



# Introduction

*'That wasn't a god,' said the Doctor. 'It was an alien from another planet. And those were his warriors. They took your men, and I lost my friend.'*

The Doctor is talking to Viking villagers. When he and Clara arrive in a quiet wood in Scotland in the TARDIS, in the year 850, they meet some Vikings. The Vikings are not friendly. They take the Doctor and Clara with them to their home across the sea. But some aliens arrive at the Viking village at the same time, and they are looking for Viking warriors. The aliens take the best fighters – and Clara – to their spaceship.

How can the villagers fight the aliens? Will the Doctor see Clara again? And who is Ashildr? The Doctor thinks that he knows the young Viking woman – but how? This is his first time in the Viking village!

You can watch *Doctor Who* on television in Britain and in many other countries. William Hartnell played the First Doctor in 1963 – in black and white! In this story, Peter Capaldi plays the Twelfth Doctor. Jenna Coleman is Clara, his companion.

People watch *Doctor Who* on television because they love the exciting journeys to dangerous places, and the Doctor's clever tricks. Many people follow the Doctor's journeys for years and years. They start watching when they are children. Then they don't stop. Most people like one Doctor more than all the others.

You can read other stories about the Doctor and Clara in Pearson English Readers - *Robot of Sherwood, Mummy on the Orient Express, Flatline, The Woman Who Lived and Face the Raven.*





## A Spider in Space

'Doctor!' called Clara.

'Yes, yes,' said the Doctor. 'I'll talk to you in a minute. I'm fighting Sontaran\* warships!'

Clara was somewhere in space and time. The Doctor was somewhere in space and time, too. But they weren't in the *same* place in space and time.

'Doctor!' Clara called again. She looked at the strange planets all round her. 'Help me!'

The Doctor was inside the TARDIS, his spaceship. Clara was outside, in space, in an orange spacesuit and helmet. She couldn't see the Doctor, but she could talk to him through her helmet.

'Doctor!' she cried.

'I *am* busy, you know,' the Doctor answered. 'I'm in the middle of a war.'

Suddenly, there was a loud *BANG*. The Sontaran guns hit the TARDIS and the Doctor fell to the floor. The lights went off and on again.

'There's something in my spacesuit,' Clara shouted.

'I can't hear you, Clara,' said the Doctor. 'There's a lot of noise in the TARDIS.'

\* Sontarans: alien warriors. The Doctor often meets them on his journeys.



'Something's moving inside my spacesuit,' she repeated. 'I can feel it.'

'Ah, yes, that's possible,' answered the Doctor. 'I think it's one of the spiders from that last planet, Metebelis 3.'

'OK,' said Clara. She tried not to be afraid. 'Tell me more.'

'Metebelis spiders live under the mountains there, and they aren't very nice,' said the Doctor. 'I think that your spider wants to eat you.'

'It's running up my leg,' said Clara. With its eight legs, the spider easily pushed its way up her spacesuit.

'You'll be fine,' said the Doctor. 'Perhaps it's hungry. Look at the planets near you. What can you see? Tell me.'

'Er ... there's a blue planet. It's quite big. There are two little yellow planets. One is bigger than the other,' said Clara. 'Doctor! It's on my back!'

'Don't think about the spider – think about the planets,' said the Doctor. 'Look between the big blue planet and the two yellow planets. Is there a green planet?'

'Yes, yes, there is,' said Clara.

A spider's leg moved in front of Clara's face, inside her helmet. It was black and hairy.

'Doctor!' she shouted. 'Please help me *now*.'

'I'm coming!' he said.



Clara fell to the floor of the TARDIS. The Doctor pulled off her helmet and the big spider fell out. He kicked it, then stood on it. It was not a nice sound.

The Doctor was a Time Lord from the planet Gallifrey. Clara was a teacher from the planet Earth. She was his companion, and they flew through time and space in the Doctor's spaceship, the TARDIS. On the outside, the TARDIS was a small, blue police box. On the inside, it was a big spaceship.

After many exciting journeys to many different planets with the Doctor, Clara never stayed afraid. She jumped up from the floor.



