

THE ELEVENTH DOCTOR SCRIPT SERIES
SERIES FOUR, EPISODE ONE
'THE BIRTHDAY CARD'

By

JAKE REYNOLDS

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INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

CAPTION: APRIL 8TH, 1990.

A large, spacious living room, where lots of children and a handful of adults stand. Well, the children don't *stand* exactly - more bounce off the walls with cake, party hats and party poppers.

The odd bit of wrapping paper falls from the sofa, and a banner above the fireplace reads 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARIA!'. Balloons of all sickly colours bob around the room, each one printed with a large '5'.

A bouncy little five-year old, MARIA, rushes around, excited.

Then, something catches her attention. That distinct sound.

The letterbox.

MARIA

Card!!

MOTHER

Go and get it, then! Don't run too fast, you'll crack your head open!

She rushes through to the HALL...

CUT TO:

2

INT. HALL - DAY

YOUNG MARIA picks up an envelope on the floor and opens it. Inside it reads:

'Maria Suvari - 5 today

Keep hold of this for a very long time. It's the key to your life

All my love x'

She opens the envelope. A key. A plain old simple key on a string.

She reads the envelope again, and slips the key around her neck.

FADE TO:

3 EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Someone moves away from the house. A flash of tweed, a mop of hair. Did they post the card?

JUMP CUT TO:

4 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

CAPTION: APRIL 8TH, 2012.

A large, spacious living room, where roughly ten people stand and sit around chatting and laughing. There are bowls of nibbles on the coffee table and most people are carrying a small plate around with them, eating and sipping champagne.

A banner is draped above the fireplace and balloons bob around near the ceiling. The odd bit of wrapping paper falls from the sofa. It's another birthday party.

According to the banner, the birthday party of 'MARIA' who is '27 TODAY!'.

But MARIA isn't in the room, as someone notices. This is SEAN, a 25-year old happy-go-lucky chap. One of those people that reminds you of a puppy - happy, innocent, a bit excitable. Sean rises from his seat and walks through into the...

CUT TO:

5 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

SEAN walks into the kitchen where MARIA sits at a breakfast table, on the phone and visibly exhausted.

She is quite simply a bit beautiful. Dark brown hair, green eyes, and olive-skinned - Greek complexion.

She rolls her eyes at the phone and mimes at Sean to close the kitchen door to block out the sound from the living room. Sean closes the door, and mimes 'who is it?'.

'Mum' comes the mouthed reply. Sean looks almost concerned, like this could never end well.

MARIA

Well I'm kind of having a party
at the minute, mum, if you could

-

(response)

No, mum, not really, but I'm free
tomorrow. Yes. I'm only 27 mum,
I'm not 30, it's not a big deal -

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MARIA (cont'd)
yes, everything's fine. Yes they
did. Surprise party. Of course I
was surprised! Oh, no, do you
have to -

A brief pause. Maria mimes wanting to strangle somebody
before smiling and speaking once more.

MARIA
Hi dad! Yes, I am, thank you. No,
I just said this to mum,
tomorrow's fine. It's better than
fine. It's a suitcase full of
fine, dad, I promise -

Then, in a spur-of-the-moment action, Sean grabs the phone
from her.

SEAN
(into the phone)
She's trying to have a laugh,
she'll ring you back later! Bye!

And 'bleep!'. The call has ended.

MARIA
Oh *thanks*. Thanks a lot.

SEAN
It's *your* birthday!

MARIA
(standing up and walking
over to the sink)
Yes! It's my birthday, the one
day in the year that's ruled
entirely by my mum.
(beat)
Except Christmas. And Easter. And
all those Sundays she wants to
visit me on. And Pancake Day.

SEAN
Pancake Day?

MARIA
Sean, *come on*. I make great
pancakes.

Sean nods. Fair point.

SEAN
Come on, come back in, don't let
it get you down.

MARIA

It's not getting me down! It's just - and don't tell Kate - surprise parties are great but then you feel like an awful host because you haven't really prepared anything and you want to make sure everyone's alright.

SEAN

Just turn your phone off. Forget about all of that. Have a laugh Maria!

MARIA

And Lucy got red wine on the carpet. Remind me to never celebrate birthdays again. Ever.

SEAN

Right, sit down then. I'm making tea.

MARIA

No, there's washing up to be done, I'm not leaving it until -

SEAN

(insistent)

Sit. Down. Tea.

As Sean opens the cupboard door, Maria walks straight into it. Luck isn't on her side today. She just clutches her forehead.

MARIA

It's fine, it's fine.

Sean tries to conceal a smile. Maria can't.

SEAN

(sniggering)

Sorry.

MARIA

Don't tell anyone I just did that.

SEAN

Depressed on your birthday, banging your head...

Sean reaches for a mug and gesticulates with it.

SEAN

You need a doctor.

CUT TO:

6

INT. TARDIS - N/A

THE DOCTOR is alone...

However there are more pressing matters.

The Doctor's involved in something - a chase.

The TARDIS is lurching violently and he's spinning dials, pulling levers and pushing buttons, his eyes constantly on the screen.

The screen shows a flashing dot surrounded by Gallifreyan symbols. The Doctor taps the screen impatiently.

THE DOCTOR

Come on, come on, come on...

Ding! A readout on the screen. Swirling letters and symbols.

The Doctor beams, and pulls a large lever.

THE DOCTOR

Co-ordinates! Thanks dear!

CUT TO:

7

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

SEAN and MARIA sit down at the table with a cup of tea. The living room door opens, and in walks SANDY, a mousy-haired woman of about 20. She holds a BLACK ENVELOPE in her hand.

SANDY

(to Maria)

Another card!

SEAN

Looks cheery.

Maria is about to stand up and take it, when they're interrupted -

A sound from the living room. A throaty chorus, an ancient wheeze, the grind of age-old engines - the sound of the Universe.

The TARDIS.

Maria frowns, and takes the envelope. Sean stands up. Silence falls in the living room.

(CONTINUED)

MAN (O.S)

Oh my God.

MARIA

(walking through)

Don't tell me this is some *stupid*
prank...

CUT TO:

8 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Everyone stands around the blue box, stunned. MARIA walks through from the kitchen and just stares. SEAN and SANDY stand behind her, shocked.

