!

BIFF CANE

(angry)

And you can shut up!

DEE DEE

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (39)

9

BIFF CANE

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

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

HOSTESS

Let her talk.

BIFF CANE

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

HOSTESS

Just let her explain.

All eyes on Dee Dee. Which she hates.

DEE DEE

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

BIFF CANE

What, and you're on his side?

DEE DEE

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

JETHRO

But the voice is the thing!

DEE DEE

(upset)

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

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

HOSTESS

She's got his voice...

VAL CANE

(at Dee Dee)

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

BIFF CANE

So did I!

DEE DEE

But you didn't!

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (40)

9

VAL CANE

It went from her, to him.
(to Jethro)
You saw it, didn't you?

JETHRO

(scared kid)
I don't know.

VAL CANE

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

JETHRO

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

VAL CANE

There we are then!

BIFF CANE

Everyone saw it, everyone!

DEE DEE

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

VAL CANE

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

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

PROFESSOR HOBBS

I think you should be quiet, Dee -

DEE DEE

I'm only saying -

PROFESSOR HOBBS

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

Dee Dee silenced, humiliated. Sky plaintive & mystical:

SKY

That's how he does it.

THE DOCTOR

That's how he does it.

SKY

He makes you fight.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (41)

9

THE DOCTOR
He makes you fight.

SKY
Creeps into your head.

THE DOCTOR
Creeps into your head.

SKY
And whispers.

THE DOCTOR
And whispers.

Whispered:

SKY
Listen.

THE DOCTOR
Listen.

SKY
Just listen.

THE DOCTOR
Just listen.

SKY
That's him.

THE DOCTOR
That's him.

SKY
Inside.

THE DOCTOR
Inside.

Val clutches her head, terrified, vicious -

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (42)

9

SKY

Yes!

THE DOCTOR

Yes!

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(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (43)

9

SKY
Throw him out!

THE DOCTOR
Throw him out!

SKY
Get rid of him!

THE DOCTOR
Get rid of him!

SKY
Now!

THE DOCTOR
Now!

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

DEE DEE
Don't - !

VAL CANE
It'll be you next!

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

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

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

The Hostess stepping forward -

HOSTESS
I don't think we should do this -

BIFF CANE
It was your idea!

VAL CANE
You thought of it!

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

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

BIFF CANE
Professor! Help me!

The Professor terrified, trapped -

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (44)

9

PROFESSOR HOBBS

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

BIFF CANE

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

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

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

BIFF CANE (CONT'D)

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

And at exactly the same time:

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

VAL CANE

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

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (45)

9

SKY
Cast him out!

THE DOCTOR
Cast him out!

SKY
Into the sun

THE DOCTOR
Into the sun!

SKY
And the night!

THE DOCTOR
And the night!

SKY
Do it!

THE DOCTOR
Do it!

SKY
Do it now!

THE DOCTOR
Do it now!

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

SKY
Faster!

THE DOCTOR
Faster!

SKY
That's the way!

THE DOCTOR
That's the way!

SKY
You can do it!

THE DOCTOR
You can do it!

SKY
Molto bene!

THE DOCTOR
Molto bene!

SKY
Allons-y!

Biff behind the Doctor,
hooking both arms under his -

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (46)

9

THE DOCTOR

Allons-y!

ON THE HOSTESS.

Because now she knows.

Very quiet. No one listening to her.

HOSTESS

That's his voice.

She looks at Dee Dee.

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

That's his voice.

But Dee Dee's just crying.

Looking at the Doctor:

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

She's taken his voice.

Looking at Sky:

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

It's her.

But she's all on her own.

She looks round:

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

SKY

The starlight waits!

THE DOCTOR

The starlight waits!

SKY

The emptiness!

THE DOCTOR

The emptiness!

SKY

The Midnight sky!

THE DOCTOR

The Midnight sky!

And the Hostess know what has to be done.

In one, fluid action, no struggle -

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (47)

9

The Hostess strides forward, towards Sky -

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

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

The Hostess slams the BUTTON -

EMERGENCY DOOR whooshes open -

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

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

SKY

No - !

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

THE DOCTOR

No - !

HOSTESS

...four, five, six -

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

SCHUNK! The door slams shut.

And it's over.

Silence. Frozen.

Then...

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

The Doctor can speak. Exhausted:

THE DOCTOR

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

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

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

The Professor just curls up. Hiding his head.

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

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (48) 9

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

Val staring at the Doctor.

Silence.

Hold. For a long time.

Then quietly:

VAL CANE
I said it was her.

The Doctor just looks at her.

Such a look.

And Val is silent.

CUT TO WIDE SHOT. All recovering.

Slowly FADE TO BLACK...

Bring up GRAPHIC:

20 minutes later

FADE UP...

10 INT. CRUSADER FIFTY - DAY 10

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

Over this:

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

The Doctor looks over to the Professor.

THE DOCTOR
The Hostess. What was her name?

PROFESSOR HOBBS
...I don't know.

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

All shake their heads.

No one knows.

FADE TO BLACK.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: 10

FADE UP...

11 EXT. FX SHOT 11

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

CUT TO:

12 INT. LEISURE PALACE, SPA - DAY 12

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

Big hug.

CUT TO:

13 INT. LEISURE PALACE, SPA - LATER 13

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

DONNA

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

THE DOCTOR

No idea.

DONNA

D'you think it's still out there?

No reply.

DONNA (CONT'D)

You'd better tell them. This lot.

THE DOCTOR

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

DONNA

(smiles, gentle)

Can't imagine you, without a voice.

THE DOCTOR

(smiles)

Molto bene.

DONNA

'Molto bene!'

THE DOCTOR

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

And they sit in silence.

END OF EPISODE 4.8