

= The Lodger (Doctor Who) =

" The Lodger " is the eleventh episode of the fifth series of the British science fiction television series Doctor Who , first broadcast on BBC One on 12 June 2010 . It was written by Gareth Roberts , who based the story on his 2006 Doctor Who Magazine comic strip " The Lodger " .

The episode features the Doctor (Matt Smith) stranded on Earth and separated from his companion Amy Pond (Karen Gillan) , when an unknown force prevents his time travelling spaceship , the TARDIS , from landing . To investigate , he moves into the flat of Craig Owens (James Corden) and attempts to fit in with ordinary humans while unknowingly playing matchmaker for Craig and his good friend Sophie (Daisy Haggard) .

Showrunner Steven Moffat was a fan of Roberts ' original comic strip and enthused him to adapt it into an episode for the series . While some elements of the comic strip remain , Roberts wrote most of it from scratch . " The Lodger " replaced a slot held by an episode that was pushed back due to budgetary constraints and was consequently one of the last to be filmed . The episode was watched by a final 6 @. @ 44 million viewers , the least @-@ watched episode of the fifth series of Doctor Who . However , it achieved the joint highest Appreciation Index of the series at the time of broadcast and received positive to mixed reviews from critics . Praise was given to the acting of Smith and Corden , but reviewers expressed disappointment over the resolution .

= = Plot = =

= = = Synopsis = = =

After stepping out of the TARDIS in modern @-@ day Colchester , the Doctor is blown off his feet by a blast of air , and the TARDIS , Amy still inside , dematerialises into the time vortex and refuses to rematerialise . With Amy 's help , the Doctor tracks the disturbance to the second floor of a house . The Doctor opts to take a room for rent offered by the downstairs tenant , Craig Owens , in order to determine what is present on the second floor without alerting whatever it is to his Time Lord nature . Neither Craig nor the Doctor are aware that people are being lured off the street to the second floor flat and never leaving again , but the Doctor is conscious of localised time loops and disturbances aboard the TARDIS that coincide with noises from the second floor .

Over two days , the Doctor attempts to adapt to human life . He learns about Craig , an office worker with little aspiration to move onward . Craig is stuck in a platonic relationship with his co @-@ worker , Sophie . The Doctor becomes overly involved in Craig 's life , becoming the star player in Craig 's local football club , filling in for him at the call centre when Craig falls ill , and encouraging Sophie to follow her dream of traveling overseas to help animals . Craig , who has not yet professed his love for Sophie , becomes upset ; he accosts the Doctor and demands that he leave , which forces the Doctor to reveal his history and his reason for being in the flat .

Sophie arrives while they argue and is lured upstairs ; the Doctor and Craig follow , learning from Amy that Craig 's building has never had a second floor . Inside , they find an alien ship housing a primitive time engine . The ship crashed some time ago and has used a perception filter to disguise itself as part of Craig 's house . The ship 's emergency holographic program has been drawing in passersby , all who have a desire to escape , to find a replacement pilot for itself , but they were killed in the attempt . The machine identifies the Doctor as a possible pilot and tries to draw him to the controls , but the Doctor warns that if he should touch the controls , the ship could explode and take the solar system with it . The Doctor convinces Craig to touch the controls since he does not want to leave due to his love for Sophie , which will counteract the ship 's protocols . Craig does so , and he and Sophie admit their love and share a kiss that breaks the ship 's hold on the Doctor and themselves . The three escape in time to see the perception filter turn off and the ship implode , leaving Craig 's undamaged one @-@ story flat below .

Craig and Sophie thank the Doctor , Craig giving him a spare set of keys in case he ever needs it . Aboard the TARDIS , the Doctor directs Amy to write the note that led him to Craig 's house , using

a red pen in his jacket ; she rummages around and finds the engagement ring from her husband @-@ to @-@ be , Rory , whom she had forgotten after he was consumed by the crack in space and time and erased from existence . A similar crack appears behind Craig 's refrigerator , and widens .

= = = Continuity = = =

On Craig 's fridge is a postcard advertising the Van Gogh exhibit at the Parisian Musée d 'Orsay , which the Doctor , Amy and Van Gogh himself visited in the previous episode . At the end of the episode , the Doctor instructs Amy to leave him a note with Craig 's address , which his younger self had at the start of the episode . Amy is shown leaving the note in the series finale , " The Big Bang " , when the Doctor 's timeline rewinds and he revisits points in his past . The spaceship control room reappeared in " The Impossible Astronaut " / " Day of the Moon " , where it was connected to the Order of the Silence . Corden returned to play Craig in the episode " Closing Time " of the next series , Gareth Roberts ' sequel to this story .

= = Production = =

" The Lodger " is based on a short comic strip of the same name , written by Gareth Roberts for Doctor Who Magazine issue 368 in 2006 . The comic features the Tenth Doctor , who spends several days staying in Mickey Smith 's flat , waiting for Rose Tyler and the TARDIS to catch him up in a few days , and by chance saving the Earth by hiding it from the passing space fleet of a violent alien race . The story was based on ideas that Roberts had since a child to imagine the Doctor experiencing everyday human life and his enjoyment of stories set on Earth rather than in space . Roberts ' original comic strip appealed to new executive producer Steven Moffat , who enthused to Roberts that he had " got to do " " The Lodger " as an episode . Roberts had previously had the idea to make the television version , but he had never mentioned it . Roberts considered " The Lodger " less an adaptation than was previously done by Paul Cornell for " Human Nature " / " The Family of Blood " , taken from Cornell 's novel , and instead wrote most of the episode from scratch .