MAN

(as if Maria has an
explanation)

Maria...?

Maria walks forward.

SEAN

Maria, don't -

MARIA

But where did it...come from?

MAN

It just came from nowhere.

MARIA

(reading)

Police box.

(turning)

What's a-

Before she can finish, a creak of a door, and -

Out bursts THE DOCTOR, mad and energetic. He stands there, right in front of Maria. And she just looks right at him, holding the card.

He beams.

THE DOCTOR

Happy birthday Maria!

CUT TO:

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OPENING TITLES

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FADE TO:

10

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Everyone just stands there, astounded.

SEAN

But - who are -

THE DOCTOR

Oh yes, party! Bingo. Do people
say bingo?

(beat)

I didn't bring a card, however...
a birthday card, not a bingo
card. Well, I didn't bring a
bingo card either. I may have one
lying around though. This is
irrelevant. I'm rambling.THE DOCTOR tries to take the card from her hand, but she
isn't letting go.

THE DOCTOR

Oh.

MARIA

How do you know who I am?

The Doctor points at the banner and smiles.

THE DOCTOR

Either that or I'm a wizard.

Silence.

THE DOCTOR

Yeah, it was the banner. But I've
seen you before, too.

MARIA

Where?

THE DOCTOR

Christmas.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA
Which Christmas?

THE DOCTOR
Snowy one.

MARIA
Wasn't me, then.

THE DOCTOR
Yes it was. Stop being stubborn.

People are still shocked, so he tries to lighten the mood.

THE DOCTOR
Hello everyone! Hello - sorry,
I'm in a rush, I need that card
now. I've been chasing after it
for a long time.

Maria looks at the card.

MARIA
Who are you?

THE DOCTOR
I told you, a wizard. Now,
question: how many cards do you
get with a black envelope?

MARIA
What's that supposed to mean?

THE DOCTOR
Look at it.

MARIA
I *know* it's black.

THE DOCTOR
Look at the writing.

Maria looks down at the card.

Written in white pen - 'Maria Suvari'.

THE DOCTOR
That didn't come in the post. No
stamp. Someone posted that by
hand.
(arm outstretched)
I need that card. Don't open it.
Give me the card, and I'm gone.
I'm out of here.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. STREET - DAY

A lovely little street, winding and old. Seagulls fly overhead and a faint blue line marks the sea in the distance. This is a seaside town.

A MAN hobbles down the street towards the beach. He looks homeless - matted hair and a shaggy beard, a long wax jacket that's torn and fingerless gloves. He's in a hurry.

CUT TO:

12 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

MARIA takes a step back, and begins to open the card. Everyone else is still silent.

MARIA
Tell me who you are.

THE DOCTOR
Don't open the card, I specifically mentioned *not* opening it. Please listen to me, this really is quite important.

MARIA
What's your name?

THE DOCTOR
The Doctor. See, there's my wizard reputation down the drain. Maybe next time.

MARIA
The Doctor.

THE DOCTOR
The Doctor! That's me.

Maria laughs, and holds out her hand.

MARIA
Paracetamol, please.

THE DOCTOR
Should've made an appointment first.

MARIA
Shame.

She pulls the card out of the envelope. It too is black, and plain. She looks at THE DOCTOR.

(CONTINUED)

THE DOCTOR
You're going to open it, aren't
you?

MARIA
Yes.

THE DOCTOR
You'll regret it.

MARIA
Only one way to find out.

She opens the card.

Nothing.

THE DOCTOR
What does it say?

MARIA
(frowning)
Nothing... but there's a
mechanism, or something - like
one of those cards with
pre-recorded messages.

THE DOCTOR
(whispering)
Then why isn't it saying
anything?

Suddenly, it starts to beep.

MARIA
There you are, it's beeping.

The Doctor holds out his hand.

THE DOCTOR
Trust me.

MARIA
You've given me no reason to
trust you.

THE DOCTOR
It's a bomb.

Gasps from all around. The Doctor whirs the card with the
sonic screwdriver.

MARIA
A bomb.

THE DOCTOR

Yes. As in, 'boom!'. One of those. Tick tock, tick tock.

SEAN

Right. Everyone out the back door.

THE DOCTOR

It'll detonate in ten minutes, Maria. Are you excited?

Maria can't take her puzzled eyes off him.

SEAN rushes into the kitchen - the sound of a door being opened as people start to filter out.

SEAN

Come on! You too, Maria! You can't stay here!

But Maria just stands there in the living room, looking at the Doctor.

SEAN

Maria!

MARIA

Thanks for the tea, Sean...

SEAN

Maria, he's a nutter! What are you doing?!

MARIA

(sarcastically)
Tidying up.

SEAN (O.S)

I'm coming back for you!

The Doctor smiles slightly. We hear the door slamming. Sean's gone.

The Doctor looks around.

THE DOCTOR

(spotting the food)
Ah! Nibbles!

MARIA

I thought you were leaving?

He takes a handful of food and starts eating.

THE DOCTOR
Where are the party rings?

MARIA
I'm 27.

THE DOCTOR
Well that's *rubbish*, and no
excuse for no party rings! Ooh,
olives.

The Doctor winces and spits out the olive into a glass.

THE DOCTOR
Don't like olives.

To compensate for this, he crams a bit of everything else
into his mouth instead.

Maria just stares at him as if he's insane.

THE DOCTOR
(with a mouth full of food)
What?

MARIA
(pointing to the card)
...Bomb?

THE DOCTOR
Oh, yes! Bomb. Yes, thank you.
Well, we can get rid of that.

MARIA
You're going to have to start
elaborating a bit.

THE DOCTOR
(pointing to the TARDIS)
Shove it in there.

MARIA
Is this one of those prank shows?
Are there hidden cameras in my
house or something? Because this
is ridiculous.

THE DOCTOR
How is it ridi-

MARIA
(interrupting)
You appeared in a police box in
my living room from nowhere and
walked out and told me there was
a bomb in my house. Then you say
you're a Doctor - I think I'm

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MARIA (cont'd)
entitled to ask some questions,
aren't I?

THE DOCTOR
(smiling)
Probably.
(beat)
But I've got to do something else
first!

