

Doctor Who 2006

Episode 13.5: Compensation

Note from the author:

This is a fan-fiction, created by a fan for fans, and written only for fun. I'm not a writer, but just crazy enough to try, so please be gentle. All characters are copyright of their respective copyright owners. Names are in Japanese order (surname first) in some cases because while this story is in English, the language spoken is Japanese. (Doctor Who fans know what I mean)

This episode occurs chronologically near the end of the 13th episode (titled "Doomsday") of the 2006 season of Doctor Who. There is one major difference in this story, which is intentional and becomes obvious quite quickly. Spoilers are ahead, so if you haven't seen the entire 2006 season, stop here. I mean it.

-- Lycestra

1. INSIDE THE TARDIS

The Doctor wakes up in the TARDIS, laying on the ground, not aware of what's happened.

DOCTOR
Rose?! Rose?!

The Doctor scrambles to his feet, scanning the bridge of the TARDIS.

DOCTOR
Rose?!

The Doctor fiddles with the TARDIS controls and grabs for the display. Clearly distressed about where Rose could be, his memory flashes back to the last few moments he could remember.

--- BEGIN FLASHBACK ---

LONDON: TORCHWOOD INSTITUTE: GHOST SHIFT ROOM

The Doctor is holding on for his life so he won't get sucked into the Void between dimensions. Rose is across from him, but holding onto a lever, now locked into the active position. Holding on to the lever, Rose is being pulled in, her feet floating toward the rift on the other side of the room. Looking back at the Doctor, seconds pass like minutes, as the rift

appears to be sealing itself, Rose loses her grip, and is pulled toward the wormhole, with absolutely nothing on the other side.

DOCTOR

No!!!

The Doctor witnesses as Rose is mercilessly pulled in, disappearing into the breach... lost forever. The distressed Doctor watches as the wormhole shrinks and disappears into nothing, leaving an empty wall. The Doctor pulls himself to his feet, troubled at having lost his companion, standing there, lost, not knowing what to do.

One of the computers starts beeping an alarm. The Doctor rushes over to the console, and on it, sees the image of the open Dalek Void ship, with space distorting around it. Watching the readings of the sensors scrutinizing the existence of the ship gradually drop, they suddenly leap. The readings quickly shift and scatter all over the place. The camera's signal cuts out, followed moments later by the sensors. The lights in the room go dim, along with all the displays. The Doctor looks around the now dark room. The Doctor hears an explosion, and all goes dark.

--- END FLASHBACK ---

INSIDE THE TARDIS

The Doctor remains standing in silence on the bridge of the TARDIS, staring at the camera, paralyzed by this memory.

2. DOCTOR WHO INTRO

David Tennant, Sayaka Ohara

Compensation - By lycestra@gmail.com

3. INSIDE THE TARDIS

The TARDIS is completely silent, Doctor still standing. Having clearly landed somewhere, the Doctor looks at the display, fiddling with controls, trying to ascertain where he is or what happened.

DOCTOR

That's not right... Sensors must be offline. Something more must be out there.

The Doctor heads to the doors.

4. JAPANESE GARDEN, LATE AFTERNOON

The TARDIS has materialized next to a well beside a building of Eastern design, and the Doctor steps outside.

DOCTOR

Rose?!

The Doctor looks around, hoping to see Rose appear from behind a tree. Alas, nothing.

DOCTOR

Rose...

The Doctor walks through a small garden that surrounds him, looking around, while trying to collect himself. At this moment, two little girls appear from inside the house, running toward him, arms extended like they're flying or playing a game.

GIRLS

Mister guest man! Mister guest man!

The two girls, one with short pink hair dressed in white, one with long blue tattered pigtails down to her feet dressed in brown, run up to the Doctor and continue in circles around him, giggling, like they've found a new best friend.



DOCTOR

Uhm, hello. Where is this?

The girls stop in front of him and look up at him, still smiling.

PINK HAIR

This is Mistress' shop!

BLUE HAIR

Mistress' shop!

DOCTOR

(puzzled)

Mistress? What kind of shop might this be then?

BLUE HAIR

She makes wishes come true.

