

= Harriet Jones =

Harriet Jones is a fictional character played by Penelope Wilton in the long @-@ running British science fiction television series Doctor Who . Having worked previously with lead writer and executive producer Russell T Davies , Wilton was keen to involve herself with his 2005 revival of Doctor Who after he sought to cast her . Jones is introduced in the two @-@ part story " Aliens of London " and " World War Three " as a Member of Parliament who aids the Ninth Doctor against an alien invasion of London . The episode introduces a running joke associated with the character which would see her frequently introduce herself by holding up her ID and stating her name and rank ; in subsequent episodes this was usually met with the response " Yes , I / we know who you are , " even occurring with The Daleks and The Sycorax .

Wilton returned for the series ' 2005 Christmas special as Davies wanted to include a familiar character whose presence would ease the transition following a change in the series ' lead actor . Despite her character having been introduced as fair minded and hard working , Harriet is depicted as an uncompromising Prime Minister , which led to comparisons to real life politicians . Response to the character 's political decisions prompted mixed commentary from the media ; some reviewers felt that the character had acted unreasonably whilst others sympathised with her actions and felt her scripted political demise was unjust .

Wilton 's last appearance in 2008 coincided with producer Phil Collinson 's final episodes ; she was keen to make a final return as she had been there for Collinson 's first episodes as producer . Harriet is killed off in the penultimate episode of the show 's fourth series in which she sacrifices her own life to help prevent a Dalek takeover of Earth . Harriet 's final scenes were designed to complete a tripartite story arc and to give the character redemption .

= = Appearances = =

Harriet Jones is introduced in the 2005 episode " Aliens of London " as an MP for the fictional constituency of Flydale North . Her political party is not stated , although she describes herself as not one of the " babes " , " just a faithful backbencher . " She is caught up in events investigated by the Doctor ( Christopher Eccleston ) and his companion Rose Tyler ( Billie Piper ) in London when an alien spacecraft crash @-@ lands and the Cabinet is infiltrated by aliens named the Slitheen . She finds herself trapped with the Doctor and Rose inside 10 Downing Street and as the only elected representative present gives the Doctor the order to launch a Harpoon missile , destroying the building but killing the Slitheen who were about to trigger nuclear war . The Doctor tells Rose that Jones is destined to be elected as Prime Minister for three successive terms and be the architect of a period known as Britain 's ' Golden Age ' .

Harriet returns in 2005 Christmas special " The Christmas Invasion " , set several months later when the character is now Prime Minister . Jones oversees the launch of the Guinevere Space Probe which is captured by an invading Sycorax spaceship . Although the invasion is averted by the Doctor ( now David Tennant ) Jones orders the covert Torchwood organisation to destroy the retreating Sycorax ship , arguing that there will come a time when the Doctor cannot protect Earth and so she must do what she can to defend it . The Doctor reacts furiously to what he perceives as cold blooded murder and tells her that he can bring her down with just six words : " Don 't you think she looks tired ? " In the episode 's dénouement , Jones faces rumours of ill @-@ health and a vote of no confidence . In the 2007 episode " The Sound of Drums " it is stated that the Master , running for Prime Minister under the alias Mr Saxon , appeared right after Harriet Jones ' downfall .

The character makes a final appearance in the 2008 episode " The Stolen Earth " where it is revealed she has continued to work in defence of Earth , maintaining that she was correct in not abdicating responsibility for Earth 's protection to the Doctor . As the Earth surrenders to an invading army of Dalek warships , Jones uses a sentient " subwave " network to connect with other allies of the Doctor . The network was created for a time when ? as Jones had predicted ? the Doctor would fail to protect the Earth in a time of crisis . With the aid of Jack Harkness ( John Barrowman ) and Sarah Jane Smith ( Elisabeth Sladen ) Jones amplifies the sub @-@ wave signal broadcast from

her own home , allowing the Doctor to return to Earth at the expense of her own location becoming visible to the Daleks . As a trio of Daleks approach her she proclaims defiantly that they will fail as they know nothing of humanity , before they exterminate her . Rose informs the Doctor of Jones ' sacrifice in the following episode , " Journey 's End " .

= = Casting and character development = =

The role of Harriet Jones was written specially for Penelope Wilton by the series ' lead writer and executive producer Russell T Davies . Wilton was drawn to the role after working with Davies on his show *Bob and Rose* and being impressed by his writing . Commenting on Jones ' role in the two part " Aliens of London " / " World War Three " Wilton characterised her as " straight as a die " and " the kind of caring politician that anyone would like to have . " When faced with the deadly Slitheen , Wilton remarks that she demonstrates " tremendous resilience and courage . " . At the end of the episode the Doctor remembers that Harriet will one day become Prime Minister . Speaking in April 2005 , Wilton expressed interest in returning to the series to explore the character further .

