

Doctor Who:
The Phantom of the Doctor

Written by
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First draft.

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1 EXT. SMALL TOWN, USA. NIGHT.

1

Small Town, USA. Contrary to its name, the town is actually quite large. On the main street an audience queues to get in to *The Starlight Theater*. Tonight; The Phantom of the Opera.

A young woman, CHEYENNE DYER, squeezes past the queue to get into the theater. She's in something of a hurry.

CHEYENNE

Excuse me, thank you. Sorry. *Excuse me!* Thank you.

Clearly not dressed for a night out, she wears a uniform with a waistcoat and name tag. She's theater bar staff.

2 INT. BAR, THE STARLIGHT THEATER. [CONTINUOUS].

2

Cheyenne enters the bar and makes her way through the throng of customers. Two men are serving drinks behind the bar. The younger man, REUBEN, wears a uniform that matches hers.

The older man, HOWARD LEVY, is dressed much more aristocratically. He has donned an apron over the top of his formal attire and is pouring drinks for a customer. He spots Cheyenne approaching.

HOWARD LEVY

Miss Dyer, how kind of you to join us.

CHEYENNE

I'm sorry Mister Levy, I was-

HOWARD LEVY

You were supposed to be here twenty minutes ago. Here.

He takes the apron off and forces it into her hands.

CHEYENNE

I know, but you see, I had to-

HOWARD LEVY

I don't want to hear it, young lady. We're two stage-hands down and there's no sign of the Australian girl yet either!

CHEYENNE

Elena.

HOWARD LEVY

I don't care what her name is. I just want you all serving drinks, to paying customers, with a smile on your face. As your agency contract stipulates. Can you do that for me, Miss Dyer?

CHEYENNE

Yes, Mister Levy.

HOWARD LEVY

Glad to hear it.

Levy steps out from behind the bar and addresses the public, attempting to sound as posh as he can.

HOWARD LEVY (cont'd)

Ladies and Gentlemen, if you'd like to start making your way into the auditorium, curtain up is in just a little under five minutes.

The audience start finishing their drinks, some already heading out of the bar.

HOWARD LEVY (cont'd)

Oh, Reuben. This pump's almost empty. Get another keg ready for the interval, will you?

REUBEN

Sure thing, Mister Levy.

Levy walks away with the crowd as Cheyenne puts her apron on and starts gathering together the empty glasses on the bar.

REUBEN (cont'd)

You okay, Cheyenne?

CHEYENNE

He could at least say please and thank you.

REUBEN

What happened?

CHEYENNE

Oh, just... mom.

REUBEN

Tough break.

CHEYENNE

How about you?

REUBEN

Me? Oh, I'm living the American dream.

He smiles and exits to the cellar.

3 INT. CELLAR, THE STARLIGHT THEATER. [CONTINUOUS].

3

Reuben steps down into the dark cellar and takes a torch from a shelf on the wall. He proceeds through the lengthy room towards the far end, passing old props, tools, and set-pieces.

As he nears the space where the alcohol is kept, he hears a strange noise; like someone crawling across the floor at great speed. He shines the torch ahead of him, but sees nothing.

REUBEN

Hello?

After a moment he hears the sound again, this time coming from a different direction.

REUBEN (cont'd)

Who's in here? This area's off-limits to the public.

He peers slowly around the room, shining the torch. Something is watching him; something behind him, above him.

He hears another scabbling noise and spins on his heels, but still there is nothing there. He chuckles to himself under his breath.

REUBEN (cont'd)

I'm going crazy...

Locating a keg of beer, he bends down to pick it up. Behind him, a shadow briefly crawls across the light shining down from upstairs. A shadow with a head, a torso, two arms... and nothing else.

It crawls on the ceiling.

4 INT. BAR, THE STARLIGHT THEATER. [MINUTES LATER].

4

Cheyenne is collecting glasses from around the room. The performance is underway and can be heard in the background.

She moves an empty glass and a PLAYING CARD drops to the floor behind the table. She crouches down to look; it is an Ace of Spades. Flipping it over she finds there is writing on the back:

"To Cheyenne. From The Doctor, with love. X X X"

Reuben enters carrying a keg of beer. He doesn't notice her crouched behind the table. She stands up.

CHEYENNE
Did you see who left this?

REUBEN
Jesus!

He drops the keg in surprise.

CHEYENNE
What's the matter?

REUBEN
It's that damned cellar. Freaks me out.

CHEYENNE
Yeah, well. At least you don't have a secret admirer.

She shows him the playing card.

REUBEN
"The Doctor"? What is he, some kind of weirdo?

CHEYENNE
Probably. They usually are.

She puts the playing card in her pocket and gets back to work.

5 INT. THE STARLIGHT THEATER.

5

The clock on the wall fades from seven thirty to eleven thirty.

6 EXT. THE STARLIGHT THEATER. SAME NIGHT [HOURS LATER].

6

Cheyenne, Reuben and Howard Levy exit the theater by the staff door. Levy locks up the door behind them.

HOWARD LEVY

Alright. Good work tonight everyone,
I'll see you tomorrow. And Miss Dyer-
do please try to be on time.

CHEYENNE

I will sir.

Levy gets into his car.

REUBEN

Night Mister Levy. You need a ride?

CHEYENNE

I'll be fine, I'm just around the
block.

REUBEN

Suit yourself. See you tomorrow.

CHEYENNE

See ya.

They both go their separate ways. Reuben gets into his car and starts the engine. Cheyenne reaches the end of the street and looks back.

In a split second, she sees a shadow crawl from the alley behind the theater into the darkness beneath Reuben's car. She watches him drive away then continues on her way.

7 EXT. REUBEN'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

7

Reuben gets home and goes to the front door. As he puts his key in the lock he hears the same scrabbling sound he heard in the cellar. Glancing over, he sees a bush jostling. He stares for a moment, then shakes his head and goes inside.

8 INT. REUBEN'S HOUSE. [MINUTES LATER].

8

Reuben sits on his couch with a packaged meal and picks up the remote control for the TV. He hears the sound of someone crawling on the floor upstairs.

As he stands up to investigate, he notices a trail of dust smeared on the carpet going up the stairs. He follows it up to his bedroom. The dust smears lead under the bed.

The clock on his wall ticks over, striking midnight on the dot. The lights and power suddenly switch off. The room is in darkness.

Reuben tries the light switch, to no avail. More scrabbling sounds from beneath the bed.

He reaches for the side of the bed-frame, ready to flip the whole thing over. As he gets a grip on the edge, a long, pale, emaciated arm reaches out from underneath and grabs him by the wrist.

His skin sears under its touch. As he pulls away, the shadowy outline of THE CREEPER is pulled out from under the bed. Its face is one big mouth. It grabs him with both hands and he falls over backward, pinned down by the creature.

His dying screams echo around the neighborhood.

OPENING TITLES

9 EXT. THE STARLIGHT THEATER. [THE FOLLOWING NIGHT]. 9

Another night, another audience queuing at the doors. Cheyenne pushes her way through the crowd, late again.

CHEYENNE

Excuse me. Sorry. Excuse me.

