

Doctor Who - Season 16 Pitch (23 episodes + 3 Christmas specials)  
Each episode around the 55-minute mark.

### **Tone:**

The tone of this series should reflect the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor's pulp inspirations. Stories should be action packed, pulpy, adventures that can range from swashbuckling treasure hunts to punching nazis to hardboiled detective stories.

Stories should alternate between simpler low stakes character dramas to high concept pulp science fiction.

Think of Flash Gordon serials, Doc Savage stories, the Brendan Fraser Mummy films, Indiana Jones, or Errol Flynn films for inspiration.

Each episode should feel like a 55-minute action-adventure movie.

This series picks up with a 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor who has already had a wealth of adventures. This series acts a bit like Grant Morrison's All Star Superman offering a final days arc showing the highs and lows of the twilight of this Doctor's era.

This approach is being taken for three reasons:

1. We don't want to alienate new viewers that are unfamiliar with regeneration or Rose Tyler's character. It's best to begin with a fully formed Doctor (like an unearthly child and Rose did) than a newly regenerated Doctor who is still finding herself.
2. We want to wipe the board clean as it were. The previous season of Doctor Who left a lot of unresolved plot threads. This season hopes to resolve some of these stories while still not alienating new viewers.

By the end of this season we will have a relatively blank slate to continue Doctor Who without overly complicated prior stories hanging over our heads.

3. It creates a bit of mystery around the 16<sup>th</sup> incarnation of the Doctor. We drop hints of previous untelevised adventures, we introduce the ex-companion Cassius, we establish that this Doctor has a history with the fabulous five. We know how 15 regenerated into her and we know how she fell but we don't know what happened in between.

The audience learns a lot about this Doctor but just enough is kept from them that they will want more.

This gives expanded universe writers from Big Finish, comic writing, and novelists plenty of material to explore and flesh out. Allowing them to expand the lost era of the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor with enough creative freedom to do what they like with her as long as they don't outright contradict the show.

How to achieve the herculean task of attracting a new audience, satisfying the established audience, resolving unfinished plot threads and creating a jumping on point for new or casual viewers.

First, we introduce a fleshed-out 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor toward the end of her era.

Then we introduce Abi as our audience surrogate. We don't assume that the audience knows anything about the Pantheon of Discord or who Rose Tyler is. The audience learns as Abi learns.

### **Recurring Characters:**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor (pulp adventurer)-

In his final moments the 15th Doctor played by the astounding Ncuti Gatwa decided that he wouldn't spend his final moments alone. He piloted his TARDIS to meet with his old friend

Joy “the star of Betelhem”.

With a smile he then regenerated into a familiar face. A face that belonged to Rose Tyler played by Billie Piper. The new doctor with a familiar face greeted us with two words “Oh. Hello.” A new era has begun.

We pick up with the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor fully formed. She has been adventuring for a long time before our first episode. An experienced doctor with a distinct identity. Season 16 will chronicle her final adventures finishing a few dangling plot points and making way for a fresh start for Doctor Who.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor is heavily inspired by the lady adventurer archetype embodied by historical figures like Lady Hester Lucy Stanhope, Nellie Bly, Jeanne Baret, Amelia Earhart and fictional characters like Miss Fischer, and Lara Croft.

She’s glamorous, reckless, and whip-smart — but with an undercurrent of danger. She’s the kind of Doctor who bursts into a ballroom, steals a diamond, outwits a king, and rides off on a camel the same evening.

She is a perfect combination of Rose Tyler’s lust for adventure, the Doctor’s intelligence and the Doctor’s eccentricity.

This Doctor loves adventure, romance, swashbuckling, and drama. She is bold, outrageous, brave, and not afraid to get her hands dirty when needed. Between her many adventures she spends her time socialising with other adventurers in the Adventurers Guild.

As the series progresses, she finds herself caught up in an escalating conflict between the Osirians and the Pantheon of Discord that threatens to reignite an old war of the gods. To survive she will have to unravel the mysteries of how she and her newest companion Abi are involved.

However, this Doctor is haunted by a ghostly apparition (for the Doctor Who trivia buffs think the Watcher from Logopolis) who only she can see or hear. This melancholic apparition is the Doctor who should have been.

The twist behind this Doctor is that she is part Doctor part Rose Tyler.

When Rose Tyler was connected to the eye of harmony, she existed across all of space and time as the Bad Wolf entity. During that eternity she recognised a time when the Doctor would have to stand against two warring pantheons of gods. So, she created a Doctor who would be connected to the Bad Wolf. This Doctor is an amalgamation of the Doctor, Rose, and Bad Wolf created to defend the universe against mad rampaging gods. Only when the Bad Wolf entity created this Doctor she overwrote the incarnation that should have come next.

An echo of this doctor who should have been remains in the Doctor’s subconscious ready to remind her of her true purpose.

Bertrand -

The very first companion we meet in the Christmas special he fills the role of the faithful manservant of our lady of adventure Doctor. Bertrand is a gorilla who was abducted by Alien slavers, sold on an interstellar slave market to bio-weapon traders, transformed into a cyborg with human intelligence and then sold once more to the unethical explorer Nikola Santos.

Nikola Santos treated Bertrand as a pet and slave he could torture and abuse. Santos forced Bertrand to assist him on his many adventures. During one ill fated expedition to a mysterious giant reverse snow glob in the Antarctic Santos was captured by robots.

Despite hating his master Bertrand was too noble to leave Santos to his fate. Bertrand returned to the adventurer guild seeking help to rescue his master. Luckily for Bertrand the Doctor and her friends the fabulous five were willing to undertake a rescue mission. By the end of this first adventure the Doctor welcomed Bertrand aboard the TARDIS.

Bertrand is a noble, loyal, kind and selfless individual. He sees the doctor as his new master and himself as her manservant. This is all much to the Doctor's chagrin as she doesn't really want or need a man servant, she just wants a friend.

Bertrand is an indispensable member of the TARDIS team. When needed he can serve as the muscle, or he can serve as the empathic confident both Abi and the Doctor need.

Abi Nguyen -

The POV companion for this season. Abi lost her parents and suffered in the foster system. She fled from foster care hoping to make her own way in the world.

When we first meet Abi, she is living rough. Sleeping on park benches, homeless camps or anywhere else she can.

Abi is constantly on the run hunted by a Lovecraftian hound like alien that stalks her. No matter how far she runs it always finds her eventually.

The Doctor and Bertrand just happen to be tracking the hound when they end up rescuing Abi.

The Doctor is fascinated by the mystery of why the hound was stalking Abi. During an adventure with a young H. P. Lovecraft Abi is psychically marked by a Pantheon member (inspired by Cthulhu). This psychic mark permeates through space and time making Abi a key that a cult of aristocrats wants to use to recreate the procedure that allowed the Osirians to become gods.

Abi first joins the TARDIS because she has no where better to go. She finally has a bed of her own, consistent food, and the opportunity for adventures. However, she is slow to trust anyone hiding her emotional vulnerability behind a cynical mask.

The Doctor and Bertrand see her as a vulnerable young girl who needs time and patience to feel safe. They grow fiercely protective of her.

Eventually Abi comes to see the TARDIS team as her new family.

Abi's look evolves over the season — from rough, modern clothing to a steampunk-heroine wardrobe inspired by the Doctor's own.

Wilby Wirringan (a pseudonym Wilby never shares his real name with anyone) –

A paranoid Australian conspiracy theorist with a love of pop culture, science fiction and fantasy. Wilby is determined to uncover conspiracies and find evidence of the paranormal. Despite his overconfidence and high aspirations when he is faced with real danger he becomes overcome with fear and anxiety.

The Doctor finds him a nuisance and refuses to take him on as a companion. However, Abi feels sorry for him and in an act of rebellion slips him the TARDIS phone number so he can call the TARDIS whenever he likes.

Despite many of the conspiracy theories he believes in being fake he does have an uncanny ability to always be in the right or wrong place at the right time to uncover real danger and villainous plots. Despite his ineptitude he is also able to clumsily defeat villains and actually help the doctor (kinda like Jar Jar Binks does in Star Wars).

