

Doctor Who and the Book of the World

by
JD Burton

Based on a Teleplay by Lawrence Miles

Burton Enemy Productions
Lincoln, NE
(402) 555-5555

INT. LIBRARY STACKS

Endless rows of tightly-packed bookcases stretch all the way to a high, flat ceiling. No dust touches them, though each book is ancient and weathered. Huge, musty tomes with cracking leather weigh down each of the myriad shelves, packed tightly like bricks in a wall.

Hardly any light breaks through the forest of bookcases, though far overhead some pale, cold lamps do their very best. Here and there a shaft beams like light from heaven, but they are few and far between.

It is not deserted, though. Here is a short gentleman perusing a shelf, and there a towering lizard-creature helping himself to a book on the top shelf. It is quiet, however, so quiet. An occasional shuffle of the feet, but little else. Maybe a polite cough, followed by a deep and embarrassed silence.

Around the corner of one of these bookcases peeks the wary face of MARISSA. She's young - might pass for sixteen if she put her mind to it. In her posture, and behind her eyes, is a wily spirit, a sense of someone who thinks she's much older than her years.

She looks at the numbering on this shelf.

MARISSA
(to herself)
156.green.4.sigma - that's the one.

Her hand finds a book greedily, but as a small drone hovers mutely past, Marissa shrinks back into the shadows. A look of fear - a hand in the cookie jar look - sneaks across her face before she pushes it aside.

MARISSA (CONT'D)
Careful, Marissa. You haven't come
this far to get nabbed now.

She swiftly grabs the book from the shelf and hides it somewhere amidst her baggy clothing. Stepping confidently forward, Marissa suddenly hesitates.

She grabs a second book as well, stuffing it in the same hiding place amid her attire, and strides on again.

Passing the elderly gentleman, she nods pleasantly but distantly. The man looks back at her with smiling green eyes.

As Marissa comes to an opening in the stacks, two people cross her path.

MARISSA (CONT'D)

Whoop.

With a full sense of intent, Marissa turns to the right - exuding confidence and the kind of invisibility that comes with it. But the second she is out of their sight she stops, huddles against the bookcase, and breathes heavily.

She peeks round the corner at:

The DUENNA, and a DRUDGE.

The Drudge, a tall misshapen being wrapped in a monk-like robe ambles along beside the tall, regal Duenna. The latter is a middle-aged woman with a face both beautiful and distant - unattractive in that unattainable sense. She radiates power.

DUENNA

We had one here, long ago. No doubt your masters will desire it to be presented to them.

The Drudge makes no response, unless it is an imperceptible nod.

DUENNA (CONT'D)

Beyond price, naturally. Consider it a token, a gesture to your lords.

The tall being still makes no response, but the Duenna seems unperturbed and they continue their purposeful walk. After they have left, Marissa appears intrigued, if unsure.

MARISSA

(to herself)

"Beyond price," is it? Worth a look.

She turns round, then, and heads after them - discreetly.

It soon becomes apparent that Marissa has lost them, and she peers intently into each row that she passes.

MARISSA (CONT'D)

Where'd you go? Come on.

She heads down one dim aisle, then turns right again. Her neck looks like it might twist right off as she turns her head down every odd-angled aisle she passes.

Then she steps out into an open aisle - and the Drudge is before her!

It raises a lumpen hand, and Marissa can see beneath its heavy hood.

The eyes on this amorphous head are clamped with a webby steel which covers the sockets, and the thin gash of a mouth is tightly sewn shut. Despite its lack of mouth, some kind of growl emerges from it, somewhere, sounding angry and vengeful.

Marissa SCREAMS, and the sound merges with the musical sting that takes us to

THE TITLE SEQUENCE

INT. LIBRARY STACKS

Whether it's a different room than before, or a brighter-lit corner is unclear. This time, though, it's airier and brighter. More foot-traffic. Altogether healthier, and almost feels like a library we might have visited from time to time.

At one of the bookshelves, holding a small but heavy stack of tomes, is CALUM. He's a pleasant-faced lad who could be any age in the teen-range, but seems most like a small seventeen. He has that look of someone you like and trust, but would never invite to a party.

CALUM

"Myths of the Mutter Spiral, Volume Horseshoe." Is that the one?

Calum tries to shift his slight stack of books to gaze at a scrap of paper in his hand, but misjudges them and they tumble to the ground.

As the first book hits the floor, a muted but penetrating siren warbles away.

CALUM (CONT'D)

Oh crukk!

Some nebulous voices SHUSH him, and some more vocal patrons can be heard to verbally complain about the intrusion, and Calum's face turns fire-engine-red as he stoops to retrieve the books on the floor.

Some well-dressed FEET stamp into view by Calum's head, and he rises to be greeted by the grim face of RUNCELL.

Runcell is elderly but spry, and peers over his Dumbledore spectacles at the fumbling youth before him.

RUNCCELL

Calum! What have you been told about handling the books?

CALUM

One at a time, sir, and never more than you can handle. I'm sorry, sir, I didn't mean to, but the Duenna--

RUNCCELL

If the Duenna learned about the way you treated her books, she'd have your head, young man!