MARIA
Being?

THE DOCTOR
Find out who posted that card.

The Doctor rushes out of the living room...

And pops his head back through the door.

THE DOCTOR
*Then we're going to buy some
party rings.*

CUT TO:

13 EXT. STREET - DAY

THE DOCTOR strides out of MARIA's house, holding the sonic screwdriver in his hand and following its signal. Soon, Maria rushes out, hastily locking the door behind her and following him.

MARIA
You can't just leave your box in
there!

THE DOCTOR
I'll come back to it later!

MARIA
You seem very adamant for a man
who's supposed to be leaving!

THE DOCTOR
I'm busy!

MARIA
(catching up with him)
What are you doing? What's that?

THE DOCTOR
Sonic screwdriver.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

Oh yeah, of course, of course it is. Stupid me. Should've brought mine.

THE DOCTOR

Where are we? There's a lot of bird poo on cars so we must be-

MARIA

Hastings. Old Town.

The Doctor stops and turns to her, beaming.

THE DOCTOR

Oh, Hastings!

MARIA

Yep. Lived here all my life.

THE DOCTOR

I love Hastings! I tried to take an old friend of mine to Hastings once. Got it mixed up, ended up in 1066 a couple of miles off. Not a nice visit but I'm more than optimistic. We laughed about Harold Hardrada on a helter skelter. Imagine that! The funniest person I've seen on a helter skelter was... well, Lembit Opik actually. Anyway -

MARIA

Unbelievable.

THE DOCTOR

Unbelievable's just for starters...

MARIA

Unbelievable that you have a friend.

THE DOCTOR

You're rude.

MARIA

I'm not really, I'm just testing your patience.

THE DOCTOR

Why?

MARIA

Because you tested mine.

(CONTINUED)

THE DOCTOR

That's fair. Okay, here's a nugget of information, I'm a traveller.

MARIA

I wanted to do that. Travel. I told myself I would, before I went to university. Turns out I didn't go to university in the end - or travelling. Told myself I'd see my grandparents but I haven't yet.

THE DOCTOR

That's normal, why's that?

MARIA

They live in Greece. I'm half Greek. Haven't been in ages. Don't have the money, really. I'm just a waitress.

THE DOCTOR

Waitress! I've seen you before twice! I was dining with 18th century Banksy... funny thing, you see, Banksy is a motif, there's a Banksy for every century on Earth. You should have seen his cave paintings! Satire was simple back then.

(pausing)

No, stupid! You weren't around in the 18th century. Ignore everything I said. The pretty waitress did.

MARIA

Thank you.

THE DOCTOR

What for?

MARIA

For calling me pretty. Nobody's called me pretty since I was about twelve.

The Doctor stops in his tracks.

THE DOCTOR

Well that's just bad. I think you're very pretty, Maria. Like a bonsai tree.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

Oh, you were doing so well...

THE DOCTOR

You weren't noticed much as you were growing up... so you didn't have many friends. Decided not to travel, not to go to university... because nobody would listen to you. Nobody would see you. You'd just fade into the background. Waitress! Of course. You're used to just blending in. Uniformed, weaving in and out of tables, everyone's eye is on the food, never on you... well that's bad. The world's a stage, Maria, but you can only bear to be behind the curtain.

MARIA

How could you -

THE DOCTOR

'Cos you're a bit different, like me. I tune in to that kind of thing. I sort of know how it feels. I try my best to avoid it.

Maria suddenly stops in her tracks.

MARIA

Why are you telling me all of this?

THE DOCTOR

Because it matters, people blurt out things that matter.

MARIA

No, it doesn't matter, it's just worthless knowledge -

THE DOCTOR

Of course it matters, it's what you're doing with your life. You only live once, Maria. In this solar system anyway.

MARIA

That's not what I meant. I meant -

(beat)

Wait, where's that bomb?

(CONTINUED)

THE DOCTOR
In the TARDIS, I told you.

MARIA
The what?

THE DOCTOR
The blue box! The TARDIS.

MARIA
Oh my God. The blue box in my house.

THE DOCTOR
It'll be fine! Shoved it in a room I don't like. I think it was the Cluedo Room.

Maria starts to rush back to her house.

MARIA
You've just left a bomb in my house!

THE DOCTOR
It's in the TARDIS!

The Doctor continues to follow the signal, shouting back to her as she rushes off.

MARIA
It's only wood!

THE DOCTOR
(shouting)
Don't be a snob!

CUT TO:

14 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

MARIA rushes in, and looks towards the TARDIS.

She very slowly walks towards it.

The home phone starts to ring, which makes her jump out of her skin. She ignores it.

She presses her hand against the door and knocks. Hollow wood.

She tries to open the door - nothing.

Then, suddenly -

BOOM. A tiny explosion, as if distant - but the TARDIS shakes. Maria frowns.

(CONTINUED)

CUT TO:

15 EXT. STREET - DAY

Suddenly, THE DOCTOR's sonic screwdriver goes haywire - it bleeps madly.

The Doctor turns around, as if being pulled by the screwdriver, running back towards MARIA's house!

THE DOCTOR

Ooh, now what are you doing here
- ow, oh, ow, don't do that -

CUT TO:

16 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

MARIA now has two pins at angles in the TARDIS lock, trying to unpick it.

The phone is still ringing.

Suddenly, she drops the pins, and her eyes widen.

She reaches down to her neck to pull out her necklace, which bears a KEY. The key is glowing.

She slots the key into the lock.

It fits.

Now the doorbell rings, but she's too busy trying to open the TARDIS.

Then her mobile phone starts ringing -

She turns the lock, the door creaks - a flash of green, blue, silver... and then a BANGING on the front door, which makes her jump. The TARDIS door closes, and she throws the key to the floor, rushing over.

MARIA

Alright, alright!

She wrenches open the door -

Nothing. Nobody's there. Both of her phones are still ringing. Now someone is knocking at the back door.

CUT TO:

17 EXT. STREET - DAY

THE DOCTOR sprints past bemused residents, sonic screwdriver in hand, as if it's attached to a huge invisible dog that's towing him along.

THE DOCTOR
Hot, hot hot hot hot hot!

