Timeline of River Song

River Song is resourceful and independent, which is partly why she is my favorite companion. She can go toe to toe with The Doctor and fly the TARDIS with expertise that far surpasses his own skills. The tragedy is that she lives her life with the Doctor out of order. His first encounter with her is her last encounter with him, and she must be careful of alerting The Doctor to future events; hence her constant quipping of, “Spoilers!” Their relationship is complicated: she is the daughter of The Doctor’s best friends, stolen at birth, and raised with the sole purpose of killing him, but she overcomes her programming and falls in love with the man she is destined to murder. Her storyline can get confusing, so here is a basic outline:

A Good Man Goes to War (2011):

Melody Pond, daughter to Amy and Rory, is born on the asteroid, Demon’s Run. She takes on the name of River Song when a woman inscribes her name incorrectly (i.e., River for Pond) on a prayer leaf.

The Impossible Astronaut & Day of the Moon (2011):

River is stolen from Amy and Rory by the evil Madam Kovarian and is raised in an orphanage programmed with the sole purpose of killing The Doctor. Later she regenerates into Mels and sets out to find her parents, to become their friend.

Let’s Kill Hitler (2011):

The Doctor, Amy, and Rory search for River, but receive a shock when their best friend Mels regenerates into River and poisons The Doctor by giving him a deadly kiss. In the end, River is shown her future and realizes how much she would love The Doctor and uses her remaining regenerations to save him.

Closing Time (2011):

River earns her doctorate, but is kidnapped by Madam Korvarian and the Silence so that she can fulfill her destiny and kill The Doctor.

The Wedding of River Song (2011):

River cannot bring herself to kill The Doctor and collapses all of time to save him, but The Doctor is keeping his own secret. He has found a way to cheat death, and River must keep his secret even if it means she will be imprisoned. From this point on, River knows more about The Doctor, and he knows less about her.

The Pandorica Opens & The Big Bang (2010):

The Doctor always comes when River calls, and in this adventure, they must save the universe.

The Time of Angels & Flesh and Stone (2010):

Once again, The Doctor comes when River calls. While still being punished for killing The Doctor, she teams up with The Doctor and Amy, her mother, to fight the Weeping Angels. This episode takes place before Amy and Rory are married.

The Angels Take Manhattan (2012):

The Doctor, River, and Amy and Rory fight the Weeping Angels, and River must say goodbye to her parents who will become trapped in the past. River writes a book about their adventure hoping Amy will write an epilogue that The Doctor will read.

The Husbands of River Song (2015):

River encounters the 12th Doctor, but does not know him. The Doctor takes her to the Singing Towers of Darillium and gives her a sonic screwdriver, knowing that River is going to her last encounter with his younger self.

Silence in the Library & The Forest of the Dead (2008):

The Doctor and Donna arrive at The Library just before River and her team, but to River’s surprise, The Doctor does not know her. Since their time lines are reversed, River knows that she is going to die because his first encounter with her is her last encounter with him. River expects to go to her death, but The Doctor saves her as a data ghost.

The Name of the Doctor (2013):

River’s data ghost is finally able to say goodbye to The Doctor.