Calum blanches, but Runcell's stern expression fades and his eye glints.

RUNCCELL (CONT'D)

Luckily for you, she never will.

Calum visibly relaxes, and smiles in return. Runcell points a small remote control into the air. It chirps in response to his touch and the alarm bells cease.

CALUM

Thank you, sir.

RUNCCELL

"Runcell," please. It is, after all, my name!

CALUM

Yes, sir. Thank you, sir.

RUNCCELL

Now, are these the books the Duenna asked for?

CALUM

I think so, sir. I mean, I think that's the lot. Oh, except for this one!

He reaches for the volume on the shelf he had been examining, and the books in his arms begin to topple again. Runcell deftly scoops them up in his own arms.

RUNCCELL

Why don't you let me handle these,
Calum my lad. And we'd better
hurry - they're almost here.

CALUM

Crikey! Coming then!

Calum grasps the book he needs, but as Runcell strides off he pauses and reverses himself. He slides one finger along a bright blue book on the next bookcase over.

CALUM (CONT'D)

(reading aloud)

"TARDIS, volume seven." What?

RUNCCELL (O.S.)

Calum!

CALUM

Coming, sir!

Another SHHH! follows Calum as he trots off after his master.

The blue book, the TARDIS book, remains, of course. It sits in a shelf full of similarly-colored tomes. In fact, the whole case is filled with books that are nearly identical. The patterns on the spine almost form a picture when all taken in.

A very familiar picture - like a large blue box, with something that might be windows near the top.

INT. MAIN HALL

Bright shaft of light beams down from some hidden vast height and illuminates this singularly enormous chamber. No books adorn the walls here - indeed, very little does. But the curved walls themselves are cut into many shapes, mostly simple geometric ones, but they give a strange and almost tribal feeling to the place despite its sparse nature.

Several important-looking people are dotted in regulation around the hall, all of them wearing formal robes. At the head of them is the ice-queen, the Duenna, whose face betrays extreme concern.

DUENNA

It is almost time. Where is that
boy?

A creak sounds from somewhere, and many people start at the sound.

One figure, an ACOLYTE, creeps up swiftly to the Duenna and prostrates himself.

ACOLYTE
Great Duenna, they approach.

DUENNA
(reverently)
By the Drokken! Where is that boy?

INT. LASER STUDY

Runcell leads Calum through a large room where round laser-beams criss-cross everywhere at eye-level. Calum still carries but one book.

At certain points of the room, patrons stand with their head in the light beams, which pulse irregularly as they send the information signal to the user's eyes.

RUNCCELL
Come, Calum. We mustn't be late.

CALUM
Right you are, sir. Aah!

Calum has walked right into a low-aimed beam and shuts his eyes against the glare. He trips over his own feet, stumbling through the doorway to

INT. ETCETERA ROOM

Calum begins to fall, but is caught in the arms of a tall, thin chap wearing a brown suit with blue pinstripes. He grins at the lad as though having the time of his life, and his brown hair sticks crazily but stylishly up from his beaming face.

Who else but the DOCTOR?

DOCTOR
Hello there!

Calum blinks up at the Doctor as his sight returns. Behind him, the room is filled with various crazy apparatuses for attaining knowledge.

One large screen displays rapid-fire images hypnotically, a terminal in the corner taps out something like Morse code, one patron dances his request into the retrieval system, and another receives her data via an energy spike into a hole in the center of her forehead.

RUNCCELL

Calum! You foolish lad. You nearly bowled over this good customer. I'm terribly sorry, sir. I hope you're unharmed, but as the sign over the entrance hall said, this establishment is not responsible for any injuries, dismemberments, deaths, or lost change within the confines of the data extracts.

DOCTOR

(to Calum)

You all right?

CALUM

Yes, sir.

DOCTOR

Well! That's all that matters then. How are you both? I'm the Doctor.

CALUM

Calum, sir.

RUNCCELL

I'm the Duoniver, Lord Runcell. And very late. If you'll excuse me.

He gives a last reproving look at Calum, but there's still a twinkle there.

CALUM

Is there anything I can help you with, sir?

DOCTOR

Well, I'm looking for a book.

CALUM

Yes, sir. I sort of figured.

The Doctor grins.

DOCTOR

Yes, of course, sorry. A bit overwhelmed. My first visit to the Great Library of Falclaxicon 6. Amazing place, every form of information delivery you could imagine. I always meant to visit - I wonder why I never have?

CALUM

The book, sir?

DOCTOR

Oh right, yes! Sorry. Easily distracted. It's actually probably a bit rare, this book. Just looking for something on a little-known planet. Somewhere you won't have ever heard of, actually. It's called "Earth."

CALUM

Earth!

DOCTOR

You know of it?

CALUM

More or less. It's where I'm from, sir. According to the files, that is.

DOCTOR

But you've never been there. No, of course you haven't. Interesting, though. Do you know the book?

CALUM

Sir, we have over six hundred billion books in seventy-three forms of data-storage.

(beat)

No. I don't know it, sir.

DOCTOR

Shame. Could you just point me to your card catalogue, then?

CALUM

Of course, sir. This way.

