

DOCTOR WHO

SERIES 10

EPISODE 3

"Thin Ice"

by

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PINK SCRIPT

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(SHOOTING BLOCK 2)

1 **EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 14.30** 1

We pick up where we left off. BILL boggles at the elephant. The ice. The noisy, cheerful REVELLERS in period dress. Blackfriars Bridge. St Paul's on the foggy skyline. Snow falling.

BILL

Okay. So I have questions.

THE DOCTOR licks a finger, checks the air and tastes it. Worry confirmed, he disappears inside.

CUT TO:

2 **INT. TARDIS - DAY 15 - 14.30** 2

BILL enters, in awe. THE DOCTOR is busy at the console.

BILL

You didn't tell me we could travel to parallel worlds!

THE DOCTOR

Not a parallel world.

BILL

But that's London...

THE DOCTOR

Our London. The last great Frost Fair, 1814. February 4th.

Disbelieving, BILL returns to the doors.

CUT TO:

3 **EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 14.30** 3

BILL sticks her head out of the TARDIS again. Yep. London's still frozen, still snowing. The distant sound of an elephant trumpeting.

CUT TO:

4 **INT. TARDIS - DAY 15 - 14.30** 4

THE DOCTOR races around the console, consulting read-outs, making sure nothing's wrong, talking to the TARDIS -

THE DOCTOR

Why here? You *know* here. You ought to be sick of here by now.

BILL reenters.

BILL

The Thames froze over and they
walked an elephant across it?? No
wonder people died so young in the
past, they're a bunch of -

(realising)

Hang on, why aren't we home? Can't
you steer this thing?

THE DOCTOR powers up the TARDIS. They're on the move.

THE DOCTOR

I told you. You don't steer the
TARDIS, you reason with it.

BILL

How?

THE DOCTOR

Unsuccessfully, most of the time.
She's a bad girl, this one, always
looking for trouble. Being stuck in
the corner of my office isn't her
idea of a party and she doesn't
want to go back.

The TARDIS lands with a jolt and powers down again.

BILL

Wait, hang on - the TARDIS is a
living thing?

THE DOCTOR

Don't call her that.

BILL

Why not?

THE DOCTOR

She's a machine. She finds it
offensive.

BILL follows THE DOCTOR to the doors.

CONTINUOUS TO:

EXT. BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE - DAY 15 - 14.31

Following THE DOCTOR outside, BILL stops short -

BILL

Whoa.

They're up on the bridge and the view is awesome. The Thames
is frozen solid and the snow is swirling. The city peeks out
over the fog. Crowds mill on the ice amid a village of tents
and fires in barrels.

THE DOCTOR

The last day before the thaw.
Thought we'd better find a more
reliable parking spot.

She's suddenly nervous.

BILL

You... You want to go out there?

THE DOCTOR

You don't?

BILL

It's 1814.

THE DOCTOR

Yep.

BILL

(points to own face)
Melanin.

THE DOCTOR

Yes.

BILL

Slavery is still totally a thing.

THE DOCTOR

Yes, it is.

BILL

Won't it be dangerous out there?

THE DOCTOR

Definitely dangerous.

BILL

So how do we stay out of trouble?

THE DOCTOR

I'm really not the person to ask.

BILL

But do we just go like this? Don't
you have, I dunno, equipment,
weapons - okay not weapons - but
when you go somewhere dangerous,
what do you take?

The Doctor points back into the TARDIS.

THE DOCTOR

First left, second right, third on
the left, go straight ahead, under
the stairs, past the bins, fifth
door on your left.

BILL
What's there?

THE DOCTOR
The wardrobe. Pick a dress.

Bill considers, grins.

BILL
So the TARDIS has dresses and likes
a bit of trouble?? I think I'm low-
key in love with her.

THE DOCTOR
Me too.

They start heading back in - as they go:

BILL
What kind of trouble does she look
for?

As she hurries in after him, we pull away... and drop over the edge of the bridge, down between the arches, lower and lower, through the crowd, plunging into the ice itself... and then into the dark water below, and all the way down to the dark sludge of the riverbed. Why are we here? What's so special about the river floor? But then there's a twitch of movement. Light glints off something big and round and black. The murk clears a little, and we realise that what we're looking at is looking right back at us. It's an eye! A huge eye. A fish's eye. Ancient and knowing and desperately sad. And the fish it belongs to must be enormous, because the eye alone is about six foot across...

TITLES

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK ALLEY - DAY 15 - 14.45

A quiet corner, dark and forbidding. The snow has stopped. POV on a sweet urchin girl, KITTY, 15, shivering from cold, dwarfed by shadows.

We move closer. KITTY hears footsteps and looks up, wary.

KITTY
Who's there?

A beat, and then the owner of the POV steps out of the dark. DOWELL is huge and shady-looking, a wall of muscle. A tattoo of a ship on the back of his left hand.

KITTY (CONT'D)
You're late.

6

KITTY's not scared after all. Nor is she sweet. She puts out a hand and - *clink* - DOWELL drops some coins into it.

KITTY (CONT'D)
And? Where's the rest?

DOWELL
Get the numbers up by sunset
tomorrow, you earn the other half.

He gives her a stack of printed flyers, advertising the Fair.

KITTY
Why do you care about the Frost
Fair? You let your pockets to the
Watermen or summat?

DOWELL
You want the rest? You get people
out on the ice and you don't ask
questions.

KITTY scowls but lets it drop. The money's more important.

CUT TO:

7

EXT. BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE - DAY 15 - 15.07

7

One of the flyers is shoved into the hands of a passing LADY by another urchin girl, HARRIET, 9.

HARRIET
Come to the Frost Fair, Miss!

A cheeky-looking urchin boy in a red cap, SPIDER, 9, and another boy, PERRY, 11, also hand out flyers to PASSERS-BY.

We see KITTY nearby, keeping a protective eye on her gang of kids. A tiny urchin girl, DOT, 6, sticks close by her side.

SPIDER
A real live elephant, sir! You
won't believe your eyes!

CUT TO:

BILL and THE DOCTOR make their way through the crowd in warm, era-appropriate clothes (THE DOCTOR wears a hat). BILL's hyped, enjoying her new outfit and excited by everything... but also a little skittish. Wary of interacting with anyone.

BILL
So what are the rules?

THE DOCTOR
The rules?

BILL

Travel into the past. There's gotta be rules. If I step on a butterfly, could it send ripples through time that mean I'm never born in the first place and I just disappear?

THE DOCTOR

Oh, yeah, definitely. That's what happened to Pete.

BILL

Pete?

THE DOCTOR

Yeah, your friend, Pete. He was standing there a moment ago, but he stepped on a butterfly and now you don't even remember him.

BILL

Shut up, I'm being serious.

THE DOCTOR

So was Pete.

Across the crowd, KITTY spots the Doctor, sizing him up. She whispers in DOT's ear. DOT nods and plunges into the crowd.

BILL

You know what I mean. Every choice I make in this moment, here and now could change the whole future.

THE DOCTOR

Yes. Exactly like every other day of your life. The only thing to do is to stop worrying about it.

BILL

If you say so.

THE DOCTOR

Pete's stopped worrying.

THE DOCTOR stops to buy roast chestnuts at the top of the stairs from a STALLHOLDER. DOT pops out of the crowd and offers BILL a flyer.

DOT

Come to the Frost Fair, Miss. Only a sixpence, Miss.

BILL

(stunned by the cuteness)
Oh my god.

7

DOT's still holding out the flyer. But now BILL's hand hovers in hesitation -

THE DOCTOR smiles, realising what she's worrying about.

THE DOCTOR
You're not stepping on a butterfly.
You're just taking flyer.

DOT looks between them, confused. BILL takes the flyer, just a little gingerly.

THE DOCTOR gives DOT the chestnuts, then puts his hat on her head. DOT giggles as it swallows up half her face.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
(to Bill)
It's just time travel. Don't over think it.

BILL
Is that what you said to Pete?

THE DOCTOR
Who's Pete?

THE DOCTOR grabs her hand and drags her onwards.

CUT TO:

8

EXT. THAMES RIVERBANK - DAY 15 - 15.10

8

Banners declare 'This way to Freezeland Street' and 'Get your Frost Fair souvenirs on the ice!'. BILL and THE DOCTOR join a queue leading to the river, where WATERMEN charge for entry.

THE WATERMAN
Sixpence to the Waterman! Sixpence
for the Frost Fair!

BILL hands over her coin, buzzing with excitement. She races down to the very last step and stops. This is special. She puts her foot out over the Hessian sack spread over the ice. One foot onto the ice. Then another.

BILL
No big deal. Just walking on the Thames.

THE DOCTOR enjoys her enjoyment.

BILL (CONT'D)
I hope you realise I'm going to try everything. *Everything.*

9

OMITTED (MERGED WITH SC. 8)

9

10 **EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 15.15** 10

A busy cross-section of stalls. Noisy STALLHOLDERS hawking.

 STALLHOLDER 1
Tasty ox cheek, piping hot!

 STALLHOLDER 2
Lapland Mutton! Lapland Mutton,
cooked right on the ice!