CUT TO:

18 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

MARIA opens the back door.

Standing before her is the HOMELESS MAN.

HOMELESS MAN
I'm sorry love, I'm so sorry, I don't mean to be a nuisance, it's just I've been living rough for two hundred years, and I just -

MARIA
Two hundred years?

HOMELESS MAN
(smiling)
Oh, silly me! I forget about lifespans. Happy birthday.

MARIA
(bemused)
How do you know it's my...

Suddenly, the homeless man SHAPE SHIFTS - a morph of colours -

He's now a POSTMAN in his twenties.

POSTMAN
Oh, textbook mistake, you need a *stamp* for me to post a letter!

Maria is mortified. She staggers back, nearly falling over, her hands frantically searching for some kind of weapon.

The postman steps into the house, smiling.

POSTMAN
Why do you look so scared? I did call. *Knock-knock*.

The two phones are still ringing.

(CONTINUED)

POSTMAN

Come on, it's okay, you look sad.
Let's turn some music on.

Suddenly, the kitchen radio turns itself on.

She grabs a bread knife, and holds it out to him.

MARIA

How are you - how are you doing
this? Get out. Get out, I've got
a knife! Look!

The postman simply grabs the knife blade and twists it. No
cuts, no blood. He smiles and giggles slightly.

MARIA

Oh my... God.

She rushes into the living room, almost tripping over her
own feet in her clumsy hurried fashion, the postman
following her...

CUT TO:

19 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

MARIA rushes over to the TARDIS, now closed, and knocks
frantically on the door.

The POSTMAN looks ecstatic upon seeing the TARDIS.

Maria mentally notes the key on the floor.

POSTMAN

O-ho, look at that! I've heard
stories of this.

MARIA

Yeah, well watch what you're
saying, because...
(totally spur of the moment)
This is my TARDIS.

The postman raises his eyebrows and smiles. Maria's
eyebrows raise too. She's not too sure where that came
from.

WHOOSH! He shape shifts into a WWI SOLDIER in his 30s.

SOLDIER

Looks like you're having a
problem getting the door open
there, missy.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

What the hell are you? Get the hell out of my house!

SOLDIER

Actually, I don't need you, do I? If I want the TARDIS, surely you're disposable?

MARIA

Well, no, actually, because I have the key!

She eyes the key on the floor and subtly stands on it to conceal it.

SOLDIER

Oh really? So that'll be in your pocket, will it? Am I right?

Maria nods cautiously.

SOLDIER

I can just shoot you dead, then.

He cocks the gun, as Maria screams and rushes behind the TARDIS.

CUT TO Maria, pressed up against the back of the TARDIS, breathing heavily. The soldier creeps around the living room, smiling, gun cocked.

SOLDIER

Oh, I like this one! I like this!

He sneaks up beside her. She's unaware, looking round the other side. She grabbed the TARDIS key in her panic, and clutches it in her hand. She ties it back round her necklace.

CUT TO:

20

EXT. MARIA'S HOUSE - DAY

THE DOCTOR sprints, the sonic screwdriver screeching, taking him to the living room window...

THE DOCTOR

AARRRGHH!

SMASH!

CUT TO:

21 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

MARIA and the SOLDIER look to the window as it smashes,
and THE DOCTOR jumps in!

He leaps over to the TARDIS and immediately protects
Maria, wielding the sonic screwdriver at the soldier.

MARIA
You just smashed my window!

THE DOCTOR
I just saved your life!

SOLDIER
Oh, a dashing superhero, yes?

The soldier morphs once more, now into a LITTLE GIRL.

LITTLE GIRL
The dashing Doctor. Will you
escape in your friend's TARDIS
this time?

THE DOCTOR
What?

MARIA
I said it was mine.

THE DOCTOR
(turning to Maria)
What did you say that for?!

MARIA
I panicked!

THE DOCTOR
(turning back)
Well we all do that.

The Doctor points the screwdriver at the little girl.

MARIA
What is that? What are you doing?
Don't hurt her!

THE DOCTOR
That's not a little girl, you saw
what it was a minute ago!

MARIA
A weird illusion thing?

The Doctor whirs the screwdriver...

(CONTINUED)

WHOOSH! The little girl morphs into its natural form - a shimmering ghost-like apparition, as if made from mist. It is obscure, a bipedal form, wheezing heavily with each breath.

MARIA

What... the...?

THE DOCTOR

Skallik! Basic shape-shifter, employed by all sorts of nasties. Between you and me Maria, not the nicest breath. Like tuna and farts. Do be careful though, one touch and you disintegrate.

MARIA

And... and someone employed *that* to send me a bomb?

THE DOCTOR

No, no, the card was a voice message, like you thought.

MARIA

You said it was a bomb, I heard it explode!

THE DOCTOR

The Skallik turned it into a bomb.

SKALLIK

I did only as I was told.

THE DOCTOR

You were told to turn a birthday card into a bomb?

SKALLIK

You're smarter than you look.

MARIA

Hey!

Maria steps in front of the Doctor and nervously points at the Skallik.

MARIA

Thanks to you I've got a broken kitchen knife and a smashed window and a birthday bomb, and you probably think you can do what you like and say what you like, but in my house, no you can't, because it's my house, and just because you're

(CONTINUED)

(to THE DOCTOR)
an alien?

THE DOCTOR
Correct...

MARIA
(turning back to the
SKALLIK)
Yeah, just because you're one of
those, it doesn't give you the
right to be rude.

THE DOCTOR
Challenging aliens for
rudeness... that's different.

MARIA
Hey, it tried to *kill* me!

THE DOCTOR
That's my point!

SKALLIK
Oh, sorry, are we still doing
this? I stopped listening. Well,
my work is done here...

SHOOM! The Skallik disappears in the blink of an eye.

MARIA
...What was that?

THE DOCTOR
Teleport! This is like cops and
robbers! Except the robber is
actually an alien bomber and -
yeah, it's sort of like cops and
robbers.

Maria just presses a hand to her forehead.

THE DOCTOR
Are you okay?

MARIA
This is insane.

THE DOCTOR
(smiling)
Yes.
(pulling out the TARDIS key)
Right! Let's go.

