

Doctor Who 4

Ep 15
(Easter 09)

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The Writer's Tale

1 EXT. LONDON SKYLINE - NIGHT 1

The London night skyline; landmarks visible, lights shining.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. GALLERY BUILDING - NIGHT 2

PAN down a tall, posh building, many multi-windowed floors.

CAPTION: *INTERNATIONAL GALLERY, LONDON.*

CUT TO:

3 INT. GALLERY - NIGHT 3

A half-lit, high-ceilinged gallery. Four armed, uniformed SECURITY GUARDS enter. The SECURITY CHIEF's already there:

 SECURITY CHIEF
 Positions!

The four stand in a square, around -

A marble plinth, centre of the room. On top, a two-handled medieval drinking cup. Solid shining gold, encrusted with glinting jewels. This is the CUP OF ATHELSTAN.

 SECURITY CHIEF (CONT'D)
 And, activating -

He throws a big lever on the wall.

FX: there are four free-standing poles in a square around the plinth, and from them, a FENCE OF BLUE LASER BEAMS activates. Low hum of power. The square of guards are standing outside the fence, all facing out.

 SECURITY CHIEF (CONT'D)
 Night then, boys.

He leaves. Footsteps echoing. The door shuts, *SLAM!*

Silence. Guards on duty.

PAN up the room, from the PLINTH & FX BEAMS, to...

The ceiling. A panel slides open, silently -

Staring down: a WOMAN in a black catsuit, mask covering all but the eyes. This is CHRISTINA.

She stares down. Clever, calculating eyes.

Then she draws back, into darkness for a second...

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

Then launches through the gap! Her entire body whipping through, not touching the sides -

She whizzes down, like she's falling to her death -

Then stops! She's on a wire, suspended through the gap above; she's hanging vertically, head lowermost. She's stopped about two feet above the cup.

Looks round. Silence. Guards facing out, not noticing.

Christina reaches up. She's got a black bag attached to her waist. She unclips it. Reaches down, the black bag in one hand, the other hand reaching for the Cup...

She lifts up the Cup. Puts the black bag in its place... And as she whips the black bag off - not revealing what's inside yet, cut to CU Christina -

She stares at the Cup. Victory!

Reaches to her waist, where there's a control for the wire & OOV winch, presses a button -

She slides back up in silence. Like she was never there.

One guard shifts, bored, turns round...

Now standing on the plinth: one of those tacky Chinese gold-plastic cat ornaments, with a waving arm.

It waves.

CUT TO:

4 INT. GALLERY CORRIDOR - NIGHT

4

CHRISTINA hurrying along - she's got a black backpack (the Cup inside it) and now pulls off her mask, to reveal she is beautiful, ice cool, late 20's.

Suddenly - electronic alarms blare! Red lights flash!

Christina runs!

CUT TO:

5 EXT. LONDON BACKSTREET NEAR GALLERY - NIGHT

5

CHRISTINA bursts out of a back door into a back street -

Stops, seeing, a good distance away -

An expensive sports car surrounded by ARMED POLICE OFFICERS - backed up by a POLICE CAR, swerving in front of it -

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: 5

The car's DRIVER - a ruggedly HANDSOME MAN in his 30s - is being thrown over the side of the car.

CHRISTINA
Oh, Dmitry. Sorry, lover.

Then she runs the opposite way -

CUT TO:

6 EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT 6

CHRISTINA runs, runs, runs - the alley forming a bridge between the posh buildings and -

CUT TO:

7 EXT. LONDON CITY STREET/BUS STOP - NIGHT 7

- CHRISTINA bursts out on to a crowded London city street. Lights, noise, shoppers, ordinary life, all busy and hectic. She looks one way -

Ahead, a good distance away, a POLICE CAR screeches up over the pavement, blocking the path -

She looks behind - a good distance back, pushing through the crowd, more POLICE on walkie-talkies, hurrying, urgent (though not seeing her) -

Ahead - the POLICE getting out of the car, looking round - led by D.I. MCMILLAN, 40s, grizzled, barking orders -

On Christina - trapped! They're closing in on both sides -

Opposite, on the other side of the street, more POLICE, spreading out, but then -

That view's blocked off as a RED DOUBLE DECKER BUS thunders in, hisses to a halt! Right in front of her! It's the 200 - Victoria, Vauxhall, Oval, Brixton.

A lad called NATHAN, 20, white t-shirt & jeans, gets on board - Christina looking right and left, trapped -

No choice! Christina follows him -

CUT TO:

8 INT. BUS (LONDON) - NIGHT 8

The DRIVER, 30s, at the wheel. NATHAN swipes his Oyster card, heads upstairs. CHRISTINA's watched this -

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

CHRISTINA
(to the Driver)
Hello, I'm so terribly sorry.
that card-paying-device thing,
that's a Lobster card, am I right?

DRIVER
Oyster card.

CHRISTINA
Ah, well, you see, that's the
problem, I only use my Oyster when
there's an R in the month.

DRIVER
It's April.

She whips off her diamond-stud earrings -

CHRISTINA
Diamonds. Genuine. Drive!

DRIVER
Works for me!

Christina heads on to the bus. On board: CARMEN and LOU,
nice old couple in their 60s, BARCLAY, 16, tinny R&B coming
from his phone, and ANGELA WHITTAKER, mumsy, 40s, laden
with shopping bags.

Christina sits, tense, looking out - police sirens, blue
lights flashing...

Close on the driver as another passenger gets on -

DRIVER (CONT'D)
Just in time, mate!

The Oyster reader beeps - CLOSE on the reader - a blank
white square in a battered leather wallet -

The Driver closes the doors, the hiss of hydraulics -

And the bus sets off.

Christina lets out a sigh of relief -

Somebody sits down next to her. A swirl of brown coat -

It's THE DOCTOR! He's eating a big Easter egg.

THE DOCTOR
Hello, I'm the Doctor!
(offers her chocolate)
Happy Easter!

CUT TO TITLES:

9 EXT. LONDON STREETS - NIGHT

9

The POLICE OFFICERS spreading out, looking round, everywhere -

MCMILLAN
- close off the area! Get all
these people cleared, she's got to
be here somewhere -

Behind him, the bus roaring past -

MCMILLAN turns - catches CHRISTINA's eye!

MCMILLAN (CONT'D)
There! On the bus!
(to a PC)
Back in the car! Right now!
(he gets in, fast)
Jackson. Follow that bus!

CU scorch of tyres -

POLICE CAR in pursuit!

CUT TO:

10 INT. BUS (LONDON) - NIGHT

10

THE DOCTOR and CHRISTINA, side by side.

THE DOCTOR
Funny thing is, I don't often do
Easter, I can never find it, it's
always at a different time.
Although I remember the original -
between you and me, what really
happened was -
(beep from his pocket)
Oh, sorry, hang on to that for me -
(hands her the egg)
- actually, go on, have it, finish
it, full of sugar, and I am
determined to keep these teeth.

He brings out a device from his pocket. It's ramshackle,
jammed-together odds and ends, a miniature radio antenna.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Oh, we've got excitement! I'm
picking up something very strange.

CHRISTINA
I know the feeling.

(CONTINUED)

- 10 CONTINUED: 10
- Sirens outside - blue lights - Christina looks round, alert, but the Doctor's absorbed in his machine, oblivious.
- CUT TO:
- 11 EXT. ROAD - NIGHT 11
- The BUS zooms along -
- Behind it - a distance back - MCMILLAN'S POLICE CAR, followed by two more, giving chase, all lights & sirens -
- CUT TO:
- 12 INT. POLICE CAR (ROAD) - NIGHT 12
- MCMILLAN's on his radio -
- MCMILLAN
All units, in pursuit! Registration
Whisky 9 7 4, Golf Hotel Mike -
they're heading for the Gladwell
Road Tunnel! Stop all traffic and
seal off the North End!
- CUT TO:
- 13 EXT. TUNNEL ENTRANCE - NIGHT 13
- The BUS thunders into the tunnel -
- CUT TO:
- 13A INT. TUNNEL CONTROL CENTRE - NIGHT 13A
- A wall full of TV monitors, a STAFFMEMBER on duty, seeing the events at the Tunnel from many different angles - the bus. sc.13, McMillan's car, sc.16 -
- ADR radio voices following the chase, helping the police -
- CUT TO:
- 14 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - NIGHT 14
- SCREECH! A POLICE CAR swerves to a halt across the road, a good distance back from the tunnel mouth, but blocking it off - SGT DENNISON (30s) getting out, on radio -
- SGT DENNISON
Tango 183, I'm at the far end,
sir, I've sealed off the exit.
There's no way out, over!
- CUT TO:

15 INT. POLICE CAR (ROAD) - NIGHT

15

MCMILLAN

I'm right behind! We've got her!

CUT TO:

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16 EXT. TUNNEL ENTRANCE - NIGHT 16

MCMILLAN's POLICE CAR zooms into the tunnel - followed by
the other two -

CUT TO:

17 INT. BUS DRIVING THROUGH TUNNEL - NIGHT 17

THE DOCTOR with CHRISTINA. Of his device:

THE DOCTOR
Rhodium particles, that's what
I'm looking for. This thing detects
them, the little dish should go
round, that little dish there...

CHRISTINA
Right now, a way out would come in
pretty handy. Can you detect me
one of those?

CUT TO CARMEN and LOU. She's shivering, staring into space:

CARMEN
Lou. Can you hear them?

LOU
Hear what, sweetheart?

CARMEN
The voices. So many voices.
Calling to us. Calling so far.

CUT TO the Doctor and CHRISTINA, as the dish starts to
turn, getting faster and faster -

THE DOCTOR
Oh, the little dish is going round!

CHRISTINA
Fascinating.

THE DOCTOR
And round. And round. Oh blimey.

PRAC FX: small BANG!, the little dish goes flying, past -

ANGELA
Excuse me. Do you mind?

THE DOCTOR
Sorry. That was my little dish.

But the device is still bleeping and flashing.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

CHRISTINA
Can't you turn that thing off?

THE DOCTOR
What's your name?

CHRISTINA
Christina.

THE DOCTOR
Christina, hold on tight -
(yells)
Everyone! Hold on!

WHAM! Whole bus shakes! Keeps shaking! A grinding, tearing noise, wild, violent - and at the same time -

OUTSIDE: plunges into blackness - marking a shift to -

CUT TO:

18 INT. BUS (STUDIO) - CONTINUOUS

18

BUS SHAKING - reactions - terror - overlapping dialogue -

LOU
Hold on to me,
sweetheart! Hold
on!

THE DOCTOR
Stay in your seats! No
one move!

CARMEN
The voices! Oh the
voices, they're
screaming!

BARCLAY
Oy! Driver! What you
doing, man?!

Then a sudden BRIGHT WHITE PRAC LIGHT - everyone blinded -
ANGELA covers her eyes, screaming -

ANGELA
Turn it off!

Wham!, back into blackness - the bus still shaking -

PRAC FX: WINDOW SHATTERS! Everyone ducking - !

PRAC FX: SPARKS & STEAM. Everyone yelling - !

PRAC FX: SECOND WINDOW SHATTERS!

PRAC FX: panel of METAL buckles inwards - !

NATHAN comes half-falling downstairs -

NATHAN
What's going on - ?!

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

THE DOCTOR

(stands)

Hold on - Driver! Stop the bus!!!

The DRIVER - terrified - slams on the brakes -

All SLAM! MASSIVE JOLT!!

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(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2) 18

They all jerk forward - then back -

THE DOCTOR'S thrown to the floor -

Stay on the Doctor.

Everything still, now. The bus has stopped. Silence.

