

DOCTOR WHO

SERIES 6

EPISODE 1

"The Dances of River Song"

by

Alastair Stewart

**TEASER**

**INT. STORMGATE PRISON - CORRIDOR**

Red klaxons are sounding and heavily armed soldiers are running down a prison corridor.

A familiar wheezing begins. The TARDIS materialises a short distance from the small army running towards it. The door swings open and THE DOCTOR jumps out with a wicked grin, wearing a fez.

THE DOCTOR  
Hello Istanbul!

The soldiers start firing their rifles at THE DOCTOR, shooting his fez off as he scrambles behind his TARDIS as the shots continue. He peeks round from the back of the blue box.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
Fez's aren't that bad, why does everyone shoot at the fez!

The Doctor is thrown back around onto his face. Boots are running towards him. In a flash he's been hoisted to his feet.

He can't believe who he's looking at.

The woman grabs his hand and starts pulling him along, running.

RIVER SONG  
One rescue! I asked for one rescue  
that actually worked. Run!

THE DOCTOR  
River!

A hail of bullets chases them, missing their heads, as they vault away down the corridor.

RIVER SONG  
Normally we're somewhere nice  
before they start shooting!

THE DOCTOR  
Why are Turks shooting at us!

RIVER SONG  
We can hide in the uridium crates,  
and they're not Turks!

**INT. STORMGATE PRISON - CRATES**

She pulls them into a sea of storage crates a mile long and a mile high stationed ahead as the gunfire continues. They crawl behind the crates, catching their breathe.

THE DOCTOR  
Why is their uridium in Turkey!

RIVER SONG  
It's not Turkey you idiot!

The Doctor huffs as they crawl further into the containers.

RIVER SONG (CONT'D)  
And it's to reinforce the bars on the cells. Apparently people keep escaping into thin air!

The gunfire continues, the grown of the TARDIS's cloister bell rings out in pain far behind them.

THE DOCTOR  
Don't scratch my paint, I just redid it!

River is peering through the gaps between the crates. The footsteps are closer; they're near now.

RIVER SONG  
Did you forget to lock her?

**INT. STORMGATE PRISON - TARDIS CLOSE-UP**

River clicks her fingers. The sound of the TARDIS's doors can be heard in the distance. The Doctor looks stares bewildered. The shots have stopped and the boots come to their location.

**INT. STORMGATE PRISON - CRATES**

RIVER SONG  
They're really not happy this time! Escaping from the punishment for last time's punishment's made the warden a little grouchy.

THE DOCTOR  
The last time? River what the hell is going on?

## RIVER SONG

Or the next time! The picnic at  
Asgard, I can't check my diary  
right now!

## THE DOCTOR

River! How are you *here*?

## RIVER SONG

Could you not have parked a little  
better? Perhaps somewhere we're  
not being shot at?

## THE DOCTOR

Timelords don't do valet parking!  
And I didn't know this wasn't Tur-

A soldier's voice speaks over a tannoy. Soldiers run and  
stop at the crates. They're surrounded.

## RIVER SONG

Sonic the TARDIS tracker and bring  
her here now!

## THE DOCTOR

She doesn't have a tracker!

## SOLDIER #1

Doctor Song, surrender and return  
to our custody!

## RIVER SONG

I'm with company! It's rude to  
interrupt!

## THE DOCTOR

This is horrible service! You're  
getting a bad review on Turkish  
Tinder!

## RIVER SONG

You don't know what Tinder is do  
you?

## THE DOCTOR

Do you know what Turkey is?  
Because this isn't it!

She grabs his arm and look him in the eye through clenched  
teeth.

## RIVER SONG

Not.Now!

SOLDIER #1  
 Doctor Song...surrender with the  
 intruder or be killed.

THE DOCTOR  
 I'm not an intruder, I'm THE-

She slaps him before he can finish.

**INT. STORMGATE PRISON - CORRIDOR**

River and The Doctor peak through the crates. More soldiers  
 come into view. There must be dozens of soldiers now.  
 They've set up machine gun posts. There's 15 hovering  
 robotic drones armed to the teeth. All of them are scanning  
 with red sensors, finding the two of them and click their  
 weapons at their location in the crates.

SOLDIER #1  
 You have 30 seconds Doctor Song.

**INT. STORMGATE PRISON - CRATES**

RIVER SONG  
 How is it you've escaped here a  
 hundreds of time and you've  
 forgotten where to park! And where  
 is the tracker!

SOLDIER #1  
 Prepare to fire!

THE DOCTOR  
 I've not escaped from here before!

Even with an army ready to shoot, she stops and looks him  
 in the eye. She understands in horror.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
 I was trying to pick up Amy and  
 Rory from 23rd Century Turkey, and  
 ended -

RIVER SONG  
 It's Friday. Friday night. No  
 bells? Something, anything - any  
 bells?

Her eyes are pleading.

THE DOCTOR

No bells. But alarms River, now I see there are many, many alarms. Lots of alarms and a quite a few guns!

SOLDIER #1

Doctor Song!

River grabs The Doctor's sonic from his tweed pocket and is about to press it. She doesn't recognise it. It looks so new. This time a female soldier speaks. It's familiar to them both. Where have they both heard it before? There's not enough time to place it.

FEMALE SOLDIER

We have your TARDIS Doctor Song.

RIVER SONG

You'll never get in it!

THE DOCTOR

Her TARDIS! It's not he-

River grabs his mouth shut and stares into his eyes.

FEMALE SOLDIER

Surrender the hostage Doctor Song.

The Doctor can't take any more. He shouts back.

THE DOCTOR

Hostage? I don't do being a hostage, being on a bus is as close as a hostage as I get -

FEMALE SOLDIER

I don't know who you are, but you're either prisoner or ally to the most dangerous woman in the Universe. Surrender or die.

THE DOCTOR

What a cliché! Surely it's surrender *and* die or surrender then *die* or surrender and *then* die in later life at a happy old age!

A warning shot fires near to their heads.

FEMALE SOLDIER

Doctor Song!

RIVER SONG

Fine, alright, fine I'm coming out  
with my hostage.

THE DOCTOR

Prisoner, hostage, no name, some  
name, bad name. This is not  
relaxing! In fact having just come  
from saving a crashed spaceship  
for Christmas I was hoping for  
relaxing -

RIVER SONG

Please.

THE DOCTOR

- like bee keeping or counting  
sand or attending my own funeral!

RIVER SONG

Stop it. Please. Now. Behave. Dear  
God! Behave. I think I've made a  
mistep.

The Doctor changes. The game is over. He looks at her with  
fire in his eyes. Something is wrong.

THE DOCTOR

I need to know what's happening,  
how can I help you if you won't  
tell me what's happening?

RIVER SONG

Stay there.

**INT. STORMGATE PRISON - CRATES**

River stands, quickly, pushing The Doctor's down before he  
has a chance to stop her.

RIVER SONG

I hope you brought handc-

FEMALE SOLDIER

Fire!

