

= Day of the Moon =

" Day of the Moon " is the second episode of the sixth series of the British science fiction television series Doctor Who . Written by show runner Steven Moffat , and directed by Toby Haynes , the episode was first broadcast on 30 April 2011 on BBC One in the United Kingdom and on BBC America in the United States . The episode is the second of a two @-@ part story that began with " The Impossible Astronaut " .

In 1969 America , alien time traveller the Doctor (Matt Smith) attempts , alongside newlyweds Amy (Karen Gillan) and Rory (Arthur Darvill) , companion River Song (Alex Kingston) and FBI agent Canton Everett Delaware III (Mark Sheppard) , to lead the human race into a revolution against the Silence , a race of aliens who cannot be remembered after they are encountered .

" The Impossible Astronaut " and " Day of the Moon " were designed to be a darker opener to the series and were partially filmed in the United States , a first for the programme . Moffat was keen on incorporating Area 51 , the moon landing , and President Richard Nixon (played by Stuart Milligan) into the plot . The episode received final viewing figures of 7 @. @ 3 million in the UK . It received generally positive reviews from critics , though many worried about the number of questions that had been left unanswered .

= = Plot = =

= = = Synopsis = = =

In the three months since the end of " The Impossible Astronaut " , the Doctor , Amy , Rory and River Song have been attempting to track the Silence , an alien race who cannot be remembered after they are encountered . Ex @-@ FBI agent Canton Delaware , under the ruse of capturing them as criminals , helps to reunite the group inside a special prison at Area 51 containing the TARDIS . Though they do not yet know the name or motive for the aliens , the Doctor 's allies have discovered they exist across the entire planet , and have the ability to place post @-@ hypnotic suggestions in humans they encounter . The Doctor plants a communication device called a nanorecorder in each of the group 's hands to record audio of meetings with the Silence . As they travel to Kennedy Space Center shortly before the launch of Apollo 11 , Amy tells the Doctor she was mistaken and is not pregnant as she previously had claimed .

While the Doctor alters part of the command module of Apollo 11 , Canton and Amy visit a nearby orphanage , hoping to find where the girl in the spacesuit was taken from . Amy discovers a nest of the Silence , and a photograph of her and a baby amongst pictures of the little girl from the space suit . The girl enters with the Silence , and Amy is abducted and taken to their time engine control room . Arriving too late , the Doctor and his allies find Amy 's recording device , through which Rory still can hear Amy 's voice confessing her love for one of the group . Canton is able to shoot and wound one of the creatures , and from it the Doctor discovers the creatures are the Silence , a group he was warned about by several of his foes in his recent adventures . Analysing the now @-@ empty space suit , River realises that the girl possesses incredible strength to have forced her way out of it , and that the suit 's advanced life @-@ support technology would have called the President as the highest authority figure on Earth when the girl got scared . The Doctor realises why the Silence have been controlling humanity ? by guiding their technological advances , they have influenced humanity into the Space Race for purposes of building a spacesuit , which must somehow be crucial to their intentions . Meanwhile , Canton interrogates the captured Silent in the Area 51 prison , who mocks humanity for treating him when " ... you should kill us all on sight " . Canton records this using Amy 's mobile phone .

The Doctor uses Amy 's communication chip to track her location , and lands the TARDIS in the Silence 's control room five days later . As River and Rory hold the Silence at bay , the Doctor shows them the live broadcast of the moon landing . As they watch , the Doctor uses his modification of the Apollo command module to insert Canton 's recording of the wounded Silent into

the footage of the landing . Because of this message , humans will now turn upon the Silence whenever they see them . The group frees Amy and departs in the TARDIS , while River kills all the Silence in the control room . Amy reassures Rory that the man he overheard her speaking of loving through the communication chip was him , not the Doctor .

River refuses the Doctor 's offer to travel with him , returning to her Stormcage prison in order to keep a promise . She kisses the Doctor goodbye , and as the Doctor has never kissed her before she deduces that this will be her last kiss with him . In the TARDIS , Amy appears unable to remember seeing her picture in the orphanage and says that she told the Doctor , rather than Rory , when she believed she was pregnant through fears that travelling in the TARDIS might have affected her child 's development . As the trio sets off , the Doctor discreetly uses the TARDIS scanner to attempt to determine if Amy is pregnant .