 STALLHOLDER 3
Get your sheep hearts here! Juicy,
juicy sheep hearts!

THE DOCTOR approaches BILL, eagerly carrying a tower of assorted pies. But then he sees BILL's face... She looks ill.

 BILL
Maybe not everything.

 THE DOCTOR
Oh go on. Try this one at least.
It's my favourite.

 BILL
Your favourite? You've been here
before?

 THE DOCTOR
Oh yes. A few times.

What??

CUT TO:

11 **EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 15.25** 11

THE DOCTOR and BILL exit a tent carrying steaming coffees, each cup hand-painted: 'Bought upon the River Thames, 1814'. BILL's trying to make sense of the Doctor's explanation -

 BILL
You had to find a piano?

 THE DOCTOR
Yes.

 BILL
And get it down onto the ice?

 THE DOCTOR
Under the bridge over there, yes.

 BILL
But why??

THE DOCTOR

My wife wanted to see Stevie
Wonder. It seemed like a romantic
spot.

BILL stares. She doesn't even know where to start with that.
THE DOCTOR spots a SWORD-SWALLOWER on an upturned boat
nearby. Oooh! He moves off. Then, finally -

BILL

Wait. You're *married*??

THE DOCTOR

I know - the good ones are always
taken.

She hurries after him.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 15.35

THE DOCTOR and BILL at the front of a noisy, cheering crowd.
BILL's laughing and screaming with the rest of them.

BILL

Throw him! Throw him!

Two WRESTLERS are engaged in a very slippery wrestling match.
SLAM! One of them throws the other to the ice.

BILL (CONT'D)

Yes!! Get in!

THE DOCTOR

Of course it's not really wrestling
unless it's in zero gravity.

BILL

Seriously?

THE DOCTOR

With tentacles.

BILL

Okay.

THE DOCTOR

And magic spells.

BILL laughs, looks around the watching crowd - she's noting
that they're not all white.

BILL

Interesting.

THE DOCTOR

What is?

BILL

Regency London. Bit more black than they show in the movies.

THE DOCTOR

Yeah, so was Jesus. History's a whitewash.

CUT TO:

INT. TENT 2, THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 15.52

A game of skittles. BILL throws... And knocks down every pin! ONLOOKERS erupt into wild cheers. THE DOCTOR's impressed.

BILL

Pub champion, two years running.

BILL sees something out of the corner of her eye, and turns - There's a glowing dot of green light, floating down under the ice.

THE DOCTOR hasn't seen it. He's distracted by the hat on a GENTLEMAN who's just entered the tent.

THE DOCTOR

Ooh. I like that.

BILL looks up and around - is the light being caused by something above the ice? No. She looks down again.

BILL

Doctor...

But THE DOCTOR is trying to covertly steal the man's hat.

As BILL watches, the faint glowing light starts to move. It crosses beneath her and disappears out the side of the tent.

BILL blinks. Everything's back to normal, and no one else in the tent noticed a thing. Did she imagine it?

THE DOCTOR

What's wrong?

He's wearing the other man's hat now. Rather pleased.

BILL

(sniffs at her cup)
I'm not entirely sure this is just coffee.

CUT TO:

14 **EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 15.54** 14

BILL and THE DOCTOR pass through the crowd.

 THE PIE-MAN (V.O.)
 Try your luck, ladies and
 gentlemen! Toss for a pie!

CUT TO:

15 **INT. TENT 3, THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 15.54** 15

Signs declare 'Toss for a pie!', 'The best fish pie on the ice', 'Chosen by Jack Frost himself!'.
BILL hands a coin to the cheerful PIE MAN.

 THE PIE-MAN
 Heads the pie is yours, no charge.

He flips the coin and catches it on the back of his hand.
Tails. THE DOCTOR is fascinated.

 THE PIE-MAN (CONT'D)
 Better luck next time, Miss.

He hands her a delicious-looking pie.

 BILL
 And you're sure this isn't cow
 brains or sheep eyes or...

 THE PIE-MAN
 Caught the fish myself, Miss. Made
 it right here in the -
 (to the Doctor)
 Oy! What are you about?

THE DOCTOR is checking THE PIE-MAN's sleeves.

 THE DOCTOR
 Do that again. Toss the coin.

 THE PIE-MAN
 Pay me another and I will!

THE DOCTOR hands over another coin.

 THE DOCTOR
 Forget the pie, I don't want pie. I
 just want to see how you cheated.

 PIE-MAN
 Cheated??

THE PIE-MAN scoffs, affronted. BILL is amused as she bites into her pie - it's good. But then she notices it...

The faint glowing green light under the ice. It's back.

BILL

Doctor...

THE DOCTOR

Don't look like that. I'm saying you're a very good con-artist.

THE PIE-MAN

(doesn't know that term)

I'm a what??

BILL takes a step closer to the light. It glides away.

THE DOCTOR

A trickster. A swindler. A pie-fraud.

The dot of light is joined by a second dot. They weave a lazy circle and disappear out beyond the perimeter of the tent.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Bit of a thief myself. Bet you I could steal anything from your shop.

BILL hurries out the door to investigate.

CONTINUOUS TO:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 15.55

BILL bursts out of the tent, pie in hand. Races around the side to look for the lights.

There's no sign of them.

THE DOCTOR is thrown out of the tent by the angry PIE-MAN, crashing to the ground.

THE DOCTOR

In theory! I could steal anything in *theory!*

BILL now helping THE DOCTOR back to his feet -

BILL

Doctor -

THE DOCTOR
Honestly, some people!
(Produces pies from each
pocket)
Want more pie?

BILL
Are there side-effects to time
travel? Like, physical symptoms?

THE DOCTOR
Yeah, sometimes you see lights
under ice.

Bill: registers he's taking the piss.

BILL
Okay, so you've seen the lights.

THE DOCTOR
Of course.

BILL
Why didn't you say something?

THE DOCTOR
You were having fun. I assumed we'd
get to work eventually.

CUT TO:

17 **EXT. OUTER EDGES, THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 16.00** 17

The outer perimeter of the fair. No tents, fewer people. Fog.

The two green lights reappear under the feet of a SKATING
COUPLE. The lights circle beneath them, going unnoticed.

The SKATING COUPLE glide away, back to the crowds.

The lights move towards a DRUNK MAN. He walks unsteadily,
whistling a tune. He spots them crossing under him,
delighted.

More lights appear. There's five or six of them now. They
circle around the DRUNK MAN.

Then they move off... Away from the tents, towards the foggy
expanse in the middle of the ice...

The DRUNK MAN follows them, whistling his tune, right past a
sign, propped up against a barrel - *DANGER! THIN ICE*

CUT TO:

KITTY

He's small and brown and ever so soft.

THE DOCTOR

Sure about that?

KITTY looks surprised. That's not usually in the script.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

That collar's for a *big* dog.
(picking a strand of hair)
With long white hair.
(grins)
Nice con. Respect.

KITTY

RUN!

THE DOCTOR is ready - he spins and grabs SPIDER's arm. SPIDER gasps. In his hand: the sonic screwdriver!

KITTY kicks THE DOCTOR in the leg. Hard. *Ow!!* SPIDER yanks free and bolts away, sonic in hand.

THE DOCTOR launches after him. BILL makes a grab for KITTY but she's off in the other direction. BILL thinks fast - who to follow??

She races off after the Doctor, pushing into the crowd.

CUT TO:

20

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 16.08

20

SPIDER sprints between the rows of tents, ducking and weaving through the crowd. He risks a look over his shoulder -

A glimpse of THE DOCTOR in the distance, struggling through the crowd, getting in people's way.

A grin of relief from SPIDER, but then - a hand grabs him!

CONTINUOUS TO:

21

INT. TENT 1, THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 16.08

21

KITTY yanks SPIDER inside the tent, scanning the crowd outside. SPIDER's distracted, busy inspecting the sonic.

SPIDER

What is it, do you think?

KITTY
Something valuable. Don't break it.

CUT TO:

22 **EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 16.08** 22

BILL catches up to THE DOCTOR as he pushes through the crowd.

THE DOCTOR
What happened to the girl?

BILL
Does it matter? The boy's the one
with your magic wand.

THE DOCTOR
Sonic screwdriver.

BILL
How is that a screwdriver?

THE DOCTOR
In a very broad sense.

BILL
How is it sonic?

THE DOCTOR
It makes a noise. Chase now,
criticise later?

BILL
Got it.

As they turn, they spot them: KITTY and SPIDER, off in the distance, slipping out of the tent they were hiding in.

KITTY spots them too! She grabs Spider's hand and bolts off again. THE DOCTOR and BILL give chase!

CUT TO:

23 **EXT. OUTER EDGES, THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 16.09** 23

KITTY and SPIDER race away from the tents and out onto the empty ice. Sprinting for the safety of the fog.

SPIDER skids to a stop, astonished. He's seen them -

Two glowing green lights, down low under the ice, slowly weaving.

Up ahead, KITTY realises Spider's not following her.

KITTY
Spider! Come on!