PINK HAIR

Wishes come true.

The Doctor scratches his neck, trying to figure out what that means.

DOCTOR

Uh... yeah. You haven't seen a blonde around here, have you?

The girls completely ignore his question.

GIRLS

Come this way!

DOCTOR

Okay. Mustn't keep Mistress waiting.

The girls each grab one of the Doctor's hands and tug him toward a table and 2 chairs set up in the front yard, a few paces from the porch on the front of the house to the side of the main entry.

GIRLS

Mistress will be right with you.

The Doctor has a seat, facing toward the house, and continues to look around at his surroundings. Now in what appears to be the front yard, he sees the front of a humble mansion, appearing to be unique interpretations of Japanese design, amongst others. Around the building are trees, and a fence follows the edge of the lot. Beyond the fence are tall skyscrapers; a mix sometimes seen in Japan's older cities that have modernized in the past century. The Doctor contorts his face in slight confusion, staring at the buildings towering overhead.



Suddenly, a teenage boy appears, wearing a large white apron over a Japanese high school uniform.

BOY

(clearly being polite)

Can I get you something to drink?
Sake? Tea?

DOCTOR
Oh, hello. You work for Mistress?

The boy quickly brightens up.

BOY
(surprised)
You know Yuuko-san?

DOCTOR
Can't really say that I do. You could
say I just appeared out of nowhere.

Hearing this, the boy slumps his arms at his sides, and stares
down at the ground, sighing.

DOCTOR
That... isn't a problem, is it?

BOY
Nope. This is what always happens.

DOCTOR
I see. Best make the most of it. Tea
does sound quite nice.

BOY
Coming right up.

The boy turns around and disappears into the house.

The Doctor continues to assess his surroundings. Suspicious of
what the TARDIS was telling him versus what he is seeing, he
pulls out his sonic screwdriver, and activates it for a few
seconds.

DOCTOR
Very... peculiar...

WOMAN
How do you like my garden?

The Doctor turns off the sonic screwdriver, and lets it fall
back into the palm of his hand as he turns to see who has
addressed him. Another person, a woman, maybe in her 30's or
40's with long raven black hair, appears on the porch, standing

just inside, dressed in a red and white rose-patterned Japanese gown and holding an elongated smoking pipe. The two children are giggling and playing inside the house, chasing each other, as often children do.



YUUKO
Did I startle you?

DOCTOR
No, I was just (swallows)
admiring the scenery.
Mistress Yuuko, I presume?

YUUKO
Ichihara Yuuko. Call me Yuuko.

Yuuko walks toward the table.

DOCTOR
I'm the Doctor.

YUUKO
Well, Doctor. I've been expecting you.

DOCTOR
You have?

YUUKO
Yes.

Yuuko sits across from the Doctor.

YUUKO
Do you know why you're here?

DOCTOR
Nope, not a clue.

Yuuko takes a puff of her pipe, and exhales slowly.

YUUKO
You're here because you have a wish you
want granted. I will grant you this
wish, but I must take compensation in
return.

The Doctor bites his lower lip, dismissively.

DOCTOR

Ah. Well, I don't think I have any wishes. You haven't seen a blonde girl, 19 years old, have you?

YUUKO

Can't say that I have. Are you sure you don't have a wish?

The two pause, looking at each other. The boy returns with a tray holding a tea cup, places the cup in front of the Doctor.

DOCTOR

Thank you.

The boy bows as he steps back behind Yuuko, and remains there, standing, holding the tray to his chest. The Doctor sips the tea while he thinks.

DOCTOR

Well, I'd like to know a little more about where we are. I'd say Japan, but from what I can already tell, appearances can be deceiving.

The boy is startled by this statement, and glances down at Yuuko, who appears unfazed.

YUUKO

Indeed, you are correct. We are in Japan.

DOCTOR

If we're in Japan, why does nothing seem to exist beyond the fence?

YUUKO

To answer that question, I would recommend direct observation, Doctor. Be my guest. Investigate.