Six months later , a homeless man in New York City comes across the young girl , previously seen in the astronaut 's suit . The girl says she is dying , but can fix it ; before the man 's eyes , she appears to begin regenerating , a trait only applied to Time Lords .

= = = Continuity = = =

The Silence 's ' time engine ' set was previously used in " The Lodger " . The Doctor describes it as " very Aickman Road " , a reference to the house the ship occupied in that episode . When the Silent reveals his species ' name to the Doctor , the Doctor has flash @-@ backs to " The Eleventh Hour " and " The Vampires of Venice " , the first mentions of the Silence . The " Eye Patch Lady " (Frances Barber) appears for the first time in this episode , and makes similar appearances in " The Curse of the Black Spot " and " The Rebel Flesh " before her connection to Amy is revealed in " The Almost People " . The Doctor uses the TARDIS 's scanners to detect Amy 's alternating pregnancy state . The Doctor repeats the scan with the same results in " The Curse of the Black Spot " and " The Rebel Flesh " .

The Doctor and Rory discuss both being present at the fall of Rome . As an Auton , Rory guarded the Pandorica from the Roman era to the present day in " The Big Bang " , and the First Doctor indirectly instigated the Great Fire of Rome in The Romans . The Doctor is held captive in Area 51 , which he had visited previously in the Tenth Doctor animated serial Dreamland .

= = Production = =

Steven Moffat , head writer of the new series , said before broadcast that this would be one of the darkest openers to a series ever done for Doctor Who . Director Toby Haynes believed that the darker episodes like " The Impossible Astronaut " and " Day of the Moon " would allow the series to get into " more dangerous territory . " The creation of the Silence was partly inspired by the figure from the Edvard Munch painting The Scream . Introducing the alien villains became a " big challenge " for the producers ; it would tie in with the loose " silence will fall " arc that carried through the fifth series . Moffat did not wish to end the arc in the previous series , as he felt it would be " more fun " to continue it . Elsewhere in the episode , Delaware was written to be deceptively antagonistic towards the protagonists , which was based on actor Mark Sheppard 's past as villains for his work in American television . Moffat was also keen on the idea of having the Doctor imprisoned with a beard in Area 51 . Smith wore a glued @-@ on beard , which was difficult to peel off .

Incorporating Nixon into the plot was accidental ; Moffat wanted to set the story during the moon landing and looked up the United States president during the time . He was initially disappointed that it was such a " rubbish one " and briefly considered using a generic , unnamed president , such as the one seen in " The Sound of Drums " . However , he thought it " didn 't feel right for a story partly about real events " and realized it could be fun to use Nixon . He believed there was something " comically awkward " about him , and it would be interesting for the Doctor to have to work with someone he did not like . The episode makes references to the Watergate scandal and David Frost .

Many of the opening scenes of the episode were filmed on location in the United States . The sequence where Delaware chases Amy was shot in the Valley of the Gods in Utah . Gillan found it difficult to run because of the altitude . The scene in which Amy confronts Canton was originally watched by three Silence in the script , but this did not make it to the film version . The sequence where Delaware chases Rory was shot at the Glen Canyon Dam in Arizona . The Dam sequence was the final scene to be shot in the States . " The Impossible Astronaut " and " Day of the Moon " marked the first time that Doctor Who has filmed principal photography footage within the United States . The sequence where Delaware chases River in New York was in fact shot in central Cardiff . A set was later constructed in a studio for the jump sequence , and Kingston was replaced by a stunt woman to perform the jump . The scenes set in Area 51 were filmed in a large disused hangar in South Wales .