He eventually manages to trick the TARDIS team into accompanying him on a quest to hunt for UFOS. A quest which ends with him being abducted by the alien slave traders that once abducted Bertrand. This leads into a series of adventures where the Doctor finally accepts Wilby as a companion.

When we first meet Wilby, he is a deeply lonely individual who compensates by believing in elaborate fantasies that allow him to be the hero of his own story. He has strong ideals believing in seeking the truth, a distrust for authority, and compassion toward his fellow man. However, he is held back by his anxiety, ineptitude, cowardice in the face of danger, and delusions of grandeur.

Over the course of his adventures with the Doctor, Wilby develops into a braver and more confident man. The doctor begins to see him as a friend and not just a nuisance forced on her by circumstance. They develop a real trust for each other.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor's final moments, it's Wilby who consoles her. Helping her regenerate into a new form. The 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor regenerates into her 17<sup>th</sup> incarnation. The newly regenerated 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor checks their new face in a mirror, and they are shocked. They just regenerated into Wilby.

Wilby finally drops the act he tells the 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor "Ok, I have some explaining to do. That's right, all this time, Wilby was just a character that the 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor was playing to get close to his previous incarnation and help her in her final battle.

The Fabulous five

A team of adventurers and explorers that work together to undertake epic adventures. They also serve as assistants to the Doctor on many of her adventures similar to the original fabulous five who would assist Doc Savage.

These characters are inspired by the original fabulous five and the league of extraordinary gentlemen.

Members of the Fabulous Five include –

1. Lord Percival "Percy" Rathbone

Era: Late Victorian / early Edwardian

Archetype: English gentleman explorer (straight out of dime novels)

Speciality: Survival, map-making, languages, classical adventure leadership.

Traits: Gallant, old-fashioned, sometimes pompous but deeply loyal. Believes firmly in honor and "plucky chaps never quit."

Backstory: Once led doomed expeditions into Africa and South America, but the Club gave him a second life as a true adventurer beyond Earth. Sees the Lady Adventurer Doctor as the kind of "modern adventurer" he wished he could be.

Role in Team: The moral compass and field leader (when the Doctor isn't around). Provides pomp and style, but he's often the most emotionally grounded.

2. Bathys (The Man in the Diving Suit)

Era: 1920s–30s

Archetype: Tragic pulp mystery man

Speciality: Deep-sea salvage, environmental survival, brute strength.

Traits: Silent but expressive. Only communicates via chalkboard, gestures, or thudding helmet-radio static.

Backstory: Bathys was a deep-sea diver on an experimental mission. He found something alien on the ocean floor that fused him forever with his suit. He cannot remove it without dying. He may not even be fully human anymore.

Role in Team: The “muscle” and enigma. Inspires awe and fear in others, but within the Five he is treated as an equal, beloved for his quiet loyalty.

### 3. Zerk the Radiant

Era: The Far Future of the Earth Empire

Archetype: Flash Gordon / pulp space hero

Speciality: Energy weapons (non-lethal in Doctor Who), piloting, alien science.

Traits: Dashing, bold, prone to heroic speeches.

Backstory: A famed champion of the Orion Spur, Zerk joined the Club after a final duel that left him stranded on Earth. Sees himself as a legendary figure. Actually quite vain, but comes through when it matters.

Role in Team: The flamboyant swashbuckler. His rivalry/friendship with Percy Rathbone (old-world explorer vs future alien hero) provides comic and dramatic tension.

### 4. Dr. Selene Arkwright

Era: 1890s–1910s

Archetype: Occult scientist / pulp inventor

Speciality: Weird science, psychic technology, occult physics.

Traits: Brilliant, eccentric, fascinated with liminal spaces. Dresses like a late-Victorian academic but always covered in gadget belts and chalk dust.

Backstory: Once a Cambridge occultist-scientist scorned by her peers, she discovered a resonance between psychic phenomena and alien mathematics. The Club gave her resources to pursue her theories.

Role in Team: The intellectual. She is Miles’s mentor in psychic/astral techniques, guiding him from clueless blogger to genuine psychic adventurer.

### 5. Sir Algernon “Algy” Brightwell

Era: 1920s Jazz Age

Archetype: Daredevil pilot / adventurer

Speciality: Aviation, reckless courage, charm.

Traits: Dashing, witty, and just a little too arrogant. Known for his catchphrase: “One more adventure before the dawn!”

Backstory: A World War I flying ace who never adjusted to peacetime. He lived for thrills — air races, lost cities, forbidden expeditions. The Adventurers' Club gave him endless opportunities for glory.

In their first adventure we meet Miles Carter. Miles is a modern-day slightly psychic travel blogger armed with nothing more than a camera and a passport. He receives an invitation to join the adventurer's guild, but it arrived too early. One day Miles will become a pioneer explorer of astral planes but for now he is just an otherwise average guy with some psychic abilities trying to make a career as a travel influencer.

Miles gets wrapped up in the rescue mission to save Nikola Santos. When Algy is killed the fabulous five are down a member. Miles joins the fabulous five as their new fifth member. He is an apprentice to the more seasoned adventurers.

Over time he will hone his psychic abilities and grow into the legend he will one day be.

### **Central hub location: TARDIS**

The TARDIS is the Doctor's iconic space-time machine functioning as a transportation device across the universe. From a narrative standpoint the TARDIS acts as our magic wardrobe bring the main cast into new and exciting settings.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor's TARDIS doesn't try to reinvent the wheel. It should be designed to resemble a modern redesign of the 1<sup>st</sup> Doctor's classic TARDIS complete with a med bay, library, and companion bedrooms. The only real affectation that the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor adds to her home are all the treasures, artifacts, and clothes she has collected from her adventures.

### **Alternative Central hub location: Adventurer's guild**

The Adventurer's guild is a clubhouse in London that is inspired by real life adventurer clubs. However, the inside of adventurer's guild exists simultaneously in every moment from the club's inception to the building's demolition. This allows club members from all over history to interact, share adventure stories and plot expeditions together. Club members can use the clubhouse as a kind of time machine entering in one time and leaving in another. The club boasts members from the days of the height of the British empire to the far future time of the intergalactic earth empire. Some members are aliens that are citizens of the earth empire.

The club has strict rules: no weapons, no violence, and no meddling with a fellow member's personal history. No-one really knows who founded the guild, built the clubhouse or why they did it?

The Doctor uses the club as a social haunt and a convenient staging ground for adventures. She builds friendships and alliances with other members.

Narratively this hub acts as a plot device to launch stories and provide another recurring location for the production crew.

### **Series lore and worldbuilding:**

This is a proposal for a shared cosmology between episodes. Introducing a shared cosmology keeps writers from contradicting each other. The cosmology doesn't need to be explained to the audience in any detail but is just a tool for writers to stay consistent with each other.

The cosmology has been developed to incorporate established Doctor Who concepts and seem scientifically plausible to a general audience while horrifying any actual cosmologists.

Before the Big Bang, reality existed as a topological foam: a chaotic ocean of potential with no fixed number of dimensions.

This was the Protoverse, a realm of pure mathematical instability. Quantum fluctuations birthed temporary folds of existence — bubbles where spacetime rapidly expanded and dimensions briefly coalesced before dissolving again. The boundary of these expanding space-time bubbles (universes) is an event horizon preventing nearly anything inside from leaving.

From this foam, two kinds of dimensional axes stabilized:

Spatial dimensions (X) — directions of extension.

Temporal dimensions (T) — directions of causality.

After the Big Bang, most of these dimensions compactified at the Planck scale due to topological instability. Producing the Doctor Who universe which has a number of spatial and temporal dimensions (we won't specify how many to avoid limiting the creativity of writers). Some dimensions are:

Extended — large enough to be traversed or perceived.

Compact — folded at scales smaller than the Planck length, detectable only through their gravitational or quantum effects.

Intermittent — existing only under certain energetic or topological conditions (for example, inside black holes or near the quantum boundary of the universe).

What we experience as three dimensions of space and one of time is merely a local submanifold — a “slice” of the total structure.

