#### 1 GOLDEN AGE

ΒY

## JAMES GOSS

## SCENE 1: A RAILWAY SIDING IN DELHI

1.	IANTO:	Ok, Jack, I'm in position.
2.	JACK:	Can you see anything?
3.	IANTO:	Not yet. It's not easy with this many people around.
A steam train is pulling into the siding.		
		Wait a minute. Woah! (disbelieving) There's a steam train pulling in!
4.	JACK:(radio)	The last time I rode a steam train in India must have been 80 years ago.
5.	IANTO:	(cutting in) They're unloading something. Hi-

tech-looking metal crates. It's got to be the

shipment from Silicon Valley!

		Z
7.	IANTO:	I'll have to zoom in. (digital noise) The guy
		who's paying is handing over a bag. I can't
		quite see hang on Oh. He would appear
		to be paying in rubies.
8.	JACK:	Rubies? Quaint. We've got to find out where
		those crates are going.
9.	IANTO:	Just hacking into the courier's PDA. Oh.
		They're addressed to "Captain Jack
		Harkness".
10.	JACK:	(radio) That's got to be someone's idea of a
		joke! (urgent bleeping) lanto, I need you back
		here - quick. We're in trouble.

# SCENE 2: BUSY STREET MARKET IN DELHI

Tech bleeping

11. JACK:

net and as it goes, it marks everyone with an ion signature. Like a hook. As it powers up, the net draws in...

20. GWEN: But all these people, what's going to happen to them?

# SCENE 3: FACTORY – the sound of sewing machines

21.	IANTO:	(shouting) Please stop working and get out of the building. It's very important! Everyone has to leave now!
22.	IANTO:	(into radio) Jack, it's no good, no one's moving.
23.	JACK:(Radio)	lanto! It's coming! Get them out!
24.	IANTO:	Right. (He hits the fire alarm)
25.	IANTO:	Fire! Fire! Come on everyone that's it - run!

#### SCENE 7: INDIAN STREET

#### lanto comes running in.

30.	IANTO:	(breathless, shocked) The factory. They all vanished. I'm sorry. I tried.
31.	GWEN:	What happened? Where did everybody go?
32.	JACK:	I dunno. But if we're going to get them back, we have to find the source. (using his scanner) Those people were already marked by the energy net before we got here. So the source must be nearby behind this street somewhere. Wait a minute. I've been here before a long time ago. Hmm (as in 'that's strange').
33.	GWEN:	What is it?
34.	JACK:	That building shouldn't exist. I shut it down.

Over 80 years ago.

## HE STRIDES FORWARD. THEY FOLLOW.

35. JACK: Come on.

## HE SWINGS THE DOOR OPEN

36. JACK: Welcome to Torchwood India.

## SCENE 8: TORCHWOOD INDIA CLUB RECEPTION

48. JACK: (to Mr Das) We've come from Torchwood Cardiff. Who's in charge nowadays? I'd like to see them.

49. MR DAS: Very good, Captain Harkness. I'll inform the

9

11 here. I think there's something very alien and very dangerous in this building.

- 74. DUCHESS: (LOWERING GUN) Promise it's the truth?
- 75. JACK: Absolutely. Would I lie to you? Again?
- 76. DUCHESS: (sighs) Fine. Save the world, shoot you later. (SHE SWEEPS DOWN THE STAIRS) And who are your charming friends?
- 77. JACK: Ianto Jones and Gwen Cooper. We're Torchwood Cardiff.
- 78. DUCHESS: Torchwood.... Cardiff, eh? (sniffs) Whatever next! Well, how d'y'do? Charmed! I'm Eleanor, Duchess of Melrose. Call me Nelly, do.
- 79. IANTO: Pleased to meet you.
- 80. GWEN: Hello. (friendly) I love your ballgown.
- 81. DUCHESS: You are too kind, Miss Cooper. And what fetching overalls you're wearing, you must give me the pattern! Dear me, what fun – we haven't had a crisis here since... well. Forever.
- 82. JACK: But Eleanor, what are you still doing here? I last saw you in 19... 19... (struggling)
- 83. DUCHESS: (hint of steel) 1924. February 28<sup>th</sup>. (all smiles again) So many questions! Let's get out of the