'Did we win?' she asked. 'Are the Philosians\* safe?'

'Oh!' said the Doctor. He looked unhappy. 'Aren't you going to say thank you? The TARDIS brought you in and saved you. That's not easy, you know.'

The Doctor wasn't really unhappy. Clara knew that.

'And the Philosians?' she laughed. 'Are they safe?'

'Well,' said the Doctor, 'the Sontaran warships followed me across space and used their guns on the TARDIS. But yes, I saved the Philosians. Oh, and I also saved an English teacher. A spider wanted to eat her.'

The TARDIS made a loud noise and arrived on Earth.

'So now,' the Doctor said, 'I'm going outside. I've got a dead spider on my shoe.'

The TARDIS door opened, and Clara followed the Doctor outside. It was dark and they were in the middle of some tall trees.

'We're in the north of Scotland,' said the Doctor. 'I think the year is about 850.'

But Clara wanted to know more about the Philosians.

'Won't the Sontarans come back and fight the Philosians again?' asked Clara.

'I couldn't do any more for them, Clara,' said the Doctor. 'It says "Police" on the TARDIS, but I'm not a policeman!'

'What *can* you do, Doctor?' asked Clara. 'What *can't* you do? I never know!'

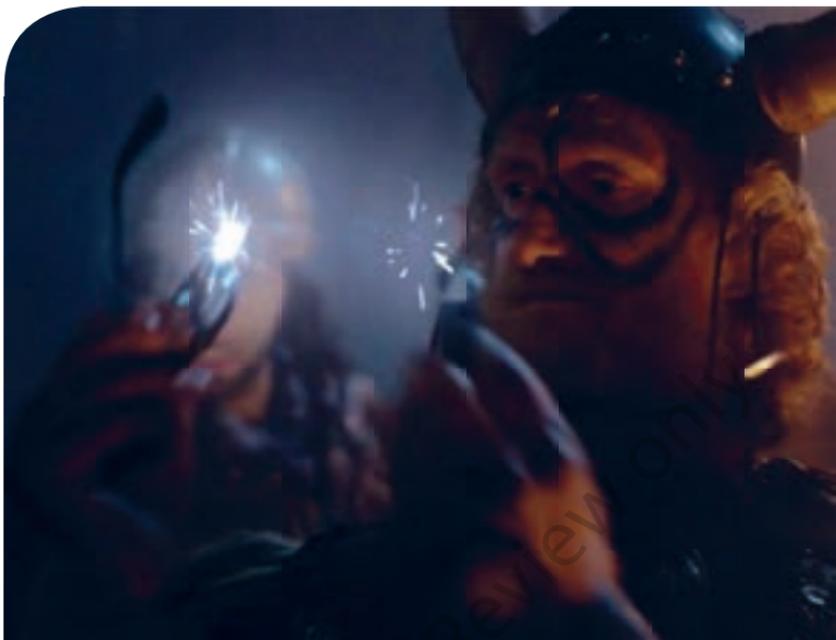
'Time Lords move through time,' he answered. 'We go to earlier times. We go to the future. We can change things in little ways. But we can't make *big* changes.'

Suddenly, they heard the sound of metal. Then they felt the cold of metal on their faces. Swords!

Big, tall men stood round them. The men wore helmets and they carried fire. They had long red hair and long swords, and they looked angry.

'Oh no,' said the Doctor. 'Not Vikings! I don't want to talk to Vikings. Not today.'

\* Philosians: aliens from the planet Philosia; friends of the Doctor.



**The Viking took the sunglasses off the Doctor's nose. He broke them in two and threw them to the ground.**

The tallest man spoke. 'You're coming with us,' he said. He didn't smile.

'No, I'm not,' said the Doctor. 'Do you know why not? Look at these!' He took out his sonic sunglasses and put them on. 'These are from the future. You Earth people won't have technology as clever as this for many, many years.'

The Viking took the sunglasses off the Doctor's nose. He broke them in two and threw them to the ground. *Then* he smiled. The other Vikings laughed.

'Clara,' said the Doctor.

'What?' asked Clara.

'We're going with the Vikings.'