The idea of a submanifold can almost be understood using the analogy of a 2 spatial dimensional and one temporal dimensional submanifold as a space-time manifold on a piece of paper. An observer from a larger 3 spatial dimensional and one temporal dimensional submanifold could see all of space-time as if on a slice (like a piece of paper). The slice has two planes (or two sides of a piece of paper). This allows two planets to occupy the same space as long as they are on opposite planes (opposite sides of the paper).

Using this idea the 3 spatial dimensional and one temporal dimensional submanifold inhabited by the Doctor and other characters has multiple planes (sides of the paper). Locations like the land of fiction (will be reintroduced this season and expanded on in a possible future season) exist in the same space as Earth on another plane.

The time vortex formed in the Planck era, where spacetime behaved like quantum foam closed time-like loops formed within the foam. Some collapsed, others stabilized, the stabilised loops intersected and overlapped creating a network of interlinked pathways across multiple temporal and spatial dimensions.

Because there were multiple temporal dimensions, some of these loops did not collapse, but became interconnected across scales, forming a permanent higher-dimensional lattice of temporal connectivity. The time vortex is a turbulent but navigable zone of spacetime shear, probability flow, and causal phase gradients. The time vortex appears as fluid, fractal distortions of colour and geometry — a 4D cross-section of higher spaces. It is composed of fluctuating gravitational and temporal gradients; unprotected matter would decohere instantly. It channels the energy flux between active and compactified dimensions creating a

wave current of energy that the TARDIS can ride.

The Vortex's turbulence explains why uncontrolled time travel is catastrophic: without phase shielding, a traveller's causal integrity disintegrates.

TARDISes protect their occupants by maintaining a stable dimensional bubble (a sub manifold hence why the TARDIS is bigger on the inside) within the Vortex flow.

The TARDIS enters the time vortex by dematerialising (rotating out of the 4d submanifold into higher dimensional space-time). When the Tardis leaves the time vortex it materialises (rotates back into the 4d submanifold).

Abi: "You make it sound like time's got... layers."

Doctor: "Not layers — directions. We just happen to see one of them. The others are still there, underneath everything."

Abi: "And that's where you go when you disappear in that box of yours?"

Doctor: "Not disappear. I just... step off the page."

When the TARDIS lands it coheres local space-time within the manifold as a fixed point in time. Similar to the observer effect in quantum mechanics by interacting with this point in space-time the Doctor fixes it. That means that the doctor can't just undo whatever happens in the story at least without serious consequences (this idea will be explored in possible future seasons) and any prior knowledge she has becomes fixed as well.

Higher-dimensional life forms exist in higher dimensional space-time. They occupy or perceive more dimensions than baseline species, making their interactions with 4D space-time observers limited or distorted. They rarely interact with 4D beings — the same way humans rarely notice microbes in the air.

When they do, it's usually by accident, or because the lower universe has developed technologies (like TARDISes) that brush against their level of existence.

If higher dimensional life forms are perceived by 4d life forms they may appear as beings who phase in and out of existence, as projections that seem to violate physics, or as abstract entities influencing cause and effect indirectly.

In this cosmology the Doctor's universe is made up of many causal strata—self-consistent timelines or "world-volumes" (hence alternative timelines) —embedded within the larger higher-dimensional manifold.

Each stratum obeys local physical constants and causality rules. These strata coexist like interference bands in a hologram: separate yet coupled through the deeper temporal dimensions that form the Time Vortex.

The universe has a cosmological event horizon known to Gallifreyan physicists as the Boundary. It is not a wall of matter but a geometric surface where the flow of all temporal axes approaches infinite dilation. Inside it, information can circulate among timelines; beyond it, causal vectors diverge so completely that no information can return. To lower-dimensional observers, this behaves exactly like a black-hole horizon on a universal scale.

The Boundary defines the causal closure of the larger universe. Every paradox, alternate timeline, and branching history remains confined within this domain. Nothing escapes—not light, not energy, not even probability amplitudes. This is what keeps reality self-consistent: nothing from one causal domain can leak into another.

The Osirians were a technologically advanced species living within the 4d sub-manifold.

Through technological advancement they could interact with and travel into higher dimensional space. Somehow, they were able to encode themselves into the topography of

the boundary (event horizon) becoming part of the boundary. This was the ascension the Osirians were able to make themselves into part of the structure of reality itself. From there they were able to escape the boundary essentially leaving the universe. From outside they can modulate their presence through gravitational and temporal resonance, allowing faint interactions with the interior universe. To life forms restricted to the universe Osirians appear to be reality warpers capable of local distortions in probability, geometry, or time flow, triggered by resonance feedback from beyond the horizon. The Osirians are actually dimensional phenomena created by minds that learned to exist as part of the universe's mathematics itself.

A coalition of Osirians formed the Osirian Court portraying themselves as a pantheon of gods to the life forms of the universe. A member of the Osirian Court, Sutekh betrayed the others to form his own pantheon through another Ascension Protocol. Unfortunately, Sutekh's method was flawed and the mortals that he tried to ascend became corrupted data encoded on the manifold. The corrupted data ascended life forms are dependent on feedback from lower-dimensional space to maintain coherence. When they ascend, they are no longer an individual with their own identity they become a composite of everyone else's perception of them.

To lower dimensional this other pantheon of discord were seen as gods of madness, creativity, and destruction.

In the higher continuum, conflict is expressed not through weapons but through geometry.

The Osirians stabilised regions of manifold space — “anchoring” reality — while the Pantheon introduced fluctuations, tearing at causal seams to reassert their freedom.

This war scarred the early Time Vortex, giving rise to its turbulent currents and eddies.

To the Gallifreyans, these became known as Time Storms — unpredictable distortions where cause and effect lost coherence.

Eventually, the Gallifreyans sealed most of the Osirians and Pantheon beyond the Boundary, embedding stabilisation nodes throughout the Vortex to maintain equilibrium. Some like the toymaker and Sutekh avoided this fate. But with the destruction of the time lords and the actions of the 14<sup>th</sup> Doctor (spreading salt) the Osirians and Pantheon could return.

When Rose Tyler opened the heart of the TARDIS in “The Parting of the Ways,” she looked directly into this structure — not metaphorically, but physically. Her mind made contact with the Boundary layer itself, the interface where timelines fold back on themselves. No four-dimensional being is built to survive that contact — but Rose's consciousness didn't die. It imprinted itself into the manifold as a pattern of interference. That pattern became the Bad Wolf.

From a cosmological standpoint, the Bad Wolf entity is a self-referential causal echo — a pattern of information distributed across all timelines within the Boundary.

Rose didn't just see the Vortex; she became entangled with it. Every instance of “Bad Wolf” seen throughout space and time is an echo of her mind reasserting itself through the manifold.

Her consciousness became a resonant boundary state, similar to the Osirians and Pantheon — but formed accidentally, not through Ascension. Unlike them, she retained a human reference frame — emotion, identity, compassion — which anchored her imprint to life and memory rather than domination or control. She became the first human to exist simultaneously across all timelines — a benign form of the “reality warper” archetype.

Inside the Boundary, information exists as structure, not energy. The Osirians and Pantheon ascended deliberately by encoding themselves into this geometry. Rose did the same by accident — but because her entry wasn't forced or calculated, her resonance harmonised with the universe instead of destabilising it.

During the 15th Doctor's regeneration, the Boundary is under stress — the causal horizon is thinning, allowing influence from both the Pantheon and the Bad Wolf field.

At the exact moment the Doctor's body begins to reconstitute, the Bad Wolf resonance overlays his bio-temporal pattern.

This is not possession, but fusion:

Rose's boundary-state consciousness merges with the Doctor's regeneration energy, creating a composite being that exists simultaneously in 4D spacetime and as a boundary imprint. The resulting incarnation — the Bad Wolf Doctor — is both human and Time Lord, both individual and universal echo. In this form, the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor is a bit like a loaded cannon full of Bad Wolf energy ready to be unleashed.