The Florida orphanage was filmed at the abandoned Troy House in Monmouthshire . To add the effect that a storm is outside the building , the production crew placed rain machines outdoors and flashing lights to simulate lightning . The Silence were portrayed by Marnix van den Broeke and other performers . The masks caused vision difficulties for the performers , who had to be guided by two people when they had to walk . Van den Broeke did not provide the voices of the Silence , as it was replaced during post @-@ production . The control room set used from " The Lodger " was used again for this episode . Moffat wanted the set to be used again , feeling it would be a suitable Silence base . The set was adapted to give it a darker , evil feel .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Day of the Moon " was first broadcast on BBC One on 30 April 2011 at 6 pm and on the same date on BBC America in the United States . Initial overnight ratings showed that the episode had been watched by 5 @. @ 4 million viewers , a decrease of 1 @. @ 1 million from the previous week . The episode received final ratings of 7 @. @ 3 million viewers on BBC One , seventh for the week on that channel . It received an Appreciation Index of 87 , considered " excellent " .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The episode was met with generally positive reviews from television critics . Dan Martin of The Guardian praised the episode for its " action , tension , horror and River Song in a business suit , " but felt it " sags a little around the middle . " Martin believed the scenes with Amy and Delaware in the orphanage were the " fear factor " of the episode . He later rated it the fourth best episode of the series , though the finale was not included in the list . Morgan Jeffery of Digital Spy stated " after the sensational opening gambit that kicked off the series premiere , it 's perhaps unsurprising that ' Day of the Moon ' starts with a similarly thrilling onslaught of action . " Jeffery was positive towards the nano @-@ recorder , which provided the episode with " a number of unsettling moments in which characters listen back to their own terrified exclamations about the Silents . " However , Jeffery felt the final scenes " expose this episode 's chief flaw ? quite simply , too much is left unresolved . " In conclusion , the reviewer stated " While ' The Impossible Astronaut ' ached the set @-@ up , ' Day of the Moon ' falters slightly in providing the resolution . " Jeffery rated the episode four stars out of five .

Tom Phillips of Metro stated that " Amy and Canton 's sojourn to the orphanage was not just a high @-@ mark for sheer skin @-@ crawling horror on recent mainstream telly ? that image of The Silence nesting on the ceiling like cadaverous bat @-@ people will live on in the nightmares of many , many children ? but also genuinely , properly weird . " Dave Golder from SFX thought that although the series was " shaping up to be like no other before it , as the show moves even further away from its traditional series of sequential standalone stories format and more towards Lost style storytelling " , that the episode " is no mere exercise in delayed gratification . You want fun ? You want creepy ? You want action ? You 've got it ? all not @-@ so @-@ neatly tied up with a neat bow tie . " Golder went on to state that " once again we 're treated to some outstanding direction , glorious performances , near flawless FX and gorgeous locations ... " Day Of The Moon " is huge fun ,

effortlessly entertaining , beguilingly bat 's @-@ arse and blessed with a cliffhanger so jawdroppingly unexpected it 's bound to keep viewers hooked " . He gave the episode a rating of four out of five stars .

IGN reviewer Matt Risley rated the episode 9 out of 10 , saying it " maintained the thrills , chills and scalp @-@ scratching plot twists of " The Impossible Astronaut " , whilst somehow tweaking its predecessor 's thundering pace into 45 minutes of near @-@ perfectly plotted TV . " When comparing it to " The Impossible Astronaut " , he said it was " scarier , creepier ... and more action packed in every way ... [and] also managed to leave things on a suitably epic , mythos @-@ expanding note . " He concluded , " the show as a whole has a brand new energy , and we can 't wait to see where Who goes from here . "

Gavin Fuller of The Daily Telegraph was more critical with the episode , stating , " having set up an interesting cliffhanger last week , it was a tad annoying that Steven Moffat did his trick again of taking a swerve with the pre @-@ credits section of this week 's episode , and more supposed shock value with the shootings of Amy and Rory , " but also more annoyed " that what exactly was going on here , and how it was influenced by the events of the previous episode , were never exactly explained , leaving the audience to fill in the blanks . " Fuller believed that the plot and ending " only raised more questions than answers , " believing that the overarching storyline would " require the audience 's concentration over many weeks ; any casual viewer tuning in this week , and I suspect not a few fans , will have been left baffled by the goings @-@ on , " but still felt the episode " was interesting and showed just how , when the writers use their imagination , Doctor Who can tell stories in a way little else on television can . "