Reluctant, SPIDER tears himself away and follows her.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE FROZEN THAMES - DAY 15 - 16.10

SPIDER follows KITTY. Up ahead, she disappears into the fog. The lights glide under SPIDER's feet and out in front of him. He stops with a surprised laugh. They circle him, playful.

SPIDER
Kitty! Come look!

CUT TO:

In the thick of fog, KITTY turns back. Frustrated.

Through the swirling fog, she catches glimpses of him: SPIDER, walking with his head down, entranced.

KITTY
They'll catch you and have you transported! Is that what you want?

KITTY's gaze flits back towards the tents. Oh no!

BILL and THE DOCTOR, in the distance, emerging from the fair.

KITTY (CONT'D)
Spider!! Quick!

CUT TO:

We're with BILL and THE DOCTOR. They spot him up ahead - SPIDER, head down, walking slowly into the fog.

THE DOCTOR
The lights! He's seen the lights.

THE DOCTOR puts on speed, BILL swift on his heels.

CUT TO:

We're back with SPIDER. Suddenly, the lights stop playing and settle in a circle around him, revolving round and around.

SPIDER's smile fades. Uncertain now, he backs away. The lights follow him. The circle tightens.

The lights intensify, burning bright white.

SPIDER

Kitty...?

CUT TO:

KITTY is racing back towards him, damn the risks. She can see the lights now, and she's worried.

KITTY

Spider!

CUT TO:

BILL and THE DOCTOR race towards him from the other side. A horrible cracking sound. Then, through the fog -

A cut-off scream. SPIDER drops down through the ice with a splash, like a trap door opened beneath him.

KITTY freezes, horrified.

BILL and THE DOCTOR too.

A crackling sound, like ice reforming. The fog parts and we see it -

SPIDER's arm, sticking out of the ice, still holding the sonic. The lights are gone and the ice has refrozen around him. The image is horrible and absurd.

THE DOCTOR steps forward -

THE DOCTOR

Stay back.

All at once, the lights surge back up under the ice. Intensely bright, surrounding the arm.

The ice thins and dissolves. The arm drops into the water the sonic held aloft!

THE DOCTOR, BILL and KITTY race forward -

But it re-freezes in a snap. No sign of Spider. No lights. Just the sonic, half frozen in the ice. THE DOCTOR skids down to his knees and pulls the sonic out, the ice thickening before their eyes.

BILL staring at the ice - total horror. Never seen anyone die before. Looks to THE DOCTOR.

And oh my God! He's checking his screwdriver, dusting the ice off, flicking it on and off.

He glances at her - held by her scorching look.

BILL

Save him.

THE DOCTOR
I can't. He's gone.

BILL
So do something and *save him!*

THE DOCTOR, about to retort -

- but he sees a distraught KITTY slipping away! He lunges after her, grabbing her arm.

THE DOCTOR
I'm sorry about your friend, but the danger isn't over. There must be more of you living rough here - show me where.

KITTY
So you can take us to the Magistrate?

THE DOCTOR
Of course not. We're not here to arrest you, we're here to help. And if you show us where you're living, we can do that.

KITTY
"We"? She's gone!

THE DOCTOR spins, looks -

- and Bill has vanished. THE DOCTOR looking round, wildly. Where the hell did she go??

In that moment, KITTY slips from his grip and runs for it.

THE DOCTOR, alone, flailing in both directions. Damn it, damn it, *damn it!*

CUT TO:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 16.15

BILL, behind one of the tents, alone. Catching her breath. She's shaking, angry, shocked. A movement makes her turn.

THE DOCTOR, standing a few feet from her.

BILL
How did you find me?

THE DOCTOR
Get used to that question.

BILL
Oh, clever, very clever.

THE DOCTOR

What's wrong?

BILL

What's wrong?? Seriously, what's wrong?? *I've never seen anyone die before.*

THE DOCTOR

A few hours ago we were standing in a garden, full of dead people.

BILL

That was different.

THE DOCTOR

How?

BILL

They were dead already.

THE DOCTOR

Morally and practically, that's not a useful distinction - unlearn it.

BILL

Don't tell me what to do!

THE DOCTOR

I'm your teacher, telling you things is what I do.

BILL

Then tell me this. You've seen people die before, yeah?

THE DOCTOR

Of course.

BILL

Still care?

THE DOCTOR

Of course I care.

BILL

How many?

THE DOCTOR

How many what?

BILL

If you care so much, tell me how many people you've seen die?

THE DOCTOR

I don't know.

BILL

Okay. How many before you lost count?

THE DOCTOR

I care, Bill, but I move on.

BILL

Yeah? How quickly?

THE DOCTOR

It's not me you're angry with.

BILL

Have you ever killed anyone?

The question stops him dead.

BILL (CONT'D)

Because there's a look in your eyes sometimes, makes me wonder - have you?

THE DOCTOR

...there are... situations where the options are limited -

BILL

Not what I asked.

THE DOCTOR

Sometimes there are no good choices, but you still have to choose -

BILL

Not what I asked.

THE DOCTOR

Yes.

BILL

How many?

Silence from the Doctor.

BILL (CONT'D)

Don't tell me. You moved on.

THE DOCTOR

You know what happens if you don't move on? More people die. There are kids living rough near here, they may well be next on the menu. Do you want to help me, or just carry on stamping your foot?

(MORE)

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Because I'll tell you something -
I'm two thousand years old and I've
never found the time for the luxury
of outrage.

BILL, staring at him - part of her thinking, two thousand
years. Then her eyes settle on something over his shoulder.

He turns.

KITTY, watching them. Grim.

KITTY

What do you mean "on the menu"?

CUT TO:

INT. CONDEMNED BUILDING - EVENING 15 - 17.00

A dark and grimy hovel. Water dripping. An aura of rats.

BILL and THE DOCTOR exchange a concerned look as KITTY lifts
away a pallet of wood and gestures them through.

BILL has to crouch down and gather her skirts to squeeze in.

CUT TO:

INT. KITTY'S HOME - EVENING 15 - 17.00

BILL and THE DOCTOR emerge into a dark and dingy one-room
hovel, full of scavenged junk. No sign of life. Just a few
tendrils of smoke rising from burnt wood in the grate, like a
fire was just hastily extinguished. KITTY replaces the
pallet, surveys the room.

KITTY

Good work. Except you, Dot. I can
see your shoes.

PERRY (O.C.)

Told you!

DOT (O.C.)

They're too big, that's why!

BILL and THE DOCTOR watch with interest as HARRIET, PERRY,
DOT emerge from their hiding places. They eye the visitors
warily. DOT's still wearing the Doctor's hat.

THE DOCTOR

Ah! You!

(to Kitty)

I see how it is. You lure people to
the fair and then you rob them.
Very good. Very enterprising.

(CONTINUED)

DOT hides in KITTY's skirts as KITTY sets some water to boil.

KITTY

They're all right, Dot. Strange.
But all right.
(to Doctor)
And that's not how it is.

THE DOCTOR

Oh? You *don't* rob people?

BILL's unsettled, looking around at the appalling conditions.

KITTY

'Course we do. But bringing people
to the fair - that's by-the-by. On
the side, like.

THE DOCTOR

Why?

KITTY

Why? For coin, of course. Why else?

THE DOCTOR

Someone *pays* you to promote the
fair? To get people onto the ice?

KITTY nods. THE DOCTOR knows he's onto something now.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Who? Who pays you?

HARRIET

Kitty? Where's Spider?

That halts the conversation. The kids are all looking up at
KITTY and she's at a loss - how is she going to tell them?
BILL's heart breaks for her. For all of them.

KITTY

Spider is... He...

THE DOCTOR

Food! Food's always helpful. I'm
hungry. Who's hungry?

He's pulling pies from his pockets, tossing them to the kids.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

I know what you're thinking, but
don't worry. These are all stolen.
(To Bill)
Bill? *Food*.

He nudges her. BILL shakes herself. Remembers. She retrieves
some leftover gingerbread from her coat pocket, unwraps it.

The kids - none of them eating their pies yet, all waiting.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

(to Kitty)

With your permission, of course.

KITTY nods, and the younger kids (waiting for her say so) fall on the pie and gingerbread. KITTY gives THE DOCTOR a look of thanks, grateful for the brief reprieve.

CUT TO:

OMITTED

INT. KITTY'S HOME - NIGHT 15 - 19.30

The fire in the grate is lit properly now, roaring with warmth. THE DOCTOR's sat with the younger kids as they eat, telling a wild story. HARRIET, PERRY and DOT are all rapt.

BILL sits with KITTY, separate from the others. BILL's still struggling to absorb just how grim this "home" is. If she'd been born in this time, this would've been her childhood too.

KITTY

Done staring yet?

BILL

Sorry.

(after a moment)

How old are you?

KITTY shrugs, and BILL's heart breaks for her.

BILL (CONT'D)

You don't know how old you are?

KITTY

Why'd you care? You want to send me to the workhouse?

BILL

Course not, it's just... Where I'm from, if kids don't have families, they're not left on their own. Not for long.

KITTY

Not on my own, am I.