### **Proposed episode ideas and order:**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Christmas Special: working titles either the Christmas cult or the fabulous five**

This special will serve to create hype for the season, establish the new tone, introduce the Adventurer's guild, give Bertrand a backstory, introduce and establish the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor's character to the audience. We will release it individually prior to the rest of the season. Making this episode stand-alone from the rest of the series and just be a preview of what's to come.

The episode will feature tropes native to the pulp explorer genre such as a jungle and temple while still giving it all a Christmas twist.

The story opens with Miles Carter (our POV audience surrogate character for this special) finding the adventurer guild clubhouse in England. He has been invited to join in recognition of his accomplishments as an explorer. The only problem Miles hasn't accomplished any of that yet.

When he enters the clubhouse, he finds himself in a bizarre and strange building that exists across multiple time periods. His ordinary life is changed forever.

Miles is welcomed to the club by Percy Rathbone. He is exposed to the inner workings of the club and its members. Percy introduces Miles to his friends the other members of the fabulous five and the Doctor.

Bertrand enters the club desperate for help. His master Nikola Santos was captured and taken prisoner on an expedition. The Doctor and the fabulous five despise Nikola.

Nikola represents the worst of explorers. Nikola is a big game hunter killing his prey to display as trophies, he sees other cultures as curiosities not equal, he exploits native people, and he revels in cruelty. However, as fellow club members the Doctor and the fabulous five feel obligated to rescue him.

The Doctor gives the fabulous five, Bertrand and Miles a lift in the TARDIS to Antarctica to track down Santos. Santos and Bertrand were investigating a giant snow globe embedded in the ice. In this snow globe however is a tropical rainforest jungle. At the center of the jungle is a giant Christmas tree decorated with ornaments the size of houses.

When Bertrand and Santos were exploring the jungle they were attacked by Christmas Helpers. The Christmas helpers are dangerous robots designed to resemble Elves, Toy Soldiers and Reindeer.

The snow globe is a bubble-like membrane as the main cast wander through it the membrane reshapes itself around them allowing them inside.

The jungle is a bizarre mash of Earth flora and off-world plants. Giant poinsettias with snapping jaws. Vines that twinkle with glowing lights like Christmas decorations. Birds shaped like baubles that burst into clouds of glittery spores when startled.

Throughout their expedition Miles gets psychic flashes off Bertrand showing flashbacks of how Santos abused him.

Exploring the jungle the characters are attacked by Christmas helper robots. The skin breaks into plates revealing saws, guns, and knives inside the robots. Algy buys time for the others to escape at the cost of his life.

When the characters finally get to the colossal Christmas tree, they discover that it is hollowed out. Inside is a temple resembling a nightmare Christmas gingerbread house mixed with futuristic circuitry. Inside the temple the Doctor learns the truth. The Christmas helpers were created by a long dead alien cult that worshipped Christmas. This cult was founded on old television signals of tv Christmas specials that were transmitted into space. The aliens built a religion around their misunderstanding of the ritual of Christmas.

The snow globe is a temple dedicated to Christmas that was sent to Earth the birth planet of Christmas.

Further into the temple our heroes find Nikola Santos, but he has been transformed. The Christmas helpers selected him to be their Santa Claus. He has a twisted red coat stitched with animal pelts. A cracked Santa mask welded to half his face. Cybernetic claws beneath white gloves. And a hunting gun. Santos has become a cross between an evil Santa Claus and a big game hunter. He has embraced his new role as the head of the Christmas cult and plans to dominate the world.

Not sure how the Doc wins this one but at the end of the story Miles joins the Fabulous five and Bertrand joins the TARDIS.

### **Episode 1: Run Away**

Police investigate a massacre at a homeless encampment. Everyone is dead, impaled by long spikes, except for a young homeless girl hiding from the carnage. The girl tries to flee from them, but the police catch her and handcuff her.

She is taken into custody.

In an interrogation room she keeps claiming that she did nothing wrong and wants to be let go. She cannot explain the massacre, but she is obviously scared.

The interrogator manages to get her name Abi Nguyen. When the police check her name, they find out she has been missing for months.

A monster looking like a hound dog designed by H R Giger enters the police station and starts killing everyone by shooting long spikes from its body. No-one can stop it. Bullets bounce off it. It smashes down doors and barricades.

Abi desperately tries to get out of her handcuffs and escape, but she can't do it. Suddenly a wheezing and groaning sound as the TARDIS materialises in the interrogation room. The Doctor steps out of the TARDIS wielding some sort of tracking device. "It must be somewhere around here."

Abi is shocked into silence. Then a scream breaks out from outside the door. Abi begs the doctor to free her. So, the doctor whips out the sonic screwdriver and unlocks the cuffs. Now freed Abi races to the door. Just as the hound breaks through. The Doctor calls her into the TARDIS. Desperate Abi runs into the box and the Doctor slams the doors shut behind her.

Abi is panicking. The doctor tries to console her just as Bertrand enquires after the young lady's health. Abi freaks out. One minute she is in a police interrogation room now she is in what looks like a spaceship and a gorilla is talking to her. The Doctor insists that she is safe and then "Crunch" the TARDIS doors start to break. The hound is getting inside by breaking the doors.

The Doctor rushes into action manipulating the TARDIS controls to take off.

The TARDIS lands in a bustling Middle Eastern market during the Islamic Golden Age. Abi is let out of the TARDIS and is shocked. She looks around the TARDIS it's smaller on the outside and now she is on the other end of the world.

The Doctor tries to talk to Abi, but Abi runs away. On her own Abi is lost. She is in another culture in another time. The Doctor starts searching for Abi. Then there is a commotion. The hound chased Abi through space and time. The Doctor manages to save Abi and bring her back to the TARDIS they take off again.

But even on another planet the hound follows. Even in the void of Space the hound follows. All the TARDIS can do is stay ahead of it.

The Doctor explains to Abi that the TARDIS is a space time machine and that she has been tracking the hound. The Doctor is fascinated by the hound because it shouldn't exist. Its skin is made of a material that doesn't obey the laws of physics.

The Doctor wants to trap it and study it.

She convinces a reluctant Abi to act as bait for the monster, but the plan goes wrong. The doctor is forced to trick the hound into falling into the event horizon of a black hole to protect Abi.

At the end of the adventure the Doctor is embarrassed and ashamed of herself for putting Abi in danger. Abi is furious with the Doctor confirming her suspicions that she can't trust her. Abi tries to guilt trip the Doctor into doing her a favour. The Doctor agrees. When Abi asks the Doctor to go back in time and stop her parents from dying the Doctor tells her that she can't change history. The doctor learns that Abi is an orphan and homeless. So, the Doctor offers Abi somewhere to live in the TARDIS. Abi agrees reluctantly.

## **Episode 2:**

This idea is very underdeveloped. The concept is to do a John Carter of Mars style swashbuckling epic with the Ice Warriors and Osirian technology.

Abi adjusts to life in the TARDIS, and the Doctor offers her an adventure. She is asked where she would like to go. Abi sarcastically jokes about meeting Martians and is shocked when the Doctor just agrees. Wait Martians are real.

This episode is Billie's Doctor's first televised match up against a classic villain the Ice Warriors. The Osirian technology sets up the idea of this lost civilisation that ascended to godhood setting them up for their first appearance later in the season.

## **Episode 3:**

Our first real let's go back in time adventure.

What is more pulp adventure than punching Nazis? How about punching Nazis that have teamed up with the Daleks?

The Daleks are changing history, so the Nazis win WWII.

This story achieves a few things. One, it introduces the Daleks to a potentially new audience. Two, it harkens back to the inspiration of the Daleks being informed by Terry Nation's experiences in the war. Three, it brings the Daleks back to basics with their stories focusing on xenophobia, eugenics, conformity, and hate. Four, it brings the Daleks into our pulp adventure tone.

Yes, I know two classic villains in a row this early in the season is crazy. However, there is a method to this madness. Billie Piper's Doctor is already being met with a lot of scrutiny. Having her face off against two classic villains early on will help cement her as the Doctor in fan's minds.

