

= Fear Her =

" Fear Her " is the eleventh episode of the second series of the British science @-@ fiction series Doctor Who , first broadcast on BBC One on 24 June 2006 . It was written by Matthew Graham and directed by Euros Lyn .

The episode takes place on the day of the opening ceremony of the 2012 Summer Olympics in London , almost exclusively on a fictitious cul @-@ de @-@ sac named after the British athlete Kelly Holmes . While originally only intending to visit the ceremony , alien time traveller the Doctor (David Tennant) and his companion Rose Tyler (Billie Piper) investigate Chloe Webber (Abisola Agbaje) , who has the ability to make people disappear by drawing them .

The episode was brought in to be a low @-@ budget replacement for a script by Stephen Fry that had been pushed back , and was filmed mainly in the Tremorfa area of Cardiff at a housing estate . Graham was asked to write an episode primarily for children which would soften the much darker finale that would be broadcast after . The episode was watched by 7 @.@ 14 million viewers in the UK , and was given an Appreciation Index of 83 . Though Graham received letters from children who enjoyed the episode , it did not generate a positive response from adult fans and critics .

= = Plot = =

The TARDIS materialises on the day of the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games . The neighbourhood is preparing for the passing of the Olympic torch bearer , but the mood has been dampened by the disappearances of several children in the prior week . A council worker named Kel also mentions that cars have been breaking down momentarily for the same period . The Doctor and Rose investigate and realise that the source of the problems is a solitary 12 @-@ year @-@ old girl named Chloe Webber . She has the unique ability to cause people to disappear by drawing them . The Doctor hypnotises Chloe and finds out that she is possessed by an immature Isolus , an alien life @-@ form that travels through space with a family of billions . This particular Isolus crashed its pod to Earth due to a solar flare . The Isolus relates to and befriends Chloe , who had a troubled childhood . The Isolus has also caused Chloe to draw a life @-@ sized , exaggerated figure of her late father , who is strongly implied to have abused Chloe when he was alive .

The Doctor explains that if they can find the Isolus pod and provide it power , the alien will leave Chloe . A frantic Chloe draws the TARDIS and the Doctor , trapping them both in one of her sketches and forcing Rose to try to find the pod herself . She rationalises that the pod is located on the hottest spot on the street , a patch of freshly laid tar , and is able to dig it up . Meanwhile , Chloe has caused the entire crowd at the Olympic stadium to disappear and now is set on making everyone in the world disappear . Rose tries to find out how to power the pod , and uses visual indications from the Doctor 's picture to understand that the pod needs heat mixed with emotion . Rose throws the pod towards the Olympic Torch - a symbol of hope , courage , and love - as it passes down the street . The missing children and the crowd at the Olympics reappear , and Rose realises that the drawing Chloe had made of her father will similarly come to life . Rose and Chloe 's mother are able to calm Chloe by singing the Kookaburra song , causing the unseen monster - having fed off of Chloe 's emotions and fears - to disappear .

As the torch bearer approaches the Olympic Stadium he collapses , and the Doctor promptly and suddenly appears , picks up the torch , and completes the run to light the Olympic Flame . The heat of the flame and the emotion of the crowd power the pod , allowing the Isolus to leave Chloe and return home . The Doctor and Rose walk off to watch the games , and Rose remarks that nothing will ever split the two of them up . The Doctor becomes uneasy and muses that a storm is approaching .

= = = Continuity = = =

Torchwood is again mentioned , by commentator Huw Edwards after the Olympic crowd disappears . The Doctor again invokes the Shadow Proclamation , the intergalactic police force first mentioned

in " Rose " . The Doctor mentions that his dislike of cats stems from being " threatened by one in a nun 's wimple " , a reference to the events of " New Earth " . In a bit of non @-@ series continuity , The Doctor asks Chloe to identify a Vulcan salute , then uses a Vulcan mind meld to put Chloe into a trance that allows communication with the Isolus within her .

= = Production = =

= = = Writing = = =

" Fear Her " was an overcommissioned episode , which replaced a planned but unproduced script by Stephen Fry . Writer Matthew Graham was told by showrunner Russell T Davies that it was going to be an inexpensive episode and had to take place on a housing estate , but Graham was nevertheless thrilled to be asked to write an episode . Graham stated in 2011 that they " set out to do right from the start " making the episode more aimed at children , rather than adults and older Doctor Who fans , as the much darker finale would be broadcast following it . Davies specifically asked Graham to write for his seven @-@ year @-@ old son .