BILL

No, you're not. All I mean is... Isn't there anyone who can help?

KITTY

Help how? I put my hand out, they'd
have me locked up before they took
my name. What'd happen to this lot
then?

DOT and PERRY are giggling at THE DOCTOR's story. Even wary
HARRIET can't fight a small grin.

KITTY (CONT'D)

They need me.
(quiet)
Spider needed me.

BILL

Kitty, that wasn't your fault.

KITTY's not convinced.

BILL (CONT'D)

We'll find out what those things
are, okay? They're not gonna get
anyone else, I promise.

In Kitty's experience, promises from adults don't mean much.

BILL (CONT'D)

I *promise*. The Doctor - he helps
people. That's what he does.

KITTY

And you? What do you do? Apart from
shout at him?

BILL, stung by this. Looks over at THE DOCTOR - who
momentarily catches her eye, looks away.

BILL

We were just fighting. It happens.

KITTY

Are you still fighting now?

BILL

(considers)
No. I moved on.

THE DOCTOR 's gaze flicks towards her again, like he's
nervously checking if she's still angry.

She sticks her tongue out at him.

THE DOCTOR, the faintest smile -

- and we cut closer on him, as he resumes talking to the
kids.

THE DOCTOR

Okay. I'm willing to bet at least one of you knows who paid Kitty to get people out on the ice.

DOT

It was the bad man. With the ship.

HARRIET

Dottie.

HARRIET'S look: *shhh*. They don't tell secrets to strangers.

THE DOCTOR

I see. A ship. So he's a merchant?

PERRY

Not that kind of ship.
(off Harriet's look)
What? Kitty said he's alright.

PERRY looks to KITTY for confirmation. She and BILL are just joining the circle.

KITTY

It's all right. You can tell him.

DOT

It's a drawing. Here. On his hand.

THE DOCTOR

A tattoo? He has a tattoo of a ship?

PERRY and DOT nod.

BILL

So this guy - where would we find him?

HARRIET

He finds us.

BILL

But a tattoo on his hand - we can ask around, right?

THE DOCTOR

Oh, that sounds boring.
(springing to his feet)
And I can think of something much easier to find.

BILL

Where are we going?

THE DOCTOR

Right, you lot. Hang tight! Later.

29

He sweeps out, BILL catching up. As they go:

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
I was being a bit "down with the
kids" there, did you notice?

BILL
My *hair* is cringing.

THE DOCTOR
Awesome!

BILL
Please stop.

CUT TO:

30

EXT. LONDON STREET - NIGHT 15 - 19.35

30

BILL and THE DOCTOR head back out into the stinging cold.

BILL
So what's easier to find?

THE DOCTOR
Oh, come on! Conjecture: there's
something under the frozen Thames
and it's eating people.

BILL
Okay.

THE DOCTOR
Proposal: we need a closer look it.

BILL
Good, yeah.

THE DOCTOR
Plan: let's get eaten.

Big DOCTOR grin, and off he strides. BILL stares after him.
What??

CUT TO:

31

EXT. THAMES RIVERBANK - NIGHT 15 - 20.20

31

THE DOCTOR and BILL pull a cart full of heavy old diving
equipment towards the river. BILL's freaking out a little at
the big bubble-headed diving helmets.

BILL
Is this stuff safe?

THE DOCTOR
Potentially.

BILL
Potentially?? What's *potentially*
mean?

THE DOCTOR
Safe with a frisson of excitement.

BILL quails.

BILL
But we're not gonna be completely
defenceless down there, right?

THE DOCTOR
No, no, no. Well, yes. But don't
worry about it.

BILL
Why not? What have you got up your
sleeve? Oh my god, have you been
holding out on me? Do you have,
like, magical alien powers?
(off his look)
Was that an impolite question?

CUT TO:

The light of two glowing lanterns, glimpsed through the fog:
BILL and THE DOCTOR face away from each other, walking in
opposite directions as they watch for movement beneath the
ice. They wear the huge heavy old bubble-headed diving suits,
connected to a hefty air unit via long coils of tubing.

THE DOCTOR
Whatever they are, they're clever.
They knew to go for the boy when he
was away from the crowds, off by
himself.

BILL cranes around.

BILL
(loud)
What? Did you say something?

Her raised voice reverberates in her helmet, but THE DOCTOR
keeps on walking. He can't hear her, busy talking to himself.

THE DOCTOR
The question is, *how*? I wonder if
it's sound. Vibrations through the
ice.

BILL makes a cumbersome turn to follow the Doctor. Behind her, the lights appear! Three of them. Then four. BILL clomps on, oblivious.

Then, a solitary light appears in front of her. BILL freezes.

BILL
Doctor? Doctor!

No response. THE DOCTOR trudges on, his back turned.

BILL watches as a second light joins the first. Together, the two lights weave around behind her.

BILL turns to watch their progress... And her face falls.

There's now a huge mass of lights behind her!

BILL (CONT'D)
DOCTOR!!

All in a rush, the lights swarm beneath her. BILL swings her lantern and hurls it as hard as she can -

The lantern soars through the air -

And hits THE DOCTOR'S back. He turns to see BILL dropping through a hole in the ice!

THE DOCTOR moves, as fast as he can in his heavy suit.

The dark circle of water where Bill dropped through starts freezing over, the ice closing in around her oxygen tube. THE DOCTOR nears the spot just as -

The ice begins to thicken white -

THE DOCTOR leaps and -

CRASH!

He cannonballs through the weak spot, smashing down through the ice.

CUT TO:

THE DOCTOR drops down through a riot of bubbles and broken ice, falling fast through the dark water in his heavy suit.

CUT TO:

THE DOCTOR's feet land heavily on the riverbed. There's only dim light through the murk, from the fires up on the ice above. THE DOCTOR turns on the light of his sonic...

And we see BILL, stood not far from him. Phew! She's okay. She's talking at a rate of knots, gesticulating wildly.

THE DOCTOR

I can't hear you! Slow down.

They can each only hear themselves, not each other. BILL mouths "LOOK!" and points above them. He looks.

Above them swims a school of creepy-looking deep-sea fish, minding their own business. The species looks like a cross between a fleshy blob-fish and an anglerfish, only without the big toothy mouth. Similar to the anglerfish, the most prominent feature is a long growth stemming from the head like a fishing lure, bulbous at the end.

As the DOCTOR watches, a couple of the ends glow faintly, then fade to dark again.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Bioluminescence! But not only that. Calcification too, to melt the ice. Fascinating.

BILL

Why aren't they trying to eat us?

THE DOCTOR: *WHAT?*

An eye-roll from BILL, then she does a little mime. One finger is a person. The other hand comes along like a big chomping mouth and eats the person up. Oh no! Then BILL makes an exaggerated confused "huh??" shrug with her hands out.

THE DOCTOR

Good point! They don't have the jaws for a carnivore. So why get us down here if not for food? What do they want?

Then, a noise. A pained, sonorous moaning, all around them. So loud it almost seems to vibrate in the water.

BILL

What's that??

THE DOCTOR swings his sonic around, trying to find the source. BILL swallows, emotional. It's a desperately sad, mournful sound and it's getting right under her skin. Then -

She sees something catch the light on the riverbed below. A huge thick metal chain, running bank to bank.

It's old: rusted and covered in barnacles and slime. Now that BILL looks, we see *multiple* chains crisscrossing the river.

THE DOCTOR trails his light along one of the chains and we follow it over to the side of the riverbank -

- where it connects into the wall, solid and immoveable.

BILL (CONT'D)
What the...?

A slow clanking and creaking sound starts up. BILL startles - the chains are shifting!

Beneath them, a tectonic movement in the riverbed! BILL and THE DOCTOR are suddenly unsteady on their feet.

The mournful sound cuts out and there's a huge burst of bubbles as -

- a crack ruptures open in the riverbed. It stretches and widens into a great gaping hole in the ground. Within: fathomless blackness. A deep rumbling and gurgling sound.

BILL and THE DOCTOR are bewildered as -

From the black depths comes a fresh eruption of bubbles and a huge lump of... *something*. It floats up from the crevice and begins to break apart. Tiny particles and big lumps. Familiar objects: odd shoes, a boot, fob watch, crushed pair of spectacles, and Spider's red cap.

BILL (CONT'D)
Spider...

BILL grabs the cap, horrified. Understanding dawns.

BILL (CONT'D)
It's... it's a *mouth*.

The mournful sound starts up again and then BILL sees it -

The eye. Ancient and knowing and sad. Looking right at her. And for a brief moment, BILL isn't scared. Because all she can feel is pity.

BILL (CONT'D)
What are you?

THE DOCTOR hauls BILL away.

CUT TO:

THE PIE-MAN is sat fishing at the edge of the river, a good distance from the bridge and the worst of the freeze.

The ice is thinner here, and he has made a hole in it to fish through. Beside him: a small fire and a barrel of fish, already caught. He shivers, bored and cold.

Then, movement on his line. A catch!

THE PIE-MAN begins to reel in his fish. He struggles. It's a big one. Wow. A *really* big one.