Yuuko gestures with her hand toward the walkway leading to outside the property, and the only area not blocked by the wooden fence. The Doctor looks at the entry way, then back at Yuuko. It's just a normal walkway. Clearly suspicious of what could be behind such a proposition, the Doctor gets up, still

looking at Yuuko while he does so. He turns around, approaching the nearest part of the fence.

The Doctor feels the side of the fence, then leans up to it, holding the sonic screwdriver up to it. Clearly not having the expected response, he pulls it back, changes the setting, and tries again.

Yuuko and the boy are watching this. The boy leans forward to ask Yuuko...

BOY
(whispering)
What's he doing?

Yuuko watches earnestly.

Still not having the desired effect, The Doctor pulls back the screwdriver, steps back a stride, thinking. He looks up and down at the fence. Then turns, and strides toward to the entryway. Upon trying to walk around the fence onto the sidewalk outside, The Doctor's foot hits something right on the edge of the yard, also bumping his face against the same invisible object. Ripples appear in mid-air, at the points he had impacted, distorting his view of the street behind. An invisible wall.

The Doctor applies his screwdriver yet again. He smacks the side of it, still clearly not having any expected effect. He puts it away, and touches the invisible wall with both his hands, as well as the fence. Clearly puzzled as to the nature of it, he goes back into his pocket, and pulls out a set of Red/Green 3D paper glasses and puts them on. Looking out the entry way, his face contorts.

DOCTOR
What the bloody...

The Doctor slowly turns around, scanning the grounds, continuing the same face, clenching his jaw, mouth open, in a confused face. Looking at the house, the moment he hears the children giggling, he pauses facing the porch where they're playing, lifts the glasses off, and puts them back on again. Now looking toward Yuuko and the boy, still clearly in disbelief. He takes the glasses off, puts them back in his inside pocket, and strolls back toward the table with his hands in his side pockets.

DOCTOR

Well, I'm not going anywhere, and all the same, I might learn a thing or two.

The Doctor walks back to the table and sits down, turning to Yuuko. Yuuko clearly looks as if anticipating a question.

DOCTOR

You have my undivided attention. Why can't I go beyond the fence?

YUUKO

That fence is a dimensional barrier.

DOCTOR

I can see that. What are you keeping locked in here?

YUUKO

It's simply a boundary, Doctor; permitting only those who have business here to enter.

DOCTOR

But... I still can't leave.

YUUKO

Indeed.

The kids still horsing around, run outside and continue chasing each other while singing.

KIDS

Who's afraid for the big bad wolf, big bad wolf, big bad wolf, ...

The Doctor pulls out the glasses again and takes a moment to scan the 4 people, an the tea cup in front of him. He puts the glasses back in his pocket.

DOCTOR

Are you all stuck here as well?

YUUKO

Certainly not. This is my shop; where I conduct my business. Those two are Maru and Moro. This is Watanuki. He's is not a prisoner either, but works part time at my shop.

Watanuki silently bows, not saying a word.

DOCTOR
Why am I being held here?

YUUKO
It is in your fate.

DOCTOR
Fate? I don't suppose it would help to
say I don't believe in fate, would it?

YUUKO
Call it what you like. Fate...
Inevitability... or...

Yuuko blinks her eyes, and stares directly at the Doctor.

YUUKO
...the infallible passage of time,
perhaps?

The Doctor withholds his surprise, but clearly wasn't expecting that.

YUUKO
A life-time traveler such as yourself
surely respects that more than most.

Watanuki, standing behind Yuuko, is shocked at what she says.

WATANUKI
Time traveler?!

He quickly puts one of his hands to his mouth, as if trying to catch himself from talking. Without turning, Yuuko extends her arm, pointing toward the house.

YUUKO
Get back to work, Watanuki!

Watanuki quickly darts back inside the house. The kids, Maru and Moro, chase after him, still playing.

DOCTOR
You seem to know who I am, and yet I
still don't know who you are.

YUUKO

Are you sure of that?

The Doctor pauses, collecting his thoughts, half confused. Yuuko takes another puff of her pipe, exhales, and stares at the Doctor.

YUUKO
(grinning)
Hmmm?

