

= Cyberwoman =

" Cyberwoman " is the fourth episode of the first series of the British science fiction television series Torchwood . Written by Chris Chibnall and directed by James Strong , the episode was first broadcast on the digital channel BBC Three on 5 November 2006 , and later repeated on terrestrial channel BBC Two on 8 November .

In the episode , Ianto Jones (Gareth David Lloyd) is revealed to secretly house his girlfriend , Lisa Hallett (Caroline Chikezie) , a half Cyberman , in the basement of the Torchwood Hub . Ianto wants to turn her into a human again , but by doing so her Cyberman influence takes control , and the rest of the team must stop her before she could become a threat to Earth . However , Ianto still believes she can be saved .

The episode was among the first pitched for the series , as creator Russell T Davies saw a potential to continue the story from the Doctor Who episodes " Army of Ghosts " and " Doomsday " . Episode writer originally intended the episode to appear sometime midway through the series , but was ultimately brought forward to the fourth slot . It was filmed in the third production block . Because of the limited number of filming locations and cast members , it was among the cheapest episodes in the first series . It was seen by almost 1.4 million viewers after its original broadcast and received generally mixed reactions from critics , though the producers regard the episode as one of their favourites in the series .

= = Plot = =

The Torchwood Three team , sans Ianto Jones (who remains behind) , go out for a drink . Alone in the hub , Ianto brings in Japanese cybernetics expert Dr. Tanizaki (Togo Igawa) down to a basement deep inside , home to Lisa Hallett , Ianto 's girlfriend . They both worked in Torchwood One during the events of Doctor Who ' " Doomsday " , when Cybermen partially converted Lisa before the invasion ended . Ianto has since cared for her by placing her in the basement with a conversion unit to keep her alive . Ianto wants Tanizaki to reverse the process . Tanizaki is able to make her breathe on her own again , but by that time , the team is recalled back to deal with a rogue unidentified flying object . When Tanizaki brings Lisa back down to the basement , her Cyberman influence takes over and she kills him by attempting to " upgrade " him .

This causes a power flicker in the Hub ; Ianto makes an excuse to look into it himself and finds Tanizaki 's body . As he leaves Lisa to hide the body , she drains even more power by re-entering the conversion unit . Believing the Hub is under attack , team leader Jack Harkness (John Barrowman) sends Gwen Cooper (Eve Myles) and Owen Harper (Burn Gorman) to the basement where they find the abandoned conversion unit . Jack runs down to find Owen unconscious and Gwen about to be converted . He stops the process and attempts to shoot Lisa , but Ianto stops him , allowing Lisa to escape . Ianto pleads with Jack that they try save her , but Jack affirms that there is no cure .

Ianto approaches Lisa to reason with her , only to end up being knocked unconscious . Jack buys technical expert Toshiko Sato (Naoko Mori) time to go to the surface to recharge the emergency power cells by allowing himself to be " deleted " (death from electrocution by a Cyberman 's touch) twice by Lisa , though he would survive due to his immortality . To allow the rest of the team to escape , Jack sprays Lisa with a special " barbecue sauce " that summons the pet pterodactyl ; as it attacks her , the team escapes by the invisible lift . Ianto punches Jack for his actions , uttering he is " the biggest monster of them all . " Meanwhile , a pizza delivery girl (Bethan Walker) unwittingly enters the Hub to find a seriously injured Lisa . Ianto runs back to the Hub , but is stopped by Jack , who threatens him at gunpoint with an ultimatum ; either he will execute Lisa , or if he does not do so in ten minutes , Jack will enter and kill them both .

Ianto returns to the basement and is devastated to find Lisa dead . He then sees the delivery girl , who has a large cut across her forehead ; Lisa implanted her brain into the delivery girl . At first reluctant , Ianto aims his gun at her , but cannot bring himself to shoot her . The girl tries to explain she did this for Ianto , but then promises that they can be upgraded together . The rest of the

Torchwood team , arriving to hear that , open fire and kill her , leaving Ianto to mourn .

= = Production = =

= = = Background = = =

The idea behind the episode came from series creator Russell T Davies , who realised there was a story " begging to be told " after the Doctor Who episodes " Army of Ghosts " and " Doomsday " ; in the episodes , Cybermen from a parallel universe invade Earth to assimilate the human population . They were ultimately defeated when the Doctor (David Tennant) banishes them to the void , a space between universes , to be imprisoned . " Cyberwoman " was among the first episodes pitched for the first series . When Chris Chibnall was appointed head writer for Torchwood , Davies asked him to write an episode about a cyber girl in the basement of the Hub .

