

"THE IMPOSTER"

By

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FADE IN:

SCENE 1 - EXT - A BUSY STREET - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: LONDON, ENGLAND, 1965

We focus in on a WOMAN hurrying quickly down the street when, out of an alley, a MASKED MAN in a WELDER'S MASK steps out in front of her.

WOMAN

gasps Oh. Dear, lord, you nearly gave me a bloody heart attack, sir. You a welder or something other, mister?

The MASKED MAN says nothing, but takes his hands out from behind his back to reveal that one of them is pure metal. He takes a heavy step towards the Woman, who backs away

WOMAN

Now, no funny business you - you get back mister. What - what are you doing!

Stepping forward silently, until he's directly beside the Woman, he reaches down and pulls an odd-shaped gun from his coat pocket. Before the woman can run he pulls the trigger and an orb of energy streaks from the nozzle and appears to TEAR the fabric of the air apart, opening up a black rift that sucks in the woman before closing again. Surrounding people begin to SCREAM and RUN.

The man walks forward, undeterred, before catching another WOMAN by the arm.

WOMAN (SCREAMING)

What do you want?!

MASKED MAN (CALMLY)

Why, I'm looking for the Doctor, of course.

CUT TO : SCENCE 2

2. EXT. A DIFFERENT PART OF LONDON, 1965 - DAY

The FIRST DOCTOR has just landed in LONDON, ENGLAND to drop his companions IAN and BARBARA off at home after many great adventures.

IAN AND BARBARA

Good bye, Doctor! It's been fun!

Barbara and Ian exit, eager to be back in England 2-years after they disappeared with the Doctor. The First Doctor stands in the doorway of his TARDIS watching them disappear from view. There's an unusual speck of EMOTION in his face.

1ST DOCTOR

Yes, I shall miss them... just a bit.

VOICE (o.S.)

Just a bit? Is that right. I think, it might mean a good deal more than just a little bit.

The 12TH DOCTOR reveals himself, appearing in the doorway of the TARDIS with his companion CLARA. The 1st Doctor takes a step back, looking confused.

1ST DOCTOR

Who are you? What are you doing here?

12TH DOCTOR

Ah, yes, I suppose we have not met just yet. I'm you. Me this is Clara. Clara this is Me. Now that introductions are out of the way, I must say, your TARDIS is looking a bit empty right now.

1ST DOCTOR

You're... sir if you could kindly step out of this ship along with this child -

CLARA

(Indignantly) Child?! Doctor did he just call me a child?

1ST DOCTOR

(understanding suddenly dawning on his face) Doctor? I see now... well I haven't changed much then, have I? Very well, what is it you are doing?

12TH DOCTOR

Ah, yes, it's Christmas. No... not Christmas, not literally, but we've received a distress signal. Isn't that exciting?

1ST DOCTOR

A distress signal? Here? Why that is no laughing matter. We must be on our way immediately, step aside, please.

12TH DOCTOR

Step aside? This kind of thing is what I live for. I'm brilliant at it. Tell him, Clara.

CLARA

Um, Doctor... what is *that*?

All three of them turn around to look at the sky in time to see a orb of energy rip a gaping black hole in the sky before sealing back up. The two Doctors exchange glances before jumping into action and running towards the commotion.

CUT TO: SCENE 3

3. EXT. THE STREET IN LONDON - DAY

The Masked Man is continuing on down the street, pointing his gun at a POLICE MAN who is quickly sucked into an opening in the fabric of the universe. SCREAMING can be heard and PEOPLE are running in every direction. The Doctors and Clara come into view.

1ST DOCTOR

Stop! Stop it right, there, you. Identify yourself and what purpose you have here.

12TH DOCTOR

Where do you come from? What do you want with earth?

The Masked Man lowers his gun, coming towards them.

MASKED MAN

The Doctor, is it? Oh, look, there's two of you. I did hope for one, but I will take two.

(turning to Clara)

And the Impossible Girl. Bonus, I suppose.

CLARA

Doctor, how does he know -

MASKED MAN

Because I know everything there is know about you Doctor. I've been waiting for you for a very, very long time. And here you are, finally coming to me. It only took a few lone lives -

12TH DOCTOR

Leave these people alone. They've done nothing to you.

MASKED MAN

So will you come willingly with me, then? For the sake of these people? Less I see it fit to destroy their worthless lives one by one?

The Doctors hesitate, exchanging glances. The 12th Doctor steps forward.

12TH DOCTOR

Alright, you want the Doctor? I'm the Doctor. Let my companions go free and you can have me.

CLARA

Absolutely not! You're not going alone, Doctor! I won't allow it!

1ST DOCTOR

I am inclined to agree with this here child. I am as much the Doctor as this here man, and you shall take me, too.

MASKED MAN

You are very loyal, I see. I fear it will be your downfall one day.