Everything fires in a cacophony. River falls to the floor,  
as red patches seep through her prison uniform. Her eyes  
are vacant.

The Doctor screams.

CUT TO:

OPENING titles

END TEASER

ACT ONEEXT. ALDRAX TEN ROOFTOP - NIGHT

The camera sweeps through a metropolis of flashing lights and a thousand different styles of music from a hundred thousand different worlds.

This is the party capital of the Universe. Alien and human and a clash of everything in between meet below a sky of black stars with streaks of emerald green, blue and deep red mixing together like a lava lamp.

Atop the highest skyscraper in the city the TARDIS materialises into shot. This TARDIS looks older than we've ever seen it, scratched with windows broken.

A much older Doctor emerges in white tails and a top hat holding a silver-topped cane. Gone is the young man, The Doctor has a head of whitish grey hair and a heavily-lined face.

River Song follows behind in a black dress, holding his hand. She's older too now, with lines across her face but with eyes alight at the sight before her.

They move to the edge of the rooftop and stare across the city.

THE DOCTOR

Aldrax Ten! Partyfest of the known Universe. A little on the merry side, particularly at Christmas, but one of the most legendary and beautiful locations in history. And here we are!

RIVER SONG

Did you just say 'fest'?

THE DOCTOR

Trying it out, reminded me of 'Fez', need to get one of them actually but yes! Fest, festival, dancing capital, a happy place for naughty humans to -

River Song turns with a shocked bemused stare. The Doctor goes red, gulps.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

To, em, dance.

RIVER SONG  
The mind races Doctor!

THE DOCTOR  
Yes, well - the sky!

The both are standing at the edge of the skyscraper roof, looking across the city.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
What else could I say? Dancing is the best thing in the world. Was never any good at it though. Once lost a dance competition to a broken Cyberman, bit embarrassing all in all.

RIVER SONG  
Have you been watching 'Footloose' again?

THE DOCTOR laughs. He looks at her, he coughs. He's breathing heavily now, and ever so subtly leaning in his cane more than normal.

THE DOCTOR  
At least once every regeneration. But then again, Professor Song, you know that more than I do.

RIVER SONG  
Sweetie, hips aren't just for dancing.

THE DOCTOR chuckles. He quickly hides his smile and goes awkwardly stern. River Song beams at him.

RIVER SONG (CONT'D)  
So what is this place?

THE DOCTOR  
You're the archeologist, you tell me. I've been playing guide long enough.

Is he hiding it? He's slowing down, he's struggling to speak for long periods. The young man act is wearing a bit thin. He takes a long breath.

RIVER SONG  
Archaeologist, not fortune teller, sweetie. Are we in the past or the future?

## THE DOCTOR

Well, neither. Kind of. Aldrax 10 is famed for being the San Andreas of the Universe. It's a fault line, a stretch of weakened subspace that feels fluctuations and reverberations in time more than any other location.

## RIVER SONG

You brought me to a cosmic weather vain?

## THE DOCTOR

No! Well, yes. But it's brilliant and wonderful and, well, big! Time changes all the time, the ebbing and the flowing and movements of it all. Time travellers or paradoxes or supernovas - it's all happening, all out there right now and you can..

## RIVER SONG

Live stream it? Live stream into a rift of time and space?

## THE DOCTOR

Live stream it! Yes! Usually you don't notice it, time realigns and the changes become history. Big ripples on the other hand are more destructive and take longer to reshape time, that's why people have déjà vu.

## RIVER SONG

Déjà vu is a time traveller...hangover?

## THE DOCTOR

Lingering moments of something being the same but different. The Universe sort of being self-aware just before it all changes. Just for a moment.

The sky is circling in different hues, alternating between reds and greens. They stand beneath the changing of time, the changing of destinies right before them.

River Song leans closer to the Doctor, he shuffles with his cane.

RIVER SONG

So who is it that changes the  
Universe anyway?

THE DOCTOR

Humankind eventually develops its  
own mode of time travel. Most  
species do at some stage in their  
history but humans were the most  
prolific and the most  
uncontrollable. Your vortex  
manipulator represents the  
beginning of a temporal age.

RIVER SONG

How does it end?

THE DOCTOR

Do they use it to watch galaxies  
collide and worlds begin? No, it's  
get their coffees faster or wage  
another war.

He really is older. A little bitter, a little sharper.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

First it was temporal holidays to  
Ancient Egypt and spa days in Rome  
but then it was destruction. The  
temporal wars saw Earth fight the  
Cybermen and the Daleks in a  
crusade across all of creation.  
Captain Jack fought in it. It  
never ended, really. It's still  
going on, somewhere, out there.

RIVER SONG

But...all this, it works out, it  
ends well?

THE DOCTOR laughs. It's different this time, a tired laugh.  
He's seen so much.

THE DOCTOR

Never. The galaxy caught in a  
time-locked war lasting for  
thousands of years with Earth at  
the epicentre. In every version,  
their enemies steal and copy human  
time tech - exactly the ones who  
should never, ever have been  
allowed it.

RIVER SONG

The Daleks.

## THE DOCTOR

The Daleks. After centuries of doing nothing to stop them the Time Lords predicted that it was a question of when the Daleks would come for Gallifrey. It was decided that the Daleks would be stopped -

## RIVER SONG

You've told me this story. At the point of their creation, you didn't stop them.

## THE DOCTOR

What I didn't tell you is that once that attempt failed, the Daleks eventually mastered the power of a black hole. They built their own equivalent of TARDIS.

River Song begins to understand, but does she want to? Why, why has he brought her here tonight?

## RIVER SONG

What happened?

## THE DOCTOR

The Time Lords decided to launch a preemptive attack on Skaro, but they were outnumbered and outgunned. Gallifrey simply sent back another fleet to before the first attack, but so did the Daleks. Paradox. The last great Time War began. Madness and someone had to end it all.

## RIVER SONG

Why have you brought me here? Why have you been thinking about this, there was nothing you could have done. It's been centuries.

The Doctor has been pacing, a shuffle almost, moving around the roof swinging his cane as he's been talking. He's slower, almost like saving his energy. As he slows, the sadness in his eyes becomes clearer. He can't bring himself to look River Song in the eyes to tell her the truth.

## THE DOCTOR

The Universe made a mistake but it was alright in the end. There's always a way. There must always be, there *has* to be hope from such sadness.

RIVER SONG

But your own people. You're the  
last -

The Doctor takes River Song's hand and smiles. The mask is  
back.

THE DOCTOR

Not anymore.

RIVER SONG

But I'm the woman who killed the  
Doctor, remember?

THE DOCTOR

That's what you've been told. And  
I'm still here, dressed for the  
occasion!

RIVER SONG

It doesn't bother you? Our story.

THE DOCTOR

It's difficult to be bothered  
about not knowing something for  
800 years, Professor Song. You're  
here now. We're here now. And  
we've seen the Universe, oh so  
many times.

