

= Cold Blood ( Doctor Who ) =

" Cold Blood " is the ninth episode in the fifth series of British science fiction television series Doctor Who , which was first broadcast on 29 May 2010 on BBC One . It was written by Chris Chibnall and directed by Ashley Way . It is the second episode of a two @-@ part story , the first episode being " The Hungry Earth " , which features the return of the reptilian humanoid Silurians .

Continuing from the previous episode , alien time traveller the Doctor ( Matt Smith ) and geologist Nasreen Chaudhry ( Meera Syal ) have taken the TARDIS deep below the ground to the Silurian city where the Doctor 's companion Amy Pond ( Karen Gillan ) , a local man named Mo ( Alun Raglan ) , and Mo 's son Elliot ( Samuel Davies ) are being held hostage . Meanwhile , above ground , Amy 's fiancé Rory ( Arthur Darvill ) , Mo 's wife Ambrose ( Nia Roberts ) , and Ambrose 's father Tony ( Robert Pugh ) keep watch over Alaya ( Neve McIntosh ) , a captured Silurian who is the key to freeing the hostages . When Ambrose kills Alaya , the Doctor attempts to prevent Alaya 's sister Restac ( McIntosh ) from wiping out the human population as revenge by offering to share the planet with the Silurians .

Chibnall was elected by executive producers Steven Moffat and Piers Wenger to write a two @-@ part episode about the return of the Silurians . Chibnall wanted " Cold Blood " in particular to be about the mistakes people make under pressure , and conflict that could come out of protecting a family . The episode is also connected to the series ' story arc , as the crack in the universe returns at the end of the episode . " The Hungry Earth " and " Cold Blood " were filmed in October and November 2009 , with scenes in " Cold Blood " shot in Llanwynno , Wales , Cardiff 's Temple of Peace , Plantasia , and an array of locations and sets for parts of the Silurian city , which the production team did not want to look like a cave . The episode was watched by 7 @.@ 49 million viewers in the United Kingdom and received mixed reviews from critics . Some reviewers were disappointed by the plot and characteristics of the Silurians , but the emotional ending was widely praised .

= = Plot = =

As the Doctor and geologist Nasreen Chaudhry arrive by TARDIS in the massive Silurian underground civilisation , they are captured and taken to the Silurian doctor , Malohkeh . The Silurians ' hostility is increased when the Doctor recalls his previous meeting with a similar race of reptilian humanoids which were destroyed by humans , a reference to the Third Doctor in Doctor Who and the Silurians . Meanwhile , Amy and Mo escape from Malohkeh 's experimentation and Mo discovers his son , Elliot , sedated in a chamber and under observation . When Malohkeh realises the Doctor is not human , the leader of the Silurian warrior caste , Restac , insists both the Doctor and Nasreen be executed and escorts them to a Silurian court ; though Amy and Mo interrupt the trial with stolen weapons , they too are captured . Eldane , Restac 's superior , is called in by Malohkeh and demands a halt to the hostilities .

The Doctor makes contact with Rory , Mo 's wife Ambrose , and Ambrose 's father Tony , reminding them to keep their captive Silurian , Restac 's sister Alaya , alive . They are unaware that Ambrose has already killed Alaya because she would not help Tony , whom she had infected with Silurian venom . The Doctor arranges a " conference " between the Silurians ( represented by Eldane ) and the humans ( represented by Amy and Nasreen ) ; the three discuss how both species can co @-@ exist on the surface of the Earth . Ambrose and Tony , worried about the Silurian reaction when they discover Alaya 's death , set Nasreen and Tony 's drill to burrow further and self @-@ destruct fifteen minutes after they depart , which would destroy the Silurian oxygen supply and kill them all .

Meanwhile , Restac has killed Malohkeh for his betrayal and awakened other members of the warrior caste , intending to stage a coup against Eldane . When Rory and the others arrive with Alaya 's corpse , Restac becomes furious and orders the humans ' death ; the Doctor disables their weapons to give him , Eldane , and the humans time to escape ; they bar themselves into Malohkeh 's lab . The Doctor and Eldane realise they can use Silurian technology to destroy the drill before it detonates , but it will cause their exit route to collapse if they cannot reach the TARDIS in time .

Eldane returns the warriors to hibernation by initiating a " toxic fumigation " ; the humans escape , and Eldane hopes that in a thousand years , peace between humans and Silurians can occur . Tony , still affected by Silurian venom , opts to stay behind to be cured , and Nasreen also remains behind to study the earth from below and help improve human @-@ Silurian relations .

Ambrose 's family takes refuge in the TARDIS , but the Doctor , Amy and Rory find a crack in the cavern wall similar to those they have seen before . The Doctor surmises that the crack was caused by an explosion in time , which might have left " shrapnel " behind . He reaches in and pulls out an object which he wraps in a handkerchief . Before he can explain , Restac , dying from the toxic exposure , crawls around the corner and fires at the Doctor , but Rory pushes him out of the way and takes the shot , dying in Amy 's arms . As the crack begins to absorb Rory 's body , the Doctor realises that Rory will be written out of history and forces Amy to board the TARDIS before the drill explodes . He tries to help her concentrate on remembering Rory , but a jolt from the TARDIS causes her to lose concentration and her memories of Rory are lost . The Doctor finds Amy 's engagement ring , which Rory had stowed before the events , on the floor of the TARDIS .