#### **Episode 4:**

The TARDIS lands in modern-day London. The Doctor is intercepted by a man in his forties: Alfie Miller, a childhood friend of Rose Tyler's from the Powell Estate. He instantly mistakes the Lady Adventurer Doctor for Rose herself. He demands to know why she disappeared, and why she never came back.

The disappearance of the Tyler family has become a famous unexplained mystery.

Alfie gets caught up in one of the Doctor's adventures when men in black turn up.

This episode is a more character focused episode introducing Rose Tyler as a concept to a new audience and the companions. As well as establishing that the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor doesn't know why she looks like Rose.

#### **Episode 5:**

The Doctor and her companions travel back in time to see the ancient Silurian civilization that predates humanity. In this adventure the Doctor and her companions discover that the Osirian Sobek has started a Silurian cult.

The episode winds with the Doctor, companions and Sobek trapped in a sap like structure.

#### **Episode 6:**

An archaeological dig uncovers an ancient Silurian temple. Inside they discover the Doctor, her companions and Sobek preserved for over millions of years.

The fabulous five are called to investigate and save the Doctor but they accidentally unleash Sobek on the modern world. In this tomb raiding Indiana Jones inspired adventure.

#### **Episode 7:**

The doctor meets the explorer and adventurer Hester Stanhope.

This is just a fun story to act as a breather from all the ongoing plot heavy stories. Hester Stanhope helped inspire this take on the Doctor. So why not have them meet. It could also be fun to do a classic historical with no sci fi elements other than the TARDIS team themselves.

#### **Episode 8: Working titles The Body of Osiris**

Set in ancient Egypt. A sci fi reimaging of the myth of Isis collecting the body parts of Osiris to resurrect him.

This story delivers a lot of needed backstories of the Osirian gods and the coming war.

### **Episode 9: Working titles the wrath of Cthulhu**

A young H.P. Lovecraft is working as an amateur journalist. He investigates rumours of a mysterious cult. His investigation leads him to a strange, isolated fishing village. Just outside of the fishing village is an eccentric circus run by a mad ringleader.

H. P. Lovecraft meets the Doctor, Bertrand, and Abi. He is immediately shocked by them. The villagers hide a dark secret involving the sunken city of R'lyeh and the sea devils. The city of R'lyeh will surface for the first time on millennia and a monstrous pantheon of discord god (based on Cthulhu) will awaken.

By the end of the episode the Cthulhu type character will mark Abi and Lovecraft. The hound from Run Away returns in a pack with other hounds. They capture Abi and Lovecraft taking them away into a portal.

### **Episode 10: Working titles: The ascension cult**

Wealthy modern aristocrats seek to ascend as gods using Osirian technology. They control the hounds (alien beings from outside reality). They are planning to use Abi and Lovecraft as gateways to ascend beyond reality.

The Doctor has to tap into her Bad Wolf energy to stop them. The Doctor meets the ghostly apparition that has been hunting her. The apparition is an echo of the Doctor who should have been. She learns that the Bad Wolf entity overwrote her regeneration creating a hybrid between Rose Tyler and the Doctor. The Bad Wolf entity created her to fight in an upcoming war between the Osirians and the Pantheon of Discord.

The Doctor who should have been is a tall, lean figure with a sharp, aristocratic face. Long dark coat (almost funereal), waistcoat, gloves — more like a Byronic poet or Victorian gentleman-adventurer than the flamboyant 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor. His palette is muted (greys, blacks, deep blues). He is a more cerebral, gothic, introspective character — a haunted intellectual. He knows he will never exist in the real timeline. There's a sorrow, but he carries it with quiet dignity.

At the end of the story Lovecraft is returned to his time as a mad lunatic with the inference that the Cthulhu mythos was due to his psychic connection to the Cthulhu like pantheon member that marked him. With psychic flashes of knowledge being misinterpreted by him and ending up in his writing.

### **Episode 11: Mid-Season Christmas special**

The Doctor and companions are going from Christmas party to Christmas party celebrating Christmases across history. Bertrand notices that many people cling to family during the holidays. As a child Bertrand was abducted and sold into slavery, so he doesn't remember his family.

The Doctor and Abi decide to take him on an adventure to find his family.

In a jungle, The Doctor, Abi, and Bertrand find Bertrand's family in an ape tribe. But the family and tribe are wary of him because he is unrecognisable, part machine, and has human intelligence. The ape tribe are being hunted by poachers.

The Doctor and Abi help Bertrand defend the tribe against the poachers.

In the end the tribe accepts Bertrand. Bertrand chooses to continue travelling with the Doctor but promises to return home one day.

### **Episode 12:**

The Doctor and her companions are enjoying a social event at the Adventurer's guild when

an eccentric conspiracy theorist, UFO obsessive, and pop culture geek called Wilby breaks in. He is convinced that the adventurer's guild is some sort of conspiracy organisation like the illuminati.

Even though she thinks he is a kook the doctor, her companions, and the fabulous five do acknowledge that on-one really knows who started the guild, built the club house or why. So, they accompany Wilby in investigating the club house to learn who exactly built the club house and started the guild.

When the Doctor and companions leave Wilby wants to go with them, but the Doctor turns him down. Abi feels sorry for Wilby and slips him a special phone and a number so he can call them.

### **Episode 13:**

The gods of various human mythologies are being hunted down and slaughtered by a mad pantheon of discord member called Kytaec.

Kytaec has a television full of static for a head and can grow sharp knife-like structures from their skin. Occasionally Kytaec's head will show images of the life of an abused child who loved mythology and watching episodes Doctor Who. Kytaec kills the gods and then resurrects them to be hunted and killed again and again and again.

The various gods are sheltering at Mount Olympus. The TARDIS arrives after receiving a summons for help. The gods want the Doctor to protect them.

The reveal is that the gods are all manifestations of humanity's collective unconscious (like in Jung's theories). The collective unconscious of humanity is made manifest by the technology in the land of fiction a realm that exists in the same space as Earth on a dimensional plane parallel to our own. The whole episode is actually set in the land of fiction. Kytaec was an abused child who used fictional stories to hide from reality. When they were approached by the trickster, they agreed to give up their humanity to become something else. The Osirians and the Pantheon of discord all started out as mortals before ascending.

### **Episode 14: The gumshoe and the syndicate**

The TARDIS phone rings with a voice from the Doctor's past — Cassius Rowe, a hardboiled pulp gumshoe who once travelled with the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor. Cassian left years ago to "walk his own beat," running a detective agency on the edge of the galactic frontier. Now, he calls for help: he's neck-deep in a case involving the Slitheen Family Syndicate and a relic known as the Emerald Hand, an artifact with dangerous Osirian connections.

The TARDIS lands in an acid rain-soaked smog filled neon city on a space colony. Cassius greets them with dry sarcasm and an old camaraderie with the Doctor. His trench coat, ray-gun revolver, and neon cigarettes— he's cynical, world-weary, but still chasing justice. Cassius is cynical, dry-witted, and perpetually tired-looking. He is always narrating in his head like a gumshoe from a pulp magazine ("The city bled neon, and I was all out of aspirin"). Beneath the hard-boiled exterior, he's deeply empathetic — he takes cases no one else will, often for people who can't pay.

He is hinted to have been one of the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor's earliest companions. He had a strong impact on helping the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor define her identity. Despite being apart for some time, it is clear they still hold a lot of affection for each other.

The Slitheen Syndicate are using the Emerald Hand to corner the black market in alien tech by wiping out their competition.

The Slitheen Syndicate, are retooled as a spacefaring mafia family, slicker and meaner than before.

Their hideout is a garish casino towering over the city, full of grease-painted alien mobsters, neon lights, and grotesque humour.

At one point the Cassius tells the Doctor that they need to see one of her ex-lovers for help. The Doctor is reluctant to see them. The ex-lover is an ex-Slitheen family member gangster who was excommunicated from the family. They now work as a singer in a seedy bar (part old west cat house, part Star Wars bar) called the Kitty Kat lounge.