Elements of the comic 's story carry over into the episode , such as his confusion between a sonic screwdriver and a toothbrush , and the Doctor 's aptitude at football . However , Roberts said that the episode was " a completely different situation " from the comic strip , as the Doctor did not know Craig as he did Mickey , and there was the added enemy of the upstairs apartment . When Roberts began writing for the episode , he knew the series ' overarching plot but was not aware who was to be cast as the Eleventh Doctor . Roberts based the Doctor 's lines on those written in Moffat 's completed scripts and further characterization was added by Matt Smith 's reading of the lines .

The episode also contains several cultural references . When the Doctor is having a shower , he is heard singing " La donna è mobile " , which his third incarnation sang in Inferno . When the Doctor introduces himself to the time ship 's Avatar , he claims to be " Captain Troy Handsome of International Rescue , " which is a reference to both Captain Troy Tempest from Stingray and International Rescue from Thunderbirds , both series created by Gerry and Sylvia Anderson . Steven Cooper of Slant Magazine also saw a reference to the Emergency Medical Hologram the Doctor from Star Trek : Voyager , as the Doctor continued " Please state the nature of your emergency . "

" The Lodger " made up the seventh and final production block of the series along with " Amy 's Choice " . The read @-@ through for both episodes took place on 17 February 2010 in the Upper Boat Studios . The story replaced another one , " The Doctor 's Wife " , when the latter was pushed back to the next series due to budgetary constraints . Location filming took place in Cardiff in early March 2010 . The house in which Craig has his flat is in Westville Road , and the location for the football match was Victoria Park ; the play area there had previously been used as a location in " Forest of the Dead " . Matt Smith performed his own athletics in the football match shots ; he has had previous experience as a youth footballer , having played for the youth teams of Northampton Town , Nottingham Forest and Leicester City before a back injury turned him towards acting . As such , little choreography was needed for the sequence .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" The Lodger " was first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC One on 12 June 2010 . In the United States , it was broadcast on sister station BBC America on 10 July 2010 . In the UK , overnight figures for the episode were 4 @. @ 6 million , facing competition from the build @- @ up to England 's match in the 2010 FIFA World Cup . When final consolidated ratings were calculated , it showed that the episode was watched by an average of 6 @. @ 44 million viewers , with 5 @. @ 98 million on BBC One and a further 0 @. @ 46 million on a simulcast on BBC HD . It was the sixth highest @- @ rated programme of the week on BBC One , and the twenty @- @ first highest @- @ rated of the week across all channels . Although it was the second most watched programme of the day , it was the least watched fifth series episode of Doctor Who . However , it received an Appreciation Index of 87 , considered " excellent " and the joint highest of the series at time of broadcast .

A Region 2 DVD and Blu @- @ ray containing the episode together with " Vincent and the Doctor " , " The Pandorica Opens " and " The Big Bang " was released on 6 September 2010 . It was then re @- @ released as part of the complete series five DVD on 8 November 2010 .

= = = Critical reception = = =

" The Lodger " was met with positive to mixed reviews from critics . Gavin Fuller , writing for The Daily Telegraph , called the episode " a delight " , " thoroughly enjoyable " and " often amusing " . In particular he praised Corden and Haggard for avoiding the usual " cliches of romcom " , and Smith 's portrayal of The Doctor as almost @- @ but @- @ not @- @ quite human . However , he expressed some disappointment that the origin of the lurking time machine was not explained . Dan Martin of The Guardian called it " one of the strongest episodes of the year " . He praised the acting of Smith and Corden , but wondered why the Doctor did not use his usual alias of " John Smith " when posing as a human .

Radio Times reviewer Patrick Mulkern praised Corden and Smith , but said it did not " quite tick [his] boxes " . He was not engaged by the upstairs villain , wished for more " laugh @- @ out @- @ loud moments than good @- @ humoured banter " and disliked that the Doctor seemed " diminished " when thrown into the everyday atmosphere . In a review for IGN , Matt Wales rated it 7 out of 10 and referred to it as " one of the fluffier episodes " in terms of plot , but he said it was an " enjoyable little duck @- @ out @- @ of @- @ water adventure " . He called Smith " an absolute joy to watch " and said that Corden and Haggard " [acquitted] themselves admirably " . However , he criticised the " more traditional Who elements " , such as the alien threat that the directing left " devoid of almost all tension " , Amy 's occasional appearances that did not seem to gel with the rest of the story , and the short resolution , where " the whole thing collapsed into an incomprehensible muddle " .

SFX magazine 's Russell Lewin gave " The Lodger " three and a half out of five stars , saying it was " brimming with witty dialogue " and was a " pleasant diversion " before the finale . He ranked it " mid @- @ table " among the other episodes of the series . Keith Phipps of The A.V. Club graded it an A- , saying it was a " funny outing " that allowed Smith to show comic depth as the Doctor , as well as praising the guest stars . Though he referred to the alien up the stairs as a " pretty standard @- @ issue " , he liked it for being a metaphor of " the trap of complacency and the ways staying in a rut can lead to safety , stagnancy , and ignorance of the peril encroaching just outside one 's four walls " .