River seems to remember something for a moment, just a  
flash across her old face. What was it?

RIVER SONG

Doctor, where are Amy and Rory?

THE DOCTOR

Who? Who are they?

Is it age, a memory from so long ago, or is it something  
else?

RIVER SONG

Friends, don't worry about my  
love. So why did you bring me  
here? For our night?

THE DOCTOR

Irony I suppose. I thought you'd  
like it. The sub-spatial field is  
weaker on Aldrax 10. You can feel  
and see and hear the possibilities  
of time. It's like a big  
telescope, a galactic prism.

(MORE)

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
 It's a fault-line rollercoaster, a  
 thrill ride of possibility!

The Doctor muses to himself with a wry grin.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
 In fact, come to think about it,  
 it's probably the only place in  
 the known Universe where humans  
 can feel like Time Lords...just for  
 a few moments. Humanity can change  
 time, but Time Lords are the  
 masters of it. We can see and hear  
 every moment, what has to be and  
 what can change.

RIVER SONG  
 How does it work, all of this??

THE DOCTOR  
 There's a tindraxcal lens in  
 orbit. It amplifies the natural  
 radiation emitted by the rift and  
 projects it onto to the planet's  
 atmosphere. It keeps it safe from  
 changes in time just long enough  
 so we can see it all unfold.

The Doctor brings out a pocket watch.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
 Watch this.

The black sky turns a revolving blue and green. As the  
 blackness opens, the stars behind it flicker and explode.  
 The sky turns an orange hue, each star held there for a  
 moment before being pulled back in. The rift is sealed in  
 blue, explodes again and repeats.

Far below, millions are celebrating. They've survived  
 again.

RIVER SONG  
 It's...it's beautiful...

THE DOCTOR  
 It's Aldraxian custom to make a  
 wish.

She turns, kisses him on the lips. There's no time left for  
 embarrassment. THE DOCTOR kisses River Song.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
 ...what did you wish for?

RIVER SONG  
 Spoilers.

THE DOCTOR  
 You have a question. You always  
 always have questions. I can tell.

RIVER SONG  
 The human race and countless other  
 species found a planet of untold  
 historical and cultural relevance  
 and built a party city?

THE DOCTOR  
 It's what you do! It's why you're  
 so wonderful. The Time Lords sit  
 and watch time as bean counters  
 and bank managers. You lot on the  
 other hand, you build discos and  
 sheds and outside loos!

RIVER SONG  
 Sweetie, much as I love this, am I  
 right in saying that date night is  
 the viewing portal for galactic  
 temporal horrors?

THE DOCTOR  
 From horror there is beauty, there  
 always is. The human race  
 survives, it builds.

RIVER SONG  
 It destroys, you said it helps  
 create time wars.

THE DOCTOR  
 Not all of them. Never let go of  
 innocence. Hold it *tight*. Let it  
 burn your hand. In a Universe of  
 dangers, it's all we have.

RIVER SONG  
 I was hoping for somewhere a bit  
 more...quiet. Like the, oh the -  
 Singing Towers, I've always wanted  
 to do Darillium!

THE DOCTOR  
 I don't know where they are and  
 besides, Singing Towers, or  
 singing *planet*!

RIVER SONG

But you know where everything is!

THE DOCTOR

Not everywhere, anyway there's  
something I want to show you.

The Doctor turns to look at her, holds her hands and smiles. He begins to walk, stumbling slightly. One moment so strong, then so weak. The spirit is struggling in an old frame. The old man is struggling in an old man's body.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

But there's that question isn't  
there?

RIVER SONG

Are you feeling ok?

THE DOCTOR

For 1937 years old? I'm peak. Just  
a little tired. How long do any of  
us have anyway?

She walks away from him for a moment, considers this for a moment, and comes and holds his hand.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

And besides, spoilers. That's not  
even your question. I've always  
found knowing the end before the  
beginning is no fun at all.

The Doctor is looking smug now, just a hint of his younger, boyish self. River Song is anxious. He's bluffing. Something is wrong.

RIVER SONG

Time doesn't tend to look after  
you. You're forgetting more and  
more.

THE DOCTOR

Oi! I'm here for the dancing and  
the fun! And a fez. It's been too  
long.

RIVER SONG

There will be. But try to  
remember.

## THE DOCTOR

When I was younger? I do, it's  
just harder control. Silence just  
creeps over my mind, BUT!..

## RIVER SONG

..but, it might be the night you  
say it.

The Doctor smiles. The same request. So many centuries with  
River Song. Why is it so much harder to remember those  
years now?

The party continues below. Sweet operatic music hums across  
the sky. Rich greens and blues cast over the city as the  
event continues above.

The Doctor holds River song's hand.

## THE DOCTOR

Come along my dear.

The Doctor brings out his sonic screwdriver. It's rusted  
and old, and heavily augmented, but the familiar green buzz  
emanates as he uses it on a wall panel. A giant slide  
descending down into the side of the building appears.

## RIVER SONG

You can't be serious!

## THE DOCTOR

Oh I am, and is there even a  
better way to travel?

## RIVER SONG

You're a senile old mad man!

## THE DOCTOR

Geronimo!

## RIVER SONG

Wait, where...surely there's a  
better way!

The Doctor leads the fall as they fall through and down  
and around the electric transport. The speed  
intensifies, both screaming and laughing in excitement, the  
Doctor's cane sparking the sides in great laughter.

Both catch glimpses of other slides and other people doing  
exactly the same, a hundred, maybe a thousand times over  
across the city's buildings. They tumble, screaming with  
joy, for what seems like an eternity.

They fall and fall and and slide onto a red carpet far below. They emerge standing, shocked, thrilled and in one piece.

They catch their breathe.

**EXT. THE ENTRANCE - NIGHT**

THE DOCTOR

Shall we?

Tapping his cane they walk forward. They're at the front of what looks like a steel hatch on a glass floor. Is it even the same building?

River Song looks down below, there must be thousands of people waiting to come up here. There are queues forming. Two colossal robots and a humanoid species with gills are guarding the door.

The Doctor goes up to them. He's confident, but it's forced. He's old and he's tired, but he's brash, almost himself.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

The Doctor, and wife, please.

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO****INT. THE HALL OF MIRRORS**

The guards simultaneously open the huge, metres tall and thick steel doors.

The guests walking in are confronted with a spectacle of music. It's like a cosmic mix of one of Gatsby's parties with alien species everywhere.

They look up, the same scene is taking place on levels of glass as far up and down as the mind can see. The building is grey, almost industrial, with drinks and laughing and dancing everywhere.

And at the very top, there's a hole in the roof looking at the event horizon of the rift above. The room is dark, misty, with rows and rows of glass floors high above.

In the very centre is what looks like a glass dance floor wrapped in the mist. The entire palace is cavernous, the complete inside of a art-deco skyscraper hollowed out for a good time.

RIVER SONG

This is...remarkable!