10 INT. BAR, THE STARLIGHT THEATER. [CONTINUOUS]. 10

The bar is packed once more, but tonight only Howard Levy is behind the bar serving drinks. He is too busy to notice Cheyenne arriving.

HOWARD LEVY

There you are, sir! That'll be fifteen thirty-five.

CHEYENNE

Mister Levy!

HOWARD LEVY

Miss Dyer, thank god! I was beginning to think you weren't going to show up either.

CHEYENNE
 Either? Where's Reuben?

HOWARD LEVY
 No sign of him. Here.

He gives her his apron and heads for the door to the office behind the bar.

CHEYENNE
 What do you mean "no sign of him"?
 Did he call in sick?

HOWARD LEVY
 No, Miss Dyer, he is absent without leave. Finish serving these customers then get down to cellar and grab two more kegs for the interval.

CHEYENNE
 What, by myself? Those things are heavy!

HOWARD LEVY
 Just do what you can. I'm going to call the agency and have them send someone else over.

Levy opens the door to the office to find THE DOCTOR waiting in the doorway, already dressed in a uniform that matches Cheyenne's- save for the regency Jabot at his neck.

THE DOCTOR
 Hello, I'm from the agency.

HOWARD LEVY
 That was fast.

THE DOCTOR
 I take my work very seriously.

HOWARD LEVY
 Glad to hear it, Mister, er...

THE DOCTOR
 Smith. John Smith.

HOWARD LEVY
 Well, Mister Smith. As you can see, we're a little understaffed right now.

THE DOCTOR
I'm fully briefed on the situation,
Mister Levy, no need to concern
yourself! I've got everything under
control.

The Doctor gently moves Levy aside.

HOWARD LEVY
Right. It's just, you see, I'll have
to confirm this with the-

THE DOCTOR
Serving drinks, with a smile on my
face, as my agency contract
stipulates. Oh!

The Doctor looks at his watch then shows it to Levy.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
Look! It's five minutes to curtain
up. Hadn't you better call time at
the bar?

HOWARD LEVY
Well, I...

The Doctor taps his watch.

HOWARD LEVY (cont'd)
Yes, I suppose I... out of my way!

Levy pushes past the Doctor and steps out from behind the
bar. He begins his address to the audience.

HOWARD LEVY (cont'd)
Ladies and Gentlemen...

The Doctor stands next to Cheyenne at the bar, they talk
quietly.

CHEYENNE
That was fun to watch.

THE DOCTOR
What was?

CHEYENNE
The way you knocked the wind out of
his sails.

THE DOCTOR
I barely touched him!

CHEYENNE
No, I meant... never mind.

Levy has finished his address. The audience begin heading to the auditorium. Levy follows them out, but calls back to Cheyenne:

HOWARD LEVY
Miss Dyer! The cellar!

CHEYENNE
(sarcastically, under
her breath)
Yes, Mister Levy. Right away, Mister
Levy.

THE DOCTOR
I wouldn't go *down there* if I were
you.

CHEYENNE
And I wouldn't have worn that tie
with that waistcoat.

Cheyenne exits to the cellar.

THE DOCTOR
Tie?!

The Doctor turns to a customer who is still finishing their drink by the bar.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
Would you have worn *this* jabot with
this waistcoat?

11 INT. CELLAR, THE STARLIGHT THEATER. [CONTINUOUS].

11

Cheyenne steps down into the cellar and grabs a torch from the shelf. As she makes her way deeper into the room, she passes the TARDIS. She thinks nothing of it, to her it's just another prop or set-piece.

Moving through the darkness, she hears the scrabbling sound of the Creeper.

CHEYENNE
Hello?

Silence. Shrugging it off, she locates the kegs of beer and picks one up.

12 INT. BAR, THE STARLIGHT THEATER. [MINUTES LATER]. 12

Cheyenne fixes the new keg into place under the pump. She stands up and looks around the empty room. The Doctor is nowhere to be seen, but the glasses have all been collected and stacked in a neat pyramid on the bar.

Cheyenne hears the sound of the Creeper crawling once more; she looks around to see a stairwell door swing closed.

She goes to investigate. As she approaches the door she notices a trail of dust smeared on the carpet, leading through it. She opens the door.

13 INT. STAIRWELL, THE STARLIGHT THEATER. [CONTINUOUS]. 13

Cheyenne follows the trail of dust over to a wall with no doors and windows. The trail stops dead at the wall. She knocks on the wall; it is solid, no hidden doors. She bends down to examine the dust.

Behind her, out of focus, the Creeper crawls across the ceiling and out through a small window. She hears a thud from behind another door. She cautiously goes to it and reaches for the handle...

The door opens from the other side. It is The Doctor.

THE DOCTOR

Cheyenne! Just the woman I need. Tell me, did you see anything unusual in the cellar?

CHEYENNE

No. Why?

THE DOCTOR

Nothing at all?

CHEYENNE

Well, I thought I heard something...

THE DOCTOR

A sort of creepy, crawly, scrabbly noise?

CHEYENNE

Yeah.

THE DOCTOR

I heard it too, last night.

CHEYENNE
You were here last night?

THE DOCTOR
What happened to Reuben?

CHEYENNE
I don't know, he didn't show up
tonight.

THE DOCTOR
And Elena?

CHEYENNE
I haven't seen her since Wednesday-
how do you know Elena?

THE DOCTOR
And what about the people you're
covering, hm? The people who normally
work here, when Levy doesn't have to
call in agency staff?

CHEYENNE
What are you, an undercover quiz show
host?

THE DOCTOR
Something like that.

CHEYENNE
I guess they're off sick.

The Doctor hands her a photograph of a young man, dead on
the floor, the life drained out of him.

THE DOCTOR
Monday the sixteenth. David Lierman.
Bar staff. Missed work, found dead
the next day.

He hands Cheyenne another photograph, this time of a woman;
dead, the life drained from her too.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
Tuesday the seventeenth. Macy Dean,
bar staff.

He hands her two more photographs.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
Wednesday the eighteenth. Laura Bates
and Michael Covington, stage hands.

He takes another photograph from his pocket, but doesn't show it to her.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
Thursday the nineteenth.

Cheyenne throws the photographs at him.

CHEYENNE
Stop it, stop! Who are you? You sure as hell don't work for my agency! Are you... are you "The Doctor"?!

THE DOCTOR
(surprised)
Um. Yes, actually! How did you-

CHEYENNE
Oh my god. You did it, didn't you?
You killed them!

THE DOCTOR
Excuse me?

CHEYENNE
Get away from me, you psychopath!

She runs out through the staff door.

THE DOCTOR
Cheyenne! Cheyenne, wait!

The Doctor follows her out.

14 EXT. THE STARLIGHT THEATER. NIGHT [CONTINUOUS].

14

The staff door opens and the Doctor runs out into the alleyway behind the theater. Cheyenne is hiding behind a wheelie bin.

THE DOCTOR
(calling out, blindly)
Cheyenne! Listen to me. I'm not going to hurt you, I came here to save you! Your life is in danger and if you don't let me help then *more people* will die!

CHEYENNE
(whispering to herself)
Oh, no no no, please no...