THE PIE-MAN staggers back as two bubble-headed diving suits crash up through the hole, clambering onto the ledge, dripping water and broken ice. Like monsters from the deep.

The PIE-MAN bolts, knocking over his barrel of fish in his haste to escape. Fish scatter across the riverbank.

THE DOCTOR and BILL pull off their helmets, gasping for air.

THE DOCTOR

I know you! You're the cheat! Love your work!

But the rapid footsteps fade to silence. He's gone.

THE DOCTOR sees BILL, upset and shaken, holding Spider's cap.

BILL

The sound it made. I couldn't hear you but that noise... It's like I felt it in my bones.

THE DOCTOR concurs. BILL can't shake the feeling.

BILL (CONT'D)

It sounded like... like...

THE DOCTOR

Despair. Loneliness.

BILL nods. Exactly like that. It really got to her. Then she sees something, and her face turns to disgust -

It's the dead fish, spilling from the knocked-over barrel. And some of them are glow-fish!

BILL

That guy! I bought pie off that guy. *Fish* pie.

THE DOCTOR picks one up. It's even more gross out of water.

THE DOCTOR

Hello. Aren't you magnificent?

BILL

I ate that pie! I *liked* that pie!

THE DOCTOR
(inspecting the mouth)
Definitely not carnivores. Which means you're cooperating with the creature. You're *providing* for it. What do you get in return, hmm? What did it take for you to evolve like this?

BILL
The creature. Do you think that's what's making London so cold?

THE DOCTOR
Very possibly.

BILL
What kind of alien messes with the weather?

THE DOCTOR
You assume it's alien.

BILL
Of course it's alien. Isn't it??

CUT TO:

BILL and THE DOCTOR head back up upstream, carrying their heavy helmets.

THE DOCTOR
Plenty of Earth creatures look alien the first time you see them. The platypus, for instance. The yeti-crab. The star-nosed mole.

BILL
The pangolin. I love pangolins.

THE DOCTOR
Actually, pangolins are alien.

BILL
No way!

THE DOCTOR
Point is, this planet's surface is 70% water and humans have explored a tenth of it at most. You lot have no idea what's down there in the dark.

BILL

Cool. Thanks for that. Never going swimming again.

THE DOCTOR

Anyway, alien, terrestrial - it's irrelevant. The real question is, who's keeping it in those chains?
(he comes to a stop)
Perhaps our friend here can answer that.

Silence. BILL looks around. Who's he talking to?

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Come on. Show yourself.

A noise in the dark, and then THE PIE-MAN emerges from his hiding spot, terrified and bewildered.

THE PIE-MAN

Who are you? What do you want with me?

THE DOCTOR

The coin trick. Please, just tell me how it's done.
(off Bill's look)
No. No, you're right. Not the time. Have you ever seen a man round here with a tattoo of a ship?

THE PIE-MAN stares at him.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

What's that face? Is that a "no" or are you against tattoos? I'm against tattoos, I think we're bonding.

THE PIE-MAN

We're standing by the docks. And you just asked me if I've ever seen a man with a tattoo of a ship?

THE DOCTOR

Exactly.

BILL

Fair point.

THE DOCTOR

What point?

BILL

Forget the tattoo. Have you seen anyone acting suspiciously since the freeze?

THE PIE-MAN

Yes. Him.

THE DOCTOR

Hah! Very good. This is why I like you.

BILL

What about up where the ice is thicker? Anyone, I don't know, keeping an eye on things?

THE PIE-MAN

There's the dredgers.

BILL

The dredgers?

THE PIE-MAN

There's a workhouse, up river. They have men out patrolling all hours - don't like anyone fishing round here. Gotta be careful.

BILL

What are they dredging for?

THE PIE-MAN shrugs. No idea.

CUT TO:

37

EXT. DREDGERS WORKHOUSE - DAY 16 - 8.30

37

The next morning. BILL and THE DOCTOR peer around a corner, spying on a workhouse at the edge of the river. It's well patrolled, with GUARDS walking the perimeter.

BILL

How are we getting in?

THE DOCTOR hands her his psychic paper. BILL's stunned.

BILL (CONT'D)

You work for the palace??

THE DOCTOR

Huh. Haven't had that one in a while.

CUT TO:

38

EXT. DREDGERS' WORK YARD, ENTRANCE - DAY 16 - 8.31

38

THE DOCTOR strides into the enclosed yard, the psychic paper extended. BILL's curious to see the paper in action.

OVERSEER

Oy! How'd you get through here?

THE DOCTOR

Finally. Someone with authority.

The OVERSEER (hardworking chap, means well) inspects the psychic paper. BILL watches the effect.

OVERSEER

I do apologise, sir. Does Lord Sutcliffe know you're here?

THE DOCTOR

Does Lord Sutcliffe know we're here...

(to Bill)

Does Lord Sutcliffe know we're here?

BILL

Lord Sutcliffe insisted we come.

THE DOCTOR

Oh *that* Lord Sutcliffe. Oh, there's no arguing with Sutcliffe when he puts his foot down.

(the overseer)

You'd better show us around.

CUT TO:

EXT. DREDGERS' WORK YARD - DAY 16 - 8.32

BILL and THE DOCTOR observe the goings-on in the yard while the OVERSEER hangs back, nervous about the inspection. WORKERS bring chunks of solid sludge up out of the river from a shaft, and move it onto benches. Other workers break the chunks apart and shift them down the factory line.

BILL covers her nose. The smell is rank.

BILL

(privately)

Why all the fuss? Just mud from the river, isn't it?

THE DOCTOR

Mud's one word for it.

BILL has picked up a dry chunk of the stuff, sniffing at it.

BILL

Is this even the right place? The creature's almost a mile away.

THE DOCTOR

The creature's *head* is almost a mile away. I assume we're now at the... other end.

A beat. BILL freezes. Then the penny drops and she throws the chunk of mud away fast. Ugh! THE DOCTOR turns to the OVERSEER.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

These men. Why do we trust them?

OVERSEER

Hired them all myself, sir.

THE DOCTOR

Why do I trust *you*?

OVERSEER

Sir??

THE DOCTOR

Do you even understand how important this is? It is imperative no one discovers where this stuff goes when it leaves here.

OVERSEER

I know that, sir! We use unmarked carts.

THE DOCTOR

Are they ever followed?

OVERSEER

No, sir.

THE DOCTOR

Have you checked personally.

OVERSEER

Yes, sir.

THE DOCTOR

All the way to Hampton?

OVERSEER

No, to the steel mill, sir.

THE DOCTOR

Shh!

(Closer, conspiratorial)
Hampton is *code* for the steel mill.

OVERSEER

Code, sir?

THE DOCTOR

We have to use code - otherwise anyone could walk in here and get you blabbing like a fool.

OVERSEER

Good point, sir.

THE DOCTOR

Now. What do these men know of this material?

OVERSEER

No more than I do, sir.

THE DOCTOR

I think you're someone who knows more than he tells.

OVERSEER

(Flattered)

Well I don't like to speculate ...

THE DOCTOR

And yet you can't resist, like all men of intelligence.

OVERSEER

Well they won't let us smoke in here. So I assume it's fuel. Fuel for the furnaces, sir.

THE DOCTOR

Excellent reasoning. Lord Sutcliffe appreciates an enquiring mind.

OVERSEER

I keep my ear to the ground.

THE DOCTOR

What's ground saying these days?

OVERSEER

That this stuff burns a thousand times longer than coal

THE DOCTOR

Very good.

OVERSEER

Hotter too. Hotter than they can measure.

THE DOCTOR

Excellent! First class!

OVERSEER

I'm right, aren't I, sir?

THE DOCTOR

There's no stopping you. Keep this up, you won't be working in this yard for long.

OVERSEER

You think not?

THE DOCTOR

I can almost guarantee it.

OVERSEER

You know what else they say? They say it even burns under water.

BILL

(amazed)

No sh-

CUT TO:

40

EXT. LORD'S RESIDENCE - DAY 16 - 9.30

40

THE DOCTOR and BILL approach an imposing mansion, heading right to the door.

BILL

This guy has a pet monster that turns people into fuel and we're just rocking up at his door?

THE DOCTOR

That's his door, this is us rocking. If we're going to stop him we need to know where he started.

He knocks on the door.

BILL

Meaning?

THE DOCTOR

Which planet.

BILL

Which *planet*?

The door is opened by a a deadpan BUTLER. The Doctor thrusts his psychic paper in his face.

CUT TO:

41&42

SCENES 41 & 42 OMITTED

41&42

43

INT. LORD'S RESIDENCE, DRAWING ROOM - DAY 16 - 9.35

43

BILL and THE DOCTOR. Bill is in a chair, the Doctor is looking curiously round the opulent, rather beautiful room.

BILL

You think Sutcliffe is an alien?

THE DOCTOR

Possibly.

BILL

But you said the creature was from Earth.

THE DOCTOR

That was before I realised it produces fuel suitable for interstellar travel. Either way, Bill, I need you to leave the talking to me.

BILL

(a little affronted)

Why?

THE DOCTOR

Because you have a temper.