The Doctor hangs his cane on his arm and grabs two glasses of champagne from an alien host. They can barely move, the room is so jammed with cultures and aliens.

THE DOCTOR

Salut!

They chink glasses and drink. The Doctor convulses and spits the drink back into his glass.

RIVER SONG

You tried, sweetie...What, what is that?

River Song points to where people are swirling in the mist. It's a beautiful, ethereal sight. The Doctor shouts over the noise.

THE DOCTOR

It's a temporal schism, a point and fracture in time created and maintained by the rift above.

## RIVER SONG

I don't understand, it's been  
harnessed? Why?

She's unable to take her eyes away from the dance floor.

## THE DOCTOR

I told you. Humanity's time war  
shattered the boundaries which  
divide one Universe from another;  
Aldrax 10 isn't just the tenth  
planet in the system, it's the  
epicentre for all that can be  
across space and time.

The Doctor is shouting over the music, leaning closer to  
speak in her ear.

## THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

It's one big fixed-point in time,  
cracked and moving in between  
different time zones. For 10,000  
years this planet has existed, all  
across time, seldom changing and  
moving, very, very slowly.

## RIVER SONG

Well, at least it looks pretty! I  
thought you promised dancing?

## THE DOCTOR

River this is dancing for  
eternity! It's a natural  
fixed-point that allows for people  
to fluidly move through it. It's  
timelocked and insular, past and  
present and future are the same  
here. You can dance with yourself  
ten minutes from now if you want!

## RIVER SONG

But how does the planet, change,  
how does it exist?

## THE DOCTOR

It always has. That's the paradox.  
Everything that ever was or can  
be. And what does humanity do?  
Make a dance floor.

The Doctor smiles. So infectiously, he smiles.

## THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Happy birthday, River.

She snaps her head at him.

RIVER SONG

You remembered! And here was me  
thinking you'd given up seven  
centuries ago.

THE DOCTOR

I always rememeber...I just get  
lost in the details a bit. How old  
are you now?

RIVER SONG

A lady never tells!

THE DOCTOR

A Time Lady always remembers.

RIVER SONG

I think, this is 973.

The Doctor puts his arm around her and smiles. He remembers  
being that young, too.

RIVER SONG (CONT'D)

You can't know something so  
personal without me knowing  
something like that about you.

The Doctor holds her gaze.

THE DOCTOR

I told you my age! Well, what I  
think is my age. It's harder to  
tell now, well it always was, I  
suppose.

RIVER SONG

What's your name?

THE DOCTOR

The Doctor.

RIVER SONG

Doctor who?

The Doctor's eyes turn serious again and he holds her gaze.  
His lip flutters. He's trying to speak but can't. Or won't.  
He tries again but stops. He just side grins.

THE DOCTOR

I want to show you something.

## RIVER SONG

Tell me your name, Doctor! It's  
been 800 years of time and space  
together and I want to know your  
name!

The Doctor takes her hand and they start walking to the  
middle floor. She holds him back.

## THE DOCTOR

I'm trying to.

River Song is stunned. She doesn't know what to say.  
Curiosity has taken hold. He takes her hand and they start  
walking toward the mist.

A woman bumps into her.

## WOMAN

I beg your pardon, I'm sorry.

River Song double takes. The woman is wearing an obscenely  
coloured multi-colour coat and dicky bow.

## RIVER SONG

That looks very familiar.

## THE DOCTOR

Aldrax is going through something  
of a fashion revolution. There's  
some very strange....

A woman walks past wearing a wig with a caged bird inside  
it.

## THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

...things indeed.

River Song laughs.

## THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

It's nice to see you happy.

## RIVER SONG

I was going to say the same to  
you. Don't you ever feel that you  
can just get away from it all?

## THE DOCTOR

That's the problem with being a  
time a traveller. Getting away  
from it all is difficult to do  
when you can go to anywhere in  
time and space.

(MORE)

## THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

But sometimes, just some nights,  
you don't want to.

River Song grabs him and pulls him closer. She takes his head, that old lined face, in both hands. She remembers when it was young. All these centuries of travelling, of helping of being together.

## RIVER SONG

When we're together. You and me,  
all of this, it's how it's meant  
to be.

He wants to forget what happens next. But for now, just for now, he's happy.

They reach the side of the circular mist. They can't see inside. River Song doesn't know what it is.

In front of her there is the rotating mist swirling round with occasional flashes of what looks like a reflection. Quick flashes and pulses of light. The music in the rest of the tunnel is too loud, she can't see a thing inside. Is it one song or two, a slow dance or a pop song?

## RIVER SONG (CONT'D)

Doctor what...what is this  
place...this thing?

## THE DOCTOR

I hope you brought your dancing  
shoes.

**INT. THE MIST**

The Doctor beams. He pulls her inside the mist as she screams.

The music is overpowering. The mist dissipates just enough to see people in there. She still feels The Doctor's hand. The mist clears. There are hanging mirrors everywhere, reflections glistening. The music is classic, or is it a steady dancebeat. She can hear it all.

## RIVER SONG

Doctor!

He says something but she can't hear it. He sees her put his top hat on, casting the cain aside into the air.

The mist clears. There are other people dancing, thrown and emerging through the glass; it's all like a shimmering before them. The music is no longer disjointed but a

beatiful cross being classical and dance, pop and rock. Melancholic and beautiful, it's incredibly powerful. The floor is diamond, there are roses along the circumference of the dance floor.

The Doctor pulls River close, and before she has a chance to speak, he spins her out toward one of the diamond shimmers. She screams as he speaks with a smile on his face.

THE DOCTOR  
All of time...!

She doesn't hit it, she passes through it and is picked up in another persons arms.

THE TENTH DOCTOR  
...and space!

The Tenth Doctor smiles.

THE TENTH DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
River Song, charmed to see you  
again!

RIVER SONG is bewildered.

RIVER SONG  
It can't be.

THE TENTH DOCTOR  
No time to chat, this is your  
song. Allon-sy!

He spins her out again and into another glimmer and she passes someone as her hand is grabbed.

THE SECOND DOCTOR  
Oh my giddy aunt, I nearly missed  
you that time. No time to chat,  
here we go...

The Second Doctor spins her again. River Songs knows what's happening. She knows it now, this dance, this eternal dance she's been playing all her life.

THE SIXTH DOCTOR  
It's been fun this, I was once  
voted most likely to win the  
galactic dance off....!

Again the glass. River Song is smiling and laughing. She knows what's happening now and is roaring with laughter and smiles.

THE SEVENTH DOCTOR  
 The benefits of temporal  
 dimensions and a transfiguration  
 of the matrix allow for a  
 multidimensional....

Another brief waltz, a gentle pass into another shimmer in  
 the mist.

THE THIRD DOCTOR  
 ...reversal of the polarity.

They waltz. Another spin.

THE NINTH DOCTOR  
 Fantastic isn't it! It never  
 stops...

A tango...

THE FOURTH DOCTOR  
 But it's hungry work. Would you  
 like a jelly baby?