He shakes his head. Groggy. Stands...

And as he stands, the darkness has gone...

He lifts his head up, into the most beautiful, serene yellow light. Around him, the lower deck of the bus is all twisted, broken metal, but that's irrelevant at first, out of focus, as the light floods in.

Everyone recovering, looking round. Awestruck.

Christina, Lou, Carmen, Nathan, Angela, Barclay, Driver...

All gaping. The yellow light filling every window, making them almost-opaque boxes of light.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - NIGHT 19

DENNISON, his POLICE CAR across the road, with ARMED POLICE running into position, taking aim at the tunnel-mouth.

SGT DENNISON

Tango 183. Units in position,
sir. Um. Sorry to report, but...
no sign of the bus, over.

CUT TO:

20 INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT 20

MCMILLAN'S CAR has pulled up in the middle of the tunnel. The other two POLICE CARS coming to a halt behind it. McMillan getting out. Staring ahead. On radio:

MCMILLAN (V.O.)

It's gone. Right in front of me.
The bus has just... gone. Over.

CUT TO:

21 EXT. BUS (PLANET, FOREIGN LOCATION) - DAY 21

CLOSE on THE DOCTOR, then CHRISTINA - the hydraulics have gone, so they heave the doors open, then step out...

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

Gaping. Wide eyed. Then NATHAN joins them, then BARCLAY, then the DRIVER and ANGELA, all boggling - looking at the horizon, and also looking back at the bus itself -

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(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

THE DOCTOR
 End of the line. Call it a hunch,
 but I think we've gone a little
 bit further than Brixton.

PULL BACK...

REVEAL the BUS - wrecked! Metal twisted and mangled, PRAC
 SMOKE drifting out of the top. Pulling out wider...

The broken bus in the middle of a VAST DESERT. Standing
 alone in the expanse, wheels half-buried in the sand.

CUT TO:

22 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, CONTROL ROOM - DAY

22

The final shot of sc.21 on a crackling VIDEO SCREEN. Shot
 tight, but all around: darkness & strange technology.

2 FIGURES foreground, obscure. They talk in angry chirrup:

PRAYGAT
 <Chirrup chirrup.>

SORVIN
 <Chirp chirrup chirrup?>

PRAYGAT
 <Chirp chap! Chirrup!!>

He lifts a threatening hand to the screen, pointing out
 the bus; an alien hand, covered in wiry, black INSECT HAIR.

CUT TO:

23 INT. BUS (PLANET) - DAY

23

The downstairs is shattered! LOU's trying to move CARMEN.
 But she is staring ahead, almost trance-like.

LOU
 We should get out! Even if that's
 the Sahara, we can't stay on board
 this thing -

CARMEN
 I'm not going out there! They're
 still calling. All around us.
 The voices are crying.

LOU
 What voices, sweetheart?

CARMEN
 The Dead.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

CARMEN (CONT'D)
We are surrounded by the Dead.

CUT TO:

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24 EXT. BUS (PLANET, FOREIGN LOCATION) - DAY

24

FX SHOT: three suns, blazing in the sky.

PRAC SMOKE just dying away from the bus (and ending, in this scene). BARCLAY, NATHAN & ANGELA, spreading out, not moving too far from the bus, all taking layers off, because of the heat. DRIVER'S in his seat, trying the engine - it revs, but the bus isn't moving. (THE DOCTOR in b/g, running sand through his fingers, CHRISTINA going to join him.)

ANGELA

But that's impossible. There are three suns. Three of them!

BARCLAY

Like when all those planets were up in the sky!

NATHAN

But it was Earth that moved, back then, wasn't it? This time it's us, we've moved. The whole bus.

BARCLAY

Oh man, we're on another world!

The Driver's now given up, getting out of the bus, going to the wheels, which are half-sunk in sand.

DRIVER

It's still intact, though! Not as bad as it looks, the chassis's still holding together. Oh my boss is gonna murder me!

ANGELA

But can you still drive it?

DRIVER

Naah, the wheels are stuck, look at them, they're never gonna budge.

CUT TO the Doctor, examining the sand. Christina getting sunglasses out of her bag. Private between them:

CHRISTINA

Ready for every emergency.

THE DOCTOR

Me too!

He lowers his normal glasses, sonics them - and when he puts them on again, they're shaded!

CHRISTINA

And what's your name?

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

THE DOCTOR
I'm the Doctor.

CHRISTINA
Name, not rank.

THE DOCTOR
The Doctor.

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(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

CHRISTINA

Surname?

THE DOCTOR

The Doctor.

CHRISTINA

You're called 'the Doctor'?

THE DOCTOR

Yes I am.

CHRISTINA

That's not a name, that's a psychological condition.

THE DOCTOR

Funny sort of sand, this. There's a trace of something else...

(dabs it on tongue)

Ack. Blah. Pfff. Ohh, not good.

CHRISTINA

Well it wouldn't be, it's sand.

THE DOCTOR

No, it tastes like... Never mind.

CHRISTINA

What is it, what's wrong..?

Interrupted by Barclay, angry with the Doctor -

BARCLAY

Hold on a minute, I saw you, mate! You had that thing, that machine - did you *make* this happen?

THE DOCTOR

Oh, Humans on buses, always blaming me - look, if you must know, I was tracking a hole in the fabric of reality. Call it a hobby. But it was a tiny little hole, no danger to anyone. Suddenly it gets big, and we drive right through it.

DRIVER

Then where is it? There's nothing, there's just sand!

The Doctor walks to the back of the bus, scoops up sand.

THE DOCTOR

All right. If you want proof. We drove through... this!

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (3)

24

He throws the sand into the air -

FX: a FLAT WALL IN THE AIR RIPPLES, like petrol on water, about fifteen feet high, with a fizz-crack noise.

All in awe.

CHRISTINA

And that's..?

THE DOCTOR

A door. A door in space.

CUT TO:

25 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - NIGHT

25

DENNISON & OFFICERS in positions across the road, guarding the tunnel, as MCMILLAN comes running up -

MCMILLAN

We've sealed it off, at the far end, nothing's to come through -

SGT DENNISON

But I don't understand, sir, how can a bus just disappear?

Sudden fizz-crack noise, they turn -

FX: the wormhole rippling across the tunnel-mouth, shimmering and then gone.

MCMILLAN

What the hell was that..?

CUT TO:

26 EXT. BUS (PLANET, FOREIGN LOCATION) - DAY

26

THE DRIVER stepping forward, to where the wormhole was.

DRIVER

So what you're saying is, on the other side of that, is home? We can get to London through there?

THE DOCTOR

The bus came through, but we can't -

DRIVER

Then what are we waiting for?

And he's yomping across the sand, towards it -

THE DOCTOR

No, don't - I said *don't* - !

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: 26

DRIVER

I'm going home, mate - !

And the Driver yomps forward -

FX: he hits the WORMHOLE FX, which RIPPLES around him, as he becomes a SCREAMING SKELETON!

CUT TO:

27 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - NIGHT 27

MCMILLAN & DENNISON closer to the tunnel mouth, moving forward warily to inspect it - but now both flinching back as PRAC LIGHT flares over them -

FX: THE WORMHOLE RIPPLE around a SCREAMING SKELETON - !

Then *clunk!* A smoking PRAC SKELETON hits the ground.

The Driver's ID badge clinks across the tarmac.

Ripple gone. Grim silence. Then:

MCMILLAN

Dennison. I think we're out of our depth. We need experts.

(into radio)

Get me UNIT. Emergency Code One!

CUT TO:

28 EXT. BUS (PLANET, FOREIGN LOCATION) - DAY 28

All reacting to the driver, seconds later, BARCLAY sitting on the sand distraught, NATHAN comforting ANGELA. CHRISTINA fascinated, still studying THE DOCTOR.

BARCLAY

...he was a skeleton, man. He was bones, just bones...

THE DOCTOR

It was the bus. Look at the damage, that was the bus protecting us. Great big box made of metal.

CHRISTINA

Rather like a Faraday cage?

NATHAN

Like in a thunderstorm, yeah? Safest place is inside a car, cos the metal conducts the lightning right through. We did it in school!

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

CHRISTINA

But if we can only travel back inside the bus... a Faraday Cage needs to be closed. That thing's been ripped wide open!

THE DOCTOR

Slightly different dynamics, with a wormhole, there's enough metal to make it work. I think. I hope.

CHRISTINA

Then we have to drive five tons of bus, which is currently buried in the sand. And we've got nothing but our bare hands. Correct?

THE DOCTOR

I'd say nine-and-a-half tons, but the point still stands, yes.

CHRISTINA

Then we need to apply ourselves to the problem with discipline! Which starts with appointing a leader.

THE DOCTOR

Yes, at last, thank you, so -

CHRISTINA

Well thank goodness you've got me!
(calls out)
Everyone! Do exactly as I say!
Inside the bus! Immediately!

NATHAN

Is it safe in there?!

CHRISTINA

I don't think anything's safe any more, but if it's a choice between baking in there, or roasting out here, I'd say baking is slower. Come on! All of you! Right now!

They all obey, she strides towards the bus.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

And you. 'The Doctor'.

THE DOCTOR

Yes ma'am.

He scampers after her.

CUT TO:

29 INT. BUS (PLANET) - DAY

29

CHRISTINA in charge, THE DOCTOR, NATHAN, BARCLAY, ANGELA listening, with LOU & CARMEN, all perched on the broken seating, with damage all around them.

CHRISTINA

...point five, the crucial thing is, do not panic. Quite apart from anything else, the smell of sweat inside this thing is reaching atrocious levels, we don't need to add any more. Point six. Team identification! Names. I'm Christina, this man is apparently 'the Doctor' -

THE DOCTOR

Hello!

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(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

CHRISTINA

- and you?

NATHAN

Nathan.

BARCLAY

I'm Barclay.

ANGELA

Angela, Angela Whittaker.

LOU

My name's Louis, everyone calls me Lou, and this is Carmen.

CHRISTINA

Excellent. Memorise those names. There might be a test. Point seven, rations - Angela Whittaker, how much food have you got there?

ANGELA

It's just the weekly shop.

CHRISTINA

Then you're in charge of rations, any water?

ANGELA

Just orange juice. And milk.

CHRISTINA

Guard them with your life.

ANGELA

I will do!

CHRISTINA

Good girl. Now, point eight, assessment and application of knowledge. Over to you, the Doctor.

THE DOCTOR

I thought you were in charge.

CHRISTINA

I am. And a good leader utilises her strengths. You would seem to be the brainbox. So. Start boxing.

The Doctor stands, Christina sits.

THE DOCTOR

Right. So! The wormhole. We were in the wrong place at the wrong time, it was just an accident -

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

CARMEN

No it wasn't.

CHRISTINA

Point nine, don't interrupt.

THE DOCTOR

No, I don't mind. Carmen, what is it, what d'you mean..?

All staring at Carmen; hushed and creepy, now:

CARMEN

That thing, the doorway. Someone made it. For a reason.

THE DOCTOR

How d'you know?

LOU

She's got a gift. Ever since she was a little girl, she can just... tell things. We do the lottery, twice a week.

CHRISTINA

You don't look like millionaires.

LOU

No, but we win ten pounds. Every week, twice a week, ten pounds. Don't tell me that's not a gift!

The Doctor looks at Carmen. Puts his hand behind his back.

THE DOCTOR

Tell me, Carmen. How many fingers am I holding up?

CARMEN

Three.

It's correct. The Doctor lifts another finger.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Four.

THE DOCTOR

Very good! Low level psychic ability, exacerbated by an alien sun. So what can you see, Carmen? Tell me. What's out there..?