Maria quickly notices the key. It's the same design as
hers.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

Go? Oh, in your TARDIS? I suppose this is a spaceship?

THE DOCTOR

(unlocking the TARDIS)
Spaceship, timeship, magical box of everywhere, why not. Ready?

Maria just looks around.

MARIA

Are you ever going to tell me who you are?

THE DOCTOR

I *am* telling you. Chapter by chapter. Stick around, it's a long story. Lots of cliffhangers.

The Doctor just pushes the TARDIS door open.

MARIA

Well I've -

She is baffled.

THE DOCTOR

You could spend your whole life worrying and trying to please other people.

Maria steps forwards, and looks inside.

THE DOCTOR

Or you could do something, for once in your life, that is *extraordinary*.

MARIA

(murmuring)

You said... you were leaving...

THE DOCTOR

Fancy leaving with me? Just to catch an alien shapeshifter. No biggie.

MARIA

I'm confused.

THE DOCTOR

Scared?

MARIA

A bit.

(CONTINUED)

THE DOCTOR
Want to look inside? You'll like
it. It's beautiful.

Maria just looks at him, and for the first time, her eyes just sparkle. Everything else has been forgotten, and the two share a smile, as she walks into the TARDIS, nervously giggling a little.

The Doctor follows her, and closes the door behind them.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. ROCK-A-NORE BEACH - DAY

It's a relatively bleak and foggy day, so the pebbly beach is more or less empty.

Except for the SKALLIK, which drifts like rolling fog towards the sea...it suddenly changes, taking on the form of a VICTORIAN GENTLEMAN. Top hat and tails - all of it!

The TARDIS dematerialises and THE DOCTOR jumps out.

THE DOCTOR
Think we've got him!

MARIA staggers out and rushes behind the TARDIS.

'BLEARGH!' - the sound of her being sick.

THE DOCTOR
(like a sickened child)
Eurgh... lovely. That's olives
for you. No, wait, you're Greek,
you love olives.

The Doctor frowns.

THE DOCTOR
(quietly)
Was that a bit racist...?

Maria, looking slightly pale, pops out from behind the TARDIS, looking dazed to say the least.

MARIA
Erm, I'll clean that up... I'll
just - I'll just - your - it
moves.

The Doctor holds out his hand and smiles.

THE DOCTOR
Anything else?

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

Yeah... it's... bigger on the inside.

THE DOCTOR

It's bigger on the inside. Yes, yes it is. Yes it absolutely is!

MARIA

Is that normal? That's not normal, is it. I don't think it is.

The Doctor grins.

THE DOCTOR

Can't chat right now.
(pointing to the sea)
Alien in a speedboat.

Maria takes his hand, and they sprint towards the shore.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. SHORE - DAY

The GENTLEMAN hops into a speedboat as THE DOCTOR and MARIA arrive.

THE DOCTOR

No, no, stop!

The Gentleman smiles.

MARIA

It's not going to stop.

THE DOCTOR

Yeah, I know. It works sometimes.

Maria cocks an eyebrow.

THE DOCTOR

Okay, *rarely*.
(beat)
What's this going to achieve?

GENTLEMAN

My departure. My work is done, and now I can get paid. Thank you, Doctor. Thank you, Miss Suvari, you've made this whole ordeal more entertaining than it usually is.

The Skallik, in gentlemanly form, tips his hat to them both.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

No, but that's just the sea! Do you live underwater or something?

The Gentleman laughs, and looks at the Doctor.

GENTLEMAN

Is she a new one?

Then the motor starts, and the speedboat starts to enter the sea.

MARIA

How did it -

THE DOCTOR

Skalliks can activate electrical or mechanical devices on demand - or alter them, in the case of your birthday card.

MARIA

Well what's he going to do at sea? Why does he even need a boat? Can't he just, you know, float about? He's a cloud-y thing for God's sake!

THE DOCTOR

He may be made of mist but he can't just float over water... don't be ridiculous. No, I think *this* is his means of escape.

(beat)

My timey senses are tingling.

He runs back over to the TARDIS.

CUT TO:

24 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

SEAN stands shocked by the smashed window. He leans in slightly.

SEAN

...Maria?

Nothing. He tries again.

Then, he slowly clambers in through the window and into the living room. He reaches for his phone and holds it to his ear.

(CONTINUED)

As he looks around, he notices the pictures on the mantelpiece. Normal pictures. Maria with family, that sort of thing. But to Sean, they look different. Almost as if they were never there. As if Maria was never in them.

CUT TO:

25 EXT. ROCK-A-NORE BEACH - DAY

THE DOCTOR unlocks the TARDIS door, with MARIA standing by his side.

MARIA

So we get a boat! Follow him, right?

THE DOCTOR

Takes too long! We'll use this.

He pats the TARDIS lovingly.

MARIA

Oh God, really?

THE DOCTOR

Sea air, nothing like it! The TARDIS is cooler than any speedboat.

MARIA

Can it... swim? Well, not swim, but you know -

THE DOCTOR

It can travel in time and space. We'll find a way. And if not, it's waterproof.

MARIA

Waterproof?
(looking at it)
Are you sure?

THE DOCTOR

Positive.

The Doctor opens the TARDIS door and they rush in.

CUT TO:

26 EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The GENTLEMAN stands tall in the speedboat as it powers across the choppy sea. A long distance away there is a distinct ray of light, like a sunbeam - a blue funnel of energy from the clouds.

GENTLEMAN
(shouting)
My lift!

CUT TO:

27 INT. TARDIS

THE DOCTOR scurries around the TARDIS, kicking this and pulling that. MARIA just takes another look around.

MARIA
It's beautiful.

THE DOCTOR
Like it?

MARIA
Absolutely beautiful. I love it.

THE DOCTOR
Oh, she is. Did you hear that, dear?

MARIA
It's like a beautiful old house with a fresh coat of paint.

THE DOCTOR
Right, I've got it. Here, on the scanner -

The Doctor spins the scanner round, to show Gallifreyan symbols flashing on screen.

MARIA
I can't read it, it's just circles -

THE DOCTOR
Yes, that's my language.

MARIA
Right... well I didn't get much beyond GCSE French.

THE DOCTOR
It says there's a tractor beam here! It's clever. A nice drop
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
off and collect point for our
lovely postman...