#### 13 SCENE 9: THE DUCHESS'S PARLOUR

90. DUCHESS: Now, my best-beloveds, sit down! Sit down! I'll take this old wicker horror, Miss Cooper, you must have the recliner. Captain Harkness to the chaise... (and she's sharp here) And

Himahlayah to a one-eyed-yellow idol to the North of Kathmandhu. A magnificent storehouse! And then, one sad day in 1924 Captain Jack Harkness brought official greetings and an armful of dance records, and... he had all that lovely alien plunder packed in tea chests and sent back to the Mother Country. He took everything away. We were left with only our memories and a copy of "Yes, we have no bananas". Now where is Gissing? (rings bell)

 108.
 GWEN:
 (firm) Something here must be causing this

 this.
 Something Jack missed. We should look

 around, just to be sure.

 109.
 DUCHESS:
 Well, you won't find a bean. (rings bell again)

 Captain H took everything that wasn't nailed down. But how exciting!

## DOOR OPENS. ENTER GISSING

110.	DUCHESS:	Ah, Gissing, there you are! What kept you?
------	----------	--

111. GISSING: (Clipped, English, 60s) I am sorry I'm late, Duchess. I was helping Das deal with a delivery. I didn't know we had guests.

#### 112. DUCHESS:

## GISSING, IANTO AND GWEN LEAVE

122. DUCHESS: You and me, eh Captain H, looking for aliens. Just like old times.

Final Draft 24th April 2009

21144.JACK:I sometimes wish I could have stayed.145.DUCHESS:Me too. We'd have had an absolute ball! It's<br/>been ever so quiet in here since you went.<br/>(smiles) But where have you been all this<br/>time? Surely not at Torchwood, ah...<br/>(pretending to forget)

- 146. JACK: Cardiff.
- 147.
   DUCHESS:
   Cardiff, yes of course. (snide) And what a lot of aliens must choose *that* as their first port of call.
- 148.JACK:Oh, you'd be surprised. (smiles) We've got a<br/>rift.
- 149. DUCHESS: Oh, if only we'd had one of those! I'm positively jealous.
- 150. JACK: Of the rift?
- 151. DUCHESS: Perhaps. Mr Jones... he's very good looking. Is he your -?
- 152. JACK: Assistant.
- 153. DUCHESS: No doubt.
- 154.JACK:(smirks) And what about you? Still the only<br/>deb in the Royal Connaught?

155. DUCHESS: Oh, I'll always have my colonels. Darling old fusspots. Are you absolutely sure your energy thing is in this club? 156. JACK: I'm afraid so.
157. DUCHESS: I'm sure you're wrong. But what a thrill to think we're in deadly danger. So, search you must! Let's go to the Library. We've ever so many Wisdens. Who knows what they may be concealing?

## SHE OPENS A DOOR AND SWEEPS AHEAD.

## SCENE 13: THE LIBRARY

## A grandfather clock chimes. The Duchess flips through a book.

172.	DUCHESS:	Oh there's nothing like a well-thumbed Kipling, is there, Captain H? Takes me back. All those honeyed words. Those promises. Those cheekbones. And all that time you just wanted to get into my
173.	JACK:	Treasure house.
174.	DUCHESS:	Yes – remember how we danced? (sings, and Charlestons) Y <i>es, we have no bananas</i> We have no bananas today!
175.	JACK:	(grabs her to stop this) We're running out of time, Duchess. We've got to find the source of that energy field. Is there something you're not telling me?
176.	DUCHESS:	(close-up) Jack, what happened to all our alien bounty after you took it away?
177.	JACK:	Packed into storage. Forgotten about.
178.	DUCHESS:	(sadly) Just like me. You never gave me another thought, did you? (suddenly hopeful) Not the tiniest little thought of dear Nelly?
179.	JACK:	(truth) Yes. Yes I have thought about you. You were everything good about Torchwood.