On the surface , Ambrose thanks the Doctor for not letting the Silurians execute her for killing Alaya , and the Doctor asks her to help prepare humanity for their next encounter with the Silurians . The Doctor and Amy return to the TARDIS , where Amy sights her future self on the hillside without Rory . The Doctor takes out the object he pulled from the crack : a burnt piece of the TARDIS 's sign . He worriedly compares it to the real thing . Aside from the damage , they appear identical .

= = Production = =

Writer Chris Chibnall was contracted by executive producers Steven Moffat and Piers Wenger to write a two @-@ part Doctor Who episode about Silurians and a drill . Chibnall had previously written the Doctor Who episode " 42 " as well as episodes of the spin @-@ off series Torchwood . " Cold Blood " is the second part of the story which began with " The Hungry Earth " ; the latter built up the tension while " Cold Blood " was designed to get into the action . " Cold Blood " is also set in the bigger setting of the Silurian city , while " The Hungry Earth " was set in a small Welsh village . Chibnall wanted the Silurian city to contrast with the village . Chibnall wanted it to be a " story about people making mistakes under massive pressure " and the accidental conflict that came out of protecting a family ; as such , he always intended for Alaya to die . He considered " Cold Blood " especially to be " so clearly about the Silurians and what the Silurians want " .

Moffat 's plan " from the outset " , to tie the episode into the overarching story arc of the series , was that Rory not just die but be erased from history in the crack in the universe . Moffat would later bring Rory back in " The Pandorica Opens " , though the episode reveals his consciousness was placed in a Roman centurion Auton as part of a trap for the Doctor to save the universe from the cracks . Moffat also thought it was appropriate as the trio had had fun , and now it was time for a casualty . Rory 's death is also connected with Chibnall 's theme of making mistakes ; it was the Doctor 's fault as he stopped to look at the crack . Gillan called the scene " incredibly challenging " for her to perform and tried to make it " truthful and believable " .

" The Hungry Earth " and " Cold Blood " made up the fourth production block of the series and were filmed in late October and November 2009 in the Upper Boat Studios and Llanwynno , Wales . " Cold Blood " utilised many different locations and unusual sets to portray the Silurian city , as the production team did not want simply a " cave feel " . They believed that the Silurians were also sophisticated and were able to use materials found underground , such as granite and marble . Many of the sets were given an orange glow from beneath to portray the " ambient glow " from the centre of the earth . The jungle walkway leading to the Silurian city was filmed in the Plantasia botanical garden in Swansea on 13 November 2009 . The set gave a sense of things growing , as these were necessary for the Silurians to survive . Set designers were able to rearrange the plants , though they had to be careful not to show the window leading to the car park or other modern amenities . The hall where the Doctor is brought for execution was filmed at the Temple of Peace in Cardiff , and little dressing was done to the set .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Cold Blood " was first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC One and simulcast on BBC HD on 29 May 2010 . Initial overnight ratings showed that the episode was watched by 5 @.@ 7 million viewers , a million more than the previous week . Final consolidated ratings rose to 7 @.@ 49 million ( 7 @.@ 04 million on BBC One and 0 @.@ 45 million on BBC HD ) , ranking the show fourth for the week ending 30 May 2010 on the channel and the highest rated show on BBC One for the day . The episode received an Appreciation Index of 85 , considered " excellent " .

" Cold Blood " was released in Region 2 on DVD and Blu @-@ ray on 2 August 2010 with the episodes " Amy 's Choice " and " The Hungry Earth " . It was then re @-@ released as part of the Complete Fifth Series boxset on 8 November 2010 .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The episode received mixed reviews from critics . Dan Martin , writing for The Guardian , said that the episode was similar to previous Silurian stories in Doctor Who , though he said he loved the " tense , mad and thoughtful story " . He expressed " delight " at Amy and Nasreen negotiating for the humans , though he thought the diplomacy scenes were " broadly drawn " . Overall , he considered the strength of the episode was " giving you something big and moral to chew over , in a way that nothing else this series has yet " . Gavin Fuller of The Daily Telegraph also compared " Cold Blood " ' s concept and ideas to the original 1970 Silurians story but considered this story made " less of an impact " due to a " black and white depiction " and the one @-@ dimensional Restac . He was also critical of Matt Smith 's Doctor , whose portrayal " lacked gravitas and conviction and was altogether too light @-@ hearted " . However , he praised both Smith and Gillan 's " strong " performances in the final scene where Rory is killed .

The A.V. Club 's Keith Phipps gave the episode a B + , noting that Rory 's death had been spoiled for him by commenters on the site and thus he did not enjoy the episode as much as he might have . He called it " satisfying , if not extraordinary " conclusion and " another pretty solid entry in the series " . He further praising Gillan and Amy 's character for " [ continuing ] to impress " as well as the depths to the supporting characters by both Chibnall and Way , and the allegories that could be derived from the conflict between the humans and the Silurians and the aftermath of Rory 's demise .

IGN 's Matt Wales rated the episode 8 out of 10 , and thought that " even less actually happened " than the previous episode , though he enjoyed the " atmospheric build @-@ up and more thoughtful tone " . While he considered it predictable , he said that it " still offered plenty in the way of entertainment with its brisk pace , beautifully @-@ realised underground world and a convincing cast of rounded characters " . He praised Smith and Gillan 's performances in the ending , but thought it was " a surprisingly downbeat denouement " . Ian Berriman of SFX magazine gave " Cold Blood " four and a half out of five stars , positively comparing the emotional ending to episodes from the Russell T Davies era . He also had some " nitpicks " about the episode , such as the abrupt character change of Malohkeh .

= = = Reviews = = =

" The Hungry Earth " / " Cold Blood " reviews at The Doctor Who Ratings Guide