Top 5 Episodes

My journey through Doctor Who started with what is considered the “new” series. The “classic” series starts with the initial run of the show in 1963 all the way through the 1996 television movie. The “new” series begins with the “reboot” in 2005, famously brought back to life by Russell T. Davies. Thus far, The Doctor has been played by Christopher Eccleston (#9), David Tennant (#10), Matt Smith (#11), John Hurt (the War Doctor), Peter Capaldi (#12), and, now, Jodie Whittaker (#13), the first female Doctor.

My Top 5 Episodes:

You may notice a trend or two… Most episodes were written by Stephen Moffat, with The Doctor portrayed by David Tennant.

The Day of the Doctor (50th Anniversary Special) Written by Stephen Moffat, Doctors: David Tennant, Matt Smith, John Hurt

The Day of the Doctor is an epic adventure with not one but three versions of the Doctor. In this 50th Anniversary Special, we are introduced to the War Doctor (John Hurt), a forgotten regeneration who must make the ultimate sacrifice of his own people to stop the Time War, a deadly war with the murderous Daleks. But things don’t go as planned, and through “wibbily, wobbily, timey, whimey… stuff,” the War Doctor is visited by both the 10th (David Tennant) and the 11th (Matt Smith) Doctor. Can the three Doctors find a way to save the Time Lords from genocide while dealing with the shape-shifting aliens, Zygons, who are invading present-day London.

What I love about this episode:

The Eleventh Hour (Series 5) Written by Stephen Moffat

The Eleventh Hour is the introduction to the 11th Doctor, Matt Smith. In this adventure, The Doctor lands in the backyard of a little girl, Amelia Pond, who happens to have an alien prisoner loose in her home. Before The Doctor can sort out the mystery of Prisoner Zero, he takes his TARDIS for a quick spin, promising to come back in 5 minutes, which turns out to be 12 years. Amelia, now Amy, traumatized from this brief encounter does not trust The Doctor. But The Doctor desperately needs Amy’s help before the alien race, The Atraxi, destroy the planet to retrieve Prisoner Zero.

What I love about this episode:

Blink (Series 3) Written by Stephen Moffat, Doctor: David Tennant

The success of the episode Blink (often touted as the ultimate fan favorite episode) is impressive given this is a “Doctor-lite” episode. Meaning, The Doctor has a very small, albeit critical, part to play in the episode. The adventure surrounds Sally Sparrow who comes in contact with the Weeping Angles, a race of aliens that are Quantum Locked and can only move when you are not looking at them. The angels are terrifying, and they are out to steal the TARDIS while destroying the lives of Sally and her companions as the same time. Fans of Doctor Who often quote this episode with the following lines: “Don’t blink. Don’t even blink. Blink and you’re dead”. I created this virtual clock with that in mind: <https://fwallacephd.github.io/angel-clock/>

Human Nature/Family of Blood (Series 3) Written by Paul Cornell, Doctor: David Tennant

In this two-parter, the Doctor and his companion, Martha, are running from a dangerous, alien enemy, The Family of Blood. To hide, The Doctor becomes “human” and both he and Martha hide out at a school for boys during 1913. The Doctor becomes a mild-mannered teacher (with no memories of his life as a Time Lord) who develops romantic feelings for a nurse at the school, while Martha takes on the job as a maid while watching over The Doctor since she retained all of her memories. The Family of Blood eventually finds them, and The Doctor must make the choice of remaining human or become a Time Lord once again. Tennant’s performance is incredible showing the duality of his personas – the human and the Time Lord – and the sacrifice he makes to save the humans. This episode is best known for the following quote:

Blockquote

He never raised his voice. That was the worst thing... the fury of the Time Lord... and then we discovered why. Why this Doctor, who had fought with gods and demons, why he had run away from us and hidden. He was being kind... He wrapped my father in unbreakable chains forged in the heart of a dwarf star

[*Shows Son of Mine's Father screaming wrapped in chains*]

[**Son of Mine**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0516003/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): He tricked my mother into the event horizon of a collapsing galaxy

[*Shows Wife of Mine falling from the TARDIS' open doors into a bright light screaming*]

[**Son of Mine**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0516003/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): To be imprisoned there... forever. He still visits my sister, once a year, every year. I wonder if one day he might forgive her... but there she is. Can you see? He trapped her inside a mirror. Every mirror.

[*shows a little girl peering out from a mirror*]

[**Son of Mine**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0516003/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): If ever you look at your reflection and see something move behind you just for a second, that's her. That's \*always\* her. As for me, I was suspended in time and the Doctor put me to work standing over the fields of England as their protector.

[*Son of Mine suspended from a Scarecrow's crossbrace, the doctor puts a bag over his head*]

[**Son of Mine**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0516003/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): We wanted to live forever. So the Doctor made sure we did.

Silence in the Library/Forrest of the Dead (Series 4) Written by Stephen Moffat, Doctor: David Tennant

My favorite of all of The Doctor’s companions is the enigmatic River Song (followed by Captain Jack Harkness in a close second), and this pair of episodes introduces her story-arc. The Doctor and companion, Donna Nobile, arrive on a planet, a library. The grandest library in all of space and time, but no one is there; the library is empty, and something is shutting off the lights. They receive just one cryptic warning: count the shadows! Enter the scary “piranhas of the sky”, the Vasta Nerada.

Enter archaeologist River Song and her team. Here to investigate what is happening with the library, River appears to know The Doctor. It fact, it was River that summoned The Doctor to the planet using psychic paper. The problem is that The Doctor has not actually met River yet. They are operating under different time lines. We learn their terrible fate: his first encounter is her last encounter. River refuses to divulge any further information about their relationship, and quips, “Spoilers.” With that, River’s story has just begun.