The Masked Man steps towards them, holding out his metallic hand and pressing a button with his other. A bright flash of light fills the street and when it clears the Masked Man, the two Doctors, and Clara are gone.

CUT TO: SCENE 4

FADE IN:

INT - A TYPE OF POORLY LIT HIDEOUT - DAY

Superimpose: The Masked Man's laboratory, somewhere beneath the streets of London, 32nd century

The hideout is dark and empty. Shattered glass and overturned tables and torn paper cover the entire floor. Beat. The flash of light fills the screen and when it clears the four of them are back. The Masked Man points a gun at them.

MASKED MAN

Don't think of trying anything, now.

The 12th Doctor steps forward, his hands held up cautiously as he examines the gun in the Masked Man's hand.

12TH DOCTOR

Well that is fancy. Very fancy, indeed.
Let me guess - a hyperspace gun?

MASKED MAN

Very good. It's missiles travel through
hyperspace, carrying along anyone it hits
for the ride and depositing them somewhere
in the galaxy.

1ST DOCTOR

That's impossible. Where on earth would
you get that technology?

12TH DOCTOR

Oh, a few centuries past our own. You've
taken us quite a ways away from London,
1964, haven't you?

MASKED MAN

Ah, yes, I've followed you through time
Doctor, waiting for London, 1964, one of
your rare moments of vulnerability. But
now, here we are together at last, in the
glorious future.

CLARA

Doctor - he's a time traveller isn't he?

The 12th Doctor steps closer to the Masked Men, taking out
his SONIC SCREWDRIVER and scanning the man.

12TH DOCTOR

Time traveller, aye? I don't think that's
quite it. What exactly are you? Not quite
alien... but not quite human.

1ST DOCTOR

And what is it you call yourself young
man?

MASKED MAN

My name? Ah, yes, I suppose I have one of those. Here, people call me The Imposter.

CLARA

The Imposter? But why do they call you that?

The Imposter, does not respond, but turns away from them wandering deeper into his hideout. Snapping his fingers, the lights turn on, revealing a grungy looking laboratory. Shelves with vials of chemicals and liquids line the walls, but most of them are tipped over. Torn blueprints litter the ground. And broken bits of machinery lean against the wall.

1ST DOCTOR

And why do you wear the mask? What are hiding behind there?

THE IMPOSTER

Why? Oh, well... I suppose for the same reason people wear pants, really, no one wants to see what's underneath.

12TH DOCTOR

Well, I suppose we can't really argue with that logic. What was it then that happened to you? War? Disease? Nuclear contamination? We've seen most of it, we're not entirely squeamish.

CLARA

Doctor - look at this!

Both Doctors turn to where Clara stands in front of a white wall filled entirely with equations. Different letters, numbers, abbreviations, and diagrams jumbled together in red ink. Lights begin to flash on down the laboratory, revealing that the walls and writings extend into a deep cave, the end not visible.

CLARA

This man... he's a genius isn't he?

12TH DOCTOR

Oh, I wouldn't say genius. Bright, maybe, but it's just simple calculations of time and the universe. Nothing too extraordinary.

1ST DOCTOR

Oh, please, sir. Forgive my interrupting, but I cannot decipher these writings. If I cannot, you most certainly cannot.

12TH DOCTOR

Oh, shut up.

CLARA

Doctor!

12TH DOCTOR

He's calling me stupid, Clara. Of all the Doctors -

THE IMPOSTER

Silence!

They turn towards the The Imposter, who motions them to follow him. Leading them deeper and deeper into the cave he stops next to an odd looking black sphere suspended from the ceiling by a system of pulleys. He clears his throat

THE IMPOSTER

My space-ship.

CLARA

unimpressed It's a ball?

THE IMPOSTER

It's not a ball! It's a sphere!
Understand, that - 3 dimension sphere.
Made of physicornium - antimatter with
negative mass that allows it to travel
faster than the speed of light, yet it is
also indestructible and compact. Much
denser than, say, a cube would be.

The two Doctors walk around the sphere-shaped ship,
intrigued.

12TH DOCTOR

My, my, physicornium? That's... galaxies
away. You've been through Centaurus A,
have you? That's... quite a feat. And you
mean to say you've been following me for
quite some time in this - sphere?

THE IMPOSTER

Yes, it is the equal to, if not the
superior to, your TARDIS here, Doctor. It
may not be powered by the Eye of Harmony,
but it's physicornium makes it quite
indestructible, unlike the TARDIS.

CLARA

Is it bigger on the inside?

THE IMPOSTER

Oh, lord, no, I didn't quite have time for
fancy interiors, but I make do. I travel
only by myself and I've found this ship
quite compatible for lone travel.

1ST DOCTOR

Alright, well, young man. You have my
attention now. So what is this for? You
know of me. You have a spaceship. You can
time travel. What do you and I have to do
with one another?