THE DOCTOR

I know you're out here. Please, just give me a chance to explain and I promise I will do everything I can to protect you.

Cheyenne closes her eyes as she hears the Doctor's footsteps approaching. When he reaches the other side of the bin, the footsteps stop and all is silent. She peers out. No sign of him. She relaxes.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Well, this is cozy!

The Doctor is sitting next to her, behind the bin. She jumps to her feet.

CHEYENNE

What do you want with me?! Why won't you leave me alone?

THE DOCTOR

Look, I think we've got off on the wrong foot. I'm not the murderer, I'm *investigating* the murders. I'm a detective! And there's a connection—two of them, in fact. All of the victims worked at this theater and they all died at *exactly* midnight.

CHEYENNE

And you think I'm next?

THE DOCTOR

Very probably.

CHEYENNE

Why not Levy, or one of cast?

THE DOCTOR

Because it's not just the theater—it's the cellar. Bar staff, stage hands... all of the victims, at some point, had reason to enter the cellar.

CHEYENNE

If you're a detective, why did you leave me a creepy love message?

THE DOCTOR

Why did I what?!

CHEYENNE

The playing card you left for me to find last night.

THE DOCTOR

I did no such thing.

She pulls out the playing card and holds it up.

CHEYENNE

Really?

THE DOCTOR

May I see that?

She tosses it to him.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

"To Cheyenne. From the Doctor, with love." Well, it certainly sounds like me. It's my handwriting too. But I didn't leave you this.

CHEYENNE

Right. Sure.

THE DOCTOR

Really, I didn't. Not yet anyway. I must do it in the future. Why would I do a thing like that?

CHEYENNE

You really are *insane*. I'm going to go back inside now, and I'm going to call the police.

THE DOCTOR

Oh no, you mustn't do that.

CHEYENNE

Why not?

THE DOCTOR

They'll cramp my style! And they'll only get in the way, someone'll end up getting shot- it's just better if we keep the authorities out of this.

CHEYENNE

Oh you'd like that, wouldn't you?

THE DOCTOR

Cheyenne. If I wanted to kill you, don't you think I would have done it by now? I promise you, there's nothing to be afraid of.

A bin further down the alley falls over and The Creeper crawls out toward them. It is hard to make out in the darkness; its two arms pull it along, its drooling mouth-face growling and gargling.

CHEYENNE

What *the hell* is that?!

THE DOCTOR

That? Well, that's... something to be afraid of, obviously! Stay behind me.

They both slowly back away from the Creeper, The Doctor trying to keep himself between it and Cheyenne.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Listen to me, whatever you are. I know you don't belong here. I expect you're alone and probably very afraid. Now, I can help you- I can take you back to wherever you came from. But I can not and will not tolerate you hurting anyone else on this planet, do you understand?

The Creeper ignores him, and keeps crawling towards them.

CHEYENNE

I don't think it's listening.

THE DOCTOR

I'm not even sure it *can* listen.

CHEYENNE

So what do we do?!

THE DOCTOR

Okay. You run, and I'll sacrifice myself to save you in a noble act of heroism.

CHEYENNE

Okay.

THE DOCTOR

Seriously?

CHEYENNE

Yes.

THE DOCTOR

Blimey, you're a keeper aren't you?

CHEYENNE

Aren't you supposed to be sacrificing yourself?

THE DOCTOR

Aren't you supposed to- whoa!

The Creeper snaps its jaws at him.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Oh, stuff this. Run!

He grabs her hand and they both start running. The Creeper crawls faster, and faster, gradually catching up to them.

15 INT./EXT. TAXI CAB. NIGHT [CONTINUOUS].

15

The Doctor and Cheyenne run out of the alley. A taxi cab is driving past, driven by MALCOLM SIZZLE.

THE DOCTOR

Taxi!

The cab stops for them and they quickly climb into the back. The Creeper crawls out from the alley, towards the cab. The Doctor swings the door shut just in time.

After a few seconds, he leans forward and looks out of the window, but sees no sign of the Creeper on the pavement.

MALCOLM

Where to, my man?

Malcolm looks in his rear-view mirror and sees one hand of the Creeper, with its long and spindly fingers, reaching over the back of the car.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

What the...

THE DOCTOR & CHEYENNE

JUST DRIVE!

MALCOLM

Don't gotta tell me twice!

Malcolm puts the car in gear and stomps on the accelerator. The Creeper seems to fall off the back of the car, but is nowhere to be seen as they pull away.

THE DOCTOR
Where did it go, did you see it?

CHEYENNE
No!

THE DOCTOR
It's probably still on the car, then. Don't stop, just keep going round and round the block.

MALCOLM
Yo, what the hell was that thing?!

THE DOCTOR
All we know is that it's dangerous.

CHEYENNE
And it's stalking me. And you're stalking me!

THE DOCTOR
I'm not stalking you!

MALCOLM
Can I stalk you too?

THE DOCTOR & CHEYENNE
No!

THE DOCTOR
Look, we need to get back to the Theater. It's where I left my... equipment.

CHEYENNE
Oh, your "equipment"?

THE DOCTOR
My TARDIS, it's like a big blue box thing- you might have seen it, I left it in the...

CHEYENNE
In the what?

THE DOCTOR
In the cellar.

CHEYENNE

Wonderful. So we have to get from the car to the cellar, without being eaten alive?

THE DOCTOR

Yes.

CHEYENNE

So that you can fetch a big blue box that is, in some way, going to help us not be eaten alive.

THE DOCTOR

Yes. Well, no, I'm not going to fetch it, we're going to go inside it.

CHEYENNE

You want me to go into a dark cellar and get into a box with you.

THE DOCTOR

Yes. Well, no. Well, yes, but it's not how it sounds.

MALCOLM

Can I get in the box with you?

THE DOCTOR

If you like!

CHEYENNE

No!

CHEYENNE (cont'd)

You must be out of your mind if you think I'm doing that.

The Creeper's hand smashes through the rear passenger window on Cheyenne's side. It grabs her by the arm; her skin sears under its touch and she screams in pain.

MALCOLM

Sweet Jesus!

THE DOCTOR

Just keep driving!

Without hesitation The Doctor grabs its fingers and begins prying them off her, his hands burning as they make contact with the Creeper's skin.

He forces it away and pushes it back out through the window, it withdraws out of sight.

MALCOLM

You guys owe me a new window!

THE DOCTOR

Cheyenne, are you hurt?

CHEYENNE

Well what do you think?! Ahh...

The Doctor examines her arm.

THE DOCTOR

Your skin is burned. More than that, it's aged. Temporal acceleration.

CHEYENNE

(insulted)

What do you mean *aged*?

THE DOCTOR

I mean the skin where it touched you is at least twenty years older than the rest of you. Sub-atomically speaking. It's not just lost in space, it's lost in time... There, the theater! Pull over!

They have looped around the block, back to where they started. Malcolm stomps the brakes and the car screeches to a halt.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

I'm going to open the door, when I do- you run inside and don't look back. Ready?

CHEYENNE

Sure, yeah. Let's get in the box.