CARMEN

Something... something is coming. Riding on the wind. And shining.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (3)

29

THE DOCTOR

What is it..?

CARMEN

Death. Death is coming.

All horrified. Angela tearful:

ANGELA

We're going to die.

BARCLAY

I knew it, man, I said so.

NATHAN

We can't die out here, no one's gonna find us -

CHRISTINA

This isn't exactly helping -

BARCLAY

You can shut up too, we're not your soldiers -

Little contained outbreak of panic:

LOU

You're upsetting her, be quiet -

NATHAN

No one knows where we are! We're gonna be bones, like the driver -

BARCLAY

She's upsetting us, mate! Tell her to shut it, or I'll do it for you!

CHRISTINA

That's not doing any good, stop whimpering, all of you -

Etc - but the Doctor rising above it, absolute authority -

THE DOCTOR

All right, now stop it, everyone, stop it, Angela, look at me, Angela, answer me one question, Angela, that's it, at me, there we go, Angela, just answer me one thing -

Others dying down, all now staring at the Doctor -

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

When you got on this bus. Where were you going?

ANGELA

Doesn't matter now, does it?

THE DOCTOR

Answer the question.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (4)

29

ANGELA

Just home.

THE DOCTOR

And what's home?

ANGELA

Me, and Mike. And Suzanne. That's my daughter. She's 18.

THE DOCTOR

Suzanne. Good. And you?

BARCLAY

I dunno. I was just going round to Tina's.

THE DOCTOR

Who's Tina? Your girlfriend?

BARCLAY

(smiles)
Not yet.

THE DOCTOR

Good boy, what about you, Nathan?

NATHAN

Bit strapped for cash, I lost my job last week. I was gonna stay in. Watch TV.

THE DOCTOR

Brilliant, and you two?

LOU

I was going to cook.

CARMEN

It's his turn tonight.

(smiles)
Then I have to clear up.

THE DOCTOR

And what's for tea?

LOU

Chops. Nice couple of chops, and gravy. Nothing special.

THE DOCTOR

Ohh, that's special, Lou, that is so special. Chops and gravy. What about you, Christina?

CHRISTINA

I was going... so far away.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (5)

29

THE DOCTOR
 Far away. Chops and gravy.
 Watching TV. Mike and Suzanne and
 poor old Tina.

BARCLAY
 (smiling)
 Hey!

THE DOCTOR
 Just think of them. Cos that planet
 out there, all three suns and
 wormholes and alien sand, that
 planet is *nothing*. D'you hear me?
 Nothing, compared to all those
 things waiting for you. Food and
 home and people, hold on to that.
 Cos we're gonna get there. I
 promise. I'm gonna get you home.

CUT TO:

30 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - NIGHT

30

Near the tunnel, POLICE CARS dotted about, but -
 ROAR OF VEHICLES, as UNIT arrives!
 ARMY TRUCKS screech to a halt, disgorging SOLDIERS -
 One truck carrying a big ANTI-AIRCRAFT ACK-ACK GUN -
 THE GREAT BIG MOBILE HQ VAN (as in 4.4 & 4.5), plus a
 smaller OB-SCANNER-TYPE VAN -
 BIG BLACK CAR, out of which steps CAPTAIN ERISA MAGAMBO.
 She strides forward, SOLDIERS obeying her commands -

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO
 Isolate the area! Establish an
 exclusion zone, any media, move
 them back, any trouble, arrest
 them, I want the vehicles in a
 Standard Procedure Five layout,
 all outreach officers report to me
 through Sergeant Calhoon, is that
 understood?

She's heading past MCMILLAN & DENNISON -

MCMILLAN
 Captain, I'm Detective Inspector
 McMillan -

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO
 Clear the area, thank you -

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

MCMILLAN

But I was here, when the thing,
the bus, and the tunnel-thing -

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

I've read the report. Now clear
the area! Pandovski, get these
men out of the zone -

Soldiers move in to escort McMillan & Dennison -

MCMILLAN

But there's someone on board that
bus - she's mine - !

Magambo ignoring him, walking on, McMillan & Dennison
hustled away, protesting in b/g, as she strides on -

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO walks to the cordon, which is a good
distance back from the tunnel mouth, fencing it off.

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

Perimeter guard, stand ready!

SOLDIERS spread out, aiming guns at the tunnel-mouth.

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO (CONT'D)

Stay alert. Any hostile activity...
shoot to kill.

CUT TO:

31 OMITTED (SCENE 31 HAS BEEN INCORPORATED INTO SC 30) 31

32 EXT. BUS (PLANET, FOREIGN LOCATION) - DAY 32

THE DOCTOR & CHRISTINA studying the wheels, NATHAN and
BARCLAY run up, carrying seat-backs, ripped out of the bus -

BARCLAY

Here we go!

THE DOCTOR

That's my boys! D'you see, we lay
a flat surface between the bus and
the wormhole, like duckboards, and
we reverse into it!

CHRISTINA

Let some air out of the tyres,
just a little bit - spreads the
weight of the bus, gives you more
grip against the sand.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

THE DOCTOR
Oh that's good!

CHRISTINA
Holidays in the Kalahari.

BARCLAY
Yeah, but those wheels go deep.

CHRISTINA
Then start digging.

BARCLAY
With what?

CHRISTINA
With this.

Out of her bag: a smart fold-up spade, she snaps it open.

BARCLAY
Ohh, nice one!

THE DOCTOR
Anything else in there?

CHRISTINA
Try this, might help with the seats.

She hands Nathan a small axe.

NATHAN
Thanks!

And Nathan runs back on to the bus -

Passing ANGELA, who's now sitting in the driver's seat, with the doors open. She calls out:

ANGELA
I can't find the keys.

THE DOCTOR
No, buses don't have keys, there's the master switch, then it's one button for start, the other button for stop, yeah?

ANGELA
Right. Hold on, I've got it.
Here we go, hold tight, ding ding!

She presses the button. The bus engine turns over, but groaning. She keeps trying, but the bus only jolts.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2) 32

THE DOCTOR
Doesn't sound too good...

JUMP CUT TO:

33 EXT. BUS (PLANET, FOREIGN LOCATION) - DAY 33

THE DOCTOR opening up the engine. It's hissing with smoke.
CHRISTINA with him, BARCLAY & NATHAN still at the wheels.

THE DOCTOR
Never mind losing half the top
deck, d'you know what's worse?
Sand. Tiny little grains of sand.
The engine's clogged up.

CHRISTINA
Anyone know mechanics?

BARCLAY
Me! I did a two-week NVO at the
garage. Never finished it, but...

THE DOCTOR
Off you go then, try stripping the
air filter, fast as you can -
(heading off)
- I'll be back in two ticks -

CHRISTINA
Wait a minute - ! You're the man
with all the answers, I'm not
letting you out of my sight -

And she heads after him -

CUT TO:

34 EXT. PLANET (FOREIGN LOCATION) - DAY 34

WIDE SHOT, THE DOCTOR & CHRISTINA trudging up a dune.

REVEAL THIS to be playing on -

CUT TO:

35 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, CONTROL ROOM - DAY 35

Sc.34 on screen. Again, the FIGURES foreground, the ALIEN
HAND pointing at the Doctor.

PRAYGAT
<Chirp chirrup chip chirp. *Chp!*>

CUT TO:

36 EXT. PLANET (FOREIGN LOCATION) - DAY

36

THE DOCTOR and CHRISTINA clambering up a large sand dune.
(Christina always with backpack; though she can carry it,

The Writer's Tale

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

rather than wear it.) Far in the b/g, the BUS - NATHAN, BARCLAY & ANGELA at work.

THE DOCTOR
Easier if you left that backpack behind.

CHRISTINA
Where I go, it goes.

THE DOCTOR
A backpack, with a spade, and an axe. Christina, who's going so far away, and yet scared by the sound of a siren. Who are you?

CHRISTINA
You can talk. Let's just say we're two equal mysteries.

THE DOCTOR
We make quite a couple.

CHRISTINA
We don't make any sort of couple, thank you very much.

She stops. Looks at him.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)
Come on then. Tell me. If Carmen's right, if that wormhole's not an accident... then what is it? Has someone done this on purpose?

THE DOCTOR
I don't know. But every single instinct of mine is telling me to get off this planet, right now.

CHRISTINA
And d'you think we can?

THE DOCTOR
I live in hope.

CHRISTINA
That must be nice.
(offers handshake)
It's Christina de Souza. To be precise, Lady Christina de Souza.

THE DOCTOR
Well that's handy. Cos I'm a Lord.

CHRISTINA
Seriously? The Lord of where?

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

36

THE DOCTOR
It's quite a big estate.

CHRISTINA
No, but there's something more
about you. That device you were
carrying. And the wormhole. Like
you *knew*. And the way you stride
around this place, like...

THE DOCTOR
Like..?

CHRISTINA
Like you're not quite...

Pause. Then he breaks it off -

THE DOCTOR
Anyway! Come on! Allons-y!

CHRISTINA
Oui, mais pas si nous allons vers
un cauchemar.

THE DOCTOR
Oh we were made for each other!

CUT TO the crest of the hill, both arriving...

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Ah. Don't like the look of that...

FX SHOT: On the far horizon, a thin strip of darkness,
like a low tidal wave, far off - a massive STORM CLOUD.

CHRISTINA
Storm clouds. Must be hundreds of
miles away.

THE DOCTOR
But getting closer.

CHRISTINA
If that's a sand storm... We'll
get ripped to shreds.

THE DOCTOR
It's a storm. Who said it's sand..?

CUT TO:

37 INT. BUS (PLANET) - DAY

37

LOU and CARMEN are at the back of the bus, Carmen agitated.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

CARMEN

Closer and closer and closer...

Suddenly THE DOCTOR and CHRISTINA burst in, with BARCLAY
(ANGELA still in the driving seat, looking round to watch) -

THE DOCTOR

- where is it?

BARCLAY

- there, on the seat -

LOU

What is it, what's wrong?

THE DOCTOR

Nothing, I just need this!

He's grabbed Barclay's phone.

CHRISTINA

You're hardly going to get a signal,
we're on another planet!

THE DOCTOR

Ohh, just watch me -
(sonics the phone)
Right now, bit of hush, thank you!
(dialling)
I've got to remember the number, a
very important number -

He listens - holding the phone out, on speakerphone -

TELEPHONE VOICE

Hello, Pizza Geronimo, can I take
your order?

The Doctor clicks it off.

THE DOCTOR

And again! 7-6, not 6-7...

He dials again - a click, then -

UNIT VOICE

This is the Unified Intelligence
Taskforce. Please select from one
of the following four options. If
you want to report a UFO sighting,
press one...

THE DOCTOR

Ahhh, hate these things!

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

ANGELA

No, if you keep your finger pressed on zero, you get through to a real person. I saw it on Watchdog!

THE DOCTOR

(pressing zero)

Thank you, Angela!

OPERATOR

UNIT helpline, which department would you like?

THE DOCTOR

Listen, it's the Doctor! It's me!

CUT TO:

38 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - NIGHT

38

INTERCUT WITH INT. BUS (PLANET) sc.37.

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO striding across the tarmac - with emergency lights flashing all around - as SERGEANT IAN JENNER, 30, comes running up with a mobile phone, urgent -

JENNER

Captain! Urgent call, ma'am, relayed direct from HQ.

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

Who is it?

JENNER

It's him, ma'am. It's the Doctor.

Magambo in awe! Gulp. She takes the mobile.

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

Doctor. This is Captain Erisa Magambo.

(salutes)

Might I say, it's an honour, sir.

THE DOCTOR

Did you just salute?

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

...no.