25

180.	DUCHESS:	26 (moved) Was I? (tease) And you were
		everything bad. Mummy always told me never
		to trust a <i>boxwallah</i> . Why did you close us down?
		down?
181.	JACK:	They were my orders. The Torchwood
		Institute knew the Empire was coming to an
		end.
182.	DUCHESS:	(teasing) And they didn't want all that alien
		loot left lying around? Imagine if the locals
		had got their grubby hands on something
		lethal?
183.	JACK:	They were different times, Eleanor.
184.	DUCHESS:	For you, maybe. But perhaps Torchwood had
		a point.
185.	JACK:	I'm not saying it was the right thing to do. If I
		had another chance if I could do it over
		again No, I don't think I'd have done the
		same thing.

186. DUCHESS:

28 (smile) Since you ask, for over a hundred 197. GISSING:

A feeling of a courtyard, with a trickling fountain.

209.	JACK:	You always were a great gardener, Duchess.
210.	DUCHESS:	I've had time on my hands. And English roses thrive in Indian beds.
211.	JACK:	(playful) That so?
212.	DUCHESS:	Indeed. There's some wonderful Evergreens, and I'm particularly proud of my <i>Eden</i> <i>Romantica</i> . Aren't they dainty?
213.	JACK:	And that's all you've done for nearly ninety years? Grow roses?
214.	DUCHESS:	You save the world by blowing things up. My methods are different. I preserve the world. All that's good about it. An English Country Garden.
215.	JACK:	In the middle of India? (tech bleeping) Not a word from Gwen or lanto. Well, everything's clear here. Eleanor, we're running out of time.
216.	DUCHESS:	Not necessarily. (carefully spontaneous) Jack, do you remember that day when we got a train into the country before dawn?
217.	JACK:	(fond) We ate boiled eggs and watched elephants playing in the fields.
218.	DUCHESS:	(delighted) You remember? (pause) It was the day before you betrayed me. After that, I hid

myself away. I couldn't bear what was happening in the world outside.

- 219. JACK: But why?
- 220. DUCHESS: Jack The End of the Empire! Partition! We spent centuries holding this country together with vinegar and brown paper. But we managed it. And then Great Britain let it all go.
- 221. JACK: The Empire had had its day.
- 222. DUCHESS: No! Some fool drew a jiggy little line down India between the Moslem and the Hindoo. And it's been a bloodbath ever since! Jack, the twentieth century was when everything changed. What wouldn't you give for another go at it?
- 223. JACK: The sun's set on the Empire. And a lot of people are glad about that.
- 224. DUCHESS: Oh, that's just so British of them. Embarrassed by our successes. Before we came the Indians were just peasants.
- 225. JACK: You're talking about the world's oldest living civilisation. India goes on, outlasting everyone who conquers it.
- 226. DUCHESS: Nonsense! This country needed the Empire. History took a wrong turn after 1924. I'd far rather stay in here where there's plenty of gin and *The Times* is still ironed neatly down the

31 middle. Why, look at you, Jack. You've been just the same for hundreds of years now.

227.JACK:I didn't choose to be immortal. I just can't die.No matter how hard I try. And that's wrong.

228. DUCHESS: Is it? I think it's rather wonderful.

- 229.JACK:Eleanor, everything changes. You can't stop it.We can't turn back the clock.
- 230. DUCHESS: In a way that's just what we're doing. You

# SCENE 16: WIFI MAST JUST OFF CROQUET LAWN

Sounds of drilling and hammering. Labourers shouting. Above this, Mahajan.

231.

33 internet in his pocket than a Wall Street Trader.