River Song is delighted. The FOURTH DOCTOR holds her close,  
 before swinging her again.

THE EIGHTH DOCTOR  
 It's one of the many quirks of  
 being who we are, the ability to  
 see you with different eyes but  
 the same hearts.

RIVER SONG  
 The romantic.

He spins her.

THE FIFTH DOCTOR  
 Dancing is much like cricket, only  
 less complicated and besides, this  
 is the hands free era - no sonic,  
 no dancing but...

Another twirl.

THE FIRST DOCTOR  
 But then it's always the old  
 favourites first, hmm?

They're tangoing now.

RIVER SONG  
 I was hoping to get to see you.

## THE FIRST DOCTOR

The original dance you might say,  
my dear.

## RIVER SONG

I have so many questions.

## THE FIRST DOCTOR

You usually do. We don't have much  
time. You can only exist in  
another time frame for a few  
moments; this, eh, this dancing  
business is fun, hm?

## RIVER SONG

You're future self...he brought me  
here.

## THE FIRST DOCTOR

Ignore him! The silly old duffer.  
Whatever he says, we all love to  
dance. Although I was never very  
good at it.

## RIVER SONG

The drunk giraffe.

## THE FIRST DOCTOR

Oh that was mine! It was Susan's  
birthday at home and I needed a  
way to entertain the troops, hmph  
yes, arms raised and all that.

## RIVER SONG

You're the oldest.

## THE FIRST DOCTOR

Pah! The youngest. The younger you  
get the older you feel.

## RIVER SONG

How do you know who I am?

## THE FIRST DOCTOR

We have a saying.

They twirl.

## THE FIRST DOCTOR (CONT'D)

The oldest saying in the Universe.

The First Doctor turns and smiles. The old face full of so  
much life, so much grace. There's mischief in that face,  
the face that flew away from Gallifrey in a TARDIS and  
didn't look back.

THE FIRST DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
 Spoilers! My life couldn't be my  
 life without you. I wanted to see  
 my wife.

They twirl, he's slower on his feet, but he holds her close  
 and whispers in her ear.

THE FIRST DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
 All of us, we always see you. We  
 just can't say it...it's muddled.  
 Confused.

RIVER SONG looks into his eyes, he looks so old, but her  
 Doctor looks even older.

RIVER SONG  
 How can you all possibly know me?  
 I've only met two of you!

THE FIRST DOCTOR  
 Wel, time's full of surprises. As  
 someone once said to me, spoilers,  
 Doctor Song, spoilers.

The First Doctor spins her through a glass, she sees her  
 Doctor waiting with an outstretched hand and a wonderful,  
 old, beautiful smile on his face.

River Song reaches for him, but she's grabbed by another  
 hand. An old hand. She's pulled towards him.

The face is hard, cracked, she's never seen it before.

RIVER SONG  
 Who are you?

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
 It's time to run!

The Twelfth Doctor pulls her through his glimmer. In the  
 corner of her eye she sees the her Doctor panic and scream  
 'River!'. As she's pulled through, she notices three  
 soldiers appear pointing weapons at her and the Twelfth  
 Doctor.

The Time Lords fire.

**END OF ACT TWO**

ACT THREE4. EXT. THE ALDRAX ROOFTOP - NIGHT

The Twelfth Doctor and River appear out of the shimmer. They arrive back on the Aldrax 10 rooftop. The shimmer disappears.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
Sorry about that, but I don't have  
much time to do what I need to do!

RIVER SONG  
How can the Time Lords be back,  
how is that possible? Are you a  
Doctor?

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
Surely the devilish grin and  
excellent dress sense give it  
away.

The Twelfth Doctor is fumbling in his pockets for something. He's dressed in black with the exception of a white shirt, a waistcoat and a blue cravat and black coat.

RIVER SONG  
You can't be. How are they back?

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
Who? Well, yes. I am. The Doctor,  
just passing through, well,  
passing through a hail of bullets.

They're moving intently across the roof. He pulls out his screwdriver. It's oddly shaped, a cylinder of pure bronze. He presses it and silver fins spring out. He's scanning his it and checking every few seconds. It is him. But how? How can it be?

RIVER SONG  
You *really* can't be. Take me back!  
Why are they here?

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
We're being chased and shot at.  
You're being shot at. Nothing ever  
quite changes you know and they  
are not happy people.

## RIVER SONG

Who aren't? You must know who they are? And where is *my* Doctor?

## THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

Downstairs, presumably scrambling from gun fire.

## RIVER SONG

We have to go back! We can't just leav-

## THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

They don't care. They want me. They're coming after me. Now. We need to move.

## RIVER SONG

Where am I, in your timeline?

## THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

I don't know. That's bit, as they say, hazy. Time is not doing what it should be. Everything has shifted a bit to the left.

## RIVER SONG

How long have you been on your own?

## THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

I don't know, how long have any of us ever been on our own?

## RIVER SONG

That long. It's not excuse. If they're here, if you know they want you, we need to fight!

## THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

No, really. I don't know. I received a note on the physic paper with a message, a set of coordinates to land at.

## RIVER SONG

From who? Why would anyone do that and invite you to somewhere you were all already at 11 times just to get shot at?

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
Yeah, well that's enough conundrum  
inside a headache I'd prefer not  
to have to deal with.

RIVER SONG  
How did you know to go down there?

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
The message. This entire place  
exists like a frozen lake, so  
easily fractured. I parked up here  
and and used the sonic.

They turn around the rooftop. Next to the Eleventh Doctor's TARDIS there's another one now. This one looks less old, more maintained. Could it be younger? The Doctor brings out a key and walks into it.

#### **4. INT. THE TARDIS**

The shape of it. The design of it. Everything is so much darker, and metal. She's never seen this one before. He points at the TARDIS console. River looks around.

RIVER SONG  
The TARDIS.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
It's a TARDIS, yes. My TARDIS  
because I'm *the* Doctor. And we  
still have a problem. Men. Guys.  
Usually bad.

RIVER SONG  
Doctor, do you know who I am?

He lifts his head up from the console. He stares intently into River eyes. She hopes to see something there but there's nothing. Could she have missed an incarnation? Impossible. What else could it be?

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
Of course, of course, of course!

She's goes beside him and puts his head in her hands.

RIVER SONG  
You're older. I can feel it. You  
don't even look it, that much, but  
you are, aren't you? I was always  
worried I'd look into those eyes  
one day and you wouldn't recognise  
me but...not like this.

He awkwardly takes her hands away and goes back to staring at the console. He ignores her.

RIVER SONG (CONT'D)

Why do we not take off then? And let's go and get my Doctor! What's going on?

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

Well, em, me and the old girl - we've had a bit of a falling out. Just give me a second. It's telling me how to do it.

RIVER SONG

What do you mean telling you how to do it? Do you *know* who those men where shooting at you?

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

Well, I'm struggling to remember. There's bit and pieces and I get the basics but, nope, that's it. Not a clue, but men with guns are rarely a good for business.

River looks around the TARDIS. The console room is just so different to one she's used to. Her one is so cavernous, so eclectic even if it is worth around the edges. Just like it was when she first saw it. This one is darker, sadder, more enclosed and metallic with a red hue. It looks new and old. Much like *this* Doctor. Who is he?

RIVER SONG

Do you know where we're going now?

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

Gotcha! Yes, now, yes. I remember - coordinates and plan and soldiers bad. Got it.

He starts pushing buttons, and moving levers. They take off with that old, familiar whirring.

RIVER SONG

I want to go back Doctor, I want to see my Doctor. The real one!

The TARDIS comes to a stop. The doors open on their own. He runs to the door and opens it.

**5. INT. ALDRAX TELESCOPE**

They both walk out. They're on a giant platform, in space. It's the telescope orbiting Aldrax 10. The entire interior is pale white, an entire wall is just one window looking into space at the planet below. The rift is ahead of them, hypnotically moving. It's beautiful.

At the ledge of the platform looking down on them is a diamond telescope aimed directly at the planet.

Out of no where a huge burst of yellow light, of looping and meshing rage, appears from the rift. It begins to consume the planet.

RIVER SONG

The planet. The rift.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

Everything below is being destroyed. It looks familiar. Such a shame.

RIVER SONG

Such a shame? Help them! You're down there! Help him, help us you!

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

How? It's over. It's been over since the Moment. It never had a chance.

She doesn't have time to ask. The yellow casts over the planet as colour and life drain from its surface. 100 billion people.

From the rift appears an orb that heads to the station and opens in front of the screen.

THE ORB

Time Lord of Gallifrey. You are in violation of order 1-9-1-6-7-3.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

You'll need to forgive me, I don't quite recall who you are. And we've got a bit of a situation here.

The orb flickers and folds in on itself. In a flash of light 10 bodies appear next to River and The Doctor. River recognises the symbols. Impossible.

A tall, sharp-nosed man in red fluttering Gallifreyan robes stands in front of the Doctor.

## THE AXMAR

Doctor, it's been too long but,  
just somehow, not long enough. You  
are hereby under arrest for  
desertion and cowardice.

The Doctor says nothing. He puts out his hands as the other  
soldiers chain his hands.

## RIVER SONG

You...survived. How did you  
survive! Where are you taking him?  
Where's my Doctor?

The guards knock her down as she steps forward.

## THE DOCTOR

No! No! Leave her alone. I'll come  
with you but do not touch her!

## RIVER SONG

Take me with you. Wherever you're  
going. I'm a Time Lord!

The Axmar strikes her again.

## THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

Let her go!

## THE AXMAR

Mongrel, you will not be permitted  
on the hallowed ground of our  
home. You're an abomination, a  
fluke of history that the renegade  
has taken a liking to. Bring his  
TARDIS!

Far behind them, the doors spring shut and start to  
dematerialise. The TARDIS heard them.

## THE AXMAR (CONT'D)

After it!

He turns to The Doctor.

## THE AXMAR (CONT'D)

Summon your TARDIS, boy.

## THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

No, no I don't think we'll be  
doing that today.

The Axmar strikes The Doctor across the face. He raises his  
gauntlet to River Song.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
 No! I don't know how. I don't know  
 how to summon it back! You built  
 them, you do it! I can't recall it  
 at will!

RIVER SONG  
 He doesn't know who he is!

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
 How did you know?

RIVER SONG  
 I always know.

THE AXMAR  
 The Deserter, the Warrior doesn't  
 know his deeds?

The Axmar laughs.

THE AXMAR (CONT'D)  
 A setback. It's time for you to go  
 home, Doctor. This, all of this,  
 will forever and always be the  
 fault of a disgusting adolescent.

He waves his gauntlet over the screen. The rift begins to  
 crumble.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
 River, whatever, whatever this is,  
 River, I know but I don't  
 remember.

RIVER SONG  
 When did it happen?

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
 I don't remember. I just knew I  
 had to save you. To keep you safe.  
 One last time, eh?

River stares at the lifeless planet below.

RIVER SONG  
 Billions...dead.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
 I'm sorry. I tried. I,

RIVER SONG  
 Say it.

## THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

I 1-

The Timelords dissappear with their cuffed prisoner.

## THE DOCTOR

Did you miss me?

She sharply turns, the Eleventh Doctor! Hat, cane and coatails to boot. He looks the same, he's leaning against the wall.

## THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Got a bit singed down there but,  
but honey, I'm home.

She slaps him.

## RIVER SONG

What's going on? I don't  
understand. Did you know? Why are  
you so cruel? Why did you have to  
be so cruel?

## THE DOCTOR

Because you were sent by them,  
River. You were the trap River, a  
beacon to lure the Time Lords here  
to take me home.

## RIVER SONG

I met you.

## THE DOCTOR

You met me?

## RIVER SONG

A future you, he didn't know who I  
was. How the TARDIS worked. How  
did you track me?

## THE DOCTOR

Still a he, then.

## RIVER SONG

How can you joke?

## THE DOCTOR

I summoned the TARDIS and tracked  
your signal. It's ruined the party  
a bit, and I really wanted to  
dance.

## RIVER SONG

What? What's going on?

## THE DOCTOR

You must know this. You must know  
how this ends. Today was the day  
and I wanted a bang!

## RIVER SONG

What is happening!

## THE DOCTOR

Time is taking a day off. You're  
dying River, your timeline has  
been cut off. The Timelords have  
manipulated you into a trap. And  
we'll die together.

## RIVER SONG

But I'm here.

## THE DOCTOR

But you're the story. Those pages.  
It has no where left to go. You  
might time travel but you have no  
where to go. Where's your diary  
River?

## RIVER SONG

I haven't used it in centuries! My  
memories are with you. We've spent  
800 years together. All of time  
and space, everywhere and  
everything.

## THE DOCTOR

The TimeLords, River, they knew  
who you are. They want their own  
survival, and they know who you  
are. Your life, the ultimate  
prize, the one thing I could never  
resist saving. They needed me from  
a future to save them from the  
time-lock. I just wished they'd  
shown up a bit later.

## RIVER SONG

But who did they take? I saw a  
future you!

## THE DOCTOR

If they're back, if they've found  
a way to survive what I did then  
they're bringing everything with  
it. All of it. They've...

The Doctor stares at the lifeless husk below. A dead planet, so beaming with life earlier is wiped out now with nothing left.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

They've murdered billions to bring me in. They've murdered a hundred billion to bring me in.

His eyes turn to rage, ferocious rage that cannot be tamed. A moment of realisation passes over his face. He knows now. He knows now.

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

RIVER SONG

Why would they use me to trap you?

THE DOCTOR

Why were you in prison?

RIVER SONG

I don't remember.

THE DOCTOR

River, River Song. I remember. You went to prison for killing the best man that you ever knew.

RIVER SONG

Why don't I remember?

THE DOCTOR

Because the Time Lords murdered you River. They murdered you 900 years ago to create a fixed point in time. They saw a future, a future in which they could escape the Time War. To do that they needed a paradox to snare me here, do you understand?

RIVER SONG

You said I died...?

THE DOCTOR

River they murdered you to destroy my timeline. They knew that if we were together long enough, travelled together long enough, killing my wife would devastate all of space and time to weaken the rift to bring them out.

RIVER SONG

How long have you known?

THE DOCTOR

I've always known. I watched it happen.

RIVER SONG

Then why didn't you do soemthing? Why did you let them to do this to me? If I died how am I here?

THE DOCTOR

You were shot, in front of me. You died River. And the Time Lords...they knew what I'd do.

RIVER SONG

What happened?

THE DOCTOR

It doesn't matter now. They changed history. And we're going to change it back. I won't lose you. The Time Lords knew you'd travel all over my time stream if I cheated your death.

RIVER SONG

But why not just kill your first incarnation? If they're so intent on stopping you ending their war, why not got back to the beginning? Why do they want to maximise the damage?

THE DOCTOR

I've done too much for them. They need precision, a localised time stream disruption. Just enough to totally destabilise the rift to bring Gallifrey back without destroying the Universe.

RIVER SONG

But...we're still here. Gallifrey isn't.

THE DOCTOR

No, only some of them. If they sent The Axmar they're going to try something else. They've failed, and that can only mean trouble.

RIVER SONG

But why did they take the future you?

THE DOCTOR

I don't know.

RIVER SONG

What did you do?

THE DOCTOR

I took your body, and cloned you.

You're a copy River. I cloned your body after you were shot because I couldn't stand to be without you.

The Doctor, this old Doctor, looks ashamed.

RIVER SONG

You...can't have. How could you have? Why didn't I regenerate? Why did I die? How could you take my life, to make it your own?

THE DOCTOR

I couldn't live without you. The only way to save time, to protect this - is to separate us. I should never, ever have done it. The Time Lords knew I could never live without my wife.

RIVER SONG

Then River Song must die.

THE DOCTOR

No! I will not lose one day with you, but I won't watch the Universe burn for them. The Time Lords, they're coming back, and they need to be stopped.

RIVER SONG

Then River Song has to die. But why...why would a clone matter? Why would a clone change anything? Why didn't they wait until the real me travelled with you?

THE DOCTOR

You...didn't have much of a chance. You died, in a library. Your life will be cut short but I need you. I need you in my life. You seared onto my hearts.

RIVER SONG

We'll always have our time. I'll fix this. You sentimental old fool. You sentimental, sentimental old fool.

THE DOCTOR

I'm so old River, I just didn't want to be alone. They manipulated you, me, all of existence.

## RIVER SONG

But, the next you - the future  
you, I mean. What will they do to  
him? Where is he?

## THE DOCTOR

I don't know. I don't understand  
how it's possible. They've already  
started. With him, they'll  
manipulate his temporal stream,  
you and me, to get what they want.  
The only way to fix it is to  
minimise what changes they can  
make.

## RIVER SONG

You're still a hero. You made a  
mistake...after centuries you're  
allowed one. We have to fix this.  
I don't remember much from the  
early days, now I know why.

## THE DOCTOR

I'm not. I'm really not. My memory  
is fading too, the time streams,  
they're becoming too confused.

## RIVER SONG

If I died, then how am I the woman  
who killed the Doctor?

## THE DOCTOR

What?

## RIVER SONG

The woman who killed the Doctor.

## THE DOCTOR

Time. Time kills us all in the  
end. But if we're to fix this,  
will you help me? Help me. Please.

## RIVER SONG

We had our time. They haven't. And  
we'll fix it, together.

They walk along the catwalk leading to the counterpoint of  
the telescope.

## THE DOCTOR

This telescope is directly pointed  
at the planet. It amplifies all  
the radiation sent from the rift  
and channels it across the planet  
for the light display.

RIVER SONG

I don't understand.

THE DOCTOR

A giant, massive telescope pointed on the planet. A planet of 100 billion dead, a future Doctor trapped by the Time Lords and you, the woman who killed the Doctor.

She stares at him.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Jailed for the biggest murder in history. You killed The Doctor. That's why you were in prison. You don't remember much from before your death. Silence will fall when the question is asked. River Song, will you help me?

River starts to cry.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Our time, the time we've had. It's ours, and it will always be ours. You're old, and so am I.

RIVER SONG

What are you doing?

The Doctor begins pushing and alligning buttons. It's time for the question. The one that matters the most.

THE DOCTOR

Will you help me?

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

This station doesn't haven't any weapons. I can save the people down below, and stop the Time Lords returning.

She holds his arm.

RIVER SONG

There is no way out.

THE DOCTOR

There's always a way out. I just needed to look in your eyes and remember it. Our life, it was selfish. I was a selfish old man. And now this has happened.

He reaches behind her and pulls out her gun. She kept it, always kept it, aftert all these centuries. He points it to his chest, her fingers wrapped around the trigger.

RIVER SONG

What are you doing! No, no, no!  
You can't.

THE DOCTOR

Only way, this is the only way and  
I can't do it.

He holds the gun to his chest and closes his eyes.

RIVER SONG

No!

He stands for a moment.

THE DOCTOR

No, not brave today. Coward.

RIVER SONG

You're the bravest man I know. You  
were selfish and stupud but not  
this. We can fix this.

He smiles. He smiles that smile.

RIVER SONG (CONT'D)

A romantic evening.

THE DOCTOR

Did you enjoy seeing us all  
together?

RIVER SONG

All of you. I love you, Doctor.

THE DOCTOR

I love you, too River.

She's crying, her hands are shaking holding the gun.

THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

I'll see you again, the next time  
around.

RIVER SONG

I won't live without you. I'll fix  
this.

He turns around and looks at the galaxy through the space station window. He looks at his mistake that cost billions of lives. The Time Lords killed them all trying to return.

## THE DOCTOR

You know what the funny thing about old eyes? They see the same as young ones, and you, you are beautiful. The Universe, it's beautiful.

## RIVER SONG

She knows what has to be done. She knows what has to happen.

## THE DOCTOR

Whatever changes happen in the past, Aldrax would remain the same. These people have to be saved.

She looks at him, she knows now. She understands. He brings out his psychic paper, he writes something on it and closes it.

## THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Just something to remember me by.

## RIVER SONG

I love you, my husband.

## THE DOCTOR

I love you, my wife.

Tears break into his eyes.

## THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Geronimo.

She fires. She fires again. He falls, he falls back over the side. He begins to glow, a regeneration fire ball falling to the catwalk below. She races to the edge, but is stopped shielding her eyes, it's too bright. The light, all of it, is amplified by the diamonds inside, it casts out over the planet below. The planet's lights start coming on. A thousand million lives returning, basking in his regeneration energy.