Graham originally suggested a story about a man who had the ability to drain Earth of its beauty , but Davies preferred his own idea about the eerie nature of paintings or illustration . The Isolus was inspired by the villains in the 1978 film Invasion of the Body Snatchers . Early drafts of this episode were titled " Chloe Webber Destroys the Earth " , and later , " You 're a Bad Girl , Chloe Webber " , with one such draft having the episode take place on another planet . Both of these titles were rejected by Davies as they were too long .

= = = Casting and filming = = =

Dame Kelly Holmes , who was mentioned in the episode , was considered for the part of the torchbearer , but was committed to Dancing On Ice at the time . Nina Sosanya and Abdul Salis had both appeared in the 2003 film Love Actually . Abisola Agbaje , who portrayed Chloe , was discovered at an after @-@ school drama club , where casting director Andy Pryor had held auditions for the part . Agbaje had to play both Chloe 's normal character and her character while being possessed by the Isolus , which Agbaje felt was " weird " . When performing as the Isolus she had to whisper , and an echo was added in post @-@ production . Agbaje found it " a bit hard to whisper " because she had a husky voice . A hand double for Agbaje drew the pictures , while the series ' storyboarder Shaun Williams drew the father in the cupboard .

Due to Fry 's script being dropped , production of some episodes of the second series had to be rescheduled , with " Fear Her " being produced alongside " The Idiot 's Lantern " . The episode was filmed during late January and early February 2006 , with the cold temperatures experienced during filming being explained in the plot as part of the Isolus ' endothermic nature . The majority of the episode , including exterior shots and Chloe 's home , was filmed in the Tremorfa area of Cardiff , with a majority of the remainder filmed in the Doctor Who studios in Newport . A storage yard by the Rhymney River off Newport Road in Cardiff was used for the location the TARDIS lands in . The Millennium Stadium in Cardiff was used for the Olympic Stadium .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Fear Her " was broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC One on 24 June 2006 . Overnight UK figures for the first broadcast of " Fear Her " was 6 @.@ 6 million viewers , with a 39 @.@ 7 % audience share . Final consolidated ratings rose to 7 @.@ 14 million , making it the twelfth most @-@ watched programme on the channel for the week . The episode received an Appreciation Index of 83 .

Graham was happy with the episode himself and received letters from " loads of kids " who enjoyed it . When discovering that older fans had reacted negatively , he thought , " Well , it 's a shame that

they have , but it wasn 't meant for them " . IGN 's Ahsan Haque gave the episode a 5 out of 10 rating , calling it " flat and formulaic " and everything about it was " slightly underwhelming " , though he thought what did work was the mother @-@ daughter teamwork at the end . He also noted " annoying self @-@ aggrandizing moments that made no sense and served only to make the episode feel unnecessarily campy " , such as the audience disappearing from the stadium and the Doctor carrying the torch . Comparing the episode to " The Idiot 's Lantern " in terms of plot , he felt that the latter was " far more entertaining " and that " Fear Her " lacked originality and humour . Dave Bradley of SFX awarded " Fear Her " three out of five stars , describing the plot as " ordinary " but thought it was " a decent breather before grander adventures to come " . He particularly praised the dialogue and thought " the claustrophobic effect of limiting the action to one household works " . Arnold T Blumburg , writing for Now Playing , gave the episode a grade of B + . He felt that the guest cast were " only just adequate " and that the story " plods along in places " , but the story worked because of the " delightful " interactions between the Doctor and Rose and the feel @-@ good ending .

In 2011 , SFX published an article stating arguments for and against the episode . The " Defence " stated that , while some minor roles were played " broadly " , Nina Sosanya and Abisola Agbaje were " extremely good " , and opined that the unusual things happening in a typical housing estate and the lack of appearance from a monster were effective . The " Prosecution " , on the other hand , described it as a " cheap filler " with a " cheesy " finale and called the lack of a monster a " severe disappointment " . Topless Robot named it the third worst Tenth Doctor episode . In a poll conducted by Doctor Who Magazine in 2009 which asked readers to rank all 200 stories that had been released , " Fear Her " fell at 192 out of 200 , making it the lowest ranked story of the revived series . In another poll conducted by Doctor Who Magazine in 2014 asking readers to rank every story that has been broadcast in the first 50 years of the show , " Fear Her " fell to 240 out of 241 making it not only the lowest ranked story of the revived series , but the second lowest ranked story of all time , just coming above The Twin Dilemma .

= = = Reviews = = =

" Fear Her " reviews at The Doctor Who Ratings Guide