242.	IANTO:	And this is your idea, Mr Mahajan?
243.	MAHAJAN:	Heavens no! I'm a mere servant. I just do and die.
244.	GISSING:	Mr Mahajan is our local fixer. You see, we can live forever in the Royal Connaught Club, but we can never leave it.
245.	GWEN:	You've spent nearly 90 years in the same building?
246.	GISSING:	It's a small price to pay, my dear. And at least we have the creature comforts.
247.	MAHAJAN:	I arrange the food and the gin, the

252. GWEN: So whose idea was this?

253. MAHAJAN: I was approached by a phone company. Apparently this is a prime location for a hot then silence.

264. GISSING: (over this) Bad show, bad show.

As before

265.	JACK:	What is it?
266.	DUCHESS:	A time store. That's all. A space fridge. When you shut down Torchwood India, we knew the writing was on the wall for the Empire. And we didn't want that to happen. We vowed that nothing would change. We didn't want any part of the new India, not that ghastly Gandhi, none of it.
267.	JACK:	You adapted the time store?

268. DUCHESS:

307. JACK: (careful, thinking) Duchess, how exactly is it powered? You see, I know exactly what a time store is. Ideal for keeping a bacon sandwich fresh for a few years. But you've kept an entire Indian Club in a time bubble for over eighty years.

308. DUCHESS: We've adapted to survive.

309.

#### 41

#### SCENE 20: TIME STORE

# A STRANGE WIND OF WRONG CLOCKS AND ECHOES, GETTING LOUDER.

315.	GWEN:	lanto! Keep back! If we're at the centre of the
		energy net, then those shadows are the
		hooks. And once they latch onto us, we're
		marked.

43

- 316. IANTO: And the fact that they're on the move means the energy field is building up again.
- 317. GWEN: When it goes off, I think we'll die.
- 318. IANTO: Right. (gentle panic) Try the door.

#### IANTO HAMMERS AND BANGS ON THE DOOR.

319. IANTO: I	don't	like	India.
---------------	-------	------	--------

### **GWEN JOINS HIM.**

- 320.GWEN:(in between blows) Perhaps we're not ...seeing it... in the best light, you know.
- 321. IANTO: If I wanted to be... knocked out and... murdered, I'd have stayed at home.

#### THEY STOP BANGING ON THE DOOR.

322. IANTO: It's useless. Those shadows are getting closer.

## SCENE 21: CLUB CORRIDOR

324.	JACK:	Eleanor! What have you done? All those people! This isn't you! This isn't who I knew all those years ago.
325.	DUCHESS:	Then perhaps I have changed, after all. (bitter) You changed me, Jack.
326.	JACK:	No, I don't believe it!
327.	DUCHESS:	You took everything away. You broke my heart. But I carried on. Perhaps that's the problem.
328.	JACK:	You're saying this is my fault?
329.	DUCHESS:	We've killed thousands and thousands Jack, and no one has noticed. Few less beggars on the streets, empty houses in the slums, bit easier to get a seat on the train La! That's the true horror of modern India.
330.	JACK:	Where are Gwen and Ianto?
331.	DUCHESS:	I'm afraid they're already doing their bit for the Empire.

### SCENE 22: THE TIME STORE

THE SOUNDS OF BROKEN TIME ARE VERY LOUD. AND, WE CAN JUST HEAR...

332.	GWEN:	The shadows are getting very close!
333.	IANTO:	We need to switch off the energy net. I don't think we can stop it from in here.
334.	GWEN:	lanto! The shadows are on you!
335.	IANTO:	(pain) Stay back! Oh, they're so cold!
226		

336.

### SCENE 23: CLUB CORRIDOR

## Jack and the Duchess are walking

339.	JACK:	Eleanor, what are you doing with Gwen and lanto?
340.	DUCHESS:	Jack, don't be tiresome. Last chance. Join me. Stop pouting like a drowning fish and have a jolly hard think. No?
341.	JACK:	No. Take me to my friends.
And they stop walking.		
342.	GISSING:	(distant) Milady?
ENTER GISSING & MAHAJAN		
343.	DUCHESS:	Mr Gissing and Mr Mahajan! How goes the energy wave?
344.	GISSING:	Everything is in place, dear lady.
345.	MAHAJAN:	The wireless network is all set up, Duchess. The energy wave will shortly fire up from the Time Store and be relayed through the wireless mast across Delhi. The time store will have all the power it needs.

