

DOCTOR WHO

SERIES 10

EPISODE 3

"Thin Ice"

by

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PINK SCRIPT

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(SHOOTING BLOCK 2)

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 14.30

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.

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:

EXT. BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE - DAY 15 - 15.07

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.

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 15.15

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:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 15.25

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

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. Rathan' T BT Doctor...

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 15.54

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:

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

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

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:

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

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:

EXT. THE FROZEN THAMES - DAY 15 - 16.00

The DRUNK MAN follows the lights into the thick fog. Head down, still whistling, watching the lights glow brighter...

Until the fog swallows him up entirely. All we can see is swirling white. All we can hear is the whistling.

Then - a horrible cracking sound. A shout! Cut off by the sound of a huge splash. No more whistling.

The fog clears a little...

And the drunk man has vanished.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 16.06

BILL and THE DOCTOR walk, heads down, watching for lights.

BILL

Is this why the TARDIS brought you back here? Because you missed something last time?

THE DOCTOR

Wouldn't surprise me. These lights - what do you think? Electric or organic?

BILL

Organic lights?

THE DOCTOR

Bioluminescence. Fireflies, glow-worms.

KITTY (O.C.)

Please, sir. Have you seen my dog?

BILL and THE DOCTOR pull up short before KITTY, putting on big sad eyes, holding an empty dog's leash.

KITTY (CONT'D)

He was right here but I looked away and he...

KITTY trails off, emotional.

BILL

It's okay, we'll help. What does he look like?

Behind BILL, we see SPIDER in his red cap, smoothly lifting a coin purse from Bill's coat pocket.

KITTY
Something valuable. Don't break it.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 15 - 16.08

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:

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

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.

SPI DER
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
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

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.

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

KITTY

THE DOCTOR

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:

EXT. LONDON STREET - NIGHT 15 - 19.35

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.

THE DOCTOR

Potenti ally.

BILL

Potenti ally?? What' s *potenti ally*
mean?

THE DOCTOR

Safe wi th a fri sson of exci tement.

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:

EXT. UNDERWATER. THE THAMES - NIGHT 15 - 20.42

EXT. UNDERWATER. THE THAMES RIVERBED - NIGHT 15 - 20.42

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 immovable.

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:

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

(i nspecting the mouth)

Defi ni tely not carni vores. Whi ch
means you' re cooperating wi th the
creature. You' re *provi ding* for i t.
What do you get i n return, hmm?
What did i t take for you to evolve
l i ke thi s?

BILL

The creature. Do you think that' s
what' s making London so col d?

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 PIE-MAN

Yes. Hi m.

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:

EXT. DREDGERS WORKHOUSE - DAY 16 - 8.30

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:

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

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

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:

EXT. LORD'S RESIDENCE - DAY 16 - 9.30

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 deadpan BUTLER. The Doctor thrusts his psychic paper in his face.

CUT TO:

SCENES 41 & 42 OMITTED

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

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:

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

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

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:

EXT. LORD'S RESIDENCE - DAY 16 - 9.47

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

CUT TO:

INT. CLOSED CARRIAGE - DAY 16 - 9.48

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:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR, SUTCLIFFE'S TENT - DAY 16 - 11.00

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:

INT. SUTCLIFFE'S TENT, THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.00

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

HHHHHEEEEEELL! HELP! HE--

THE DOCTOR cringes away as we pull back fast and -

CUT TO:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR, SUTCLIFFE'S TENT - DAY 16 - 11.00

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)
--EEELLLLLPP! HELP!

CUT TO:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.31

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:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR, SUTCLIFFE'S TENT - DAY 16 - 11.31

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)
--EEELLLLLPP! HHHEE--

CUT TO:

INT. SUTCLIFFE'S TENT, THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.31

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

BILL

Tiny?

THE DOCTOR

The creature. The Loch-ness 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

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:

EXT. UNDERWATER. THE THAMES - DAY 16 - 11.45

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:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.48

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:

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

People queuing for coffee. PERRY and BILL burst in.

PERRY
The ice is melting!

BILL

Nervous REVELLERS start pushing out of the tent.

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

CUT TO:

EXT. THAMES RIVERBANK - DAY 16 - 11.50

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,

And presses the charge himself!

CUT TO:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.55

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

CUT TO:

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

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

CUT TO:

EXT. THAMES RIVERBANK, DOWNSTREAM - DAY 16 - 11.55

SUTCLIFFE looks out to the ice, furious.

SUTCLIFFE

What??

SUTCLIFFE presses the charge again. And again.

CUT TO:

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:

EXT. UNDERWATER. THE THAMES - DAY 16 - 11.56

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:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.56

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:

EXT. DREDGERS' WORK YARD - DAY 16 - 11.57

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:

SCENES 69&70 OMITTED

EXT. UNDERWATER. THE THAMES - DAY 16 - 11.57

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:

EXT. THE THAMES FROST FAIR - DAY 16 - 11.57

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:

EXT. THAMES RIVERBANK, DOWNSTREAM - DAY 16 - 11.58

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 droa -0.016ok j 0 L (CONT'D)

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.

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

CUT TO:

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

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:

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

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. ou.6lAaamo6Uw4trr5a2 1 Tf (THE DOCTOR)

EXT. BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE - DAY 16 - 16.30

The river is flowing freely beneath the bridge again. The TARDIS begins to dematerialize.

BILL (O.C.)
So I get that the timeline makes
its own rules and all...

CONTINUOUS TO:

INT. TARDIS - DAY 16 - 16.30

The DOCTOR and BILL at the console.

BILL
...but we must've changed
something, right? I mean, people
saw a monster in the Thames. That's
gonna cause some ripples.

THE DOCTOR
Maybe.

CUT TO:

INT. THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT 14 - 22.18

The TARDIS materializes. BILL follows THE DOCTOR into his office as she types into her phone. She gives the room a cursory glance.

BILL
Doesn't look any different.

NARDOLE backs in through the office door with a tray of tea things, just minutes after we left him at the start of ep2.

NARDOLE
There we are! A nice cup of tea.
Now, doesn't it feel better when
you stick to your - [oath?]

He turns and sees their outfits. Stares. The penny drops.

NARDOLE (CONT'D)
Sir! No! This is unacceptable! This
is beyond unacceptable. This is
naughty.

THE DOCTOR
Language.

BILL
(reacting to her phone)
There's nothing here...

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