CLARA

Doctor... you don't think... I, mean, he's not another Timelord? Like you?

1ST DOCTOR

Nonsense! There is none left of my kind!
The very thought of it is -

The 1st Doctor pauses, looking at the solemn face of the 12th Doctor.

1ST DOCTOR

It can't be... I - I am not alone?

THE IMPOSTER

Indeed, you are not alone. I promise you. For one, I've been there. From the very first time you took that TARDIS from Gallifrey up to this moment of parading through space claiming to save people, of all things. People? Really, you could do better Doctor.

12TH DOCTOR

That's impossible! You're saying that you are - immortal?

THE IMPOSTER

Yes. Indeed. I know you have never had a great deal of tolerance for immortals, have you Doctor? Abandonment has never been very difficult for you, though has it, Doctor? Or should I say *Doctors*. Where is you're granddaughter, good Doctor? Did you ever really intend to return to her?

The 1st Doctor stumbles back, looking suddenly very old and tired. He backs away from The Imposter, but when he looks up he looks very SAD.

1ST DOCTOR

I will... I will find a way back to her.
Won't I Doctor?

The 12th Doctor is SILENT.

THE IMPOSTER

Oh, I'm sure he will. Just as he found a way with Jack and Ashildr and Susan and - The Impossible Girl. Oh, but then, he didn't. They're just forgotten somewhere, set apart from mortals forever.

CLARA

Me? What do you mean, me? I'm a mortal... the Doctor would never abandon me or forget me!

12TH DOCTOR

You've seen things, haven't you. The future. Somewhere behind that mask, whatever form of eyes exist on that face has seen the future. The universe. The end. Eternity.

THE IMPOSTER

Yes, and do you know what I saw? I saw the entire universe and I saw that it was - it was... it was disgusting. Disturbing really. Humans are such hateful beings. Such fundamentally flawed creatures. Why, I think the only thing that ever brings out a bit of good in any being in the universe is when they are so scared out of their wits they start acting like halfway decent beings.

12TH DOCTOR

No, there is good in humanity. You just haven't looked in the right places, Imposter.

The Imposter shrugs, turning and walking deeper into his lab. Before sitting down on his broken tables, pushing aside shattered glass and picking up bits of blueprints.

THE IMPOSTER

It really wouldn't be a shame, you know. If a hyperspace missile were to rip the fabric of the universe open. Not just a miniature tear, but a large gap, like a curtain being lifted. The dimension of hyperspace revealed to them. Carrying them off whither they would rather not go. Imagine them all in a row... floating lifeless in space.

12TH DOCTOR

I'm going to ask you one more time young man - WHAT are you?

The Imposter reaches up a metallic hand to fiddle with his mask.

THE IMPOSTER

I'm your superior, Doctor. At long last. You have a brilliant mind, but I have two. One of them is the human brain, but encoded into it is a brain more powerful than any other - the brain of a computer. Combine the infinite knowledge of a computer with the human capability to reason and think abstractly - it's the formula for true intelligence. Every secret of the universe is known to me. Meanwhile, my brain can never quite grow old, kept alive by the electricity that sifts through my veins and the gears that grind in my chest.

1ST DOCTOR

An automaton!

THE IMPOSTER

No, not quite. I am not a robot - I am the perfected balance between human and technology to ensure that I will always have life and knowledge. You know, I've been taken apart at times. Disfigured, every piece of my body torn from me and repositioned into something entirely different, but I never died. I always existed in some twisted form or another.

He stands from his seat and reaches down to pick up his gun again, stroking it thoughtfully as he stares at the calculations on the walls. The 12th Doctor walks up beside him.

12TH DOCTOR

Who did it? Who did... this... to you?

THE IMPOSTER

It matters very little. I am inhuman and I am abandoned by those who did it me. Forgotten, a broken toy. Because that's what beings do - they break things. Don't they Doctor? Isn't that why you always let them go eventually?

1ST DOCTOR

It's for their own good! Ian and Barbara - they wanted to go home!

THE IMPOSTER

Oh, yes, but you wanted to keep them. And you did keep them for such a long time. A clever ruse really, that you were too old and daft to control the TARDIS, but eventually you realized you had broke them. They're like me, now. You know, they're there to this day, two ageless teachers teaching at Coal Hill High School for 12 centuries.

(turning to look at the 12th

Doctor)

They haven't aged a bit, have they?

The two Doctors exchange glances and the 12th Doctor NODS his head.

12TH DOCTOR

Two years was, too long. I knew - we knew that...

1ST DOCTOR

(looking at Clara)

Yes, well I see it hasn't stopped you has it? She reminds of you her, doesn't she?

12TH DOCTOR

Yes, of our granddaughter... Susan.

Clara surveys the two Doctors, before turning back to The Imposter. Bracing herself she marches up to him, TEARS in her eyes.