The Doctor takes a sip of tea, but suddenly pauses. He almost drops the cup before setting it on the table. The look on the Doctor's face indicates he's realized something, and, his disbelief is quite evident.

DOCTOR
Naw... That's impossible... It's only a
fairy tale; a ghost story!

YUUKO
Reality is often stranger than fiction.

Yuuko continues to glare at the Doctor, as if to push him to say what he's thinking.

DOCTOR
You're... The Dimensional Alchemist?

Yuuko lets out a laugh.

YUUKO
Alchemist? Is that how you know me?

DOCTOR
But... Wish granting; a pan-dimensional
gingerbread house... it all fits. You're
really her?

YUUKO
I have been called that from time to
time.

DOCTOR
You can't be real! This place can't
exist!

YUUKO
You say that so confidently. Surely you
can believe what you see with your own

eyes... especially after you've spent some time dealing with your own... exploits.

DOCTOR

You knew about all that?

YUUKO

Of course. Any traveler must consider the condition of the waters before any voyage.

DOCTOR

You actually travel through dimensions? You must be aware of the damage that causes, aren't you?

YUUKO

Hmph. Still assuming the ghost stories to be fiction, I see.

DOCTOR

What about the dimensional fractures, then? You clearly know about those.

YUUKO

Indeed. The situation continues to grow toward a breaking point as we speak, but don't misunderstand. Those are the result of careless amateurs using ill-conceived technology. And as long as certain others continue to poke at the wound left behind, it can't heal, no matter what bandage you may put on it, Doctor.

DOCTOR

You mean it hasn't closed?

YUUKO

Hardly. Your vessel simply tore a dimensional micro-fracture as you fell through it. Any patch you applied was easily undone by the ongoing experimentation.

The Doctor pieces together that the current time had to be before the day he crossed paths with Torchwood near present day,

but after the first trip to "Pete's World," when the TARDIS died. (memories of that episode regarding inter-dimensional travel, and the TARDIS' death flash on screen for a few seconds)

DOCTOR

The fractures were already here then?

YUUKO

Minute micro-fractures were created at that precise moment. Too small for you to detect apparently. Your vessel had practically collided with another, tossing you back in its wake, in to another dimension.

DOCTOR

Another ship?

YUUKO

Yes, and the source of the fractures.

DOCTOR

The Dalek Void ship..

YUUKO

Yes. That ship has caused quite some trouble. With the proper technique, the fluid nature of dimensional space allows it to be left undisturbed. This is why the Void is so vast. While that ship spent years crossing it, with proper method, that can be reduced to mere seconds.

At this moment, another voice can be heard from the house, as a black blur leaps a few times, landing on the table, facing the Doctor. A weird black rabbit-like creature with just a face, stubby arms and legs, long ears, and a blue gem above its face.

MOKONA

Yo.

DOCTOR

Now, *that*... is weird.

MOKONA

Don't call Mokona "that!"

DOCTOR



And it talks.

Mokona is clearly getting irritated.

YUUKO

Mokona. How was your nap?

Mokona turns toward Yuuko, and raises his hand.

MOKONA

Mokona's all rested up!

DOCTOR

What is Mokona?

YUUKO

Mokona's a Mokona. Cute, isn't he?

DOCTOR

Yah.

The Doctor pulls out the 3D glasses from earlier to get a better look at Mokona on the table.

DOCTOR

Woah...

The Doctor jerks back in his seat, taking the glasses off.

DOCTOR

Not gonna do that again.

Yuuko smiles and starts patting Mokona.

DOCTOR

I see what you mean about a proper method. Is "Mokona" what I think?

YUUKO

What might that be?

DOCTOR

I would have to guess Mokona is a life form that came from the Void... one native to the Void itself, and useful for inter-dimensional travel... maybe?

YUUKO

You really are a beginner at this. You're not even close. With help, I created Mokona as one single coherent form, across all dimensions. You could say the natural tendency for dimensional divergence is completely suppressed and controlled. Mokona also has a counterpart, similar in design, but linked, rather like a dimensional shadow. She has the ability you described, facilitated by the permanent link to this one, with unlimited range. She has the ability to change which dimension she is in, while this one stays with me.