THE DOCTOR

Erisa, it's about the bus. HQ said you're at the tunnel, yeah?

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

And where are you?

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

THE DOCTOR

I'm on the bus! But apart from that, not a clue, except it's very pretty and pretty dangerous.

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

A body came through here, have you sustained any more fatalities?

THE DOCTOR

No, and we're not going to. But I'm stuck, I haven't got the Tardis, and I need to analyse that wormhole -

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

We've got a scientific adviser on site, Dr Malcolm Taylor. Just the man you need, he's a genius.

THE DOCTOR

...oh is he? We'll see about that.

CUT TO:

39 INT. UNIT MOBILE HQ - NIGHT

39

INTERCUT WITH INT. BUS (PLANET) sc.37.

Cramped, dark scanner-type-room, packed with random piles of all sorts of equipment. MALCOLM - 30s, enthusiastic, a boffin - is at his desk, wiring stuff up. Singing pom-pom-pom. Door opens - CAPTAIN MAGAMBO, handing him the mobile -

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

It's the Doctor.

MALCOLM

No, I'm much better now, it was just a little bit of a sore throat, although I've got to say, a cup of tea would be nice -

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

It's *the* Doctor.

MALCOLM

D'you mean... the Doctor-Doctor?!

MAGAMBO

I know. We all want to meet him one day. But we know what that day will bring.

THE DOCTOR

I can hear everything you're saying.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

MALCOLM

Hello. Doctor. Oh my goodness.

THE DOCTOR

Yes I am. Hello Malcolm!

MALCOLM

Doctor! Oh blimey. I can't believe I'm actually speaking to you! I've read all the files!

THE DOCTOR

Really? What was your favourite, the giant robot? No, hold on, let's deal with this wormhole -
(to the others)
'Scuse me -

He runs to the driver's seat, huddles in there, more hushed, not on speakerphone. (Though Christina's listening.)

As he does this, Magambo takes the phone off Malcolm -

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

On speakerphone, please, I need to monitor every word he says.

THE DOCTOR

Malcolm, something's not making sense here, I've got a storm, and a wormhole, and I can't help thinking there's a connection. I need a complete full-range analysis of that wormhole, the whole thing.

MALCOLM

Well, I've probably got the wrong idea, but I've wired up an integrator, I thought it could measure the energy signature -

THE DOCTOR

No, that'll never work, just listen to me -

MALCOLM

It's quite extraordinary, though! I'm measuring an oscillation of 15 Malcolms per second.

THE DOCTOR

Fifteen what?

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (2)

39

MALCOLM

Fifteen Malcolms. It's my own little term. A wavelength parcel of 10 kilohertz operating in four dimensions equals one Malcolm.

THE DOCTOR

You named a unit of measurement after yourself?

MALCOLM

Never did Mr Watt any harm. Furthermore, one hundred Malcolms is a Bernard.

THE DOCTOR

Who's that, your dad?

MALCOLM

Don't be ridiculous, that's Quatermass.

THE DOCTOR

Right. Fine. But before I die of old age - which in my case would be quite an achievement, so congratulations on that - is there anyone else I can talk to?

MALCOLM

No, but listen! I set the scanner to register what it can't detect and inverted the image.

Malcolm's screen: GRAPHICS of wormhole measurements - bar-charts, oscilloscope-type lines, etc.

THE DOCTOR

You did what?

MALCOLM

Is that wrong?

THE DOCTOR

No, Malcolm, that is brilliant! So you can actually measure the wormhole?! Okay, I admit, that is genius!

MALCOLM

The Doctor called me a genius.

MAGAMBO

I know, I can hear.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (3)

39

THE DOCTOR

Now, run a capacity scan, I need a full report. Call me back when you've done it. And Malcolm? You're my new best friend!

MALCOLM

And you're mine too! Sir.

THE DOCTOR hangs up -

The Doctor heading out - of the phone -

THE DOCTOR

Barclay, I'm holding on to this -

BARCLAY

You'd better bring it back!

- and CHRISTINA follows him out, fast -

CUT TO:

40 EXT. BUS (PLANET, FOREIGN LOCATION) - DAY

40

WIDE SHOT, THE DOCTOR & CHRISTINA running out of the bus (NATHAN still digging at the wheels) -

REVEAL THIS playing in -

CUT TO:

41 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, CONTROL ROOM - DAY

41

Sc.40 on screen. One FIGURE points.

PRAYGAT

<Chirrup chp chp chirrup chirp!>

SORVIN

<Ch-chp!>

The SECOND FIGURE turns - to CAMERA - brief glimpse of a BULGING EYE, the Tritovore face - !

CUT TO:

42 EXT. PLANET (FOREIGN LOCATION) - DAY

42

THE DOCTOR & CHRISTINA, back on top of the dune. The Doctor taking a video with Barclay's phone -

THE DOCTOR

Send this back to Earth, maybe Malcolm can analyse the storm...

FX SHOT: THE STORM on the horizon, closer now.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

CHRISTINA
There's something in those clouds.
Something shining, look...

FX SHOT: within the storm, tiny glinting flashes of light.

THE DOCTOR
Like metal...

CHRISTINA
Why would there be metal in a storm?

CUT TO:

43 INT. BUS (PLANET) - DAY

43

CARMEN shivering, staring ahead, LOU worried.

CARMEN
...so fast and strong, they ride
the storm. They are the storm.

LOU
But what are they?

CARMEN
They devour.

CUT TO:

44 EXT. PLANET (FOREIGN LOCATION) - DAY

44

THE DOCTOR still videoing with the phone, CHRISTINA alert...

CHRISTINA
Did you hear something..?

THE DOCTOR
Hold on. Busy.

CHRISTINA
There was a noise, like a sort
of...

CU Christina, as she turns... Freezes. Horror.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)
Doctor...

CUT TO:

45 INT. BUS (PLANET) - DAY

45

CU, CARMEN sits forward, eyes wide -

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

CARMEN
There's something *new!*

CUT TO:

46 EXT. PLANET (FOREIGN LOCATION) - DAY

46

THE DOCTOR turns - CHRISTINA staring at -

A SILHOUETTE, against the blinding sun. A FIGURE. Moving forwards. Towards them.

THE DOCTOR
Christina. Don't move...

He puts his hands up, Christina does the same...

And the figure steps forward, revealing...

A TRITOVORE!

It's 6 feet tall, its humanoid body in a flight-suit, with a simple printed insignia. It has the head of a giant fly - two huge multi-faceted eyes in a bristling black skull. Mandibles twitching. This is SORVIN. Pointing a blaster at them. Aggressive chirping:

SORVIN
<Chirrup chirrup chirrup!>

THE DOCTOR
<Chirrp! Chp chirp!>
(to Christina)
That's wait. I shout wait, and people usually wait.

CHRISTINA
You speak the language?

THE DOCTOR
Every language.

SORVIN
<Chirp chirrup!>

THE DOCTOR
<Chirrup chirrup cheep!>
(to Christina)
That's begging for mercy.

Sorvin jabs the blaster at them.

SORVIN
<Chirrup!>

CHRISTINA
That means 'move!'

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

THE DOCTOR
You're learning.

CUT TO:

47 EXT. PLANET (TRITOVORE SHIP AREA, FOREIGN LOCATION) - DAY 47

WIDE SHOT, SORVIN herding THE DOCTOR and CHRISTINA along.

They pass around a dune and see...

FX SHOT (DMP): the SPACESHIP. It's industrial black metal, the size of a jumbo jet. Split down the middle, cracked in half, and buried in the sand.

CHRISTINA
These fly-things, they must be responsible, they brought us here.

THE DOCTOR
No! Look at the ship, it's a wreck, they crashed, just like us.

CUT TO:

48 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, SHORT CORRIDOR/CONTROL ROOM - DAY 48

A SHORT CORRIDOR, leading to the main section. The ship's been shattered; dark metal girders criss-crossing the way, pipes and tubes hanging down; the floor's cracked open, sand underfoot. Sunlight through holes in the roof.

THE DOCTOR & CHRISTINA walking along, at gunpoint, with SORVIN behind them.

CHRISTINA *
Ohh, but this place is freezing! *

THE DOCTOR *
The hull's made of Photafine Steel - *
turns cold when it's hot. Boiling *
desert outside, freezing ship inside - *
since I met you, Christina, we've *
been through all the extremes! *

CHRISTINA *
That's how I like things. Extreme. *

Leading into the CONTROL ROOM. Again, the fallen girders, sandy floor, with broken consoles all around.

A second Tritovore, PRAYGAT, is waiting. He wears the same suit, fussier insignia. He takes a small device from the wall, clamps it to his chest and turns it on.

PRAYGAT
<Chirp-chirrup-chirrrp!>

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

THE DOCTOR
Oh, right, good, yes, hello!
(to Christina)
That's a telepathic translator!
He can understand us!

PRAYGAT
<Chirrup chirp chirp chirrup!>

CHRISTINA
Still sounds like gibberish to me.

THE DOCTOR
That's what I said, he can
understand us, doesn't work the
other way round.

PRAYGAT
<Chirrup chp chp chirp chirrup
chippi chip chip chirrup...>

Etc, he keeps going, the Doctor translating to Christina:

THE DOCTOR
You will suffer for your crimes,
etcetera, you have committed an
act of violence against the
Tritovore race - Tritovores, they're
called Tritovores! - you came
here in the 200 to destroy us -
sorry, what's the 200?

CHRISTINA
It's the bus, number 200, they
mean the bus.

THE DOCTOR
No, look, I think you're making
the same mistake Christina did -
I'm the Doctor, by the way, and
this is Christina, the Honourable
Lady Christina, at least I hope
she's honourable - but we got pulled
through that wormhole! The 200
doesn't look like that normally,
it's broken, just the same as you!

SORVIN
(to Praygat)
<Chirrup chip chirp?>

PRAYGAT
<Chirp chirp chirrup chip.>

And they lower their guns.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (2)

48

CHRISTINA
...what are they doing?

The Writer's Tale

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (3)

48

THE DOCTOR
They believe me!

CHRISTINA
What, simple as that?

THE DOCTOR
I've got a very honest face. And
the translator says I'm telling
the truth. Plus, the face.
(to the Tritovores)
Right! So! First things first,
there's a very strange storm heading
our way, can you send out a probe?

PRAYGAT
<Chirrup chp chirrup.>

THE DOCTOR
Ah, they've lost power, hold on -
(at the controls)
The crash knocked the mainline
crystallography out of synch, but
if I can jiggle it back -

*
*
*

The console lights up!

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
I thank you!

PRAYGAT
<Chip chip chirrup!>

THE DOCTOR
Yes I am! Frequently. Okey doke,
let's launch that probe -

Slams a lever -

CUT TO:

49 EXT. TRITOVORE SHIP (FOREIGN LOCATION), FX SHOT - DAY 49

FX SHOT (as sc.47, WIDE SHOT SHIP), the Probe - a tiny dot
of light - shoots out from the ship and zooms away -

CUT TO:

50 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, CONTROL ROOM - DAY 50

THE DOCTOR all smiles, turns to the TRITOVORES:

THE DOCTOR
Now then. Start at the beginning.
Where the hell are we?!

JUMP CUT TO:

51 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, CONTROL ROOM - DAY

51

LIGHTS LOWERED now, as -

FX: PROJECTION at one end of the room, hovering, flat, in the air, showing: A STARFIELD.

Both TRITOVORES watching - from now on, SORVIN wears a translator too. THE DOCTOR & CHRISTINA staring, in awe, hushed (though she's equally fascinated by the Doctor):

THE DOCTOR

The Scorpion Nebula. We're on the other side of the universe. Just what you wanted, so far away...