Out of the entire first series , " Cyberwoman " is the biggest nod to Doctor Who , there was little to no mention of the series , despite being a spin @-@ off , which was made deliberate to send out " confusing signals " to the audience about what the series is . Chibnall wanted to include a base description of what a Cyberman is for any viewer who had not seen Doctor Who . The episode was the first to centre on Ianto , who in the first three episodes was more or less a background character , and what John Barrowman described as like Torchwood 's version of Alfred Pennyworth in Batman . Chibnall originally intended for the episode to become the sixth or seventh in the series , but was brought forward to the fourth because some of the other scripts were not yet completed . It also became one of Chibnall 's harder episodes to write . Before settling on the current title , Chibnall went through numerous working titles , including " The Trouble with Lisa " and " The Long Night of Ianto " . " Cyberwoman " was ultimately chosen because the title " says it all . "

= = = Writing = = =

In writing the beginning , Chibnall envisaged Ianto meeting Tanizaki at an airport and then escorting him to a hotel before entering the Hub , however that was cut from the final draft as it would be an expensive sequence to film . Chibnall wanted the episode to take place several weeks after the previous episode , " Ghost Machine " , as to show Gwen knowing all the protocols and how to handle weapons , where as in the last episode , Gwen was still considered a rookie . Despite the episode being about stopping Lisa , Chibnall still wanted the beginning to be a love story between her and Ianto , and show the audience that a half @-@ converted Lisa is still human and the girlfriend Ianto loves . Also , because Ianto is " fundamentally wrong " about thinking Lisa can be saved , Chibnall wanted the audience to sympathise with the character and his motives .

The idea of having Lisa fight the pterodactyl , named Myfanwy by the producers , made them laugh , and felt they had to include it . The line where Ianto calls Jack the " biggest monster " was intended to be cut out , but Chibnall decided to keep it because of its impact to the audience . The scene where the team lines up to execute Lisa towards the end was the first scene Chibnall had in mind for the episode , though in the first draft , it was Ianto who killed her . After the episode was written and filmed , Chibnall discovered two main plot holes in the story . The first is that he did not make clear that everything about Lisa , including the scene where she acted human was all part of her plan for her Cyberman @-@ influence to take over , and reflected to adding at least two lines of dialogue to explain her motives clearly . The second was Jack having a cut lip in the end , even though he is immortal and all his wounds would have healed quickly . In the audio commentary for the episode , both Chibnall and actor Gareth David @-@ Lloyd stated the reasoning behind the cut being there is because Jack 's immortal powers would only deal with life @-@ threatening wounds and not minor injuries .

= = = Filming = = =

Before filming took place , David Tennant Lloyd met with Caroline Chikezie and got to know each other to help give their respective characters their chemistry . The episode was filmed as part of the third production block of the first series , along with eighth episode " They Keep Killing Suzie " . Director James Strong wanted to film the episode in a sort of real time format . Filming largely took place at the Upper Boat Studios outside Pontypridd , where the Torchwood Hub set is located . The scene where Jack threatens to kill Ianto if he does not kill Lisa was the first scene to be shot . The flashback scene where Ianto finds a half converted Lisa in Canary Wharf took a full day to film ; it was originally supposed to take only a few hours , but the camera failed to record the scene . It was replaced , but the second camera failed to record also . Eve Myles and Burn Gorman were both trained how to handle guns and a torch like a " secret agent . " Strong noted that they both held the gun and torch in each hand like professionals .

The external shots of the Hub were filmed at Roald Dahl Plass in Cardiff , which is what exists above the Hub in the series . Filming the scenes at the Plass took place during the middle of the night , and were disrupted by hooligans . The basement where Ianto holds Lisa was filmed at a cellar in Tredegar House , Newport . The original ending to the episode is where Toshiko hands Ianto coffee while he is cleaning the Hub . However , after it was filmed , Strong decided to cut that scene out , as he felt the overhead shot of the Hub before that scene would have made a more suitable ending . Because it was filmed in only a handful of locations , mostly in the Hub set , and there were only a few guest cast members , " Cyberwoman " was considered one of the cheapest episodes in the first series .