DOCTOR

A man-made living mobile hyper-dimensional wormhole?

Yuuko sighs.

YUUKO

Not quite... but close enough.

DOCTOR

Neat trick.

YUUKO

You have your own tricks, I can see. Considering the power demand and risk involved, even I didn't expect your vessel to survive both tearing a hole across dimensions and the return trip. Luck seems to be a strong talent of yours.

DOCTOR

Luck isn't as reliable as I'd like.

The Doctor now recalls what happened to Rose.

YUUKO

I wouldn't consider your lifestyle a curse. You are still responsible for your own choices, Doctor. The inevitabilities of existence always

are flexible in how we choose to live,
even in matters of life itself.

DOCTOR

Yeah. I wish...

Yuuko places her elbow on the table and leans her face into her hand, staring at the Doctor.

YUUKO

Do you?

The Doctor looks up at Yuuko. She's glaring back at him like before, clearly already expecting something.

DOCTOR

I can't do anything about her! If I could save her, I would, but I can't change events in my own past! Time has already told.

YUUKO

Thinking in such limited dimensions.
Ignore your "laws" for one moment.

DOCTOR

You're saying you could save Rose?

YUUKO

For a fair price...

The Doctor began considering what this could be building toward. He knows the horrific ghost stories that speak of the woman sitting across from him. The tales he knows often title her as an Alchemist; a word of many meanings and several volumes of history. Some consider alchemy a varied mix of mysticism and physical science that predates scientific method. However, others consider it more occult, analogous to witchcraft, with tales of "equivalent exchange" and dire consequences from unexpected costs. Some stories cut to the chase and simply call her a witch. Her "clients" have vanished, become life-long prisoners of their own torment, or gone inexpressibly mad from being unable to escape a roller-coaster of undesired success... just to name three.

Taking a sip of tea, the Doctor realizes he must be cautious and direct. In all cases, arrogance and selfishness are paid for with suffering. By her action, wishes come true. Final outcomes depend on the client.

DOCTOR

To save Rose Tyler from being pulled into the Void, so she can live out her life. What's the price?

Yuuko pauses to suck on the pipe. Exhaling, she looks at the Doctor.

YUUKO

You can never be together again.

The Doctor easily puts one and one together.

YUUKO

Ever...

DOCTOR

My life for her's?

Yuuko snickers a little.

YUUKO

Certainly not. Your life is in your own hands. Besides, life taking is not worth the trouble.

Skepticism. The stories portrayed her to always understand the inevitable outcome, always letting the child play with fire, and an objective judge would never place blame on her, yet never free her of guilt either. He considers the options... the past...

DOCTOR

She'll be safe?

YUUKO

Perfectly.

DOCTOR

Free to live as she wants?

YUUKO

Whatever is within her ability, yes.

DOCTOR

And no one is going to die?

Yuuko laughs.

YUUKO

(half-laughing)

Doctor... I have no more control over human nature than you do.

The Doctor tilts his head slightly, taking a serious tone.

DOCTOR

You didn't answer my question.

Yuuko also turns serious, closes her eyes, takes a breath, and looks at the Doctor.

YUUKO

Your wish ends with Rose being saved from the Void, and being able to live as she chooses. What happens afterward is out of my hands. Payment is simply the condition I stated, which, like the wish, is absolute.

DOCTOR

May I ask what happens to the Void ship? The last thing I remember, it did something that may be a problem.

Yuuko, taking a bit more spirited tone again, turns her head to the right, and flaps her hand in dismissal.

YUUKO

(amused)

Oh, you don't need to worry about that old thing. It's not going to tear apart the universe.

The Doctor is rather confused by how she takes saying such a thing.

YUUKO

Do we have a deal?

DOCTOR

Deal.

YUUKO

May your wish... be granted.

DOCTOR

Oh, one thing... Will I be able to say goodbye?

YUUKO

Well... that's a completely different issue, now isn't it.

The Doctor grits his teeth and grumbles. Caught up in making sure she was safe, he neglected that detail.

YUUKO

There is a way. But...

DOCTOR

Another price.

YUUKO

Indeed.