FX: IMAGE ZOOMS into a LUSH, GREEN PLANET. Images plus scrolling ALIEN GRAPHICS, the Doctor reading:

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

The planet of... San Helios.

CHRISTINA

And that's us..? We're on another world...

THE DOCTOR

We have been for quite a while.

CHRISTINA

I know, but seeing it like that...

THE DOCTOR

Good, isn't it?

CHRISTINA

Wonderful.

PRAYGAT

<Chirp chirrup chip chip chirrup.>

And PRAYGAT keeps going as the Doctor translates:

THE DOCTOR

The Tritovores were going to trade with San Helios. Population of one hundred billion, plenty of waste matter for them to absorb.

CHRISTINA

By waste matter, you mean..?

THE DOCTOR

They feed off what others leave behind. From... their behind. If you see what I mean. Perfectly natural! They're flies!

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

CHRISTINA
Charming. Just remind me never to
kiss them.

PRAYGAT
<Chirp chirrup chirp-chirp.>

FX SHOT: PROJECTION of DMP, SAN HELIOS CITY. A beautiful
Aztec-type city of ziggurats and walkways. Intimate moment:

THE DOCTOR
San Helios City...

CHRISTINA
That's amazing. But... you've
seen this sort of thing before,
haven't you?

THE DOCTOR
Thousands of times.

CHRISTINA
That Lordship of yours... The
Lord of where, exactly?

THE DOCTOR
Of Time. I come from a race of
people called Time Lords.

CHRISTINA
You're an alien?

THE DOCTOR
Yeah. But you don't have to kiss
me either.

CHRISTINA
You look Human.

THE DOCTOR
You look Time Lord.

Beat between them.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Anyway!

Back to work! Of the projection:

CHRISTINA
So! If that's San Helios, then
all we need to do is find that
city. They can help us!

THE DOCTOR
I don't think it's that simple...

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED: (2)

51

He looks at Praygat; Praygat operates a switch.

FX: PROJECTION. SAN HELIOS CITY mixes to THE DESERT.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

We're in the city. Right now.

CHRISTINA

...but it's sand. That first image, the temples and things, what's that, then? Ancient history?

PRAYGAT

<Chip chirp chip.>

THE DOCTOR

The image was taken last year.

CHRISTINA

It became a desert? In one year?

THE DOCTOR

I said there was something in the sand...

(picks up sand from the floor)

The city, the oceans, the mountains, the wildlife. And a hundred billion people. Turned to sand. All those voices in Carmen's head. She's hearing them die.

CHRISTINA

But I've got sand in my hair... That's dead people! Oh! That's disgusting! Oh!!

THE DOCTOR

Something destroyed the whole of San Helois.

CHRISTINA

Yes, but in my hair!!

The phone rings - the Doctor answers -

THE DOCTOR

Malcolm! Tell me the bad news!

CUT TO:

52 INT. UNIT MOBILE HQ - NIGHT

52

INTERCUT WITH TRITOVORE SHIP, CONTROL ROOM, SC.51.

MALCOLM at his controls, studying the screen, GRAPHICS showing Wormhole patterns. CAPTAIN MAGAMBO behind him.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

MALCOLM

Oh you're clever! It *is* bad news!
It's the wormhole, Doctor, it's
getting bigger! We've gone well
past one hundred Bernards, I haven't
invented a name for that.

THE DOCTOR

How can it get bigger by itself?

MALCOLM

That's why I'm phoning! You'll
work it out, if I know you, sir!

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

Doctor. We estimate the
circumference of your invisible
door is now four miles, heading
upwards. I've grounded all flights
above London, we can't risk anyone
else falling through.

THE DOCTOR

Good work, both of you!

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

But I have to know. Does that
wormhole constitute a danger to
this planet?

THE DOCTOR

(beep)
Oh, sorry, call waiting, gotta go!
(clicks off)

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

...call waiting?!

MALCOLM

He's a devil, that one!

CUT TO:

53 INT. BUS (PLANET) - DAY

53

INTERCUT WITH TRITOVORE SHIP, SC.51.

NATHAN on his mobile. CARMEN & LOU at the back, ANGELA in
the seats, crying, BARCLAY consoling her. Grim & quiet:

NATHAN

Doctor, it's Nathan, we got those
duckboard things down, but...

ANGELA

It's my fault.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

NATHAN

No it's not, don't say that.

THE DOCTOR

Why, what's happened?

NATHAN

We kept on turning the engine,
but... we're out of petrol. Used
it all up. Even if we can get
those wheels out... This bus is
never going to move.

Silence.

THE DOCTOR lost for once, head whirring, staring into space.

CHRISTINA & TRITOVORES not hearing Nathan, but disturbed:

CHRISTINA

What is it, what's wrong?
(no reply)
Doctor, tell me.

NATHAN

(like a kid)
You promised to get us home.
(no reply)
Doctor? You still there?

The Doctor just hangs up.

CHRISTINA

Doctor, tell me, what did he say?

But the Doctor's still staring, lost in thought...

Interrupted by *beep-beep-beep* from the controls - SORVIN
crosses to them - the Doctor focusing on that, still grim:

SORVIN

<Chirp chirrup chirrup chirrup!>

THE DOCTOR

It's the Probe. It's reached the
storm.

SORVIN

<Chip chip cheep chip!!>

CHRISTINA

And what's he saying?

THE DOCTOR

...it's not a storm.

CUT TO:

54 EXT. PLANET, FX SHOT - DAY 54

FX SHOT (x2, LONG DURATION!): CU on the dot-of-light PROBE, against blue sky - then it swoops down - INTO A SWARM! A blizzard of STINGRAY-LIKE CREATURES in flight. They're grey but with a metallic exo-skeleton glinting in the sun. BOLTS OF LIGHTNING shoot through the swarm, like it's generating electricity.

FX SHOT: CU on a STINGRAY. Snapping red O-shaped mouth.

CUT TO:

55 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, CONTROL ROOM - DAY 55

THE DOCTOR, CHRISTINA, TRITOVORES staring.

FX SHOT: 54.2 FX projected in the air.

CHRISTINA
It's a swarm. Millions of them...

THE DOCTOR
Billions.

CUT TO:

56 EXT. PLANET, FX SHOT - DAY 56

FX SHOT: HIGH SHOT of the SWARM, rushing over the planet's surface, STINGRAYS swarming and swooping like a vast flock of birds - jibbering, squeaking, a glinting tide of death.

CUT TO:

57 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, CONTROL ROOM - DAY 57

FX SHOT: PROJECTION cuts off, dead.

THE DOCTOR
We've lost the probe. Think it got eaten. Everything on this planet gets eaten.

CHRISTINA
How far away is that swarm?

THE DOCTOR
Hundred miles. But at that speed, it'll be here in twenty minutes.

PRAYGAT
<Chirrup chirrup chipppp!>

THE DOCTOR
No, they're not just coming for us. They want the wormhole.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

CHRISTINA
They're heading for Earth!

THE DOCTOR
Show the analysis -

PRAYGAT presses controls -

FX:(and repeat) PROJECTION, STATIC STINGRAY, revolving.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Incredible! They swarm out of a wormhole. Strip the planet bare. Then move on to the next world, start the life cycle all over again.

CHRISTINA
So... they make the wormholes?

THE DOCTOR
They must do.

CHRISTINA
But how? They don't exactly look like technicians. And if the wormhole belongs to them, why are they a hundred miles away?

THE DOCTOR
Because... They need to be..?
No. That's bonkers. Hang on!
Yes! Oh! D'you see? Billions of them, flying in formation, all the way round the planet, faster and faster and faster, round and round and round, till they generate a rupture in space! The speed of them, and the numbers, and the size - all of that rips the wormhole into existence-

CHRISTINA
- and the wormhole's getting bigger -

THE DOCTOR
- because they're getting closer!

CHRISTINA
But hold on, how do they get through? Cos that wormhole's a killer, we've seen it!

THE DOCTOR
No, look at them. See the exo-skeleton?

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: (2)

57

CHRISTINA

Metal.

THE DOCTOR

They've got bones of metal! They eat metal, extrude it into the exoskeleton! So their velocity makes the wormhole, then their body makes it safe! Perfect design!

CHRISTINA

Those things are going to turn the entire Earth into a desert. So why exactly are you smiling?

THE DOCTOR

Worse it gets, more I love it!

CHRISTINA

(smiles)

Me too.

CUT TO:

58 INT. BUS (PLANET) - DAY

58

LOU & CARMEN huddled. BARCLAY, NATHAN & ANGELA sitting close together, defeated, exhausted.

All hear, far off; THUNDER. All spooked:

NATHAN

Sounds like a storm.

ANGELA

If it rains, we've got water.

Carmen staring ahead, scared:

CARMEN

No water. All of it, dust.

(sits forward)

But the girl...

LOU

Don't now, sweetheart. What girl?

CARMEN

The girl... She will fly...

CUT TO:

59 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, CONTROL ROOM - DAY

59

CU CHRISTINA, walking round. Assessing the controls; taking it all in. Clever mind. In b/g, THE DOCTOR & TRITOVORES:

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

59

THE DOCTOR
 Diesel, the bus, the 200, it uses
 diesel - it's oil, it's petrol,
 it's a mineral, from rocks, have
 you got any sort of engine fuel I
 could have a look at?

PRAYGAT
 <Chirrup chi chip chip chirp.>

SORVIN
 <Chippi chirp chirrup chirrup.>

THE DOCTOR
 (to Christina)
 It's no good, they use dry-
 filaments, not a drop of petrol!

CHRISTINA
 Except you're missing the obvious.
 We came here through the wormhole,
 yes? But our Tritovore friends
 didn't. They came here to trade
 with San Helios. Therefore, the
 question is: why did they crash?

THE DOCTOR
 Oh. Good question! What a team!
 (to the Tritovores)
 Like she said, why did you crash?!

CUT TO:

60 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, GRAVITY WELL (TOP) - DAY

60

Door opens, THE DOCTOR, CHRISTINA & SORVIN run in -
 Small, dark, broken chamber (no sand on the floor). Centre:
 a METAL WELL, with a shaft leading down. Only wide enough
 for one person to descend. The Doctor runs to it -

THE DOCTOR
 Oh yes, Gravity Well, look -

FX: LOOKING DOWN, the SHAFT - METAL WALLS ridged with panels
 & buttons, going down half a mile or so. At the bottom;
 something glowing. All crouched round the Well, now:

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
 Goes all the way down to the engine.
 So what happened?

SORVIN
 <Chirrrrp chip chp chirrip chi.>

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

60

THE DOCTOR

He says the drive system stalled.
Ten miles up, they fell out of the
sky. But what caused that?

SORVIN

<Chirrip chup.>

CHRISTINA

Which means, no idea.

THE DOCTOR

Yup. But wait a minute... that's
a Crystal Nucleus down there, yes?

SORVIN

<Chip!>

THE DOCTOR

And it looks like it survived the
crash. If the Crystal's intact...
Oh yes, that's better than diesel!

CHRISTINA

What, you can use the Crystal to
move the bus?

THE DOCTOR

I think so. The spaceship's a
write-off, but the 200's small
enough.

CHRISTINA

How does a Crystal drive a bus?

THE DOCTOR

In a super-clever outer-spacey
way, just trust me! Look -

Runs to a broken, tilted WALL MONITOR, clicks it on -

ON SCREEN: THE CRYSTAL CHAMBER (as in sc.66, to come). A
small room at the bottom of the shaft. Burnt metal.
Centre; the CRYSTAL - a fist-size YELLOW DIAMOND, held in
place by FOUR METAL CLAMPS, all held on a metal bed, like
a PLATE (NB, Crystal, clamps & plate are actually quite
small, portable; the surrounding technology gives it size.)