BILL

Okay, I lost it a tiny bit -

THE DOCTOR

And you're about to meet a man, alien or otherwise, for whom human beings are raw material. Who grinds up children for profit. What we are here for, is one thing. Information. We get that with tact and diplomacy. Charm if necessary.

On BILL, a little mutinous. Not enjoying this particular lecture.

BILL

Okay. I get it.

THE DOCTOR

Always remember, Bill. Passion fights - but reason wins.

The door opens. The BUTLER shows in LORD SUTCLIFFE, 30ish, posh, oily, entitled. He strides in, happy and confident, the psychic paper in hand.

SUTCLIFFE

Dr. Disco, from the Fairford Club!
Obviously one aspires to
membership, but to find oneself
actually considered for -

He comes to a halt, staring at Bill.

SUTCLIFFE (CONT'D)

Who let this creature in here?? On
your feet, girl, in the presence of
your betters.

*

On BILL, suppressing a storm of rage -

On SUTCLIFFE - a hand lands on his shoulder, spins him round -
- and THE DOCTOR hauls back and punches him unbelievably hard
in the face.

SUTCLIFFE spins round and crashes, insensible, to the floor.

An astonished silence.

The BUTLER, still in the doorway, turns and runs for help.

THE DOCTOR inspects his fist.

THE DOCTOR

He's Human. Thirty-one years old.
Low on iron.

BILL

Yeah, that was pretty convincing
racism for an extra-terrestrial.

THE DOCTOR

My thoughts exactly.

A crashing from the door - two heavies have arrived, DOWELL
and another. They survey the scene in astonishment.

THE DOCTOR attempts a pleasant smile.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Can I just say, this is very unlike
me. I hardly ever do this.

BILL

He was aiming for charming.

THE DOCTOR

Basically.

CUT TO:

43A **INT. LORD'S RESIDENCE, DRAWING ROOM - DAY 16 - 9.45** 43A

Both BILL and THE DOCTOR have their wrists tied and are held in place by a heavy each (DOWELL has the Doctor).

SUTCLIFFE is seated, regarding them both, as he dabs his bruised face with a towel.

SUTCLIFFE

Well. You're not from the Fairford Club.

THE DOCTOR

The creature in the river. Where did it come from?

SUTCLIFFE

Who the devil are you people?

THE DOCTOR

Where. Did. It. Come. From.

SUTCLIFFE

Nowhere! It's always been there. Passed down in the family since... I don't know when. As far back as records go.

THE DOCTOR

Tell me. Do you also keep a record of how many it's killed?

SUTCLIFFE

Please. The people know the ice is dangerous yet they will insist on their festivities. That's hardly my fault.

THE DOCTOR

Don't sell yourself short. This is the biggest Frost Fair in decades, and that's down to you.

BILL

It is?

THE DOCTOR

The man holding me has a tattoo on his left hand.

(to Sutcliffe)

And that's not all, is it? The circus performers, the elephant - that's all you.

SUTCLIFFE smiles, proud of what he's done.

SUTCLIFFE

I had to make the most of the situation. This is the first proper freeze it's caused in years.

BILL

Production's down, huh? Not enough people dying?

SUTCLIFFE

Girl, you show the ignorance of all your kind. Without that beast, my mills would rely on coal mines, and men die in coal mines all the time.

(to the Doctor)

I realise you're Scottish but nevertheless you're clearly educated - you know we live in an age of industry, an age of progress. Progress requires fuel, and acquiring it is a dangerous business.

THE DOCTOR

I preferred it when you were alien.

SUTCLIFFE

When I was...?

THE DOCTOR

It explained the lack of humanity. What makes you so sure your life is worth more than those people out there on the ice? Is it the money? The accident of birth that put you inside this big fancy house?

SUTCLIFFE

I help move this country forward, I move this *Empire* forward.

THE DOCTOR

You are one single solitary human. The young boy who died on the river was the same. One single solitary human. Oh don't worry, I know it's not just you. There's no way that creature has gone undiscovered this long. Someone must know. Someone knows and they turn a blind eye because you pay your taxes and you "move the Empire forward".

BILL's wide-eyed. She's not seen the Doctor like this before.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Human progress isn't measured by industry, it's measured by the value you place on a life. An "unimportant" life. A life without privilege. That boy's value is *your* value. That is what defines an age. *That* is what defines a species.

SUTCLIFFE

What a beautiful speech. The rhythm and the vocabulary, quite outstanding. It would move anyone with an ounce of compassion.

(a terrible, cold smile)

So it's really not your day, is it?

(to the heavies)

If they know about the beast, others must too. We bring the plan forward.

*

DOWELL

When, sir?

SUTCLIFFE

Now. In daylight. And they're coming with us.

CUT TO:

43B

EXT. LORD'S RESIDENCE - DAY 16 - 9.47

43B

THE DOCTOR and BILL are bundled into a carriage by DOWELL and the other heavy.

CUT TO:

44

INT. CLOSED CARRIAGE - DAY 16 - 9.48

44

BILL and THE DOCTOR are back to back now, bound together, rocking with the carriage on the move. THE DOCTOR is grim, regretting the loss of his temper.

BILL

So I've thought about it and I reckon it's probably a good thing you don't carry a weapon.

He cranes to look at her. Tact and diplomacy, huh?

THE DOCTOR

Yeah, well. Maybe that's the reason I don't.

BILL

No time for outrage. You've never had time for anything else. Right?

THE DOCTOR

Don't sound smug. Smug belongs to me.

BILL

Are you really two thousand years old?

THE DOCTOR

Why?

BILL

Just wanted to know how long it takes, before you can make a speech like you just made.

On THE DOCTOR. Moved by her reaction.

BILL (CONT'D)

It was worth the wait.

CUT TO:

45 **EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR, SUTCLIFFE'S TENT - DAY 16 - 11.400**

In the middle of the busy, noisy fair, passing REVELLERS are delighted by the sight of a carriage on the ice. It pulls up directly to the opening of an unmarked tent, with a HEAVY standing on guard.

CUT TO:

46 **INT. SUTCLIFFE'S TENT, THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.400**

DOWELL manoeuvres BILL and THE DOCTOR from the carriage into the tent while SUTCLIFFE looks on.

BILL stares in horror -

The only thing in the tent are a couple of barrels on a pallet, attached to a cable running out of the tent. Uh oh.

BILL

It could be rum. Rum came in barrels.

THE DOCTOR

(sniffing the air)

Nah, smell that. Some of their home made rocket fuel, redeployed as explosive.

BILL

I'm thinking of a very appropriate
expletive.

THE DOCTOR

Me too.

DOWELL pushes THE DOCTOR and BILL down onto the ice and
begins tying them to the edge of the pallet.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

A little reckless, don't you think?
If half the fair disappears into
the river the secret of your
success won't be a secret anymore.

SUTCLIFFE

Hardly. The city will pause to
mourn a fireworks display gone
tragically awry, and then it will
move on. By Spring this will be a
footnote in history. *That is*
progress.

SUTCLIFFE consults his pocket watch, then turns to DOWELL.

SUTCLIFFE (CONT'D)

They're bringing the elephant out
presently. We won't get bigger
crowds than that, so make sure
you're off the ice by noon.

BILL

Noon? There's no way you can keep
us here that long. We'll just
scream our heads off.

THE DOCTOR

No. No, we won't. Bill, we
absolutely --

BILL

HHHHHEEEEEELLP! HELP! HE--

THE DOCTOR cringes away as we pull back fast and -

CUT TO:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR, SUTCLIFFE'S TENT - DAY 16 - 11.40

We pull back out of the tent out into the busy fair, where
Bill's voice is lost in the chaos and hubbub of the crowd.

BILL (O.C.)
(muted)
--EEELLLLLLPP! HELP!

CUT TO:

48 **EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.31** 48

Various shots of the Fair: the food stalls, the sword swallower, the queue to come down the steps.

Bill's scream is but a faint note on the wind.

CUT TO:

49 **EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR, SUTCLIFFE'S TENT - DAY 16 - 11.49**

The carriage is gone. DOWELL is stood guard outside the tent. The remaining two HEAVIES start to lay a detonation cable from the tent.

BILL (O.C.)
(muted)
--EEELLLLLLPP! HHHEE--

CUT TO:

50 **INT. SUTCLIFFE'S TENT, THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.50**

BILL
--ELLLLLP!

BILL stops with a fit of coughing and slumps, worn out.

THE DOCTOR
If you're quite finished, I could use some help.

THE DOCTOR is wriggling and jerking behind her, doing an awkward dance to get some leverage off the ice.

BILL
What are you...?

THE DOCTOR
Sonic. Inside pocket.

BILL lifts her hands behind her, giving him more rope. He jolts forward and --

-- the sonic jumps out of his inner chest pocket and bounces out onto the ice. It skids out of reach.

THE DOCTOR manoeuvres his leg around and kicks it back to them. He gets his hand on the sonic and brings it up between them, where they're tied together. Turns it on.

BILL

We're too quiet, he'll think we're up to something. Maybe I should keep -- [yelling]

THE DOCTOR

No! No, please don't.