DOCTOR

How about this?

The Doctor holds up the sonic screwdriver. Yuuko looks at it.

YUUKO

As a tool, quite valuable. To you, rather worthless.

DOCTOR

Then what will it take?

Yuuko pauses to think.

DOCTOR

The less you have to do, the lower the cost, correct?

YUUKO

No. The cost is only reduced by reducing the value of what you receive. Anything else would upset the balance.

DOCTOR

If you just give me a hint, will that reduce the cost?

YUUKO

Yes. However your own task will be all the more difficult and uncertain.

DOCTOR

I can manage that. Follow me.

The Doctor stands, and heads to the TARDIS beside the house. Yuuko follows.

5. INSIDE THE TARDIS

The Doctor pulls open the door, holding it open for Yuuko. Yuuko steps into the TARDIS with the Doctor close behind.

YUUKO
Magnificent.

DOCTOR
The last of its kind.

YUUKO
Known to many as the Chariot of the Gods.

Yuuko walks around the center console, rubbing a finger along the outer edge as she walks past. Suddenly, the TARDIS controls seem to light up, and a display activates.

DOCTOR
What'd you...?

Yuuko is still walking around the bridge with her back to the Doctor. The Doctor leaps over to the display, checking the display's new information.

YUUKO
Go there. The rest is up to you.

DOCTOR
This is... What?

YUUKO
Don't try to understand just yet, Doctor. It will take time. You wanted a challenge. Just be wary of shock waves.

Yuuko, stops, turns her head to look at the Doctor. The Doctor looks up from the screen at her.

YUUKO
Now, about my fee... I believe you have a somewhat drab scarf that you hold quite dear.

DOCTOR

Scarf? *That* scarf? But... that's my favorite scarf! You can't take that!

YUUKO

You may be the Doctor, Doctor. But I'm the Dimensional Alchemist. The definite article you might say.

DOCTOR

Take it.

YUUKO

Pleasure doing business with you, Doctor.

Yuuko continues to walk around the TARDIS bridge, looking around at every angle. She places her other hand on the railing as she approaches the exit. She stops at the top of the steps, still facing away from the Doctor.

YUUKO

May I ask you something? Why do you accept your own loneliness?

Yuuko seemed to hit a bit of a nerve with that question. Still, reluctantly, the Doctor responds.

DOCTOR

The more people I involve, the more people will end up hurt.

YUUKO

That sounds rather selfish. And yet, consider that you still persist hanging around these humans, which you hold so dear. By your statement, you will inevitably hurt some of them. You even associate with them directly...

Yuuko turns to face the Doctor.

YUUKO

Seeking a distraction from the guilt, are you?

DOCTOR

Who are you to talk? You know how most of them are in this age! How can you

just hand an infant a ticking time bomb of fancy and send them on their way?

YUUKO

I can't be held responsible for their choices. They choose how to live. Human nature. I force nothing on anyone.

DOCTOR

You clearly know what they're in for.

YUUKO

If that's what you think to be true... that may be so. And what of your adventures, Doctor? Why don't you do something to stop them from following you?

DOCTOR

I only take the best. They understand the risks.

YUUKO

... and if they don't, it's no loss to you. It wasn't your influence, even if they are blinded in awe at the possibilities.

DOCTOR

You let them decide based on fundamental desires and greed, feeding the darker facets of a person.

YUUKO

They ask me to do it, and I do as I am contracted to do. I can't help it if that's in their nature. Right and wrong, good and bad; these are human concepts anyway, not nature's. The universe was not created with such ideas so extraneous to reality.

DOCTOR

That's where you're wrong. I've seen people do tremendous good as well. The universe wasn't created with these ideas because they aren't universal ideas to begin with. But I know for a

fact that there is a good nature in every person, and it is meaningful.

YUUKO

And that goodness you see is what draws you to them. I couldn't have put it better myself. I didn't say the ideas are meaningless, just extraneous... as are most things that make up a humble human life. Most just don't realize it, and find themselves exploring their own selfishness. You seek to complete your own puzzle, where you gain the benefits of humanity, and trade experiences otherwise alien to these people; both so unique to each other and otherwise unobtainable. Quite an interesting balance, wouldn't you say?