346. JACK: To do what, exactly? To keep it going a little bit longer? You do know she's killed thousands, Mr Mahajan? And with your help, it'll be millions. And what happens next time, when it needs even more power? How many will die then?

347. DUCHESS: Oh, you're so right Jack. The power needed

they really just want to give everyone a better life.

- 354. DUCHESS: 1924 is when it all started to go wrong. But not this time. First we'll take care of Mr Churchill and all his talk of Independence. And if we make a mistake, then we'll keep going and going until we get it right.
- 355. JACK: And what about all the people who you've killed? Don't they get a say?
- 356. DUCHESS: But that's the beauty of the scheme! They'll never have existed, so I'll never have killed them.
- 357. JACK: The machine's changed you. You're no longer human.

358. DUCHESS: Oh, but I'm still British.

359. JACK: Stop this madness, Eleanor. Take me to Gwen and lanto.

360. DUCHESS: Here we are outside the Time Store. Your

SCENE 24: THE MEMBERS' RETIRING ROOM

JACK AND MAHAJAN HAVE STEPPED INTO THE SCREAMING WIND, WHICH BUILDS LOUDER AND LOUDER AND THEN DIPS SLIGHTLY SO THAT WE CAN HEAR THE TALKING.

 375.
 JACK:
 Gwen! lanto! They're like ghosts! What's happened to them, Mr Mahajan?

376. MAHAJAN: It's the energy wave. It feeds potential life into

391. MAHAJAN: Captain Harkness! Captain! It's not working! It's not working! (His voice rises, but the sound cuts out, so he bellows over silence) It's Not Work- oh.

### **SILENCE**

### SCENE 25: CLUB CORRIDOR

392. DUCHESS: What's that man done now? He's nothing but a *thug*. Open the doors, George! Let's see what's going on.

# THE DOORS FLY OPEN. JACK, GWEN, IANTO AND MAHAJAN STRIDE OUT. BEHIND THEM IS AN OMINOUS CREAKING NOISE.

393.	JACK:	Duchess! We're all fine, thanks for asking.
394.	MAHAJAN:	Duchess, I resign from the club.
395.	GWEN:	I wouldn't dream of joining.
396.	DUCHESS:	Wouldn't dream of letting you in.
397.	DUCHESS:	(defiant) You've turned off the energy wave. We'll just turn it on again.
398.	JACK:	No. We just switched the wireless mast off. The energy wave is still building up. It's about to go critical. And without the mast, there's nothing for your time store to feed off. Except the club.
399.	IANTO:	I really think we should run. Come on, Gwen.
400.	GWEN:	Mr Mahajan, George - coming?
401.	MAHAJAN:	Oh yes!

### THEY START TO RUN. AN ECHOING SOUND OF BEATING WINGS AND

WHISPERING.

402. JACK: Gwen! Get as many people out of here as you

412. DUCHESS: (to herself) Time is finally catching up with me. (Her voice distorted as the energy wave sweeps over her) Goodbye.... Jack...

AND, ABOVE THE WIND, THE SOUND OF TIME CRACKING AND FREEZING.

'Torchwood – Golden Age': Rec April 2009: CF3 BH Llandaff Directed & Produced by Kate McAll SCENE 26: OUTSIDE THE CLUB

WITH A GASP, JACK FALLS OUT INTO THE OPEN AIR. AND BANG! THE WIND FREEZES.

NOISE OF MODERN INDIA RESUMES. BUSTLE OF PEOPLE

- 413. GWEN: Jack! Are you all right?
- 414. JACK: I'll live. Did it work?
- 415. IANTO: