



DOCTOR WHO

HOW THE DOCTOR LOST HIS JACKET

A PREQUEL TO THE ELEVENTH HOUR

BY ANDREW HSIEN

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"Geronimo!"

The new Doctor was already crashing towards Earth, holding onto his TARDIS console to try to steady himself in this turbulent situation. As he dodged the exploding debris from side to side, there was no way he could prepare for the worst to come after regenerating.

With flames continuously spreading across the interior, the Doctor suddenly felt the room temperature increase like Mount Vesuvius. He had no choice. He had to let go. So, he did.

Trying to maintain his balance, he quickly undid the buttons on his jacket. And - without turning back - the Doctor took it off. Was it really the last time he was going to remove it? Same with his coat? He didn't have the time to think rationally, so he left it aside on the chair.

But a spark suddenly landed on the jacket, causing it to go ablaze. The Doctor immediately panicked, unable to take it easy. So, he gradually made his way towards the handrails, by the doors, to collect his very long coat, then dashed back to put out the burning jacket before wrapping and tossing them aside. He didn't want to let it go. It was precious to him. What if he needed to wear it in case the TARDIS crashed into a wet and rainy environment or, further towards the extreme, snowy surroundings like the Arctic?

The console continued to explode non-stop, so did the roundels. His shirt and trousers were gradually tearing apart from the burns, therefore making him look raggedy. He checked the monitor again to see that he was heading back down to London, still on New Year's Day 2005 where he first, and last, met Rose Tyler immediately before his regeneration.

"I bet you're going to have a really great year."

Closer and closer towards the British capital, through the Earth's atmosphere, the TARDIS lost all control and navigation while spinning and performing somersaults. Plummeting through London's night sky, the winds somehow instantly extinguished the flames around the police box.

The Doctor was already losing his balance, as he dug out his sonic screwdriver. And then... the room tilted, causing him to slide backwards. But he managed to put the sonic between his teeth, as he grabbed onto the handrails. The doors suddenly opened; he was on the brink of getting sucked out of the TARDIS. His hands were sweating. He couldn't hold on for long.

He lost grip.

Then snagged onto-

He held onto the ledge, as tightly as he could, with the rest of his body dangling outside.

And the end was just the beginning...



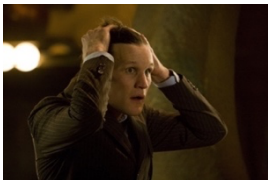
Writer's Notes

We never saw the Eleventh Doctor remove his predecessor's jacket. Nor did we see the disappearance of his long coat. And how did he end up dangling outside the TARDIS, whilst flying over London?



It all started when I was 15 years old, probably back in 2012 (if my memory serves correctly). I considered writing a short fanfic prequel to the Series 5 opener *The Eleventh Hour*, as a way to answer the very question that would later become the story title. But sadly, it didn't come to fruition at the time, as a result of writer's block and mixed depression. The idea was left to be buried deep in my memories.

Flash forward to March 2020, the early days of the first COVID lockdown. Chris Chibnall releases *Things She Thought While Falling*, a prequel to the Series 11 opener *The Woman Who Fell to Earth*, on the official *Doctor Who* website. That was the lightbulb moment, which got me unearthing my very old idea and typing away. And then came *Doctor Who and the Time War* by Russell T Davies, a rare treasure previously lost in time that later, retroactively, formed a prequel to the Series 1 opener *Rose*. Isn't that a funny coincidence, releasing prequels to each showrunner's first episode? Mine, however, was unofficial and completely unrelated to what Steven Moffat had in mind, but rather a love letter overall.



As I resume writing, Philip Bates, co-founder of *The Doctor Who Companion*, sends out an email to remind us of the Series 5 "themed weeks" coming up. I pitch the story and get the green light. And furthermore, within the following days, Emily Cook announces the #FishCustard tweetalong. Well, it was always the plan to get my story published on 3rd April, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of *The Eleventh Hour*. But to coincide with the worldwide event was indeed perfect timing. Geronimo!