DOCTOR

Aren't you the least bit concerned about what happens?

YUUKO

Fate will see things through. You and I are far more alike than you are willing to admit, Doctor. You understand, as do I, that knowledge doesn't grant power, but enforces limits. While we both have our egalitarian ways, you choose to be a wandering knight, whereas I choose to accept myself as a simple proxy. This is how we must be for now. That won't change unless opportunities are created and taken to change it.

DOCTOR

I suppose I should ask... What would the price be for bringing back the rest of my people?

YUUKO

(jokingly)

Oh... you don't want to know. But...

(seriously)

Since you asked...

Yuuko looks down at the railing, rubbing it with her hand, then looks up at the Doctor.

YUUKO
Your TARDIS.

DOCTOR
You're right. I didn't want to know.

Yuuko looks at the Doctor, and nods in a thoughtfully approving way.

DOCTOR
I was just asking, anyway.

YUUKO
(smiling back)
No harm in that.

With that, Yuuko descends the steps and opens the TARDIS door.

DOCTOR
Will I ever see you again?

Yuuko pauses, but doesn't turn around.

YUUKO
If it's in your fate.

Yuuko opens the door to the TARDIS.

YUUKO
Cheer up, Doctor. You never know...
There may still be another out there... a
rogue like yourself, taking things day
by day, trying to live on without
another.

DOCTOR
Wait, what?!

Yuuko exits the TARDIS, closing the door behind her, and the TARDIS engines activate, by no action of the Doctor's. Hearing the engines, Watanuki runs outside, just in time to see the TARDIS disappear right in front of Yuuko. She looks down at the scarf in her hand.

YUUKO
Godspeed, my Time Lord.

6. TORCHWOOD INSTITUTE GHOST SHIFT ROOM - "PETE'S WORLD" DIMENSION

The room is empty. Abandoned in darkness of a Torchwood that survived a world under siege by Cybermen and the politics of ethics. Suddenly, 7 people appear out of nowhere.

The blonde girl, standing separate from the group looks around the room.

ROSE

Oh, no you don't. He's not doing that to me again.

She activates a green disk attached to a chain around her neck and disappears.

JACKIE

Rose!

Jackie starts fumbling with a similar green disk she has. The man next to her yanks it out of her hand.

JACKIE

But, I've got to go back!

PETE

The Doctor said every time we use one of these, it damages the whole world! Now that's it!!

JACKIE

She's your daughter!

PETE

She's *your* daughter! Not mine!

Pete takes the device from Mickey.

PETE

That's an order!

Pete turns and walks away from Jackie in a huff.

JACKIE

Mickey, tell him! Tell him, Mickey! Mickey!

Mickey just rubs his chin, finding it difficult to disagree with Pete... that they can't do anything.

JACKIE

The Doctor will find away, he always does! He has to!

PETE

You can't go back! We have to end this here, for the sake of both worlds! The Doctor knows the price, and so does Rose!

MICKEY

Rose 'll be okay. The Doctor would never let anything happen to her. I know him.

Pete walks over to Jackie.

PETE

She's safe. Jackie...

Pete tries to hug Jackie.

JACKIE

Get away from me!

Jackie pushes Pete away, and starts crying at losing her daughter.

YUUKO

Rose is in danger.

Everyone turns to see Yuuko, dressed in a large black gown she often wears during inter-dimensional trips.

PETE

What?

JACKIE

Who the hell are you?

YUUKO

A friend of the Doctor's. In three minutes, the breach will be sealed, but Rose will be on neither side.

MICKEY

Neither side? Stuck between?



JAKE
She gets pulled in?

JACKIE
NO!

YUUKO
Yes.

PETE
What about the Doctor?

YUUKO
He escapes.

JACKIE
And Rose doesn't? Who the hell do you think you are?

YUUKO
I can only warn you of her fate. It is up to you to change it.

MICKEY
You seem to know so much. Can't you do anything?

YUUKO
I've already done everything in my power.