In a final showdown, Cassius and the Doctor work back-to-back, solving the case together like old times. But when it's done, Cassian tips his hat and walks back into the rain. He's made peace with his life without the Doctor — a lesson Abi and Bertrand can't quite shake.

The adventure blends noir investigation (stakeouts, interrogations, corrupt officials) with pulp action (speeder-chases through neon alleys, rooftop gunfights in acid rain). This story shows Abi and Bertrand a peek at what the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor's life was like before they met her.

Cassius reminds Abi and Bertrand that companions do have to eventually move on — he left the Doctor on his own terms, no heartbreak, no tragedy, just because it was time. His independence plants a seed in both companions about their own eventual exits. As Cassius tells them “The trick ain't leavin' the Doctor. The trick's knowin' when to.”

## **Episode 15: The new lords of Time**

The TARDIS lands on Gallifrey, seemingly drawn there by the planet itself. Instead of the solemn ruins of the Citadel, the Doctor, Alex, and Bertrand find an alien wilderness reclaiming the world. The once-pristine spires of the Time Lords are cracked and overgrown, and strange beasts stalk the red grass plains.

The Doctor is horrified to be brought back to Gallifrey after all this time. Declaring it a graveyard.

A coalition of death cats (the guys from the unmade 4<sup>th</sup> Doctor serial “the killers of the dark” they were another intelligent species on Gallifrey that resembles cats crossed with fu Manchu stereotypes) led by the ex-time lord Larvell have taken control of the Gallifreyan capital. The death cats are seeking to fill the power vacuum left by the time lords and make themselves the new lords of time.

Larvell was once a controversial time lord and an old enemy of the Doctor's. During the time war Larvell became a hero to the Gallifreyan people. After the time war Larvell altered his DNA to regenerate himself into a hybrid death cat time lord. He did this to make peace between the death cats and the time lords (they were ancient enemies and the death cats sided with the daleks in the time war). When the master set out a temporal genetic bomb killing off the time lords only the time lord half of Larvell was killed. This resulted in him being caught in a state between life and death. With time lord part of him dead but the death cat half alive. Imagine a half cat man but half his body is dead, and necrotising and the rest is healthy tissue.

Building on the previous episode this story allows Abi and Bertrand a greater glimpse into the Doctor's psyche and past. They realise how little they really know about her.

### **Episode 16:**

Wilby calls the TARDIS asking for help. He claims there's an invasion. He lied. He just wanted the Doctor, Bertrand, and Alex to hang out with him and help him hunt UFOs in the Australian outback. Wilby lives a relatively nomadic life in a small rural outback desert Australian community near Woomera a spot well known for UFOs.

We learn about Wilby's life as the town eccentric. Wilby lives alone without any family or friends.

The townspeople are fond of Wilby but don't take him at all seriously. The town has a lot of weird folklore, and a military base nearby.

Wilby's home is full of pop culture memorabilia, paranormal investigation material and niche hobbyist equipment (radios, telescopes, model planes etc).

The Doctor is annoyed at Wilby for wasting her time, but her companions sympathise with Wilby seeing him as lonely. They encourage the Doctor to spend a few days in town to humour Wilby.

The only issue is that there really are aliens abducting people in town. The same alien criminal syndicate that once abducted Bertrand. At the end of the episode Wilby is abducted.

### **Episode 17:**

Wilby is being sold on an interstellar alien slave market alongside other abductees. His abductors are slave traffickers.

The Doctor must use her underworld contacts to find the slave market and save Wilby. Bertrand learns about the Aliens that enslaved him and sold him to biological weapon dealers.

### **Episode 18:**

The Doctor, Abi, and a newly freed Wilby help Bertrand get revenge on the weapon traders that turned him into a cyborg and sold him to Nikola Santos.

At the end of the story Bertrand decides to go home and live with his family.

The Doctor welcomes Wilby aboard the TARDIS.

### **Episode 19:**

An Errol Flynn inspired swashbuckling pirate member of the adventurer's guild invites the Doctor, Wilby and Abi to accompany him to his hideout an archipelago locked out of normal time. The archipelago is host to a society based on a 17th-century-style pirate port with futuristic technology. The archipelago is home to a wide array of alien pirates such as gilled corsairs, six-eyed privateers, and captains with tenacles.

Exploring the archipelago Alex (wide-eyed geek) is having the time of his life like he's living in a movie.

There is a pirate hunt for a lost Osirian treasure the crimson cutlass (a supposedly mythical sword). The Doctor and companions join the Errol Flynn inspired character's crew journeying to a island in the archipelago filled with Osirian traps and guardians (pulp Aztec-style temples, giant clockwork guardians).

Alex gets to play "wannabe hero" but keeps stumbling — his genre-savvy instincts (expecting things to play out like an adventure serial) sometimes save the day and other times get him into more trouble.

When they find the treasure the Doctor discovers that the crimson cutlass is a device that

can cut through an enemy's timeline erasing them from existence. She decides it is too dangerous and tries to destroy it.

This causes a confrontation between her and the Errol Flynn inspired character. In an exciting swashbuckling climax: swordfights across the mast of a burning solar-sail ship as the time-storms rage. Wilby, terrified but exhilarated, actually saves the Doctor's life in a clumsy but lucky duel move. Abi manages to destroy the cutlass.

The Errol Flynn inspired character is defeated but accepts his defeat in good humour.

Wilby declares it was "the best day of my life — like living in *The Adventures of Robin Hood!*"

Abi mutters: "Yeah, except with more death, betrayal, and alien fungus."

The Doctor grins: "Oh, darling, that's just the price of a good adventure."

### **Episode 20: The immortal flesh**

A story in the style and with the themes of a penny dreadful novel. Set during the 19th century era where penny dreadful stories were most popular. The story is about a surgeon who discovers a broken down Cyberman. The surgeon takes the Cyberman apart piece by piece so they can experiment with using the Cyberman technology (which is part of the cyberman's body) to create perfect immortal humans. They start performing surgeries for the rich who want immortality or to correct imperfections in their appearance.

### **Episode 21:**

The Sontarans are collecting DNA from across space and time to engineer new experimental Sontaran warriors. They harvest strands from history's greatest fighters... but their misunderstanding of history causes them to make some mistakes along the way. In the opening the Sontarans freeze time so they can collect DNA samples from the Doctor, Abi, and Wilby. Cue theme song and titles.

The story continues on the Sontaran home world from the perspective of a Sontaran clone of Abi who has just woken up in a cloning vat.

She is forced to fight in a series of gladiatorial matches against clones of other people such as:

A Shakespeare-Sontaran (they mistook his war-plays for battle reports), a Joan of Arc-Sontaran, a Sun Tzu-Sontaran and a Florence Nightingale-Sontaran, who insists on giving battlefield medical aid instead of fighting.

She stages a Sontaran gladiator revolution and searches for the Doctor and Wilby clones. She learns that the Wilby DNA sample couldn't be recreated for some reason, and the Doctor clone is an abomination. The Doctor's DNA was too complex containing samples from every other prior incarnation. The resulting clone is a grotesque flesh golem comprised of multiple incarnations bodies together in a fleshy lump. The Doctor clone is crowned emperor of the Sontarans.

The Sontaran Abi along with other revolting clones manage to escape the Sontaran Homeworld and flee into the wider universe.

### **Episode 22:**

Following the events of the previous episode, the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor, Abi, and Alex discover a space faring giant megastructure. What they find inside is astonishing: an artificial afterlife society of "Sontaran clones" — Sontaran-engineered recreations of warriors, thinkers, and martyrs

from across the galaxy. Their leader is a Sontaran clone of Abi (now much older) who has built this heaven. She has even cloned her parents. Abi is given the chance to reunite with her family.

The megastructure is under siege by a Sontaran empire army commanded by the Sontaran Doctor clone Emperor, seated on a grotesque throne, leading a crusade to destroy the divergent Sontarans and “purge weakness.”

By the end of the story Abi leaves the Doctor to live with her Sontaran family and her new Sontaran clone (An older sister figure).