She smirks. Just teasing. But then she sees something and her smile drops away, her eyes wide.

BILL

Um. Doctor...

Pouring into the tent, under the ice - the dots of light. They come from all angles, heading straight for the sonic. THE DOCTOR is surprised and delighted.

THE DOCTOR

Huh! Hello again!

BILL

How the hell are you doing that?

THE DOCTOR

It's a *sonic* screwdriver. Makes a noise! That's how the fish choose their victims - how they know they've isolated someone on the ice.

BILL

Cool. Cool. Fascinating. Better question: *why* the hell are you doing that??

The lights circle around them, closing in. THE DOCTOR tugs at ropes and readjusts the sonic - not quite there yet.

THE DOCTOR

Just... a little more...

CUT TO:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR, SUTCLIFFE'S TENT - DAY 16 - 11.53

DOWELL spots something moving in his peripheral vision. Looks down, blinks in disbelief. Despite the sunlight, we can just make out the lights beneath the ice, pouring into the tent.

CUT TO:

52

INT. SUTCLIFFE'S TENT, THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.532

DOWELL bursts in.

DOWELL

What are you - [doing?] Give me that!

DOWELL lunges, grabs the sonic. The lights swarm underneath him instead.

DOWELL (CONT'D)

What the...??

THE DOCTOR

Turn it off! Button on the side!

DOWELL madly presses the sonic all over as he keeps moving, trying to get away from the lights. But it's no use - the sonic just gets louder and higher pitched - and the lights around DOWELL get brighter, closing in around him -

THE DOCTOR and BILL pull free of their loosened ropes and scramble up onto the safety of the wooden pallet -

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Here! Give it here!

Panicked, DOWELL throws the sonic at THE DOCTOR -

THE DOCTOR catches it just as -

CRACK! DOWELL drops away -

BILL cringes from the sight as - *SPLASH!* She and THE DOCTOR are soaked by the spray.

BILL looks again - Dowell is gone, and the ice is refreezing. THE DOCTOR turns off the sonic, sombre.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Afraid it has a knack to it.

He pockets the sonic and begins to carefully disconnect the detonation lead from the barrels.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Bill. Miss Potts? I need you with me.

BILL

I...

She's in shock. She just saw another person die.

THE DOCTOR

Things to do, Bill. Decisions to make. What are we doing about Tiny?

BILL

Tiny?

THE DOCTOR

The creature. The loch-less monster. The not-so-little mermaid. Are we just going to leave her down there?

BILL

We can't set her free. She could burst up out of the water and eat a hundred people right off of Southbank.

THE DOCTOR

She might. It's a risk.

BILL

This is more than stepping on a butterfly. This could change the whole future ...

THE DOCTOR

Everything does that, every day of your life. We're not here to preserve the timeline, we're here to make history. So what do you want to do, Bill?

BILL

You already know the answers. *Why are you even asking??*

THE DOCTOR

I don't know the answers. Only idiots know the answers. But if your future is built on the suffering of that creature down there, what is your future worth?

BILL

Why is it up to me?

THE DOCTOR

Because it can't be up to me. Your people, your planet. I serve at the pleasure of the human race, and right now, that's you. Give me an order.

BILL swallows. Thinking hard.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Not long till noon. I need an order.

BILL

Save her.

On THE DOCTOR. That was the right answer.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR, SUTCLIFFE'S TENT - DAY 16 - 11.35

BILL bursts out of the tent following THE DOCTOR. He still has the end of detonation cable in hand, on a mission -

But he comes to a sudden stop. Worried. Looks at the cable. It stretches across the ice, towards the shore.

BILL

What? What is it?

THE DOCTOR

If we stop the explosion at noon,
he'll just blow it some other time.
As long as the ice is still here,
the crowds aren't safe.

BILL

So what do we do?

THE DOCTOR

(grim)
We clear the ice. Go. Quick. You
don't have long.

BILL

Me? What are you going to do?

THE DOCTOR isn't sure yet, but he's thinking fast.

THE DOCTOR

You gave me an order, boss. I'm
going to do as I'm told.
(grim)
Now *hurry*.

And off he strides with the end of the cable, back into the tent. She stares after him. What the hell??

CUT TO:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.40

HARRIET, PERRY and a tearful DOT with the empty dog lead, performing the missing-dog routine for an OLD RICH COUPLE.

HARRIET

Fido was right there but when I
turned back he was gone!

54

KITTY subtly reaches into the rich couple's pockets, when...
Someone taps her on the shoulder. She spins, ready to bolt.
But it's just BILL.

BILL
Need help, need it now. Are you in?

KITTY
Where's your friend?

BILL
Not here.

KITTY
What's he doing?

BILL
Not sure. But whatever it is, I
don't think we're going to miss it.

CUT TO:

55

EXT. UNDERWATER. THE THAMES - DAY 16 - 11.45

55

The creature's eye in the dark, huge and knowing. The eye
circles around, watching something moving above it.

We see the huge chains crisscrossing the river-bed and hear
the mournful cry, desperately sad.

CUT TO:

56

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.48

56

KITTY and DOT run up to a crowd of REVELLERS at the fair,
tearful and panicked - a version of their lost dog routine.

DOT
The thaw! The thaw is here!

KITTY
A lady fell through the ice!

CUT TO:

57

INT. TENT 1, THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.50

57

People queueing for coffee. PERRY and BILL burst in.

PERRY
The ice is melting!

BILL
Quick! Get to the shore!

57

Nervous REVELLERS start pushing out of the tent.

BILL checks her watch - they're okay, it's still ten to noon.

CUT TO:

58

EXT. THAMES RIVERBANK - DAY 16 - 11.50

58

SUTCLIFFE checks his fob watch as he approaches the bridge from the East, impatient. Ten to noon.

When he looks up, he startles -

Crowds of REVELLERS are hurrying in off the ice, exclaiming noisily about the melting ice. SUTCLIFFE hears them and tries in vain to stem the tide.

SUTCLIFFE

No! No, it's a mistake! The ice isn't melting. I swear to you, there's no thaw!

But no one's listening. SUTCLIFFE's furious. His plan is going up in smoke. What to do? Another glance at his watch... And he makes a decision.

He rushes back the way he came, along the riverbank.

CUT TO:

59

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.52

59

HARRIET stands on an upturned boat, clanging empty pie pans together.

HARRIET

The ice is melting! The ice is melting!

Panicked REVELLERS hurry past on their way to safety. BILL urges them along -

BILL

Quickly, quickly, that's it.

But then BILL spots something in the distance, up on the bank, and her blood turns cold -

CUT TO:

60

EXT. THAMES RIVERBANK - DAY 16 - 11.52

60

Bill's POV: a furious-looking SUTCLIFFE races up to two HEAVIES, who are almost at the riverbank with the detonation cable.

BILL (V.O.)
No, no, no, not yet...

CUT TO:

61 **EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.52** 61

BILL sprints over to HARRIET, clanging her pan on the boat.

BILL
Harriet! New plan! Run!

HARRIET
But there's still - [people]

BILL lifts HARRIET down off the boat, urgent -

BILL
Forget them. There's no time!

BILL looks around until she spots -

KITTY with PERRY and DOT in the distance, all still working to encourage people towards the riverbank.

BILL (CONT'D)
Kitty! Run! NOW!

KITTY nods, pushing the younger kids towards the riverbank. BILL shoots a worried glance over to -

The detonation cable, still running into Sutcliffe's tent.

BILL (CONT'D)
(to herself/the Doctor)
Whatever you're doing, please be ready...

CUT TO:

62 **EXT. THAMES RIVERBANK, DOWNSTREAM - DAY 16 - 11.55** 62

We follow the detonation cable across the ice...

Up the wall...

And onto the riverbank, where an urgent SUTCLIFFE is with his two HEAVIES. One HEAVY lifts the crate away, revealing a detonation device, which the other HEAVY connects to the cable.

SUTCLIFFE
Now! Something's happened - they've got the word out. Blow it now!

He pushes them out of the way -

And presses the charge himself!

CUT TO:

62A **EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.55** 62A

BILL cringes, eyes shut. But there's no explosion. She cracks open an eye again. Huh?

CUT TO:

63 **EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR, SUTCLIFFE'S TENT - DAY 16 - 11.55**

Sutcliffe's tent: whole and untouched. No explosion.

CUT TO:

64 **EXT. THAMES RIVERBANK, DOWNSTREAM - DAY 16 - 11.55** 64

SUTCLIFFE looks out to the ice, furious.

SUTCLIFFE

What??

SUTCLIFFE presses the charge again. And again.

CUT TO:

65 **INT. SUTCLIFFE'S TENT, THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.56**

The pallet is empty, all the barrels gone. But the detonation cable is still on the ice...

The sonic is wired into the end of the cable, the light on the end blinking wildly.

CUT TO:

66 **EXT. UNDERWATER. THE THAMES - DAY 16 - 11.56** 66

Underwater. A barrel is tied to the point where one of the massive chains hooks into the river wall. It explodes!

The next chain along, a barrel explodes there too.

CUT TO:

67 **EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.56** 67

BILL listens carefully. She hears a third distant, muffled underwater "boom".

Her eyes widen as the penny drops. She looks down to the ice and grins. She's guessed the Doctor's plan...

But that means they're still in danger! To the remaining REVELLERS -

BILL
Faster! Faster! Come on!

CUT TO:

68 **EXT. DREDGERS' WORK YARD - DAY 16 - 11.57** 68

THE DOCTOR, soaking wet in his diving suit, hauls himself up out of the shaft. The muted sound of a fourth underwater explosion behind him. He looks back to the river -

THE DOCTOR
Sea's that way - straight on till morning. You go, girl!

CUT TO:

69&70 **SCENES 69&70 OMITTED** 69&70

71 **EXT. UNDERWATER. THE THAMES - DAY 16 - 11.57** 71

The whole riverbed seems to come alive as the creature stretches, shaking off the remnants of its chains.

With a huge displacement of water and a riot of bubbles, the creature begins to lift up out of its prison for the first time in six hundred years. Sludge swarms up in huge clouds.

CUT TO:

72 **EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.57** 72

BILL is urging the last few STALLHOLDERS still trying to pack up their tents.

BILL
Don't make me pick you up and carry you!

BILL feels a tremor run through the ice under her feet. They've run out of time.

BILL hurries towards the riverbank with the last few REVELLERS. But then she sees him -

SUTCLIFFE, making a beeline for his tent.

BILL (CONT'D)
Sutcliffe! Get off the ice, you
idiot!

SUTCLIFFE ignores her, forging on.

A cracking noise. BILL gasps. We see a thin crack runs across
the ice behind her!

CUT TO:

73&74 **SCENES 73&74 OMITTED (SC 74 MERGED WITH SC 72)** 73&74

75 **INT. SUTCLIFFE'S TENT, THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.57**

SUTCLIFFE bursts into the tent. Sees that it's empty, the
sonic at the end of the cable, blinking away. What the hell??

Then - *CRRRREEEAAAkkkkkk*

SUTCLIFFE freezes - what's that sound?

CUT TO:

76&77 **SCENES 76&77 OMITTED** 76&77

78 **EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.58** 78

SUTCLIFFE bursts from the tent as the creaking continues -
it's the deeply unsettling sound of the enormous ice sheet
cracking beneath the surface!

SUTCLIFFE pulls up short, horrified by the sight before him.

In the distance, the sheet of ice ruptures open. Something
huge and dark *just* breaks the surface and we get a glimpse of
the creature's great black slimy back. It's there and gone in
an instant, sending huge cracks running through the ice.

One of the cracks zigzags across the expanse, heading
straight for Sutcliffe! He backs off quickly, but it's too
fast - it runs right between his legs.

The ice divides beneath him. Terrified SUTCLIFFE struggles to
keep his footing.

Behind him, the tent collapses into the black, icy water with
a huge splash.

SUTCLIFFE loses his footing and drops away with a shout. He
disappears into the black, icy water.

CUT TO:

79

EXT. THAMES RIVERBANK, DOWNSTREAM - DAY 16 - 11.58

79

The sound of ice cracking is everywhere. BILL sprints towards the wall on the riverbank, looking for a place to climb up.

THE DOCTOR (O.C.)

Bill!

THE DOCTOR hangs over the edge, offering his hand.

BILL puts on a burst of speed.

BILL

You did it! She's free!

THE DOCTOR hangs over the wall, hand outstretched -

BILL leaps -

THE DOCTOR grabs her hand and hauls her up onto the riverbank. She scrambles around to look around behind her -

And we see the ice crumbling, pushed up in great chunks from below.

Another glimpse of the creature - a huge, dark *something* surging through the crumbling ice. A flash of one of the great eyes as it moves quickly East/downstream. Its head resembles that of a monkfish, dark and wizened and covered in plant-life.

BILL looks on, spellbound, her heart in her mouth.

BILL (CONT'D)

Go. Go.

Just as quickly, the head slips beneath the dark water again. The creature surges away, downstream.

BILL (CONT'D)

Where *will* she go?

THE DOCTOR

Somewhere cold, I imagine.
Hopefully she's smart enough to
avoid you lot now.

THE DOCTOR drops to his knees. He fishes the detonation wire out of the water and reels it in.

BILL

What if it's not? What if we just,
like, doomed Greenland?

That gives THE DOCTOR pause.

THE DOCTOR

I'll check in on Greenland.

THE DOCTOR finishes reeling in the cable. Still tied to the end is the sonic screwdriver. He retrieves it.

In the distance we catch a glimpse of the creature's dark bulk breaching the surface again - surging away from us, heading east.

But the river in front of us is still surging: the creature moving beneath the surface.

BILL
How long *is* it??

Just then, a dark tail whips out of the water and crashes down again, sending waves of water hurtling across the river.

BILL and THE DOCTOR recoil as they're splashed by a huge wave.

They're soaking wet. BILL is delighted. THE DOCTOR, less so. He wrings out his clothes.

But then BILL stops. Listens, awed. A faint sound in the distance.

BILL (CONT'D)
Can you hear that?

THE DOCTOR listens.

We hear it too, louder now - the creature's cry. Not mournful anymore. Not desperate or plaintive. It has transformed into something hopeful and open and *beautiful*. BILL beams, emotional. They did the right thing.

CUT TO:

80-92 **SCENES 80-92 OMITTED (MERGED WITH SC. 79)**

80-92

93 **EXT. LORD'S RESIDENCE - DAY 16 - 15.30**

93

HARRIET reaches up to ring the bell. KITTY fixes PERRY's collar and licks her thumb and wipes DOT's face. Nervous.

KITTY
No pinching nothing, you hear me?
And no staring like gapeseds when
the lady talks peculiar. It's rude.

BILL throws the door open, delighted to see the kids.

BILL
Get a load of you lot. Cute as.
Come on then!

The three younger kids just stare up at her, no idea what she said. KITTY stifles a smirk, urging them inside.

CUT TO:

94 INT. LORD'S RESIDENCE, ENTRANCE HALL - DAY 16 - 15.30 94

BILL leads KITTY, HARRIET, PERRY and DOT inside. The younger kids are in awe of the opulence.

KITTY
You gonna tell us what we're here
for?

BILL
A very long time, I hope.

Huh? What does that mean?

CUT TO:

95 INT. LORD'S RESIDENCE, DINING ROOM - DAY 16 - 15.31 95

THE DOCTOR sits at one end of the dining table, working with pen and ink to create (forge) official-looking documents.

BILL enters with KITTY, HARRIET, PERRY, DOT. The kids gawp:

At the other end of the table, the BUTLER is putting the finishing touches to an impressive feast.

BILL
Go on. Eat as much as you like.

Amazed, the younger kids rush towards the food.

THE DOCTOR
You. Boy. Remind me. Your name?

PERRY
(garbled)
Perry.

PERRY has a mouth full of food, a chicken leg in each fist.

KITTY
Perry. His name's Perry. Why?

As THE DOCTOR adds something to the document he's working on, BILL grins at a bemused Kitty, delighted by their plan.

BILL
Apparently Lord Sutcliffe's long-
lost heir can't be a girl.

CUT TO:

BILL (CONT'D)

I don't get it. London, 1814.
Monster, sea creature, serpent,
"really really big fish". Nothing.

BILL goes back typing furiously, trying more search words.

NARDOLE

You said you wouldn't go off-world!

THE DOCTOR

Do these clothes look off-world to
you?

NARDOLE

You *said* you were coming up to your
office!

THE DOCTOR

And look, here I am. In my office.
Drinking my tea. In my specially
chosen tea clothes.

BILL

I don't understand. How could it
not have been front page news?

THE DOCTOR

Never underestimate the collective
human ability to overlook the
inexplicable. Also, the Frost Fair
involved a lot of day drinking.

THE DOCTOR takes the phone from her, begins his own search.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Ah! Here we are. You can rely on
the papers to miss a headline.

He hands the phone back to her. She looks:

The site shows a low-quality scan of a newspaper front page
from 1814. Beneath is a transcript.

BILL

(reads)

"Lord Sutcliffe drowns in snap
thaw".

(reading on, she grins)

"Shock as steel fortune passes to
street urchin"!!

NARDOLE

Sir. We need to talk about this.
Your oath.

THE DOCTOR

Give me a coin.

NARDOLE

What?

BILL

"The new Lord Sutcliffe was found
starving on London's streets". The
inheritance was contested, everyone
got super mad... blah blah blah...
(reads on)
"Urchin boy deemed legitimate"! Oh
my god! It worked!

She's awestruck.

BILL (CONT'D)

You did it. You saved them.

THE DOCTOR

You did. You gave the order - boss.

BILL, staring down at her phone in wonder.

NARDOLE

Sir.

THE DOCTOR

I said give me a coin. We'll toss
for it. Heads the TARDIS stays put,
tails you leave me alone.

As NARDOLE scoffs, THE DOCTOR glances up -

And sees a proud, private little smile passes over BILL's
face as it sinks in... *She saved them.*

END OF EPISODE.