Suddenly, in a flash of light, part of the floor around Yuuko distorts in a ring around her, as if the floor were liquid. A column of light surrounds her.

JACKIE
Wait!! Tell us how to save Rose!!

The ring descends, turning into a hole in the floor, like a whirlpool without a whirl, with Yuuko at the center. As Yuuko slowly descends into the pool, she looks directly at Pete.

YUUKO
The rest is up to you.

Moments later, she sinks completely into the floor, and the ring of light shrinks, and the floor seals just above her head, leaving the floor just as it had been a minute earlier.

They are now on their own, with less than two minutes to save Rose.

JAKE

That was weird.

MICKEY

What are we supposed to do now? Go back in time and stop her? The TARDIS is on the other side, not that it'd even listen to us.

PETE

No matter what we do to get to the other side, we would get pulled in too.

JACKIE

You can't let Rose die!

PETE

What can we do?

JACKIE

Save her! You heard her! It's possible!

PETE

If we set foot on the other side, we get pulled in.

MICKEY

Yeah. The only way we don't is if we had something to hold on to. And if Rose gets pulled in, we have to anchor her too. With that thing already open on that side, how do we do that? Get lucky?

PETE

That side... not this side.

MICKEY

Huh?

PETE

If we have an anchor point on this side...

Pete quickly grabs the large strand of wires hanging from the center of the room.

PETE

...we don't need to worry about being pulled in.

Pete tugs at the wires, verifying they are sturdy, and proceeds to tie the wires around his own waist.

PETE

I just have to make sure to come back with her. Who knows what a few wires strung between universes could do.

MICKY

Wait, can this even work?

PETE

Only one way to find out.

Pete rushes to the white wall at the end of the room. He tries tying it tighter, so it's taut to the ceiling.

PETE

If the breach is here, then this is the best place to stand..

Finishing up the knot, checking it one last time, he looks up.

JACKIE

Pete...

PETE

Trust me, Jacks.

Pete presses his green disk and disappears.

Seconds later, he reappears, holding Rose.

7. YUUKO'S SHOP: LIVING ROOM

WATANUKI

So who was that man? You called him a "Time Lord," right?

YUUKO

Yes. He is a wanderer, traveling in time for all eternity, seeking companionship.

WATANUKI

I don't get it. If he's tired of traveling, he could just go home if he wanted to, couldn't he?

YUUKO

His home was destroyed long ago, along with all his family.

WATANUKI

Really? Can't he go back in time and fix it, or have you bring them back to life? Or... would it be one of those paradoxes, like in movies?

YUUKO

Done properly, there wouldn't be a paradox. He knows this. Yet, it still isn't that simple. They were killed in a war; the ultimate sacrifice to destroy the enemy. Resurrecting one power, the other must follow.

WATANUKI

Ohhhh. So if he wished them back, the enemy would be back too, right?

YUUKO

Indeed. By whatever means necessary, the natural balance would maintain itself. It is something neither of us have any control over.

WATANUKI

But he beat them once... couldn't he find another way?

YUUKO

Who is to know? Maybe the same events repeat themselves... or perhaps they are replaced with new and different ones. Some things are best left to the imagination.

Watanuki begins to understand the particular cruelty of the situation.

WATANUKI

So... that's why he doesn't? There's no way to know if it's worth it?

YUUKO

Maybe... And yet... despite everything that *does* change, he would remain unchanged himself... with full memory of his current life, and the people he's left behind.

Watanuki considers what that might be like... He lost his parents at an early age, which put him on the path he's been living for years. If his parents were still alive, just how much that would mean to him... but then he'd never meet most of the people he knows today, yet still remember them. Yuuko, Himawari-chan, Doumeki, and the many spirits he's now friends with.

YUUKO

In this universe of balances, there are no winners or losers. Conflict and turmoil reflect the chaos this universe was born out of, and the balance that has been ever present. One instinct that drives you to find your own purpose in the universe also stands in your way from accepting it for what it is.

WATANUKI

What instinct is that?

YUUKO

Desire.

See notes and explanations in Doctor Who Confidential at

http://www.lycestra.com/whoholic/13_5_confidential_MirrorOfFate.rtf

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