

PREQUEL
to
'THE BIRTHDAY CARD'

By
JAKE REYNOLDS

INT. TARDIS - N/A

THE DOCTOR comes rushing into the TARDIS, ashen and concealing a bundle underneath his jacket. With the door still open, he turns to look out.

THE DOCTOR
We haven't got *time*, Samuel! I'll
bury it for you!

MAN (O.S.)
I want it safe!

THE DOCTOR
I'll keep it safe, don't you
worry! It's only cheese!

The Doctor takes the block of cheese out from underneath the coat and places it delicately on the TARDIS chair. He rushes back to the door.

THE DOCTOR
I'll be back soon!

He closes the door and makes his way over to the console.

THE DOCTOR
(exasperated)
Honestly!

He presses a couple of buttons and flicks a lever.

But nothing happens.

He tries again, a little harder.

THE DOCTOR
What are you playing at? I'm
pressing the buttons, look -

He presses them again as if to make a point.

THE DOCTOR
Why are you being like this? *I'm*
supposed to be *your* pilot! You
can't just refuse to go
somewhere! It's not -

BANG! The TARDIS lurches and the Doctor falls to the floor.

The block of cheese falls off the chair.

THE DOCTOR
Now look what you've done! I hope
you're going to explain that to
Mr Pepys, he loves his cheese!

(CONTINUED)

The Doctor goes to pick the cheese up, when -
BANG! This time, the cloister bell starts ringing.

THE DOCTOR
Stop having a tantrum!

He rushes back over to the console and grabs a monitor.

THE DOCTOR
What's the matter with you, eh?

Then he sees it; symbols flashing urgently on the screen.

THE DOCTOR
Ah, okay, fair point.
(stubborn)
You could've said so sooner.

Then the phone rings.

THE DOCTOR
Oh for -

The Doctor rushes over to the phone and picks it up.

THE DOCTOR
Yes, hello?! I'm rather busy -
(frowning)
Samuel, I've been gone about
thirty seconds.

Samuel obviously seems to responding at length, the Doctor rolling his eyes as he does so.

THE DOCTOR
I can't hear you, the TARDIS is
going wobbly and you need to hold
the phone
(shouting)
TO YOUR EAR, SAMUEL!

BANG! The TARDIS lurches again.

THE DOCTOR
I knew giving you that thing was
a bad idea! Bury it with your
wine and cheese!
(to the TARDIS)
Sorry about him.
(back to the phone)
I've still got the cheese, yes!
It's fine! And if you don't get
rid of this phone I won't bury
it! And I'll tell everyone about
your diary!
(waiting for a response)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
Yes, even the strange bits!

Smoke starts to billow from the console. The Doctor leaves the phone hanging on the wire as he rushes over and pulls a few levers.

BANG! Another lurch. The phone clatters to the floor.

The Doctor scurries back and picks it up.

THE DOCTOR
I told you, I'm busy!

The Doctor is visibly frustrated.

THE DOCTOR
I'm in a time machine that's
hunting a deadly bomb heading
towards your own planet nearly
three hundred and fifty years
from where you are...
(angry)
Samuel Pepys, there are things
more important than your cheese!

And with that he puts the phone down and gets back to the TARDIS.

THE DOCTOR
Why do I give phones to the
clever ones? All they ever do is
nag nag nag. Remember Aquinas?
What a moaner!

BANG! The TARDIS shudders and the Doctor falls to the floor before scrambling back up.

On the screen there is a beeping red light which indicates the bomb. A blue rectangle next to it symbolises the TARDIS chasing it through time and space.

THE DOCTOR
Quicker, come on!

He flicks switches and turns dials at super-speed as more smoke billows from the console.

THE DOCTOR
Gonna have to go all-out, I'm
afraid dear! Sorry about this!

He pulls one huge lever -

CUT TO:

2 EXT. VORTEX - N/A

The TARDIS somersaults down the vortex, chasing a small black object...

The object ZOOMS past the camera, revealing it to be an ENVELOPE!

TO BE CONTINUED...