MARIA
So, wait, he can escape?

THE DOCTOR
Well, we can disable the beam
with a gizmo I've got lying
around somewhere... now it's all
about flying this thing...
(beat)
Except... no, that won't work.
(beat, looking at Maria)
I'm going to need you to disable
it. I can't fly the TARDIS and
work the gizmo.

MARIA
What? Me? But I don't even know
what I'm doing!

THE DOCTOR
Nor do I most of the time!
(beat)
Trust me.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The sound of the TARDIS trying to dematerialise - wheezing
and clunking -

The GENTLEMAN looks around, worried.

Suddenly, a few feet away from the boat, the TARDIS rips
into existence, tumbling a few feet above the rough waves!
It bounds back and forth, as the Gentleman increases the
speed of the boat.

The door swings open. It's MARIA, poking her head out.

MARIA
(shouting to THE DOCTOR)
He's getting away!

The TARDIS increases speed, as Maria almost falls out!

CUT TO:

29 INT. HOUSE - DAY

SEAN paces around with the phone pressed to his ear.

SEAN
Come on, come on...

Suddenly, MARIA picks up. We hear her voice over the grinding sound of the TARDIS as well as the harsh waves.

SEAN
Maria! It's me, it's Sean -

MARIA (O.S)
I'm busy!

And then, a crash of water, and -

BEEP. Nothing.

CUT TO:

30 INT. TARDIS

MARIA looks back into the TARDIS.

MARIA
Great! Dropped my phone in the sea. Don't think my contract covers that!

THE DOCTOR
Oh, don't worry about it. Worry about the gizmo. Here!

THE DOCTOR throws her 'the gizmo'. It looks like a cross between an umbrella and a pogo stick. It has three distinct triggers and a blue, glowing tip.

MARIA
What do I actually do with it?!

THE DOCTOR
Point it at the beam and go whoosh!

MARIA
I haven't learnt all the alien jargon just yet!

THE DOCTOR
I can't hear a word you're saying! I'm going to nod politely!

The Doctor nods politely.

(CONTINUED)

Maria leans out of the TARDIS, wielding the gizmo like it's a paintball gun.

MARIA

Here we go.

CUT TO:

31 INT. HOUSE - DAY

SEAN throws his phone on the floor and sprints out of the house.

CUT TO:

32 EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The GENTLEMAN spots the 'gizmo'. MARIA points it at the tractor beam, aiming, and with one pull of the trigger -

A bright light, and the tractor beam disappears!

MARIA

Oh yeah! Doctor you should've seen that! In your face, alien!

The Gentleman turns to Maria, and with one glance, the gizmo starts sparking!

MARIA

No, wait, it's going all - help!

SMASH! It explodes, throwing Maria off balance, as she falls into the sea!

The Skallik turns off the motor on the boat and watches as she struggles against the current.

CUT TO:

33 INT. TARDIS - DAY

THE DOCTOR turns to the doors.

THE DOCTOR

Did you do it?

MARIA isn't there. He rushes over to the frame.

THE DOCTOR

Maria?!

CUT TO:

34

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

THE DOCTOR looks over at the GENTLEMAN. As if taking on the stereotype alone, he twiddles his moustache.

GENTLEMAN

Clumsy.

THE DOCTOR

(shouting)

Maria!

MARIA

Help!

She's there, in the sea, trying to swim against the current, but she can't.

The Gentleman pulls a pistol out of his pocket, and smiles at the Doctor.

SKALLIK

This should be a bit of fun.
Shoot her as she's drowning? Or
would that be too kind?

Then, very quickly -

The Doctor turns and points the sonic screwdriver towards the TARDIS.

ECU: A lever flips.

The Doctor JUMPS out of the TARDIS as it dematerialises into nothing, and lands in the speedboat!

GENTLEMAN

Come on then! Kill me!

THE DOCTOR

I'm not here to kill you.

The Gentleman slips out of the boat and into the water. The pistol clatters to the wood of the boat. Now it's in the Doctor's hands.

GENTLEMAN

(swimming away)

I can't shoot her. But I can
still kill her!

MARIA

No, no no no, Doctor, help!
(to the Gentleman)
I'll gizmo you!

(CONTINUED)

The Doctor points the sonic screwdriver at the motor, and it starts again. He sits down, grabs the joystick, and drives the boat towards Maria!

THE DOCTOR
This is so James Bond!

CUT TO:

35 EXT. ROCK-A-NORE BEACH - DAY

SEAN appears at the beach. There's a distinct speedboat, and two figures in the sea. He's on the phone to a FRIEND.

SEAN
I think I can see them!

FRIEND (O.S)
Quick, call the lifeguard! Get
the lifeguard, Sean!

SEAN
Takes too long!

Sean rushes towards the shore, flicking his shoes off.

FRIEND (O.S)
This isn't the time to be a hero,
Sean!
(beat)
Sean!

CUT TO:

36 EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The GENTLEMAN closes in on MARIA, as the speedboat gets closer.

THE DOCTOR leans out, arms outstretched.

THE DOCTOR
HOLD ON!

The boat gets closer and closer to Maria, her arms out -
it zooms past -

And Maria is being taken with it! The Doctor heaves her
over -

And she falls on top of him, and gives out a nervous
laugh.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

Good job!

THE DOCTOR

Likewise.

MARIA

Sorry, I'm getting your lovely jacket all wet.

THE DOCTOR

Yes, you are, a little bit.

Maria rolls off and sits up.

MARIA

Thanks for that.

THE DOCTOR

I landed in your living room unexpectedly. I owed you one.

She laughs.

MARIA

You're not too bad, are you?

The Doctor looks so ridiculously pleased.

THE DOCTOR

Neither are you.

The Doctor jumps up, turns the motor off, and he and Maria stand up and look at the Gentleman, who appears to be unconscious and unable to return to its original form, floating on top of the water.

The Doctor leans out of the boat and carries the creature onto the speedboat.

THE DOCTOR

Still breathing. They're not really designed for this much activity... or water.

MARIA

It can't handle water?