## OPERATOR ON ALDRAX

Hello? Hello? What happened? Who's there?

## RIVER SONG

This is...this is River Song. Is everyone ok down there?

OPERATOR ON ALDRAX  
What the hell was that? What  
happened up there?

RIVER SONG  
The Doctor...he saved you.

OPERATOR ON ALDRAX  
What happened to him?

River runs down stairs to the chasm below. She can't see through, she can't get into the inner chamber.

In the background, the TARDIS materialises away.

She steps presses buttons on her vortex manipulator. It's time to go home.

RIVER SONG  
I killed him.

**END OF ACT FOUR**

**ACT FIVE****INT. STORMGATE PRISON - CELL**

RIVER SONG

I need to tell you something. I  
need you to listen, because I  
can't stay long.

She brings out her diary. Ripped and torn, 800 years worth  
of memories.

YOUNG RIVER

How is this possible?

RIVER SONG

You're here because you killed a  
man. Do you remember when they  
arrested you?

YOUNG RIVER

They picked me up near Aldrax,  
they said I killed the Doctor.

YOUNG RIVER (CONT'D)

You're...life, our life together,  
with him depends on staying here.  
Live the lie, for now. Don't  
escape. Don't run. Let him come to  
you.

YOUNG RIVER (CONT'D)

Why are you here? Where do you  
come from?

RIVER SONG

Because it needs to happen  
differently. And it can. We need  
to save him from himself.

YOUNG RIVER

If we change history, your  
history, his history - our  
memories of him will never happen.

RIVER SONG

Not if you remember for us. Tell  
him. Guide him. Lead him. Remember  
this. Where I'm going, it won't  
last. I'm going to cease to be,  
shortly.

## RIVER SONG (CONT'D)

As long as you remember, as long  
as we live, he'll know. Maybe tell  
him one day. Tell him about his  
wife. Tell him about the  
adventures and the years to come.  
Live beside him. Life with him.  
Meet all of him.

## YOUNG RIVER

What now?

## RIVER SONG

It's time to sleep. I need to go.

## YOUNG RIVER

It's date night.

## RIVER SONG

He'll be here. This bit I  
remember. He said he wanted to  
pick up Amy and Rory, but wanted  
to see you first.

## YOUNG RIVER

Date night. He'll come.

## RIVER SONG

Goodbye Doctor Song. Just follow  
my lead.

She brings out her laser cutter. Slices through the bars.  
Sirens begin to wail. The TARDIS materialises and the  
Eleventh Doctor, so young steps out. Guards begin shooting.  
Here it goes again, but differently.

CUT TO:

**1. INT. STORMGATE PRISON - CORRIDOR**

River Song lays dead on the floor. The Doctor cradles her.

The guns fall silent. The Doctor stands.

## SOLDIER #1

Sir, we had no choice.

## THE DOCTOR

Do you think summer lasts forever?

Out from behind the bars, an old familiar face. How can it  
be?

FEMALE SOLDIER  
 Doctor. She's stunned.

The Doctor knows that face, but it's older. So much older.

RIVER SONG  
 There's a female guard somewhere  
 with a sore head.

The Doctor holds River Song's arm, and it glows as she gasps for air. They run to the TARDIS.

RIVER SONG (CONT'D)  
 Goodbye, my love.

The older River fades away.

**INT. INSIDE THE TARDIS**

THE DOCTOR  
 River, I just saw you die. And you  
 were saved by...yourself.

There are tears in his eyes.

YOUNG RIVER  
 I love you. I've always loved you.

THE DOCTOR  
 I, eh - well, Turkey? What  
 happened?

RIVER SONG  
 Spoilers.

THE DOCTOR  
 I hate when you do that.

RIVER SONG  
 No you don't.

CUT TO:

**INT. INSIDE THE TARDIS**

A hand on the keyboard. Coordinates vibrating in his pocket. Confusion. Instructions in his pocket. He remembers doing something...on a space station? Notes in his pocket, telling him where to be. So much confusion. But why, who? Who is he? A voice in his head. No time. TARDIS? His TARDIS?

He grabs spare clothes, removing the burned ones. He pushes the lever and hears the wheezing. He swings the door open. He follows the instructions with this device, that glows. A sonic? He grabs the first hand he feels, an old lady.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
It's time to run!

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE THE CITADEL ON GALLIFREY

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
This universe.

THE AXMAR  
Is a problem.

THE DOCTOR  
I take it the situation is against you, and you failed, seemingly.

THE AXMAR  
Your wife, Doctor, had an unfortunate habit of saving you when you didn't deserve it.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
I never deserved it.

THE AXMAR  
Your memories, they'll fade. That life with her never existed.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
You're an idiot. Who cares if it existed! She'll remember it. We're all stories in the end aren't we, and ours is the best.

THE AXMAR  
You've betrayed everything we stand for. A mongrel Time Lord who can't even regenerate.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
What do you want from me anyway?

THE AXMAR  
You're home.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
I ran away the first time. And I killed you all.

THE AXMAR

But we're still here.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

How'd you manage that anyhow?

THE AXMAR

The beautiful part of this, Doctor, is our salvation came by your hand.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

You've spent centuries exploring alternative timelines to try and find the best one to come out of? Why fuel a paradox for 800 years with my life?

THE AXMAR

Because we predicted her response. She dies in a library, she never died in a prison. History remembers that you saved her. What we needed was a timeline where your fury, your rage at her loss, drove you to such depths as to corrupt your own timeline, so introduce her to all yourselves and to nearly destroy the Universe so we could returned.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

And you failed.

THE AXMAR

Not quite, Doctor. Time, with a little help from us now, will turn out much better than we could ever have hoped. Your paradox has been our salvation. We now have at our disposal a rogue incarnation. You're a paradox Doctor, sustained by us to do our bidding.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR

I find that unlikely.

THE AXMAR

You might say that. But one weak spot remains. On Trenzalore, you'll fight for us. You'll slaughter our enemies and bring us home. If you're incarnations fall, so be it. 11 will die, but 12 is the paradox that belongs to us.

THE TWELFTH DOCTOR  
You can't control me Axmar, a  
stupid name by the way, even for  
Gallifrey's torturer.

THE AXMAR  
We'll see what you say if you're  
so valiant when we tell you that  
we have your family.

The Twelfth Doctor goes silent. Tears form in his eyes.

THE AXMAR (CONT'D)  
Goodnight, Doctor. Or would  
Valeyard be a better name?

THE DOCTOR  
Hope's a funny thing. I can't win.  
but, before I go, there's a little  
something I want you to know.

THE AXMAR  
Yes?

THE DOCTOR  
When you run with River, you feel  
like it will never end. Everybody  
knows that everybody dies. I never  
accepted it, but I'll settle for  
that. We'll fight you.

THE AXMAR  
So be it, Valeyard. Remember your  
family.

**CUT TO:**

**END TITLES**

**END OF EPISODE ONE**