### **Episode 23: Giants of the Red Earth**

Wilby, restless and full of “prehistoric Australia” trivia, begs to see the giant marsupials — diprotodons, thunder birds, marsupial lions. The Doctor obliges, but they arrive at a time when Indigenous Australians lived alongside these animals.

The TARDIS lands on the Pleistocene plains. Towering diprotodons lumber past, while predatory marsupial lions stalk the shadows. Wilby is thrilled.

The group meets a community of First Peoples — skilled fire-stick farmers, artists, and hunters who see the newcomers as strange spirits.

A crisis brews: a “fire demon” is stalking the land — in reality, a stranded alien terraforming drone run amok, warping ecosystems and driving the megafauna to frenzy.

The Doctor and Wilby help the people adapt strategy to drive the drone out. The people contribute fire-management knowledge — showing the Doctor and Wilby a mastery of land stewardship.

At first, Wilby gawks like a tourist, but when a marsupial lion corners a child, his fumbling bravery saves the day. He starts realizing stories aren’t about him but about responsibility.

The alien drone is dismantled and the balance restored — but the Doctor sadly notes that the megafauna will vanish in a few thousand years regardless. Wilby asks if that means the people here will be forgotten too. The Doctor answers firmly: “Never. Their stories are still sung.”

Wilby leaves changed — a little less fool, a little more settled into his role as the companion.

### **Episode 24:**

The building tensions between the Pantheon of Discord and the Osirian Court have come to a head. They are once more waging war against each other.

They have chosen Earth as their battleground. The planet is dragged into the higher spatial and temporal dimensions. Armies of the Pantheon and Court run wild. As reality shifts wage war.

Unit and the adventurer’s guild run damage control trying to protect civilians, but they are outmatched and outgunned.

This episode should feel like the gods have come back to wage war at Armageddon and humans are helpless to defend themselves.

The Doctor has to tap into the bad wolf entity unleashing all the Bad Wolf power and draining herself of it. To push the Court and Pantheon back out of the universe past the event horizon (preventing most things from getting out.)

This weakens the Doctor leaving her to regenerate into a new form. Wilby consoles her through it. In this episode regeneration should be framed as a traumatic experience. It saves the Doctor but is incredibly painful like dying painfully and waking back up as someone new. The Doctor regenerates. The new doctor checks his face. He is shocked. He has Wilby's face. He turns around to Wilby. "No way. How?"  
Wilby drops his geeky act. "Ok, I have some explaining to do."  
cue credits introducing Actor X (Wilby's actor is credited as the Doctor not Wilby) as the Doctor.

### **End of year Christmas special:**

This special opens up with the scene of the Doctor regenerating into the Wilby Doctor.

The new Doctor: "No way. How?"

Wilby drops his geeky act. "Ok, I have some explaining to do."

The newly regenerated Doctor: "I'm –"

Wilby: "Me and I'm you. Pronouns can get a bit confusing when you are talking to yourself from the past. I've not yet come across a language that has invented an appropriate system of pronouns for time travellers."

The newly regenerated Doctor: "But why do all this?"

Wilby: "Come now we both know a magician never reveals his secrets."

For the rest of this episode description I will refer to the newly regenerated Doctor as new 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor and Wilby as old 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor.

This story is a post regeneration trauma story similar to Castrovalia or the Christmas Invasion. It's set entirely onboard the TARDIS (we need at least one bottle style episode to save some cash) but occasionally the Doctors get caught in psychic illusions.

The old Doctor has been posing as Wilby all this time to fulfill a bootstrap paradox ensuring his timeline will happen how it should. The new Doctor is experiencing post regeneration trauma causing him to become paranoid.

Our villain is a psychic parasite monster that lives in higher dimensional space-time, can just enter the TARDIS interior without the TARDIS even knowing (it can fool the TARDIS), and has psychic abilities. The monster wants to feed on the fractured psyche of the younger 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor. They act as an evil mirror stage magician to reflect the older 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor. A vulnerable younger 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor is caught in a magician's duel between the villain and the older 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor.

The younger 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor doesn't fully trust his older self. In the end they have to work with the older Doctor to pull off the older Doctor's master plan.

The older 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor drops his younger self off in Wilby's clothes at Woomera to complete the time loop. The younger 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor finds a newspaper, and they are once again horrified. The newspaper is dated Christmas eve 1999. "He dropped me off decades too early."

The tone of this episode should be an introspective psychological thriller as the new Doctor works out who they are by meeting an older version of themselves. They discover that they are now a very different person to who they were. Still the Doctor but a little more manipulative and difficult to trust. He isn't above manipulating both himself and the audience. This story sets a new tone for Doctor Who signalling to the audience that the 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor's adventures will be very different to the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor's.

### **The 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor**

The character of the older 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor is inspired by the Wizard of Oz. He uses illusion, misdirection and stagecraft to present himself as a larger-than-life hero but if you peek behind the curtain, he is just a man. He is designed to subvert the Doctor as a god like “more than just another time lord” characterisation that was established by the Cartmel era and has been the norm for nearly 40 years. He presents himself as wise, powerful, “more than just a time lord” but in reality, he is more of a scientific hero in the style of the first, second, third and fourth Doctors. He uses his advanced scientific knowledge and stagecraft to pull elaborate cons against the villains.

He is a return to the science hero and Trickster hero tropes that the character of the Doctor was originally based on. His magician persona embodies a con artist, and a scientist adventurer all in one.

This Doctor is a cosmic trickster, a conjurer who plays at being larger-than-life: dazzling companions, unnerving enemies, and confusing allies with sleight of hand and verbal misdirection. But behind the theatrical persona is a sharp, fiercely rational scientist-adventurer who relies on wit, improvisation, and showmanship to survive.

They're less “warrior” or “savior” and more myth-maker — forever spinning legends around themselves, often deliberately blurring the line between doctor as myth and Doctor as fallible con artist.

Similar to the First Doctor this incarnation is prone to arrogance, fallible and imperfect. There will be times when he clashes with his companions, or he is just in the wrong.

Like the second doctor he often plays the clown to trick enemies into underestimating him.

Like the fourth Doctor he is eccentric and theatrical. He keeps a menagerie of pets on the Tardis. Abused and broken animals he has adopted. Including an albino tiger (like Siegfried & Roy), a dodo called Dorothy, an invisible rabbit called Harvey (a tribute to the classic movie), a mouse with human intelligence who communicates through a speaker connected to electrodes in his head called Nibbles, and a shark kept in a levitating bubble of water.

Like the seventh he uses conjurer's tricks to confuse, bamboozle, and delight.

Beneath the 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor's performance is a more sensitive melancholic man who values truth and despises charlatans that exploit others, but he has learned to wear a mask and use illusion as a shield. This creates a disconnect between the larger-than-life persona and the man behind the curtain. This inner turmoil will be a source of drama in a possible future season.

This Doctor has a strong anti-authoritarian streak. This makes his relationship with UNIT more complex than other incarnations. He actively makes sure to erase any and all evidence of himself from UNIT databases and archives. And he will at times act against UNIT's mission actively sabotaging them.

The younger 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor hasn't quite grown into the persona yet. He still wears his heart on his sleeve rather than wear his persona as a mask. He struggles with fear and anxiety far more than other incarnations. Over the course of his decades on Earth he must learn to overcome fear.

I kinda like the idea that the younger 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor and the older 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor have different accents. Maybe young 17 has a transatlantic accent like old Hollywood actors and older 17 has a broad Ausie accent.

This younger 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor and his time on Earth can be expanded on in spin off media.

### **The Future:**

Ideally the show will be renewed for another 26-episode run. With streaming networks, it is

not uncommon for shows to take time to get renewed. So, we have deliberately planned story avenues for Doctor Who spin off media (books, toys, comics, audio adventures) to explore.

The first set up is for the Doctor who should have been to be expanded in spin off media set in an alternate timeline where the bad wolf entity didn't overwrite his regeneration. If we can convince Richard E Grant to play the Doctor who should have been then we can recontextualise the Scream of the Shalka as happening to an alternative 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor in another timeline.