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

That's the Crystal. Have you got
access shafts?

SORVIN

<Chirp chip chirrip chup.>

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED: (2)

60

THE DOCTOR

All frozen. Maybe I can open them!

*

He grabs two simple ear-piece-and-mic devices off the wall, puts one on, gives the other to Christina -

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Internal comms, put that on - you stay here, keep an eye on the shaft, tell me if anything happens -

He runs out, Sorvin following -

Christina puts on her comms.

Thinks. Goes to the Well. Sits on the edge.

FX REPEAT: the SHAFT, the glow far down below.

And she knows what she's got to do.

CUT TO:

61 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, CONTROL ROOM - DAY

61

THE DOCTOR runs in, with SORVIN - PRAYGAT at the controls - the Doctor running from panel to broken panels -

THE DOCTOR

If I can use that sunlight to start the automatic maintenance...

(on comms)

Christina? If you see a panel opening, in the shaft, let me know.

CUT TO:

62 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, GRAVITY WELL (TOP) - DAY

62

INTERCUT WITH TRITOVORE SHIP, CONTROL ROOM, sc.61.

CHRISTINA coolly unpacking her backpack.

CHRISTINA

Nothing yet.

Now a series of JUMP CUTS between both rooms, THE DOCTOR trying switches, while Christina...

Pulls out her WINCH (a super-compact-techno-winch, sleek and black, Mission Impossible-style) -

THE DOCTOR

Anything now?

CHRISTINA

'Fraid not.

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

62

CUT TO a reel of super-thin-super-tough WIRE, from the bag -

THE DOCTOR
Any sign of movement?

CHRISTINA
Nope.

CUT TO Christina, clamping the winch to a GIRDER crossing right above the Well.

THE DOCTOR
How's that?

CHRISTINA
Nothing.

CUT TO Christina clipping both wires on to her waist.

THE DOCTOR
Any result?

CHRISTINA
Not a dickie bird. So let me get this right. You need that Crystal?

THE DOCTOR
Yep!

CHRISTINA
Then consider it done.

THE DOCTOR
Why, what d'you mean? Christina..?
(running out!)
Christinaaaaaa - !

CUT TO:

63 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, GRAVITY WELL (TOP) - DAY

63

THE DOCTOR runs in - SORVIN following -

To see CHRISTINA, wired to the WINCH, standing a few feet up on broken machinery, to the side of the Well. Calm:

CHRISTINA
The aristocracy survives for a reason. We're ready for anything.

THE DOCTOR
No - !

AND SHE DIVES! (STUNT.) HEAD FIRST down the Well -

CUT TO:

64 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, GRAVITY WELL SHAFT - DAY 64

FX: HIGH SHOT looking down, CHRISTINA on wires, plummeting -

FX: CU CHRISTINA WHIZZING down, head first - ! The shaft-wall background whipping past her - and she's gleeful - !

CUT TO:

65 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, GRAVITY WELL (TOP) - DAY 65

INTERCUT WITH GRAVITY WELL SHAFT, sc.64.

SORVIN as before. THE DOCTOR sonics the winch, frantic -

SHAFT: CHRISTINA jerks to a sudden halt.

THE DOCTOR
Thaaat's better...

CHRISTINA
I decide when I stop, thank you.

THE DOCTOR
You were just about to hit the security grid. Look!

Christina looking down (still head first) -

FX: HIGH SHOT, Christina now with only HALF THE DISTANCE below her, but across the shaft: zig-zags of RAW ELECTRICITY, zapping intermittently across the shaft.

CHRISTINA
Excellent. So what do I do?

THE DOCTOR
Red button, to your left.

She stabs the red button, set in the wall -

FX: SAME HIGH SHOT, ELECTRICITY ZAPS OFF.

CHRISTINA
Well done!

THE DOCTOR
Now come back up! I can do that.

CHRISTINA
Oh, don't you wish?

She presses the winch-control on her waist. Starts descending down the shaft...

THE DOCTOR
Slowly!

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

CHRISTINA

Yes, sir.

And as she keeps sliding down - slowly, with every shot - the Doctor settles by the Well; intimate, over comms:

THE DOCTOR

Quite the mystery, aren't you?
Lady Christina de Souza. Carrying
a winch in her bag.

CHRISTINA

No stranger than you, spaceman.

THE DOCTOR

I had this friend, once. She called
me spaceman.

CHRISTINA

And was she right? Do you zoom
about the place in a rocket?

THE DOCTOR

Well. A little blue box. Travels
in more than space. It can journey
through time, Christina. Ohh, the
places I've been. World War One.
Creation of the universe, end of
the universe, the war between China
and Japan. And the Court of King
Athelstan, in 924 AD -

...as he lifts the CUP OF ATHELSTAN from her backpack.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

- but I don't remember you being
there. So what are you doing with
this?

CHRISTINA

Excuse me. A gentleman never goes
through a lady's possessions.

SORVIN

<Chrp chirrup chirrip chap chup?>

THE DOCTOR

It's the Cup of Athelstan. Given
to the first King of Britain, as a
coronation gift from Hywel, King
of the Welsh. But it's been held
in the International Gallery for
200 years, which makes you, Lady
Christina... a thief.

CHRISTINA

I like to think I liberated it.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED: (2)

65

THE DOCTOR
Don't tell me you need the money.

CHRISTINA
Daddy lost everything. Invested his fortune in the Icelandic banks.

THE DOCTOR
No no no, if you're short of cash, you rob a bank. Stealing this... that's a lifestyle.

CHRISTINA
I take it you disapprove?

THE DOCTOR
Absolutely. Except... That little blue box. I stole it. From my own people.

CHRISTINA
Good boy. You were right. We're quite the team.

Suddenly - a *howwwwwl*. Half-metal. Echoing, eerie.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)
...what the blazes was that?

THE DOCTOR
We never did find out why the ship crashed. Christina, I think you should come back up.

CHRISTINA
Too late...

CUT TO:

66 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, CRYSTAL CHAMBER - DAY

66

INTERCUT WITH TRITOVORE SHIP, GRAVITY WELL (TOP), SC 65.

(As seen on screen in sc.60.) CHRISTINA lowering slowly head-first through the bottom of the Well, in the roof. A few feet below her: the Crystal & clamps. All around: cramped, dark-metal walls, broken and jagged.

CHRISTINA
I can see it...

THE DOCTOR
Careful. Slowly.
(quiet, to Sorvin)
Have you got an open-vent system?

(CONTINUED)

SORVIN

<Chip.>

THE DOCTOR

I thought so.

CHRISTINA

What does that mean?

THE DOCTOR

It's like when birds fly into the engines of an aircraft...

- the howwwl comes again, Christina looks round, terrified -

FX: One wall seems to shift: behind broken struts of metal, there's a STINGRAY. Dormant. But stirring.

Absolute whispers:

CHRISTINA

...one of the creatures.

THE DOCTOR

Got trapped in the vents. Caused the crash. Christina, get out.

CHRISTINA

It's not moving. Think it's injured.

THE DOCTOR

It's dormant, because it's so cold down there. But your body heat is raising the temperature.

CHRISTINA

I tend to have that effect. Almost there...

She lowers down, down, slowly...

THE DOCTOR

Not just the Crystal. I need the whole bed, the plate-thing.

FX: THE STINGRAY stirs, mouth yawning, jagged teeth.

Christina lowers a little more, stops...

Reaches down... Both hands, to hold the entire plate of Crystal & clamps...

Takes hold.

Deep breath.

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED: (2)

66

Lifts it up, slowly...

ALARMS! RED LIGHTS!

FX: STINGRAY THRASHES! SCREAMS!

CHRISTINA
I've got it!

The Writer's Tale

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED: (3)

66

THE DOCTOR sonics the winch - it spins, very fast -

FX: CHRISTINA shooting up, foreground - as the STINGRAY THRASHES, BREAKS FREE, lurching forward - the STRUTS in front of it flattening -

The Doctor sonicking like mad -

THE DOCTOR

Come on come on come on - !

FX: CHRISTINA shooting up, tucking the PLATE in close to her chest with one arm, background-shaft whizzing past -

FX: HIGH ANGLE, bottom of shaft, FILLED WITH STINGRAY, looking up, snapping, threatening to rip its way upwards -

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

That thing's gonna eat its way up!

CU CHRISTINA, zooming up - punches the RED BUTTON -

FX: HIGH ANGLE, STINGRAY zapped with ELECTRICITY!

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Oh she's good!

- and CHRISTINA's pulled out of the Well!

Christina flailing - the Doctor & SORVIN reaching out to grab her - Sorvin taking the plate of Crystal & clamps -

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

There you go, we've got you - !

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

<Chirp chirrup chip chipee!>

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Isn't she just?!

CUT TO:

67 INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, CONTROL ROOM - DAY

67

THE DOCTOR, CHRISTINA & SORVIN burst through - the Doctor holding the plate, Christina with backpack (much emptier now, only the Cup inside) - PRAYGAT at the controls -

THE DOCTOR

Commander! Mission complete! Now we've got to get back to the 200, all of us -

PRAYGAT

<Chirp chirrup chip chirp.>

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

THE DOCTOR

Oh don't be so daft, a captain can
leave his ship, if there's a bus
standing by -

- *wham!*, the whole room shakes a bit, a strong jolt.

CHRISTINA

What the hell was that? Is this
place safe?

Then a *howwwwl* echoes through the room, loud.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

It's the creature. It's not dead.

PRAYGAT

<Chip chirrup chip?>

THE DOCTOR

Maybe you didn't hit just one of
them. If you hit a swarm...

CHRISTINA

D'you mean there's more on board?

THE DOCTOR

This ship's built inside a metal
sleeve. They can move through the
infrastructure, all around us.

The room shudders again, PRAC RUBBLE sifts down...

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Ohh, and those things wake up
hungry. Commander, you've got to
come with us, right now -

CHRISTINA

You can come back to Earth, we'll
give you a home!

THE DOCTOR

And that's the word of a lady!
Come on -

- they make to run out, the Doctor & Christina first, then
Sorvin, then Praygat - then behind them -

FX: PRAC CEILING PANELS BURST OPEN, showering RUBBLE - and
the huge bulk of a STINGRAY lurches down from the roof,
slamming into the room - !

PRAC EXPLOSION, instrument panels SPARKING, Praygat sent
flying, falling to the floor -

The Doctor, Christina, Sorvin turn to look back -

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED: (2) 67

FX: FLOOR LEVEL SHOT, PRAYGAT foreground, flat on the floor, being pulled backwards, fast - he's being sucked into the open mouth of the STINGRAY, looming huge above him -

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

No, don't -

- but Sorvin runs forward, pulling out his gun -

The Doctor pulls Christina back, both flinching as -

FX: the huge bulk of the STINGRAY rears up, then slams down, SORVIN disappearing beneath it -

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Nothing we can do -

And they both run -

CUT TO:

67A INT. TRITOVORE SHIP, SHORT CORRIDOR - DAY 67A

THE DOCTOR & CHRISTINA run for their lives - screeching echoes all around them - !

CUT TO:

68 EXT. PLANET DUNES (FOREIGN LOCATION) - DAY 68

THE DOCTOR & CHRISTINA run! The Doctor clutching the Crystal, clamps & plate, Christina with half-empty bag -

FX: WIDER, behind them, above the dunes, a BOLT OF LIGHTNING, heralding the approach of the storm -

CUT TO:

69 EXT. PLANET, FX SHOT - DAY 69

FX SHOT: RPT & FLIP SHOT 56.1, the HUGE SWARM, racing over the desert, faster and faster, with BOLTS OF LIGHTNING arcing through the air -

CUT TO:

70 INT. BUS (PLANET) - DAY 70

All shrinking in their seats, scared - massive THUNDER -

ANGELA

What sort of storm is that..?