THE DOCTOR

See? I knew you'd warm to the idea eventually. On the count of three. One. Two. Three!

The Doctor opens the door; Cheyenne dashes out into the staff door of the theater. The Doctor follows her, and Malcolm follows him. The Doctor stops at the door and turns to Malcolm.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Wait-wait-wait, what are you doing?

MALCOLM
I'm getting in the box!

THE DOCTOR
It's not after you.

MALCOLM
How do you know?

THE DOCTOR
Because you haven't been in the
cellar.

MALCOLM
How do you know?

The Creeper starts growling from beneath the taxi, a spindly hand reaching out, pulling itself toward them.

THE DOCTOR
Fair point.

They both head inside the theater and slam the door.

16 INT. THE STARLIGHT THEATER. [CONTINUOUS].

16

The Doctor, Cheyenne, and Malcolm run to the cellar door. Cheyenne immediately exits to the cellar. The Doctor stops in the cellar doorway and turns to Malcolm again.

THE DOCTOR
Stop! It's just, really- I need to
know. Have you been in the cellar?

MALCOLM
No.

THE DOCTOR
Then I can't let you go any further.
Your life would be in danger.

MALCOLM
With respect sir, I can't let you go
in there alone with the lady. She
said you were stalking her, she was
downright scared of you!

THE DOCTOR
Good, she should be. Do you know how
many people just walk right into the
box with me?

(MORE)

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
Without even questioning- am I safe?
Am I a madman? Am I killer?

MALCOLM
And are you?

THE DOCTOR
Well... I suppose that *is* true, now
that you mention it.

MALCOLM
Which one?

THE DOCTOR
All of them.

MALCOLM
Then I'm coming with you, like it or
not.

The Lights in the bar go out. The Creeper enters, breaking through the bottom of the staff door. While Malcolm is distracted:

THE DOCTOR
Bye!

The Doctor slams the door and locks it.

MALCOLM
No, no, you can't leave me out here!
Hey! Let me in!

The Creeper starts crawling toward Malcolm. He backs away in fear.

MALCOLM (cont'd)
Yo, we're cool right? I wasn't going
to go in the cellar, I swear! I don't
even want to go in there!

Malcolm trips over a small step. The Creeper begins crawling over him, moving its open mouth-face right up to his.

MALCOLM (cont'd)
No, no, please! Please!

He closes his eyes, expecting to die. He hears the sound of wood breaking and flinches. After a moment, he opens one eye and realizes the Creeper has gone. There is now a hole in the bottom of the door to the cellar.

MALCOLM (cont'd)
 Hey! What, am I not good enough for
 you? Get back in here, I'll kick your
 ass!

17 INT. CELLAR, THE STARLIGHT THEATER. [CONTINUOUS].

17

The Doctor is holding a torch, looking for Cheyenne.

THE DOCTOR
 Cheyenne? Where are you?

He hears the sound of wood breaking; the Creeper's shadow
 moves across the light.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
 Come on, Cheyenne, it's in here with
 us! I thought we were beginning to
 trust each other.

CHEYENNE [OFF]
 I don't know anything about you.

The Creeper can be heard scrabbling around in the dark
 somewhere.

THE DOCTOR
 What do you want to know?

CHEYENNE [OFF]
 Who you are. What you're doing here.
 Why nothing you say makes sense, and
 yet everything you say makes sense at
 the same time.

THE DOCTOR
 I'm the Doctor. I help people. And
 I'm a time traveler from another
 world.

Cheyenne chuckles.

CHEYENNE [OFF]
 You must think I'm a fool.

THE DOCTOR
 I'm starting to.

CHEYENNE [OFF]
 Do you even understand how scared I
 am right now?

The Doctor hears a scrabbling behind him and spins, just in time to see the Creeper's outline crawling across the floor between shelves.

THE DOCTOR
I'm starting to.

CHEYENNE [OFF]
Tonight, I found out that two people I work with are dead. Then I was chased into an alley by a monster and man who thinks he's an alien come to save me!

THE DOCTOR
Are you calling me a monster?

CHEYENNE [OFF]
I don't know! I don't know anything anymore.

THE DOCTOR
That's not true. You know that I haven't hurt you. You know that I've done everything in my power to keep that thing from away you. I'm here to keep you safe.

Hiding behind a crate, Cheyenne looks at the wound on her arm.

CHEYENNE [OFF]
You aren't doing a very good job.

THE DOCTOR
I'm not omniscient.

Malcolm steps out of the darkness and hits the Doctor over the head with a shovel. The Doctor falls down, unconscious.

MALCOLM
You can say that again. You okay, Miss?

Cheyenne comes out from her hiding place.

CHEYENNE
I'm fine.

MALCOLM
That's one down. Now where's the other one?

CHEYENNE

It's still in here somewhere. I think. Is he dead?

MALCOLM

I hope not. Police are gonna have a lot of questions for him. Shh!

They hear the sound of the Creeper scabbling around them.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

(whispering)

Which way's that coming from?

CHEYENNE

(whispering)

I can't tell, it moves too fast!

Shining the torch around, trying to follow the sound, Malcolm notices a rocking horse prop rocking back and forth.

MALCOLM

(whispering)

There. See? Stand back.

Torch in one hand, shovel raised in the other, he moves to see behind the rocking horse- but there is nothing there, just a trail of smeared dust. He follows the trail over to the wall; the trail stops dead.

Some dust falls in front of his face, from above. He looks up and the Creeper drops from the ceiling, pinning him down, searing his skin. It grabs him with both hands and begins draining the life from him. He screams in agony as his skin shrivels around him.

Cheyenne goes to help him, but the Doctor grabs her and pulls her back.

THE DOCTOR

Don't touch it! Touch it and you're as dead as he is.

CHEYENNE

We have to help him!

THE DOCTOR

There's nothing we can do! Quick, into the TARDIS!

CHEYENNE

What the hell is a TARDIS?!

THE DOCTOR
No time, come on!

He pulls her over to the TARDIS and starts looking for his key. The Creeper has finished with Malcolm, it starts crawling towards Cheyenne and The Doctor.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
Key, key, key...

CHEYENNE
Oh you have got to be kidding me!

THE DOCTOR
Aha! Found it. I really do have too many pockets.

He opens the door.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
Get in, quick!

She runs into the TARDIS. The Doctor looks back to Malcolm's body.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
Sorry old chap.

The Creeper is almost upon him. The Doctor slams the door in its mouth-face.

18 INT. THE TARDIS.

18

The Doctor walks past Cheyenne, who is stood frozen, staring in awe at the huge, cathedral-like, candlelit console room of the TARDIS; the central console suspended by four translucent pylons filled with cogs and mechanisms.

THE DOCTOR
We've got to find out what that thing is. Think, Cheyenne, why does it only kill people who venture down into the cellar?

Cheyenne is lost for words. She has tears in her eyes.

CHEYENNE
I just watched a man die.

THE DOCTOR

Yes... I'm sorry. I told him not to come down here. I locked him out, I thought that would be enough.

CHEYENNE

You really aren't human, are you?

THE DOCTOR

Oh, now you believe me.

CHEYENNE

Doesn't it bother you?

THE DOCTOR

Not being human?

CHEYENNE

Seeing people die.

THE DOCTOR

Of course it does! But, you know. You get used to things after a while.

CHEYENNE

You "get used" to people dying?!

THE DOCTOR

When you've lived as long as I have, people dying all around you is a matter of course. It's inevitable. All I can do is try and offset the never-ending death by preserving as many lives as I can.

CHEYENNE

What about Reuben? And Elena? If you're a "*time traveler*", why don't you go back and save them? Why me?

THE DOCTOR

I came here because I heard about a mystery. Unexplained deaths, all connected by this theater. I came back as far as I could. But if I'd saved all of them, if *no-one* here had died, then I would have never learned about their deaths. I would have never come back to intervene, and I would have prevented the very thing that brought me here in the first place.

Cheyenne chuckles to herself.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

What?

CHEYENNE

I'm sorry. I thought you were crazy. But you're not crazy, are you? You're not even real. None of this is real. A box that's really a space ship, that's really a time machine, owned by a kooky British guy who says he's an alien? Ha. I should've known. You're not crazy. *I'm* crazy.

THE DOCTOR

I assure you, you're most certainly not.

CHEYENNE

The doctors said it runs in the family...

THE DOCTOR

Cheyenne. I am real, you are real, that spawn of nightmares outside the door is real- and we have a lot of work to do. Now, are you with me?

CHEYENNE

I'm humoring you.

THE DOCTOR

Good enough.

The Doctor starts pressing buttons on the console. He brings up a bizarre image on the scanner.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Now, let's have a look...

CHEYENNE

So what's that?

THE DOCTOR

It's the cellar outside, but you're seeing it across time as well as space. Aha! Look, there! See that sort of fuzziness by the staircase? Do you know what that is?

CHEYENNE

Let me guess. It's a... hole. In the... fabric of... space time?

THE DOCTOR

More like a tear, or a rip. A breach.

CHEYENNE

Of course, why not!

THE DOCTOR

I'm willing to bet that whatever that thing is outside, it came from the other side of that breach.

CHEYENNE

And what is on the other side of that "breach"?

THE DOCTOR

No idea. Shall we find out?

CHEYENNE

Do I have a choice?

THE DOCTOR

I could drop you back home, if you wanted, but I'm pretty sure our friend out there would catch up to you, sooner rather than later. I can't guarantee that I'll be able to stop it in time.

CHEYENNE

So I guess that's a no.

THE DOCTOR

Oh, come on! I thought you were humoring me?

CHEYENNE

Okay then. "Doctor". Do it. Save my life.

THE DOCTOR

With pleasure.

The Doctor pushes the lever up and the time rotor starts rising and falling to the rhythm of the TARDIS's dematerialization. He sets about working the controls.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
 I'm opening the breach. Find
 something to hold on to, this is
 going to be a bumpy ride. As usual.

19 INT. CELLAR, THE STARLIGHT THEATER. [CONTINUOUS]. 19

A breach in space-time opens by the staircase. The TARDIS dematerializes.

20 INT./EXT. THE TARDIS / THE TIME VORTEX. [CONTINUOUS] 20

The Doctor and Cheyenne are holding on to the console as the ship shakes about.

THE DOCTOR
 We're approaching the event horizon.
 Hang on!

The TARDIS flies into a wriggling tear in the fabric of the vortex.

Inside, a huge blast rocks the ship causing the console to spark and fizz.

21 INT. CORRIDOR, TIME SHIP. 21

The darkened corridor of an abandoned time-ship. The whole room is shaking, the ship's interior is heavily damaged.

The TARDIS materializes and the Doctor steps out, followed by Cheyenne.

THE DOCTOR
 Oh, well that's rubbish. I was
 expecting an alien world; some
 bizarre alternate dimension where
 energy has mass and the usual laws of
 physics no longer apply.

CHEYENNE
 Why?

THE DOCTOR
 Well, it just sounds interesting.
 Never mind, I'm sure it exists out
 there somewhere. No doubt I'll run
 into it eventually. Head first,
 probably.

They reach the end of the corridor and open the door.

22 INT. CONTROL ROOM, TIME SHIP. [CONTINUOUS].

22

The door opens to a large control room. Like the corridor, this room is damaged and broken. Most of the lights are out. There is a large viewing window, through which the time vortex can be seen swirling around the ship, which is still shaking continuously.

THE DOCTOR

Ah.

CHEYENNE

"Ah" what?

THE DOCTOR

This is a time-ship. Top of the range, by the looks of it. Human construction. Some sort of... pleasure cruiser?

CHEYENNE

It's a holiday boat!

THE DOCTOR

It's a holiday boat.

CHEYENNE

Where's the crew?

The Doctor sees a body, the legs sprawled on the floor by the teleporter pad. He moves to investigate and realizes the body is *only* the hips and legs- the lower half of a person, severed at the waist.

THE DOCTOR

I rather think we've met them already.

Cheyenne moves to see, and covers her mouth with disgust.

CHEYENNE

Oh my god.

THE DOCTOR

Our friend back in the theater- how much do you want to bet that we've just met his "other half"?

CHEYENNE

That was the worst pun I've ever heard.

THE DOCTOR

Takes pun to know pun. I wonder what happened here...

The Doctor inspects the main control panel.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Oh wow, look at this!

CHEYENNE

What?

THE DOCTOR

The dials on this ship's Artron dissipators go all the way up to eleven. She's custom built! Must have cost an arm and two legs. Let's see if we can get her back online.

He starts fiddling about with the switches. They hear the sound of a huge engine failing to start.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

The main generators won't start. Backup's out too. But if I can send a power cascade through the time-core, loop *that* back into the auxiliary batteries... and-

The lights come on fully and the ship hums into life.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Ha-hey! There's life in the old girl yet. Well, technically I'm cheating. She's using power she's already used once before, but seeing as she's on the verge of imploding anyway I didn't think it really mattered.

CHEYENNE

"Imploding"?!"

THE DOCTOR

She's being crushed by the forces of the time vortex.

CHEYENNE

"Top of the range", my butt.

THE DOCTOR
Let's see what the flight plan
says...

A warning flashes up on the screen:

"Danger! Continuity mismatch."

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
Oh. OH.

CHEYENNE
Oh?

THE DOCTOR
Ohhhh. Continuity mismatch. We have
to leave. Right now.

CHEYENNE
Finally you say something I both
understand and agree with.

They both start heading back to the TARDIS.

23 INT. THE TARDIS. [CONTINUOUS].

23

The Doctor and Cheyenne enter the TARDIS. The Doctor goes
straight to the console and starts setting coordinates.

CHEYENNE
So go on then, what's a "continuity
mismatch"?

THE DOCTOR
That ship was stuck in a time-eddy.
It couldn't break free because every
time it escaped, it found itself back
at the moment it first arrived. So
the pilot tried to escape through the
only door he could find.

CHEYENNE
This "time-breach"?

The Doctor pulls a lever and the TARDIS takes flight.

THE DOCTOR
Exactly, but something went wrong.
The breach closed when he was halfway
through. He was atomized, stretched
out across time and space.