=== Costume and effects ===

The producers noted there were a history of " sexy , pneumatic , hydraulic women " in science fiction , and wanted to " tap into that . " To make the cyberwoman costume , the props department wanted to make it as " sexy " as they can . Director James Strong wanted to make the costume look " amazing , " but threatening and scary as well . There were discussions about which parts of Lisa would be human , and which parts would be cyborg . Made out of rubber , it was custom made to fit Chikezie as much as possible . It took an entire day for the actress to get her body cast . After the costume was completed , it would take an hour to apply each morning , and an hour to remove by lunch break . Chikezie found it difficult to hear anything from the helmet while shooting scenes . It was also uncomfortable for her , but the producers noted she remained stoic throughout filming .

The fight scene between Lisa and Myfanwy was difficult to shoot , as the actress had to interact with a visual effect creature that would not be added until post production . The producers added a plastic green beak stuck on the end of a stick to be used as a guide . The scene where the team go up on the invisible lift was made by making the platform stationary , but the camera below it would descend , giving the illusion the platform is ascending . The visual effect of the tools used to create Cybermen were reused from the Doctor Who episode " The Age of Steel " , while the UFO footage when the Torchwood team return from the drinks was a tin foil covered frisbee on a fishing line .

== Broadcast , reception and analysis ==

=== Ratings and critical reception ===

" Cyberwoman " was first broadcast on BBC Three during the 10 pm time slot on Sunday 5 November 2006 . The episode was seen by 1 .391 million viewers , the highest viewing on the channel the week it was broadcast . The repeat on terrestrial channel BBC Two on 8 November 2010 , was seen by 2 .1 million viewers with a 10 % audience share . It was given an Appreciation Index of 84 .

Daniel Montesinos Tennant Donaghy of Den of Geek reacted positively towards the episode , stating " surprisingly , it was absolutely brilliant ? a mini tragedy of sorts about secrets , obsession and

corruption that finally gave both Gareth David @-@ Lloyd something interesting to do and the series some much @-@ needed focus . Plus , they totally played a Mogwai song ! How often does that happen on television ? " Montesinos @-@ Donaghy felt it was " a step in the right direction , " adding that it has " everything I could have wanted from a Torchwood episode . "

Ian Hyland of News of the World disliked the episode , stating " After this week 's ' Cyberwoman ' nonsense , ' Torch Script ' would be a better idea . " Androzani.com said of the episode , " It 's awful . It 's horrific . It seriously , seriously sucks , " adding " the single nice thing we can find to say is that the concept had potential . " Seb Patrick of Noise to Signal thought , " despite a strong - and somewhat morally ambiguous - ending [the episode] really should have delivered in more spectacular fashion than this . " Patrick also criticised Jack 's personality throughout the episode , stating " we wanted a spinoff series about him because he was cocky , cool and downright entertaining - Buzz Lightyear meets Ace Rimmer meets James Bond . We didn 't want some grumpy immortal bastard with a chip on his shoulder . " Despite the mixed reviews however , the series producers and BBC controller of fiction Jane Tranter regard the episode as one of their favourites from the first series .

= = = Critical analysis = = =

In an essay on evolving symbolism with the Cybermen , Lincoln Geraghty of the University of Portsmouth argues that in " Cyberwoman " , " we see the first female Cyber character on screen ; unable to control her programming she attempts to assimilate her ex @-@ boyfriend and his teammates . Like Maria in Metropolis and the suburban threat seen in The Stepford Wives (1975) , technology is seen here as even more threatening when linked with the possibility of female reproduction . "

Neil Perryman of the University of Sunderland feels this episode is a prime example of transmedia storytelling in Doctor Who and Torchwood , describing the episode and ancillary online material released after its airing being in part an attempt at continuity management . He describes " ... these metasites have also been used to correct continuity errors that have appeared within the television show . For example , following the broadcast of the Torchwood episode ? Cyberwoman ? (13 November 2006) , the official Torchwood website provided information about ? The Fall of Torchwood One ? that attempted to correct ? via ? additive comprehension ? ? what some fans had regarded as a glaring error in the plot . Fans had asked how the eponymous Cyberwoman was not sucked into the void along with the rest of her kin during the climax to the Doctor Who episode ? Doomsday ? (8 July 2006) and the site retroactively explained away the problem : ? The only exceptions were those being converted with material entirely derived from this side of the void ? , which allowed the events of ? Cyberwoman ? to take place without contradicting what viewers originally saw in the episode . "