In this scenario we can rerelease the Scream of the Shalka webcast and novel. Then beg Paul Cornell to write a post regeneration story picking up straight after Ncuti Gatwa's Doctor regenerates into Richard E Grant's.

Big Finish can produce unbound dramas with Richard E Grant, Derek Jacobi, and Sophie Okonedo.

Alternatively, we can create a new alternative incarnation played by a popular actor who wouldn't be able to commit to a full series. Maybe Emma Thompson, Idris Elba or Whoopi Goldberg.

The next set up is the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor herself. Through the build up to season 16 and during season 16 spin off media has been restricted to tying in with the season. Now that the 16<sup>th</sup> season is over, we can give the writers and artists the creative freedom to start filling in the gaps of her era.

Most of the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor's life happened off screen with only hints of her prior adventures offered.

My suggestion is a cross-media project focused on fleshing out the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor's backstory. Starting with a range of 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor begins audios from big finish focused on the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor finding her identity across a series of adventures chronicling her travels with Cassius Rowe, how she joined the adventurer's guild, her romance with a Slitheen. One fun idea for this series would be for an adventure where the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor ends up in Pete's world and meets Rose Tyler. Just imagine the fun of Billie playing both characters bouncing off each other. Comics and other media can continue to fill in gaps about her life prior to the events of season 16.

Another possibility to explore would be to enquire about the possibility of the BBC and Paramount collaborating on a series of Star Trek crossover specials where Billie Piper's Doctor (prior to the events of season 16) is trapped in the Star Trek universe and searching for a way back to her universe. Each special could have her meeting with the big stars of Star Trek like Pike, Picard, Archer and the new Starfleet Academy show.

Another possible idea would be to explore teaming up with a mangaka to develop a Japanese serialised manga set before the episode "Run Away" with the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor and Bertrand travelling with a host of companions. This manga would be used to explore ways for Doctor Who to find a bigger audience within Asian cultures. If successful we can explore other avenues for translating Doctor Who franchise to an international audience.

The third and final set up is the 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor. The companion Wilby has largely been excluded from use by spin off writers working on 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor stories to avoid spoiling his twist identity.

With the conclusion of season 16 we can begin to expand on this Doctor in spin off media.

Prior to the release of a possible season 17 spin off stories should be restricted to the Doctor's time stuck on Earth. This is a purposeful restriction to encourage writers to get creative when developing stories for this Doctor.

Most of his adventures will be restricted to Earth from the year 1999 to 2027 (When he enters the 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor's life). He will need to create a life for himself while avoiding running into his younger incarnations. The Doctor can however leave Earth for extended periods by hitchhiking rides from aliens into space.

A lot of stories set in this period of the 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor's life should show him becoming the more confident 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor he met in the previous Christmas special. Adventures could lean into the Doctor searching for cryptids, globetrotting particularly countries outside of the UK, foiling conspiracies, investigating alleged paranormal activity, or taking on bond style mad villains. Stories about the Doctor hitch hiking through space (Douglas Adams style) can be used to tell more traditional science fiction stories.

A possible plot point would be to write stories about this Doctor's relationship with a younger Kate Stewart prior to her joining UNIT. Through these stories we get an insight into how 17 helped her move up in the ranks and transform UNIT from a militaristic organisation into a scientific organization. In exchange for the time bound 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor's help, she keeps him a secret from UNIT. As far as UNIT are aware the 17<sup>th</sup> incarnation of the Doctor doesn't exist. This creates a lot of story telling possibilities that analyse the complex relationship between Kate and the 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor. The 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor can often act unofficially intervening in cases where UNIT cannot officially be involved. He also helps Kate overtake her superiors. This gives him some leverage over Kate and Kate has leverage over him as she is hiding his existence from UNIT.

It could be fun where Kate (prior to joining UNIT) first meets 17 (from his perspective) and she already knows him as a man who helped tutor her through school and uni. Only she doesn't really know who the Doctor is yet. She thinks he is just some creepy guy called Wilby who keeps popping up in her life (from 17's perspective he hasn't done any of this yet because he doesn't have his TARDIS). Eventually over time they develop a complex friendship and the Doctor pushes Kate to join UNIT. Maybe the Doctor can even rent her boathouse for a little while.

Stories like the suggestions above can help set up the planned role of UNIT and Kate in a possible season 17. Where the Doctor is revealed to have subtly manipulated Kate's life making sure her parents meet, tutoring her at school so she passes, pushing her to join UNIT, helping her get promotions. Kate will lose her trust in the Doctor during a story where he sabotages one of her missions to acquire a peace agreement.

If the BBC permits it, we may be able to explore producing Christmas specials in house rather than relying on co funding from a streaming partner. These specials will largely need to be smaller scale and lower budget.

These Christmas specials will feature the older 17<sup>th</sup> Doctor who has finally gotten his TARDIS back. This is so that the specials can appeal to a more general audience who may not understand why the Doctor is stuck in one time period.

Ultimately the goal for the next few years prior to getting another episode order is to explore other media avenues for telling Doctor Who stories. To keep track of all of this I suggest that the BBC should hire a head of franchise to oversee the Doctor Who franchise and ensure that stories don't contradict each other too badly.

This person will also be responsible for approving merchandise, assessing when it is

appropriate to license Doctor Who to third parties (no more predatory freemium games), and search for new revenue generation opportunities such as granting the Doctor Who license to a manga magazine or a video game developer.

Their job is to maintain a high standard of quality and brand synergy.

### **My pick for this role: Emily Cook.**

She has already proven herself as one of the most effective unofficial stewards of the Doctor Who brand. Her work organising the Doctor Who: Lockdown! global rewatch events during the pandemic didn't just celebrate fandom — it demonstrated her ability to:

Unite creators, actors, and fans across platforms;

Curate tone and narrative coherence between eras (she instinctively understands how to bridge Classic and Modern Who);

Generate organic marketing and goodwill without the need for massive budgets; and

Think cross-media — she understands social media storytelling, behind-the-scenes documentaries, and fan-creator engagement better than most PR teams.

As Head of Franchise Development (HoFD), Emily would:

#### 1. Serve as the “Franchise Showrunner” Across Media

She could liaise with the BBC, Bad Wolf, and license partners like Big Finish, Titan Comics, and BBC Books to ensure every Doctor Who story (whether TV, audio, comic, or novel) aligns with a unified creative vision — without stifling creative freedom.

Think of her as a Kevin Feige, but for Doctor Who: not dictating every story, but setting tone, continuity baselines, and brand direction.

#### 2. Lead the “Doctor Who Expanded Universe Council”

Bring together representatives from Big Finish, BBC Books, Titan Comics, Panini (DWM), and BBC Studios Games & Interactive.

Monthly syncs to share upcoming storylines and prevent continuity clashes.

Develop a “Franchise Bible” — not rigid canon, but a reference framework outlining what's confirmed, what's flexible, and what's mythic.

#### 3. Franchise Synergy and Brand Guardianship

Oversee merchandise approvals — ensuring character likenesses, tone, and ethical licensing.

Coordinate special cross-media events, e.g., a Bad Wolf Month where new audios, comics, and short stories explore that mythos.

Rebuild trust with fans by fostering transparency and involvement — e.g., regular “Franchise Briefings” videos where she outlines new projects.

#### 4. Develop Global Expansion Strategy

Emily could spearhead the internationalisation plan you proposed:

Commission the Japanese Doctor Who manga tie-in.

Coordinate with Paramount+ or Netflix Japan for distribution.

Oversee subtitled and dubbed versions that retain Who's emotional nuance.

#### 5. Creative Collaboration and Legacy Stewardship

She's also respected by past Doctors, showrunners, and fans. That matters for:

Inviting legacy talent like Paul Cornell or Russell T Davies to contribute special projects.

Overseeing anniversary tie-ins and archive restorations.

Managing "what if" projects like The Doctor Who Should Have Been (Richard E Grant timeline) so they feel prestigious, not peripheral.

In short: Emily Cook as HoFD provides both fan trust and creative oversight.

She is the connective tissue between eras, mediums, and generations — exactly the type of person to ensure the franchise doesn't fracture during expansion.