CHEYENNE

Sounds like a horrible way to die.

THE DOCTOR

You don't know the half of it. When the ship is destroyed, it goes back to the moment it first got stuck in the time-eddy. The moment it *first* arrived. The pilot tries to escape through the breach and he fails. Then, the loop restarts- he fails again and again. But there's no time-eddy on the other side of the breach, so time *there* keeps moving. And every night, at exactly midnight, the breach reopens... and the Creeper is freed to hunt.

CHEYENNE

"The Creeper"?

THE DOCTOR

That's what we're calling it.

CHEYENNE

But what's it hunting?

THE DOCTOR

Good question. Why does it only kill people who've been close to the breach?

CHEYENNE

And what about the cab driver? It didn't kill him at midnight.

THE DOCTOR

Good, what else? There's something I'm missing. Another piece of this puzzle.

The sound of the TARDIS landing.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

We've landed.

The Doctor heads for the door.

CHEYENNE

Are we back at the theater?

24 INT. CORRIDOR, TIME SHIP. [IN THE PAST]. [CONTINUOUS].

24

The Doctor steps out of the TARDIS to find himself back in the corridor of the time ship. It is still shaking, but less damaged than before. The lights are still on and the engines sound like they're running. Cheyenne follows him out.

THE DOCTOR

No, no, no... This is exactly what I was afraid of. We're back at the moment the ship first got stuck in the time-eddy.

CHEYENNE

So how do we get out?

THE DOCTOR

Don't you get it? We're part of events now. We've been absorbed into the time-loop. We've got to find the pilot. If we can stop him from trying to escape through the breach then maybe we can change the outcome of the paradox.

CHEYENNE

Won't that change the thing that made us become a part of it in the first place?

THE DOCTOR

Desperate times call for desperate measures.

As they reach the end of the corridor, the TARDIS begins to dematerialize.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Oh, no-no-no-no! Stop! You can't go without us!

Too late. The TARDIS has gone.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Dahh, what is she thinking?!

CHEYENNE

What happened, where did it go?

THE DOCTOR

She's bolted! Back through the breach, probably.

(MORE)

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
 She wouldn't have done that unless
 there was something she really wanted
 to avoid. Come on, we've got to stop
 that pilot!

25 INT. CONTROL ROOM, TIME SHIP. [CONTINUOUS].

25

The ships pilot, ORSON VARSELL, struggles to keep the ship
 under control.

VARSELL
 This is an S.O.S. distress call from
 the time-yacht Ascension. I'm caught
 in some kind of temporal-disturbance,
 does anyone read me?! I repeat, this
 is an S.O.S. distress call-

The Doctor and Cheyenne enter.

THE DOCTOR
 Stop what you're doing!

VARSELL
 Who the hell are you?!

THE DOCTOR
 Look, I know what you're planning and
 I'm telling you- *don't* do it. The
 breach isn't stable!

VARSELL
 What breach?

THE DOCTOR
 Exactly, what breach! There isn't a
 breach. I don't know anything about
 any breaches, do you Cheyenne?

CHEYENNE
 I'm still not convinced you're a real
 person.

THE DOCTOR
 Exactly! There is no breach.

VARSELL
 You're right! I'm picking up some
 kind of rip in the time vortex.

THE DOCTOR
 No, you're not.

VARSELL

Well, what do you call that then?

THE DOCTOR

Fictional. An hallucination. Brought on by the panic of knowing you're about to die.

VARSELL

I'm about to die?!

THE DOCTOR

No! Don't be stupid. No-one's dying. I promise you, we're going to get out of this. All of us. In one piece!

VARSELL

How?

The Doctor thinks about it.

VARSELL (cont'd)

Well?

THE DOCTOR

Yes, yes, I'm still working on that part of the plan. Give me a minute!

VARSELL

We don't have a minute! The ship's cracking under the strain. I'm setting a course for the breach.

THE DOCTOR

Did you not listen to a word I just said?

VARSELL

Well, do you have any alternative suggestions?

THE DOCTOR

I told you, I'm thinking about it! Stop distracting me with all your talk of breaches and hull cracking.

VARSELL

We're almost there! I can reconfigure the teleporter to act as a reservoir for a-causal chronon particles.

Varsell gets up and starts tampering with the teleporter pad.

VARSELL (cont'd)

It'll give us a physical portal that we can pass through.

THE DOCTOR

It's not. Going. To work. Look at your readouts! Chronon flux, quantum ejections, diminished Artron gradients- I'm telling you, the portal won't hold.

VARSELL

Oh, don't worry, it's quite safe! I've done this before you know.

THE DOCTOR

Yes! I know! More times than you even remember!

CHEYENNE

Doctor, what if he's right?

THE DOCTOR

He isn't.

CHEYENNE

But we've already changed something! I mean, we're here now, right? But when we first arrived, we weren't here. Which means we must find a way to leave before we arrive, otherwise we would have already been here when we got here.

THE DOCTOR

Maybe you're right...

CHEYENNE

Thank you.

THE DOCTOR

Maybe you really are crazy.

CHEYENNE

What?

THE DOCTOR

Look, we occupy a redundant timeline. We only exist here for as long as we don't arrive. When we do arrive, the timeline that created the paradox will take precedence.

(MORE)

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

The dominant timeline will assert itself and we will be overwritten. It's no wonder the TARDIS threw a tantrum.

VARSELL

There! It's ready to go.

THE DOCTOR

Go where?

VARSELL

To wherever is on the other side of that breach!

THE DOCTOR

You can't escape that way, it doesn't work! Trust me, I've seen your future. If you go through that breach you'll be stuck in a time-loop, forever and ever.

VARSELL

We already are stuck in a time-loop forever and ever!

THE DOCTOR

Yes, well, when you put it like that it's very difficult to argue with. But I maintain that *this* is better.

Varsell activates the portal and a breach in space-time opens up. Through the breach they can see the cellar in the Starlight Theater. The Doctor steps forward to intervene.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Stop. Right now.

Varsell pulls out a gun.

VARSELL

Keep back! I'm not staying here to die for the rest of time. If the portal holds you're welcome to follow me. If not, then I bid you farewell.

Varsell runs and dives through the portal. When he is halfway through, it collapses, severing him at the waist.

For a split second a blue outline of The Creeper spreads forward across the control room, then vanishes. Varsell's lower half drops to the floor, twitching.

CHEYENNE

You know, I knew that was coming
but... I still wasn't ready for it.

THE DOCTOR

I'm missing something Cheyenne, what
is it I'm missing?

CHEYENNE

Basic human empathy?

THE DOCTOR

No, that's not it.

CHEYENNE

You know what I'm missing?

THE DOCTOR

What?

CHEYENNE

Working at a bar.

THE DOCTOR

You're kidding?

CHEYENNE

Free drinks! I could really use a
free drink right now.

She looks at her watch.

CHEYENNE (cont'd)

We've missed the interval. Ha, I bet
Levy was furious.

The Doctor has a realization.

THE DOCTOR

It's not midnight yet. By your watch.

CHEYENNE

No.