Once the story was finally published on the DWC website¹, hours before the tweetalong, I wasn't particularly bothered about how many fans would come across it. I just wanted to contribute my own interpretation of what happens in between *The End of Time* and *The Eleventh Hour*. It's a healthier approach to addressing plot holes, instead of repeatedly bombarding writers with endless questions or hateful comments and accusations on social media. Nonetheless, it was a fun story to write.

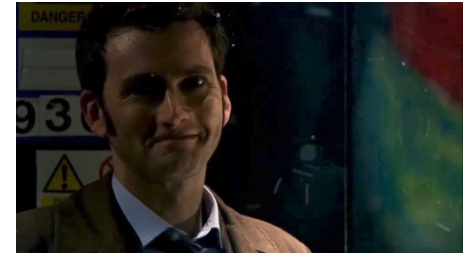
Since then, I wasn't sure about doing an audiobook version, mainly because of my fanfic lasting nearly 500 words in total. But in December 2022, everything changed when Jackardy uploaded an outstanding remix of *Doctor Who XI* (the Series 5 theme arrangement) onto YouTube, omitting the "nasty trumpets at the beginning". Yes, I'm specifically referring to the opening fanfare, which I always disliked. (Honest opinion: the fanfare doesn't sound like *Doctor Who* at all. No offence to Murray Gold.) However, I didn't mind the vocal choir as much, but the remix definitely works without it.

¹ <https://thedoctorwhocompanion.com/2020/04/03/how-the-doctor-lost-his-jacket-a-prequel-to-the-eleventh-hour/>

In addition to being the first piece of fiction that I've written for the DWC, it's also my first ever fan audio project, hence why I decided to narrate my story to see how my reading skills turn out. Haven't done narrating for over a decade, since my last school production in my teenage years.

The recording and editing were straightforward. I just used iMovie, due to being unable to afford professional software (very expensive stuff). Thank God for the brilliant sound quality on my MacBook's microphone! Originally, I had intended to use the rare extended Series 4 theme for the intro and Jackardy's full Series 5 remix for the end credits, as a way to establish a bridge between both eras. But when Jackardy kindly granted me access to the opening and closing variants, I changed my mind and it worked out well.

Rather than having just the narration on its own, like many audiobooks (without incidental music), I thought it was best to incorporate high quality unscored audio clips from both *The End of Time (Part 2)* and *The Eleventh Hour*; mainly the regeneration scenes and Matt Smith's voice. Fairly easy! And also, with David Tennant returning for



the 60th anniversary specials this year, I decided to add the Tenth Doctor's line as a late addition to the story, therefore making it exclusive to both the audiobook and digital booklet.



And finally, the cover artwork. The last jigsaw piece of the puzzle. I approached Owen/@WhovianLife and sent him a rough concept. He was quick to provide a professionally impressive prototype, something which really blew me away. But the only issue was that it was impossible to incorporate the 2005 TARDIS exterior on fire, taken as a snapshot from *The End of Time (Part 2)*, so I suggested removing the St John Ambulance logo as a substitute. Regarding the choice of logo, I was determined to go for the unused Series 5 variant from the 2009 announcement, which I personally prefer to what was used onscreen and on merchandising.



As for that, when I showed Owen's artwork to my best friend, a fellow Whovian, he thought it was a reference to "Mr Clever" from the penultimate Series 7 episode *Nightmare in Silver*. I confirmed that it wasn't, and we agreed that it was just a coincidence (and not foreshadowing). Because the artwork was primarily inspired by the "Regeneration!" promotional image with David Tennant and Matt Smith in their respective outfits, split between the TARDIS descending towards Earth.

If *The Eleventh Hour* were to be officially novelised at some point, I wouldn't mind at all if the first chapter or prologue ends up differing from what I've written... as long as it addresses the key issue: *How the Doctor Lost His Jacket*.

Andrew Hsieh, 2023

How the Doctor Lost His Jacket credits

Written and read by
Andrew Hsieh

Based on
The Eleventh Hour by Steven Moffat
The End of Time by Russell T Davies

Original theme music by Ron Grainer
Arranged by Murray Gold
Remixed by Jackardy

Cover artwork by Owen/@WhovianLife

Executive Producers
Andrew Hsieh
Philip Bates

THE END
IS JUST THE BEGINNING