THE DOCTOR

Shapeshifting cyborg, hence the whole electrical manipulation. The misty appearance is just posh technology, from the time where cyborgs didn't like looking like cyborgs. It hasn't killed him though.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

What are we going to do with him?

THE DOCTOR

(smiling)

We?

MARIA

You... seeing as you're supposed to be leaving.

THE DOCTOR

Enforce the law. He's more or less a letter bomber. The Shadow Proclamation don't like that.

MARIA

I'm guessing they're some kind of super space police.

THE DOCTOR

Bingo.

The Doctor slips off his jacket and hands it to Maria. She drapes it round her shoulders.

MARIA

Thanks.

THE DOCTOR

Right! Let's go.

MARIA

(looking around, frowning)

Where's the TARDIS?

THE DOCTOR

Reversed the co-ordinates, it should be back in your living room.

The Doctor sonics the speedboat motor. Nothing.

MARIA

Oh, nice one.

THE DOCTOR

Ah. Yes. Probably couldn't take all the wibbly sonic Skallik stuff.

MARIA

So now we're stuck. At sea. In a speedboat that doesn't work. And even your stupid screwdriver can't handle it.

(CONTINUED)

THE DOCTOR
No fear! No fear!

The Doctor pats his shirt, frowning.

THE DOCTOR
My key should be...just...here...
ooh, jacket -

MARIA
Erm...

Maria nods towards the side of the boat.

THE DOCTOR
Ah.

The Doctor kneels down, to see shards of TARDIS key lying next to the Skallik's pistol.

MARIA
Are there actually any nice
aliens out there? Is it all so
comic book?

The Doctor waves.

THE DOCTOR
I'm a nice alien!

MARIA
Ha, yeah.

A long pause.

MARIA
Oh God, you're actually an alien.
Of course you are. I knew you
sort of weren't human, but...
'alien' felt a bit strong, I
suppose...

THE DOCTOR
My TARDIS key, it's gone! I'll
have to get another one. But that
requires the TARDIS. This is a
pickle.

MARIA
You're an actual alien from
space. Still can't make proper
human friends, can I? That's
social awkwardness hitting new
highs. Or lows, depending on your
perspective...

THE DOCTOR

Well we're stuck here, then. No TARDIS key, no nothing. A boat. Do we have oars? No! No oars, boats should always have back up oars!

Maria suddenly winces.

MARIA

Ow!

She takes her necklace off. It's the glowing - burning - TARDIS key on a string. The Doctor looks at it in awe.

THE DOCTOR

But - how do you -

MARIA

Oh, yeah. You need to get a better key. This one burns and everything.

The Doctor takes the necklace.

THE DOCTOR

But that's -

MARIA

A key. A key that's hot, don't touch it. Had it since I was a kid.

THE DOCTOR

That's not just a key, Maria.
(beat)
That's a TARDIS key.

MARIA

It was just a weird birthday present.

THE DOCTOR

Who from?

MARIA

I don't know, they never said, my auntie or something? She's one of those mystic types, said it was the 'key to life'. So if this is the key to your TARDIS...

THE DOCTOR

Then we can get the TARDIS back!
We can call it back! Oh, Maria!

The Doctor hugs her enthusiastically.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

But I don't get it - how can this
be for your TARDIS?

THE DOCTOR

I think I know! I think I might
maybe perhaps possibly know! But
first -

The Doctor presses his sonic screwdriver against the key,
and slowly...

CUT TO:

37 INT. HOUSE - DAY

The TARDIS begins to dematerialise...

CUT TO:

38 EXT. OCEAN - DAY

...and materialises, hovering beside the boat! MARIA just
stares, wide-eyed, and THE DOCTOR beams.

The Doctor hands her the TARDIS key, as he hoists the
unconscious GENTLEMAN over his shoulder.

THE DOCTOR

(smiling)

I think I know why you have a
TARDIS key.

MARIA

I don't think I do.

THE DOCTOR

Open up, I'll explain soon.

Maria presses the key into the lock, and the door opens.
She puts the necklace back around her neck.

THE DOCTOR

Ladies first.

Maria smiles, and steps up and into the TARDIS, followed
by the Doctor. The door closes, and the TARDIS
dematerialises.

CUT TO SEAN, nowhere near the scene yet able to see the
TARDIS disappearing. He's panting - exhausted.

SEAN

Oh, for God's sake.

CUT TO:

39 INT. TARDIS

THE DOCTOR runs around the TARDIS, excited. The GENTLEMAN lies unconscious nearby.

MARIA
If you're an alien, where did you pick up English?

THE DOCTOR
TARDIS translates! And besides, Gallifreyan is more or less the same as English, you copied after a couple of us got stranded in a nasty battle thousands of years ago...

MARIA
That's where you're from, then? Gallifreyan?

THE DOCTOR
Gallifrey. Was a fine old planet.

MARIA
Was?

THE DOCTOR
You ask a lot of questions.

MARIA
You love lots of questions.

The Doctor grins.

THE DOCTOR
Right, off to the Shadow
Proclamation for this fella!

The TARDIS lands and the Doctor opens the door -

FADE TO:

40 INT. TARDIS - DAY

THE DOCTOR and MARIA walk into the TARDIS.

MARIA
They were...
(beat)
Okay, no disguising it, they were rhinos. In spacesuits.

THE DOCTOR
He'll be tucked away in a cell now, no interaction with his bosses. Anyway! Questions!

(CONTINUED)

MARIA
Yeah, questions...

Maria holds out the TARDIS key.

MARIA
TARDIS key?

THE DOCTOR
You got that when you were how old?

MARIA
Five. At my birthday party.

THE DOCTOR
At the house.

MARIA
(surprised)
Yes. How did you...?

THE DOCTOR
You told me you'd lived there all your life.

Maria smiles.

MARIA
Usually with people it's in one ear and out the other.

THE DOCTOR
Not me, I have a massive head.

MARIA
Bigger on the inside?

The Doctor laughs, and flips a switch, grinning to himself.

CUT TO:

41 EXT. STREET - DAY

CAPTION: HASTINGS, 1990.

The TARDIS dematerialises. THE DOCTOR steps out, followed by MARIA.

MARIA
Where are we?

She looks around.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

Home? But -

She looks at a house. Her house.

MARIA

But the door's still white.