On CARMEN, staring; but her eyes bright, now, enraptured...

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED:

70

CARMEN

Run, run, run, run, run, run...

CUT TO:

71 EXT. PLANET (FOREIGN LOCATION) - DAY

71

THE DOCTOR & CHRISTINA run, run, run for their lives - !

The Writer's Tale

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED: 71

His phone rings - still running -

THE DOCTOR
Not now, Malcolm - !

And he hangs up -

CUT TO:

72 INT. UNIT MOBILE HQ - NIGHT 72

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO with MALCOLM. Phone dead.

MALCOLM
Fair do's. He's a busy man.

CUT TO:

73 EXT. BUS (PLANET, FOREIGN LOCATION) - DAY 73

THE DOCTOR & CHRISTINA running up - NATHAN stepping out -

NATHAN
At last! Where've you been?!

THE DOCTOR
Get inside, get them sitting down -

Nathan does so - the Doctor studying the Crystal plate -

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Now then, let's have a look...

CHRISTINA
So what does that Crystal do?

THE DOCTOR
Oh nothing, don't need the Crystal -

And he chucks it away!

CHRISTINA
I risked my life for that!

THE DOCTOR
No, you risked your life for these -
the clamps - !

And he pulls off one of the CLAMPS, a six-inch metal prong -

JUMP CUT TO the Doctor at one wheel - Christina following -
as he slams one CLAMP on to the HUBCAP - it sticks, magnetic -

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
One there -

CUT TO SECOND WHEEL, the Doctor clamps it -

(CONTINUED)

73 CONTINUED:

73

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
- one there -

CUT TO THIRD WHEEL -

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
- one there -

CUT TO FOURTH WHEEL -

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
- and one there!

CUT TO:

74 INT. BUS (PLANET) - DAY

74

- and THE DOCTOR jumps into the driver's seat, CHRISTINA running on board -

CARMEN & LOU, NATHAN, BARCLAY, ANGELA all in their seats, staring at him, scared, but hopeful -

CHRISTINA
- but what are the clamps for, do they turn the wheels - ?

THE DOCTOR
Something like that - just need to fix this -

He slams the remaining circular PLATE (the base of the Crystal) over the steering wheel. Exact fit!

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Have you got a hammer in that bag?

CHRISTINA
Funnily enough.

She gets out a hammer, he takes it, starts to hammer the plate, fixing it to the wheel -

THE DOCTOR
Phone, phone, press redial -

She takes the phone, redial, politely holds the phone to the Doctor's ear while he keeps fixing the plate into place -

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Malcolm! It's me!

CUT TO:

75 INT. UNIT MOBILE HQ - NIGHT

75

INTERCUT WITH BUS (PLANET), sc.74.

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED:

75

MALCOLM with mobile on speakerphone, MAGAMBO behind him -

MALCOLM

I'm ready!

THE DOCTOR

Ready for what?

MALCOLM

I don't know! You tell me!

THE DOCTOR

I'm gonna try to get back, but listen, there might be something following us, you need to find a way to close the wormhole -

MALCOLM

Would that be a compressed burst of feedback on a counter-oscillation, perchance?

THE DOCTOR

Oh Malcolm! You're brilliant!

MALCOLM

Coming from you, sir, that means the world!

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

Doctor, what sort of something? That wormhole is now measuring ten miles and growing, I need to know the exact nature of the threat -

THE DOCTOR

- sorry, gotta go - !

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

(furious, on radio)

All troops, mobilise and stand ready! Possible Code Red: Unknown!

CUT TO:

76 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - NIGHT

76

JENNER running, yelling out -

JENNER

Code Red! Repeat, Code Red unknown!

SOLDIERS running, yomping -

Manning the ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN -

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED: 76

CUT TO MCMILLAN & DENNISON, a good distance away, outside the zone, with their POLICE CAR, watching, alert -

SOLDIERS line up, facing the tunnel mouth. Take aim...

CUT TO:

77 OMITTED (SCENE 77 HAS BEEN INCORPORATED INTO SC 76) 77

78 INT. BUS (PLANET) - DAY 78

(NB, the bus door now closed in b/g.) THE DOCTOR's fiddling with the PLATE & STEERING WHEEL - a loose wire trailing from the bottom of the plate, and the ignition wires now jutting out from under the dashboard -

THE DOCTOR

Ahhh, it's not compatible, bus, spaceship, spaceship, bus, I need to weld the two systems together -

CHRISTINA

And how d'you do that?

THE DOCTOR

I need something non-corrosive, something malleable, something ductile, something... Gold.

CHRISTINA hugs the bag to her.

CHRISTINA

Oh no you don't.

THE DOCTOR

Christina, what is it worth now?

BARCLAY runs forward, holding out his wristwatch -

BARCLAY

Hey! Use this!

THE DOCTOR

I said gold!

BARCLAY

It is gold!

THE DOCTOR

They saw you coming. Christina!

Barclay retreats. Christina reaches into the bag. Hating this. Brings out the CUP OF ATHELSTAN.

(CONTINUED)

78 CONTINUED:

78

CHRISTINA

It's over a thousand years old.
Worth eighteen million pounds.
Promise me you'll be careful.

THE DOCTOR

I promise.

He takes it, almost reverential...

Then bashes it to bits with the hammer!

CHRISTINA

I hate you.

CUT TO:

79 INT. UNIT MOBILE HQ - NIGHT

79

MALCOLM tapping madly at his keyboard, MAGAMBO watching.

MALCOLM

Done it! Transmit that, and the
wormhole should close.

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

Then do it.

MALCOLM

Well. After the Doctor's come
through, obviously.

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

I'm sorry. Believe me. But that
wormhole constitutes a major threat,
and I have a duty to every man,
woman and child on this planet.
It's got to be closed, immediately.
And that's an order.

MALCOLM

...but we can't abandon him! It's
the Doctor! How many times has he
saved our lives? I won't let you,
ma'am. No, I simply won't!

Magambo pulls her gun out. Aims it right at Malcolm.

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

Right now, soldier.

MALCOLM

(terrified)

No, cos... You need me. You don't
even know which button.

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED:

79

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO
Transmit, F8.

Malcolm picks up his keyboard, holds it behind his back.

MALCOLM
Well, then. To get to that button.
You'll have to shoot me.

CLOSE on her; hating this, but her finger on the trigger...

CUT TO:

80 INT. BUS (PLANET) - DAY

80

THE DOCTOR's got the plate wired to the ignition with a gold wrap - CHRISTINA standing beside him - he calls out -

THE DOCTOR
This is your driver speaking!
Hold on tight!

BARCLAY
What for, what's he doing?

CHRISTINA
Just do as he says!
(to the Doctor)
What are you doing?

THE DOCTOR revs the engine.

THE DOCTOR
Come on, that's it - you can do
it, you beauty! One last trip!

Everyone holding on tight, as...

CUT TO:

81 EXT. PLANET, FX SHOT - DAY

81

FX SHOT: creaking, THE BUS RISES INTO THE AIR!

FX SHOT: WIDER, THE BUS slowly lifting, lifting, lifting...

CUT TO:

82 INT. BUS (PLANET) - DAY

82

BLUE SKY now outside the windows. ALL holding on, boggling - the broken bus creaking, straining, but holding - NATHAN, BARCLAY, ANGELA, CARMEN & LOU - terrified, but exhilarated -

BARCLAY
You are so kidding me..!

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED: 82

NATHAN
We're flying! It's flying!

LOU
(hugging Carmen)
He's flying the bus!!

ANGELA
It's a miracle!

At the front, CHRISTINA gobsmacked.

THE DOCTOR
Anti-gravity clamps! Didn't I
say? Round we go...

- and he heeeaves the wheel/plate round...

CUT TO:

83 EXT. PLANET, FX SHOT - DAY 83

FX SHOT: THE BUS slo-o-o-wly swings round, mid-air, to
face the space where the wormhole is...

CUT TO:

84 INT. BUS (PLANET) - DAY 84

CARMEN looking out of the back window - yells forward -

CARMEN
Doctor! They're coming!!

CUT TO:

85 EXT. PLANET, FX SHOT - DAY 85

FX SHOT: Carmen's back-of-bus POV, THREE STINGRAYS swooping
over the horizon - though still a distance away, the rest
of the STORM glowering and rolling way off behind them -

CUT TO:

86 INT. UNIT MOBILE HQ - NIGHT 86

CU MAGAMBO, CU MALCOLM; the GUN...

MALCOLM
I will never surrender, ma'am.
Never.

CUT TO:

87 INT. BUS (PLANET) - DAY

87

 CHRISTINA
 - is this thing gonna survive the
 journey back?

 THE DOCTOR
 Only one way to find out!

THE DOCTOR slams his foot down on the accelerator -

The Writer's Tale

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED: 87

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Next stop -

CHRISTINA
Planet Earth!

CUT TO:

88 EXT. PLANET, FX SHOT - DAY 88

FX SHOT: CLOSE on the BUS, as it ZOOMS FORWARD!

FX SHOT: WIDER, as the BUS hits the wormhole-area, the WORMHOLE-RIPPLE appearing around it, as the BUS DISAPPEARS through the now-visible wall - !

CUT TO:

89 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - NIGHT 89

FX SHOT: TUNNEL MOUTH ripples - and the BUS comes FLYING THROUGH! Flightpath curving upwards, into the sky - !

The cordon of UNIT SOLDIERS boggling - !

CUT TO:

90 INT. BUS (STUDIO) - NIGHT 90

Outside the windows: BLACK NIGHT SKY.

EVERYONE on the bus is boggling! Staring out! Light PRAC WIND blowing at them through the gaps in the bus -

BARCLAY
It's London!

ANGELA
We're back home!

NATHAN
He did it!!

THE DOCTOR's all grins, CHRISTINA too!

CUT TO:

91 INT. UNIT MOBILE HQ - NIGHT 91

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO aiming, but...

JENNER OOV
Captain! Captain! They're back!

She lowers the gun. The relief!

(CONTINUED)

91 CONTINUED: 91
 Then she runs out -
 CUT TO:

92 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - NIGHT 92
 CAPTAIN MAGAMBO runs out of Malcolm's van - looks up -
 FX: THE BUS FLIES RIGHT ABOVE!
 CUT TO:

93 OMITTED 93

94 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT, FX SHOT - NIGHT 94
 FX SHOT: (angle as 89.1) WORMHOLE RIPPLE and THREE STINGRAYS
 fly though, screeching - curving upwards -
 CUT TO:

95 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - NIGHT 95
 CAPTAIN MAGAMBO - SOLDIERS - running -
 CAPTAIN MAGAMBO
 Code Red! Fire at will!
 Lifts up her gun, fires at the sky! *Bang - bang - bang -*
 JENNER aims his gun, fires! *Bang - bang- bang -*
 CUT TO:

96 INT. BUS (STUDIO) - NIGHT 96
 THE DOCTOR - CHRISTINA at his side throughout - on the
 mobile, urgent -
 THE DOCTOR
 Malcolm! Close that wormhole!
 CUT TO:

97 INT. UNIT MOBILE HQ - NIGHT 97
 MALCOLM on the mobile -
 MALCOLM
 Yes sir! My pleasure, sir!
 He presses F8 on the keyboard -
 PRAC SPARKS, his equipment blowing up!
 MALCOLM (CONT'D)
 No no no no no - !