CLARA

You've hurt them. You see what you're doing - you're hurting them! Why? Why are doing this? What do want with the Doctor?

THE IMPOSTER

I am simply showing my superiority. I am not overcome with emotion at the plight of humanity. I'm sure they know why they are here.

12TH DOCTOR

(pointing at the equations on the wall)

It's what I fear isn't it? You've found a way... haven't you. Hyperspace missile powerful enough to tear apart the dimensions of earth themselves.

THE IMPOSTER

Indeed, and you are helpless to stop me.
All these years, Doctor, of saving people
and adventures. This is where it ends.

12TH DOCTOR

I will find a way. We will find a way,
because people are worth saving. I, mean,
how could I not save people? They're
adorable, like puppies. They make so many
little mistakes, you think they're wholly
worthless, but then they go on growing and
proving themselves. Proving that they can
be extraordinary even if they are wholly
mortal.

THE IMPOSTER

You will watch, Doctor. As the world is
sucked into the dimension of hyperspace.
Torn apart and tossed through the galaxy.
I do believe it's time Doctor. You just
get that feeling. That feeling of NO MORE

12TH DOCTOR

Enough!

1ST DOCTOR

If I might please, interrupt. What if...
what if this man is right?

Clara and the 12th Doctor look horrified, but The Imposter
watches emotionlessly, as if he knew this would happen.

1ST DOCTOR

He's seen the future. This young man, he's
seen what humanity becomes, what we
become, however, far off. Perhaps... he's
saving us from a worst fate. Perhaps, he's
saving humanity from themselves.

12TH DOCTOR

No, you don't understand. You have not yet seen the things I've seen. This is not how the earth ends. And as long as my name is the Doctor and I am alive and breathing, I will not see the genocide of humanity. Never!

THE IMPOSTER

Are you quite certain of that Doctor?

12TH DOCTOR

It's the only thing in this irrational universe that I am certain of.

THE IMPOSTER

The older man doesn't seem quite convinced. Perhaps, he can feel what you cannot.

12TH DOCTOR

Ah, yes, and what exactly would that be young man? Or have I caught you in a bluff?

THE IMPOSTER

A bluff? On the contrary Doctor, I believe you're just beginning to recognize the real me. The truth. The hideous truth that you suspected all along. That you always knew to be true, but denied for so long.

CLARA

concerned Doctor, what is he talking about? Doctor?

THE IMPOSTER

Because you can sense it. Maybe you've seen bits and pieces haven't you, because it has to end somewhere.

1ST DOCTOR

End? What has to end?

THE IMPOSTER

starting to laugh Do not deny it now, there are only so many regenerations. Only so many lifetimes Doctor. Only so many years the TARDIS can survive. You were only granted so many more... but it has to end somewhere doesn't it?

CLARA

Doctor what is he talking about? He's talking about you changing faces, but you can change again can't you? It's not the last -

THE IMPOSTER

Oh, no, he's not the last. There will be many, many more after him. Greater than him, but eventually the regenerations will run out and the last of him will fade. It will distort and disfigure, desperate to stay alive. One certain companion will be so desperate in fact, that they would want him to live in any form if it meant he could live. So they changed him and they abandoned him... they've ruined him. Turned him into... an Imposter.

12TH DOCTOR

No, no, no! Stop speaking stop this instant. Shut up! Shut up!

THE IMPOSTER

But you can't hide from it, Doctor! You've known it all along haven't you. You've felt it from the very moment you met me. That you cannot beat me. You can't stop me Doctor. And why is that?

Both Doctors reel back, shaking, looking at each other as if for the first time.

12TH DOCTOR

(suddenly fierce to the 1st Doctor)

It was you, wasn't it! You had it inside of you from the very beginning!

1ST DOCTOR

Impossible! Nonsense! Surely you acquired this insanity over time in all these travels.

THE IMPOSTER

Oh, dear Doctors. Do not fight amongst yourselves. Do not deny it so ferociously. For it is all of you. It has always been inside of you.

CLARA

terrified Doctor, what is it? What is he talking about. Tell me now! Who is this man!

The Imposter steps forward tearing off his mask to reveal a grotesquely disfigured face. Burnt and torn, with metal showing through the grazes and cuts and holes lining the melted skin on his face and bald head. One of his eyes is still human, though, and there's something in his eyes. Clara sees it first, letting out a gasp. Seeing the universe in his eye. Seeing something so poignantly familiar in that one, tormented eye.

THE IMPOSTER

You can't stop me, because I am you! I am the Doctor! The last of my kind. The last of my lives. The one you always knew and feared would come out one day. I have finally made my entrance! The Imposter Doctor in the line of good and heroic beings and I have come to do to my duty at

long last and I will end what I made to
stay for so long. I am - the last Doctor!

FADE OUT:

THE END