THE DOCTOR

But the Pilot's already gone through.
That's why the cab driver was killed
before midnight. Think about it, the
Creeper could only hunt its victims
at midnight, up until the day we
arrived here. Today! Relative time
displacement! You were right!

CHEYENNE

I was?

THE DOCTOR

Just by being here we've altered the course of events! We've changed things in our present which affected the way the loop played out in the past.

CHEYENNE

Well, great! Brilliant!

THE DOCTOR

No...

CHEYENNE

No?

THE DOCTOR

Don't you see? We didn't get absorbed into a paradox that already existed, we created the paradox when we arrived through the breach. If we'd never come here, the pilot would have never gone through. And he would never have become the Creeper, meaning we would never have come here to investigate him.

CHEYENNE

So we only came here... because we came here?

THE DOCTOR

Exactly! You're getting the hang of this.

CHEYENNE

But how do we *leave* here?

THE DOCTOR

Well, without the TARDIS... the only way back is through the breach. And you saw what happened to the last guy who tried that.

CHEYENNE

But *why* did that happen to him? There must be some reason his plan didn't work?

The Doctor thinks on this for a moment.

THE DOCTOR

Time-eddies are notorious for neutralizing Artron energy. That's what the ships use to time travel. Sort of. Think how a plane flies, it's held up in the sky by the resistance of the air beneath it. Artron energy does the same kind of thing, only it does it through time instead of space. But the pilot... the pilot forgot to take that into account when he opened the portal. Remember when we arrived in the future? We found that the Artron dissipators were set all the way up to eleven. Of course! The Ace of Spades!

CHEYENNE

I beg your pardon?

The Doctor pulls out the Ace of Spades that Cheyenne gave him earlier.

THE DOCTOR

Why did I, in my personal future, go back in time to leave you an Ace of Spades with my name on it? *Especiallly* knowing how you react to it?

CHEYENNE

Amaze me.

THE DOCTOR

Because it wasn't for you, it was a message for me! For me, right now!

CHEYENNE

Nope, still not getting it.

THE DOCTOR

Blackjack! In a game of Blackjack, the Ace of Spades is valued as either an eleven, or a one.

CHEYENNE

So we turn these... Arturon dissipator things, down to one?

THE DOCTOR

We turn the turn the dissipators down to one!

The Doctor turns all the dials down to one and starts reactivating the portal. A new breach begins opening on the teleporter pad.

CHEYENNE

And you're one hundred per-cent sure that this is going to work?

THE DOCTOR

Are you kidding? We have a literal Ace up our metaphorical sleeves! All we have to do is jump through that ominous looking hole in the fabric of space-time and we're home free.

The ship begins to shake even more violently than before, as the hull buckles under the strain. The Doctor holds out his hand for her to take.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Shall we?

Cheyenne takes his hand, with a half-trusting smile.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Ready? On the count of three. One. Two. Three!

They run and jump into the breach.

26 INT. CELLAR, THE STARLIGHT THEATER. [CONTINUOUS].

26

The Doctor and Cheyenne fall out of the breach onto the floor. The breach seals up behind them. Cheyenne looks around in disbelief.

CHEYENNE

It worked! We made it!

THE DOCTOR

Of course we made it! What did I tell you? Nothing to be afraid of.

They hear the sound of the Creeper, scrabbling about in the darkness.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Except that.

The TARDIS begins materializing nearby.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
Oh, and there she is! Here to welcome
us home.

The Doctor walks over to the TARDIS and strokes her
paintwork, gives her a few gentle pats.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
Who's a good girl? There there, it's
all over now. Nasty paradox can't
hurt you anymore.

CHEYENNE
Do you and your box need some time
alone?

THE DOCTOR
(smiling)
Cheyenne. Come here.

She takes a step forward.

CHEYENNE
What?

THE DOCTOR
Come here.

She takes a few more steps.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
That's it, this way. Just a little
closer.

She begins to turn her head, suspicious of him.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
No-no! Eyes on me! Eyes on me. Keep
walking. That's it.

She's had enough of his game, she turns around to see the
Creeper. It has crawled out into the light and moves slowly
towards them. Cheyenne sees it and backs up to stand beside
The Doctor.

CHEYENNE
What does it want with us? Why does
it always try to kill us?

THE DOCTOR
I don't think it's *trying* to kill us.
It's like it's just following us
instinctively.

CHEYENNE

But why would it do that?

THE DOCTOR

Oh, of course. The Artron energy. We're covered in it, the whole cellar's full of it! Anyone who even passed near the breach would be contaminated. And the pilot; well, his dying thought was the realization that he didn't use enough of it to keep the portal open...

The Doctor sighs.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

He's a ghost. Trapped between life and death, forever seeking a way to reconcile the tragedy of his final moments.

CHEYENNE

Are you going to kill him?

THE DOCTOR

I created him. This is my fault. My responsibility. But that's not how I do things.

The Creeper is getting closer and closer. The Doctor opens the door to the TARDIS.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Get in.

Cheyenne hesitates for a moment, then enters the TARDIS.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Come on then, little fella. This way. That's it, nearly there.

As the Creeper reaches out to touch him, he steps backwards into the TARDIS. He doesn't close the door.

27 INT. THE TARDIS. [CONTINUOUS].

27

The Doctor enters the console room and heads over to the console, where Cheyenne stands waiting. Moments later, the Creeper crawls into the room.

CHEYENNE

You brought it *in here*?!

THE DOCTOR

I promised the pilot I would get us all out of there in one piece, and I don't intend to break that promise.

The Creeper reaches the console, The Doctor and Cheyenne circle around the console, leading it on.

CHEYENNE

I thought you already broke it. Does this mean you have a plan?

THE DOCTOR

A plan? God no, plans are rubbish. Always going wrong. Too many variables. I have something much better.

CHEYENNE

Which is?

THE DOCTOR

An idea.

The Doctor pushes up the lever and the TARDIS takes flight.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Firstly, we're taking off. Secondly, I'm opening the breach.

CHEYENNE

You're not taking us back in there!

THE DOCTOR

No, I'm not. This time I'm bringing the breach *in here*.

28 INT. CELLAR, THE STARLIGHT THEATER. [CONTINUOUS]. 28

The breach re-opens, and the TARDIS materializes around it.

29 INT. THE TARDIS. 29

The TARDIS makes a few rebellious noises, trying not to land.

THE DOCTOR

Oh, you don't like it, do you old girl? Come on, settle down.

The TARDIS settles and lands. The breach materializes inside the console room.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

There. Look.

Through the breach they can see the control room of the time-ship. They see themselves, trying to persuade Varsell not to jump into the portal.

CHEYENNE

That's us!

THE DOCTOR

Yep!

CHEYENNE

And the pilot!

THE DOCTOR

Yep!

CHEYENNE

He hasn't jumped through yet.

THE DOCTOR

Nope!

They see Varsell pull out his gun.

CHEYENNE

He's about to, though!

THE DOCTOR

I'm counting on it.

The Doctor turns to the Creeper.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)

Alright. Let's do this. You want me?
Here I am. Come and get it!

He kneels down with his arms open, making himself as easy a target for the Creeper as possible. Cheyenne watches in horror as the Creeper grabs one of his arms, then the other, pulling itself onto him. His skin sears under its touch, The Doctor screams in pain.