(to the Doctor)

The door's blue. It was white
ages ago, when I was...

(beat)

A kid.

A small child walks past with her mother. The clothes -
the glasses - it's definitely the 90s.

MARIA

Oh my God. No. No way. That's
Lucinda, she was my best friend.
She snapped my Barbie's head off
and we never spoke afterwards.

(to the Doctor)

You said it could travel in time.

The Doctor just smiles, and starts walking towards the
house.

MARIA

But - *oh my God*.

Maria rushes after him as they walk towards the house.

MARIA

We can't go in, what if, like - I
see me? Oh my God, that would be
messed up.

The Doctor holds out his hand. Maria takes it. They look
through the living room.

Lots of children, and a few parents talking. In the
middle, a little girl with long, dark hair.

It's YOUNG MARIA.

Maria presses her hand to her mouth.

THE DOCTOR

How was your 27th birthday?

Maria takes her time to reply.

MARIA

Weird. Just... weird.

(CONTINUED)

THE DOCTOR

26th?

MARIA

Plain. Pretty boring. Stressful.

THE DOCTOR

25th?

MARIA

Pretty much the same.

THE DOCTOR

And every birthday before that,
always the same, always
stressful.

The Young Maria laughs and chases her friends around,
wrapping paper all over the floor, party hats on.

THE DOCTOR

But not this one. Not today.

MARIA

It's the last time I remember
having *proper* friends.

THE DOCTOR

You've got me.

MARIA

I suppose I have.

THE DOCTOR

I mean, I'm a bit rusty. I
haven't had a proper friend in a
while.

MARIA

Nor have I. Just people who
listen to me whining on.

THE DOCTOR

Now, let's tie all this together.

The Doctor turns to Maria, and takes the necklace from
around her neck.

MARIA

(realising)

No way... that's impossible,
that's just...

The Doctor folds up the necklace and slots it into a blank
white envelope. He reaches for a marker pen, and passes
the pen and envelope to Maria.

(CONTINUED)

THE DOCTOR
You know what it said.

MARIA
I can't remember it.

THE DOCTOR
Then make it up. Whatever you
write is whatever the card says
and always will have said.

The Doctor smiles, and walks a couple of steps back, as
Maria writes on the envelope.

She pockets the pen, and gingerly walks over to her own
front door. She touches it.

MARIA
(laughing)
We had a wobbly door handle for
ages. Used to annoy the hell out
of my mum.

She posts the envelope through the door.

CUT TO:

42 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The sound of the letter box.

YOUNG MARIA
Card!!

YOUNG WENDY
Go and get it, then! Don't run
too fast Maria, you'll crack your
head open!

YOUNG MARIA scoots to the front door...

CUT TO:

43 INT. HALL - DAY

YOUNG MARIA picks up the envelope. On it, in black marker,
says:

'Maria Suvari - 5 today

*Keep hold of this for a very long time. It's the key to
your life*

All my love X'

She opens the envelope. The key.

(CONTINUED)

She reads the envelope again, and slips the key around her neck.

She frowns, and opens the front door.

CUT TO:

44 EXT. STREET - DAY

YOUNG MARIA looks around her street. No-one's there. Who posted it?

She turns the key in her hand, before walking back inside.

FADE TO:

45 INT. TARDIS - DAY

MARIA walks into the TARDIS. THE DOCTOR leans against the console.

THE DOCTOR

So?

MARIA

That's just... mental.

THE DOCTOR

Questions. We were talking questions. You've got questions, I'll probably have answers. If I don't have answers I'll fib.

MARIA

Did you know you gave me that?
The key?

THE DOCTOR

Nope. Not until today, obviously.
It was my future, your past.
However! Our timelines have met properly, Maria Suvani. For the first time.

The Doctor turns around with two brand new keys in his hand, and passes one to Maria.

She observes the key.

MARIA

So this is mine now?

THE DOCTOR

If you want.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

What does that mean?

THE DOCTOR

If you want to stay.

MARIA

Stay?

She looks around the TARDIS.

MARIA

Can I... are you...?

THE DOCTOR

Time travel. You can pause the hassle, effectively. Think of that for a birthday present - the Universe. All of time and space...

(pause)

I want you to come with me.

MARIA

Aliens and stuff? Like that thing?

THE DOCTOR

All that and a suitcase more. You only have one life, Maria.

MARIA

Oh, I know.

THE DOCTOR

One life - and you know, there are so many people in the world who just throw it away. They aren't free, they're bound to routine and schedule. You don't have to be. You're only twenty-seven.

MARIA

Nearly thirty.

THE DOCTOR

Nine hundred.

Maria raises an eyebrow, then looks down at the key.

MARIA

Yes.

THE DOCTOR

Yes?

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

Yes. As in, YES!

THE DOCTOR

You want to come?

MARIA

(absolutely beaming)

I'd love to.

THE DOCTOR

It'll take getting used to. The Universe is vast and strange. It could tear the average person apart.

MARIA

Why did you invite me, then?

THE DOCTOR

Because there's no such *thing* as an average person. You're different, Maria.

He scratches his head awkwardly.

THE DOCTOR

I've been travelling for years without anybody. Saved lots of planets, been to a lot of buffets, eaten a lot of dip... but I found nobody to share it with.

Maria smiles, and hugs him. An appreciative hug, a thank-you-hug. The Doctor dashes over to the console.

THE DOCTOR

Maria Suvari! The little girl with the key to life, ready to live that life... welcome aboard the TARDIS.

(beat)

Oh, and one more thing...

He pulls out a small pack of PARTY RINGS and throws them over to Maria.

THE DOCTOR

Happy birthday.

CUT TO:

46 EXT. GARDEN - DAY

YOUNG MARIA's party. The cake is lit in front of her, all of her friends and family singing... 'happy birthday dear Maria, happy birthday to you!'

A chorus of cheers.

Then, in the background, her parents, WENDY and ADAM, talk to one another.

WENDY

Our little girl is five already.
She's growing up, Adam.

ADAM

She's still got the rest of it to
live. This is just where it
begins.

From underneath Maria's t-shirt, the key glows faintly, as she blows out the candles, and behind everybody the TARDIS flies overhead.

47 END OF EPISODE