After Christopher Eccleston 's departure from the series ' lead role , Davies was eager to include elements of the 2005 season in David Tennant 's Christmas Day introductory episode to reassure viewers discomfited by the change of lead actor . To this end he and producer Phil Collinson secured the return of Wilton 's character in her capacity as Prime Minister . In the dénouement of " The Christmas Invasion " the character 's government is brought down by the new Doctor after she orders Torchwood to shoot down a fleeing alien ship . Davies remarks that as Prime Minister Jones is " out of her depth " and " does the wrong thing " ; he intended her downfall to reflect the episode 's anti @-@ war message . Producer Julie Gardner felt the end sequence " added so much of another layer " to the episode . Collinson mentioned on the DVD commentary for the episode that he " tried so hard " to get Davies to change the ending ; he felt the Doctor would forgive her because " he would understand " her decision . Collinson also felt that Harriet 's downfall could be seen as a " hark to Thatcher " as one of Thatcher 's aides had reportedly stated her looking tired ; Davies acknowledged a parallel with events in Whitehall and felt the script underlined the power of rumours . He also " [ loved ] the fact that I feel sad " because of the character 's political demise . In his column in *Doctor Who Magazine* Davies explains his intention that by the Doctor ending Jones ' career early , a " gap " was created in history that the Master ( John Simm ) was then able to exploit and become Prime Minister . He had originally planned to allude to this in the script , but it was cut when he realised that the Doctor was already burdened by enough guilt .

Davies wrote Harriet Jones into the script for the fourth series finale episode " The Stolen Earth " before Wilton was approached about reprising the role because Julie Gardner and Phil Collinson wished for the character to have a satisfying and redemptive conclusion . Harriet Jones ' story arc thus formed a tripartite storyline which consisted of an introduction , animosity towards the Doctor , and redemption . Davies was aware that Wilton was " very hard to book " and restricted her appearance to one scene to make negotiations easier ; had Wilton declined , Davies planned to replace her with either Donna , Mr Copper ( Clive Swift ) from " Voyage of the Damned " , or Elton from " Love & Monsters " . Wilton accepted unconditionally because she " would do anything for ... Davies " and she wished to act in Phil Collinson 's last filming block as producer as her first appearance in " Aliens of London " was filmed in the first production block of the first series . Wilton 's scenes in her final episode were filmed in a single day from a cottage in Dinas Powys . Recalling her final episode , Wilton described the filming experience as " fabulous fun " remarking that " I got to sacrifice myself to save the world . " Collinson and Davies lamented the character 's death : Collinson stated " I can 't bear the thought she 's dead " and argued that she somehow survived , whilst Davies stated in *Doctor Who Magazine* issue 397 that " when [ significant characters a writer creates ] have to die , it 's a genuinely emotional time " .

= = Reception = =

Radio Times reviewer Patrick Mulkern likened the character to Brigitte Nyborg ( Sidse Babett

Knudsen ) in the Danish series *Borgen* , explaining that the two " form a very small club of politicians in TV drama who are hugely sympathetic , female and enjoy a rapid rise to PM " . Mulkern felt that Wilton was " a major saving grace " in the " disappointing " " *Aliens of London* " / " *World War Three* " . The *Daily Telegraph* 's Hugh Davies commented on a number of political allusions made through Jones ' characterisation as Prime Minister in " *The Christmas Invasion* " . He felt that her rebuttal of aid from the US president after aliens invade is a " swipe at Blair and Bush over the invasion of Iraq " . He also compared Jones ' destruction of the fleeing *Sycorax* ? a decision heavily criticised by the Doctor ? to Margaret Thatcher 's decision to sink the Argentine warship *General Belgrano* during the Falklands war . Russell T Davies responded to observations of political commentary by stating that there is " absolutely an anti @-@ war message " present in the episode due to Christmas being " a day of peace " . In their unauthorised guide to *Doctor Who* , Graeme Burk and Robert Smith felt that Wilton delivered the " standout performance " of the Christmas special " stating that , whilst the character remained recognisable , it was " fascinating watching her harder edge emerge from the woman we know and love " . Of Harriet Jones ' development , Stuart Galbraith of DVD Talk felt that she begins as a " charming neophyte minister " but becomes " suddenly much less charming at the end of " *Christmas Invasion* , " when she becomes just another politician " . However , Cliff Chapman of *Den of Geek* felt that the episode 's denouement was flawed by trying to " make out that Harriet Jones is awful for doing something perfectly reasonable . " Similarly , io9 's Chris Cummins commented that the character had " noble intentions " and that she was proved right upon her return in the fourth series .

Charlie Jane Anders of io9 placed the " glowing nobility " of Jones ' sacrifice in " *The Stolen Earth* " as the most prominent of the " super @-@ heroics " displayed by the returning characters in the episode . Though tired of a running joke throughout the series where Jones would introduce herself only to be told " I know who you are , " Anders remarks that in the face of her demise " she was able to turn her usual schtick into a moving speech of defiance . " The *Daily Telegraph* 's Chris Hastings felt that by the time she is killed off , Harriet was " one of the show 's most popular characters " . SFX placed the character of Harriet Jones at number 12 in a 2009 article listing the 27 things they loved best about the revival of *Doctor Who* , citing the running joke associated with the character . In March 2015 Dan Wilson of *Metro* listed Harriet as one of the ten best original characters introduced to *Doctor Who* since 2005 , describing her as a " complex woman " who " came good in the end " .