(CONTINUED)

97 CONTINUED: 97

Malcolm puts the phone down, panicking, grabs a little fire extinguisher off the wall, sprays it -

CUT TO:

97A INT. BUS (STUDIO) - NIGHT 97A

THE DOCTOR at the wheel, on the mobile -

THE DOCTOR
He's hung up on me!
(presses redial)
Malcolm - ?

CUT TO:

97B INT. UNIT MOBILE HQ - NIGHT 97B

MALCOLM still spraying - answers the mobile -

MALCOLM
Not now, I'm busy -
Hangs up, sprays -

CUT TO:

97C INT. BUS (STUDIO) - NIGHT 97C

THE DOCTOR
He's hung up again!
(presses redial)
Malcolm!! Listen to me!!

CUT TO:

97D INT. UNIT MOBILE HQ - NIGHT 97D

MALCOLM back on the phone -

MALCOLM
It's not working!

THE DOCTOR
I need that signal, we've got billions of those things about to fly through!

MALCOLM
What do I do, sir?

THE DOCTOR
Loop it back through the integrator, then keep the signal ramping up -

MALCOLM
By how much?

(CONTINUED)

97D CONTINUED:

97D

THE DOCTOR
500 Bernards, *do it now!!!*

Malcolm slams buttons - ie, buttons on separate equipment, not the wet, sparking stuff -

- and lots of PRAC LIGHTS ILLUMINATE, making a shrill vreeeeee noise -

MALCOLM
Oh yes!!

CUT TO:

98 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT, FX SHOT - NIGHT

98

FX: vreeeeeeee, and THE WORMHOLE RIPPLES inwards, imploding to a central point, blink, gone - !

CUT TO:

99 EXT. PLANET, FX SHOT - DAY

99

FX: vreeeeeeee, WORMHOLE RIPPLES inwards, blink, gone - just in time, as THOUSANDS OF STINGRAYS hurtle through - but just flying on, no wormhole - screeching with rage -

CUT TO:

100 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - NIGHT

100

UNIT SOLDIERS firing up -

FX: ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN FIRES, *BAM - ! BAM - ! BAM - !*

FX: ONE STINGRAY against NIGHT SKY, hit by SMALL EXPLOSIONS, screeching, dying, starting to tumble down, out of the sky -

MCMILLAN & DENNISON hide behind their POLICE CAR. Gawping!

MALCOLM comes running out. Stares up. Ohhh wow!

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO
I don't believe it, guns that work!
(to anti-aircraft)
Target at nine o'clock!

The GUN swings round, fires -

FX: *BAM - ! BAM - ! BAM - !*

CUT TO:

101 INT. BUS (STUDIO) - NIGHT

101

ALL cowering - NATHAN yelling down the bus -

(CONTINUED)

101 CONTINUED: 101

NATHAN

Doctor, it's coming for us - !

FX: seen from INSIDE THE BUS, all ducking, screaming, as a HUGE STINGRAY sweeps past the length of the windows -

THE DOCTOR spins the wheel - CHRISTINA holding on tight -

THE DOCTOR

Ohh no you don't - !

CUT TO:

102 EXT. NIGHT SKY, FX SHOT - NIGHT 102

FX; THE BUS SWINGS round, fast, as though fixed on its front axle, pivoting so the rear end HITS the STINGRAY, WHACK!! Sends it flying through the air, screeching -

CUT TO:

103 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - NIGHT 103

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

Twelve o'clock! Take it out!

FX: ANTI AIRCRAFT GUN FIRES - BAM - ! BAM - ! BAM - !

FX: THIRD STINGRAY HIT! Tumbling downwards...

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO (CONT'D)

Cease fire! Arms down!

CUT TO:

104 INT. BUS (STUDIO) - NIGHT 104

CHRISTINA

Did I say I hated you? I was lying.

And she grabs his jacket, pulls him in, Good snog. The Doctor blinking. Then she lets go.

THE DOCTOR

Do not stand forward of this point.

(at the wheel)

Ladies and gentlemen, you have reached your final destination.

Welcome home, the mighty 200!

CUT TO:

105 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - NIGHT 105

FX: and the BROKEN OLD BUS LOWERS DOWN TO THE GROUND, windscreen facing front, to CAMERA, with THE DOCTOR &

(CONTINUED)

105 CONTINUED:

105

CHRISTINA at the front, a good *whumph* and jolt as it settles.

The Writer's Tale

PRAC SMOKE hisses out from under the stationary bus.

UNIT SOLDIERS grinning. Start to clap!

CUT TO:

106 INT. BUS (LONDON) - NIGHT

106

EVERYONE clapping too! Cheering! CHRISTINA, NATHAN, BARCLAY, ANGELA, CARMEN & LOU, the sheer joy of it.

On the DOCTOR: phew!

CUT TO:

107 EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - NIGHT

107

THE DOCTOR sonics the doors so they're working again, they *hissss* open, he and CHRISTINA (minus backpack) step out, followed by BARCLAY, NATHAN, ANGELA, CARMEN & LOU -

JENNER & SOLDIERS running forward, led by officers IN WHITE-BOILER-SUIT SOCO-type outfits - grabbing hold of the passengers, leading them away from the bus, fast as they can, to line them up against a TRUCK, scanning them with buzzing GEIGER COUNTERS. Tough but fair:

JENNER

- welcome back, everyone, if you could step away from the bus, just to be safe, fast as you can, thank you - it's standard procedure, we just need to screen you, then you will all be taken for debriefing -

The Doctor just walking past, showing his psychic paper -

THE DOCTOR

I don't count -

CHRISTINA

- no, but Doctor -

JENNER

With me, thank you -

And she's hustled away - just watching the Doctor walk off -

The Doctor strolling across the tarmac, to CAPTAIN MAGAMBO, who stands waiting - but MALCOLM runs up first!

Hugs the Doctor! Won't let go!

MALCOLM

Doctor!

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED:

107

THE DOCTOR
You must be Malcolm!

The Writer's Tale

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED: (2)

107

MALCOLM

I love you. I love you. Oh, I love you. I. Love. You.

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

To your station, Doctor Taylor.

MALCOLM

Yes ma'am.

He heads off. Turns back.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

I love you.

Then he runs off. The Doctor left with Magambo.

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

(salutes)

Doctor. I salute you. Whether you like it or not. Now do I take it we're safe from those things?

THE DOCTOR

They'll start again. Generate a new doorway. Not their fault, it's a natural life cycle. But I'll see if I can nudge the wormholes on to uninhabited planets. Closer to home though, Captain, those two lads -

Looks at Nathan & Barclay, being screened by the bus.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Very good in a crisis, Nathan needs a job, Barclay's good with engines, you could do a lot worse. Privates Nathan and Barclay, UNIT's finest.

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

I'll see what I can do. And I've got something for you...

She indicates - the TARDIS is being loaded off a TRUCK.

The Doctor delighted, runs over, Magambo following.

THE DOCTOR

Better than a bus, any day! Hello!

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

Found in the gardens of Buckingham Palace.

THE DOCTOR

Oh, she doesn't mind.

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED: (3)

107

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

Now, I've got three dead alien
stingrays to clear up, don't suppose
you want to help with the paperwork?

THE DOCTOR

Not a chance!

CAPTAIN MAGAMBO

Till we meet again, Doctor.

THE DOCTOR

I hope so.

And Magambo walks away.

CUT TO Christina, being scanned by a SOCO-OFFICER. She's
watching the Doctor. Angela beside her, on her mobile -

ANGELA

I said I'm back, Suzanne, I'm home!!
(beat, then to
soldiers, delighted)
They didn't even know I was gone!

CHRISTINA

That's quite enough of that -

And she darts past the soldiers - runs for the Doctor -

Good distance away: MACMILLAN & DENNISON -

MCMILLAN

She's not getting away this time -

And they duck under the cordon, heading for Christina -

Christina reaches the Doctor, at the Tardis - but the
Doctor's brisker now, suddenly more distant.

CHRISTINA

Little blue box! Just like you
said! Right then - off we go!
Come on, Doctor, show me the stars!

THE DOCTOR

Nope.

CHRISTINA

...what?

THE DOCTOR

I said no.

CHRISTINA

But I saved your life. And you
saved mine.

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED: (4)

107

THE DOCTOR

So?

CHRISTINA

We're surrounded by police. I'll
go to prison.

The Writer's Tale

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED: (5)

107

THE DOCTOR

Yep.

CHRISTINA

But you were right, it's not about the money, I only steal things for the adventure, and today, with you... I want more days like this. I want every day to be like this. We're made for each other, you said so yourself. The perfect team.

(pause. Then, quiet:)
Why not?

THE DOCTOR

People have travelled with me. And I've lost them. I lost them all. Never again.

And MCMILLAN & SGT DENNISON are there - Dennison snapping cuffs on her wrists - Christina just looking at the Doctor -

MCMILLAN

Lady Christina de Souza! Oh, I've waited a long time to say this! I am arresting you on suspicion of theft. You do not have to say anything, etcetera! Dennison, take her away!

And they frogmarch her away, across the tarmac.

Christina looking back, at the Doctor. Imploring.

But he just stands by the Tardis. Watching her go.

And then, quietly...

CARMEN

Doctor?

He turns - good distance away, CARMEN & LOU are being led away for debriefing by a (friendly) UNIT SOLDIER. But Carmen is staring at the Doctor; haunted, and so wise:

CARMEN (CONT'D)

You take care, now.

THE DOCTOR

And you! Chops and gravy, lovely!

CARMEN

No, but you be careful. Because your song is ending, sir.

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED: (6)

107

THE DOCTOR

...what do you mean?

CARMEN

It is returning. It is returning
through the dark. And then,
Doctor... Ohh, but then...

(pause)

He will knock four times.

And she turns away, so sad. Walks away with Lou...

The Doctor staring.

So many things turning in his head, now.

And slowly, he turns and looks...

Good distance away: the POLICE CAR has pulled up. MCMILLAN
& DENNISON are putting CHRISTINA in the back seat...

And the Doctor holds up the sonic.

Whirrs.

CU on Christina's handcuffs, snapping undone -

As she gets into the car -

- then gets out of the other side! Running!!

MCMILLAN

Stop that woman! Stop her!!

- Christina running - and she's heading for the bus -

- and she leaps inside! (The bus stands alone, all the
passengers & soldiers having been moved away, now.)

She slams the button -

McMillan and Dennison run up, as the doors *hiss* closed -
they bang on the doors -

MCMILLAN (CONT'D)

I'll add resisting arrest!

THE DOCTOR

I'd stand back, if I were you.

MCMILLAN

(at the Doctor)

And I'm charging you, too! Aiding
and abetting!

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED: (7)

107

THE DOCTOR

Yes, I'll just step inside this
police box and arrest myself.

Christina at the wheel, big smile, turns it -

McMillan and Dennison blasted back by PRAC SMOKE -

FX: AND THE BUS SLOWLY RISES! Just a few feet...

MAGAMBO watching, at a distance, with MALCOLM and JENNER,
and ANGELA, BARCLAY, NATHAN. All smiling. Angela cheering!

The Doctor loving it!

Doors *hisss* open. Christina looks down at the Doctor.

CHRISTINA

We could've been so good together.

THE DOCTOR

Christina. We were.

And she smiles. Then spins the wheel -

FX: THE BUS lifts into the sky, then ZOOMS AWAY, gone - !

The Doctor turns away, unlocks the Tardis door, heading
inside. And he's laughing!

END OF EPISODE 4.15

*