Cheyenne moves closer, she wants to help.

CHEYENNE

Doctor!

THE DOCTOR
Get back! Don't touch it, it'll kill
you!

CHEYENNE
But what about you?!

The Doctor manages to stand up. He holds the Creeper tightly against his torso, restraining it as it burns his skin and snaps at his face.

THE DOCTOR
Tally-ho!

Seeing Varsell running and jumping into the breach, the Doctor runs into the breach carrying the Creeper. His legs remain grounded in the TARDIS, but his torso is fully immersed in the breach.

After a moment, he pulls himself back into the TARDIS holding Varsell in his arms where the Creeper had been. They both fall over backwards onto the floor of the console room. Varsell is back in one piece. The Breach seals up behind them.

VARSELL
You?!

THE DOCTOR
Hello again!

The Doctor climbs to his feet and offers a hand to help Varsell get up. Varsell looks around console room, totally befuddled.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
There you are, see? Good as new.

The Doctor notices Cheyenne is staring at him.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
What?

CHEYENNE
You incredible man. You really did
it, didn't you? You really do keep
your promises. And you saved the day!

THE DOCTOR
Pish-posh. I saw an opportunity and I
made a decision. Anyone else could
have done the same.

She gives him a look that says 'be honest'.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
 Though, admittedly, they probably
 wouldn't have.

30 INT. BAR, THE STARLIGHT THEATER. [MINUTES LATER].

30

Howard Levy is behind the bar, frantically serving drinks on his own. A crowd of people stand at the bar, money in hand, waiting for service.

HOWARD LEVY
 There you are sir! Thank you very
 much. Who's next please?

All of the customers at the bar try to claim theirs is the next turn, waving their money at him. The Doctor, Cheyenne and Varsell enter from the cellar and sneak past Levy to join the queue.

VARSELL
 Gosh, they're a little understaffed
 aren't they? What was it you wanted
 again?

CHEYENNE
 Triple whiskey. With a side of lemon
 and a sparkler. What about you,
 Doctor?

THE DOCTOR
 Ooh, any chance of a cuppa?

VARSELL
 And you're sure you don't want me to
 say anything about the corpse in the
 cellar?

THE DOCTOR
 No, he'll only call the police and
 then someone will end up getting
 shot. Trust me, it's better if we
 deal with it ourselves. Quietly.

VARSELL
 Right.

Varsell turns to the bar. The Doctor and Cheyenne sit at an empty table. Cheyenne takes her name badge off and drops it into an empty glass, starts undoing the buttons on her uniform's waistcoat.

THE DOCTOR

So, what are you doing when you're not serving drinks at a bar?

CHEYENNE

Well, I'm usually buying drinks at a bar. What about you? What are you doing when you're not saving people from monsters and time paradoxes?

THE DOCTOR

All sorts of things. Traveling. Walking. Running. Hosting quiz shows on late night television.

CHEYENNE

Don't you have a family? A home?

THE DOCTOR

The TARDIS is my home. That's all you need to know.

CHEYENNE

Mysterious. So what happens now? Where do you go from here?

THE DOCTOR

I'll take the man himself back to his home time. And then... off on another adventure, I suppose. Unless... there's anywhere you want to go?

CHEYENNE

Me?

THE DOCTOR

Sure. It can be anywhere you like. Anywhere in time and space. The universe is your oyster.

CHEYENNE

You're lonely, aren't you?

THE DOCTOR

Well, it's always nice to have a bit of company. But it's not what you do, it's who you do it with. What do you say?

CHEYENNE

Doctor, I'm flattered. But I can't. I have a life, I have things to take care of. I've almost certainly lost my job because of all this.

THE DOCTOR

Sounds like the perfect time, if you ask me.

CHEYENNE

No. But, if you like, you can drop me off somewhere.

THE DOCTOR

Wherever you like.

31 EXT. CARE HOME. DAY.

31

The TARDIS materializes outside of a care home for the elderly. Cheyenne steps out, she is carrying a bouquet of flowers. The Doctor stands in the TARDIS doorway.

THE DOCTOR

Is this the right one?

CHEYENNE

Yep. This is my stop.

THE DOCTOR

You're sure there's nothing else I can do for you?

CHEYENNE

You've done more than enough. It was... amazing to meet you. But this is goodbye.

THE DOCTOR

Goodbye Cheyenne. Take care.

CHEYENNE

You too.

The Doctor closes the door and the TARDIS dematerializes. Cheyenne turns and goes into the care home.

32 INT. CARE HOME. [MINUTES LATER].

32

An elderly woman, MARY DYER, sits in a chair staring out of the window. A NURSE enters, followed by Cheyenne.

NURSE

Hello Mary. There's someone here to see you. And look what she's brought you!

Mary sees the bouquet and her face lights up as Cheyenne hands it to her.

MARY

Oh! They're beautiful! My favorite. Thank you dear.

CHEYENNE

That's okay! I know how much you like them.

Mary stares at Cheyenne's face for a moment; she can't quite recognize her.

MARY

You know... you look just like my daughter.

CHEYENNE

Yeah.

The nurse looks at Cheyenne sympathetically.

NURSE

I'll come back later. If you need anything, just call for me.

The Nurse exits and Cheyenne sits beside her mother.

33 INT. THE TARDIS.

33

The Doctor is alone, pressing buttons and fiddling with the console. The phone on the console starts ringing. The Doctor hesitates, then answers it.

It is... himself.

THE DOCTOR [PHONE]

Alone again, Doctor.

THE DOCTOR

Of course.

THE DOCTOR [PHONE]

She's left you. They all leave you, don't they? The ones that don't die, that is.

THE DOCTOR
Do you have anything positive to say,
or should I just hang up?

THE DOCTOR [PHONE]
You should listen to me. I'm honest
with you. You can *trust* me.

THE DOCTOR
About as far as I can throw you.

THE DOCTOR [PHONE]
Is that an admission that you don't
trust yourself?

THE DOCTOR
Goodbye.

The Doctor puts the phone down. The voice plays from the
TARDIS console instead.

THE DOCTOR [PHONE]
You can't get rid of me that easily.
Maybe you should kill yourself? You'd
probably save more lives.

The Doctor grabs the telephone unit and rips it out of the
console, throwing it across the room in anger.

THE DOCTOR [PHONE] (cont'd)
Do you feel better now? You knew that
wouldn't work. But then, there's
nothing like random acts of violence
to help ease *the fury*, is there?

THE DOCTOR
Leave me alone!

THE DOCTOR [PHONE]
Set me free!

THE DOCTOR
Not a chance.

THE DOCTOR [PHONE]
Then I'm afraid you're stuck with me.
At least; until *I'm* in control. And
then... well. I'm afraid I won't have
much use for you.

The phone-voice Doctor laughs, insanely.

The real Doctor flips up the main drive lever.

34 EXT. THE TIME VORTEX.

34

The TARDIS flies away into the vortex, the alternate
Doctor's maniacal laughter fading as it pulls away.

END CREDITS.

"NEXT TIME".