As they take a steep, the Doctor notices a pale face staring out at him from behind an arcade-machine-style housing. It's hesitant, with an ugly bleeding gash on the forehead.

It's Marissa's face.

DOCTOR

Hello!

Marissa darts back, and although the Doctor follows her, there's no one to be seen.

CALUM

Marissa! Damn it, where'd she go!

Calum stands on a nearby riser but catches no glimpse of the girl.

DOCTOR

Something the matter?

CALUM

No, not really. Just a pest. A thief.

DOCTOR

Thief? But it's a library, a storehouse of knowledge. Information is free, why would anyone want to steal it?

CALUM

Free, sir?

DOCTOR

Free, yes. Available, ready for the taking. Knowledge for those who seek it, freely given. That's the beauty of a place like this.

CALUM

Begging your pardon, sir, but that's some funny talk. Those like yourself, sir, the learned, the great, the powerful. Knowledge is for those, sir, surely?

DOCTOR

Where'd you get notions like that from?

CALUM

From life, I suppose, sir. It's
the way we're taught.

DOCTOR

Raised by the Duenosium, I suppose.
Taught nothing but what they teach.
But you live in a library, in THE
library. Don't you learn, don't
you improve? Don't you want to
gain knowledge other than what you
were instructed?

CALUM

I don't, sir, no.

DOCTOR

Too bad. On then.

INT. CARD CATALOGUE

The Doctor and Calum stand before a vast cabinet with a
seemingly infinite number of drawers. It reaches several
storeys high, and a rickety ladder allows access to those
precarious heights.

DOCTOR

So, this is the card catalogue.

CALUM

Yup.

Beat.

DOCTOR

All right. Which is the "E"
section?

CALUM

This IS the "E" section, sir.

The Doctor's shoulders slump.

DOCTOR

Very well. I suppose you'd better
go. If you're taking that book in
your hands somewhere important?

Calum looks at the book in surprise.

CALUM

Oh crukk!

And he sprints out the door at full tilt, leaving the Doctor in abject despair at the monumental task before him.

INT. MAIN HALL

The great chamber is as before, but now two Drudges stand before the Duenna. There is an air of respect in the room.

DUENNA

Good Drudges, as the Duenna of this, the Second Archive of the Great Librarium of Falclaxicon 6, I welcome you and await the arrival of your masters, and our lords, the Quiescence.

Perhaps the Drudges nod, though it is hard to be sure. But immediately after, a great circle on the carven wall begins to break free. It lowers on one end, slowly as it is enormous, creaking, but continually lowering.

The silence is broken by the urgent scampering of Calum's feet as he breaks into the Main Hall at great pace. He pants as he slows to a halt, looking as though he might suffer a heart attack right there, young as he is.

Every face turns to Calum, save for the mutilated ones under the Drudge hoods, and it's difficult to say if Calum's bright red face reflects his exertion or his embarrassment.

DUENNA (CONT'D)

(angry)

Calum Pytogris! You'll bring ruin to us all! Where have you been?

RUNCELL (O.S.)

He has been with me.

As he enters in regal attire, Runcell no longer appears either foolish or fussy. But despite his age and the still-present twinkle in his eye, he projects great power to all present. The Duenna settles under his gaze.

RUNCELL (CONT'D)

We were giving aid to a patron of this library, Madam Duenna. The distribution of knowledge is still the prime function of this foundation. At least for now.

The Duenna seems to take some meaning in that last statement aimed at her, for she acts both chastised and rankled.

The great circle has swung 90 degrees now, and sits horizontally several feet above the ground. The two Drudges snap to attention, and a low hum comes from them.

DUENNA

The book, boy. Now!

Calum hurriedly passes the book to Runcell who also holds the others, and the man gives him a comforting wink.

DUENNA (CONT'D)

They come!

Calum looks on the disc, somewhat confused, as nothing appears to be happening, but as the camera rises to look upon the top of the disc we can see a spiral stairway reaching down to the depths inside the circle.

Although from the side the disc still appears flat, from within several dark shapes begin to emerge.

They are hulking figures, taller than a man and twice as wide, with heads that emerge from the torso like that of vultures. A pointed mask covers their alien visage, but the mask too is cruel and repellent.

As the lead alien, representative of the Quiescence, OSSAVAR, reaches the rim of the disc, a small metal ramp eases out of the edge and smoothly glides to the floor. Ossavar ambles down it, neck twisting on its axis jerkily to take in the sights.

RUNCCELL

Cardinal Ossavar, I am Duoniver
Runcell at your service. We
welcome you to--

Ossavar raises a clawed hand to indicate silence, and Runcell bemusedly obliges. Ossavar's head continues to crane wildly around.

OSSAVAR

There is a FACT here. It does not
belong.

The being's voice is harsh and grating, with an indefinable accent that might have arisen from Eastern Europe.

DUENNA

Cardinal?

Ossavar's gaze glances past Calum, and he shivers, backing slowly towards the door by which he entered.

Behind Ossavar a handful more Quiescence have arrived, along with some more Drudges. All appear whetted by some scent.

OSSAVAR

Where is the FACT? It must be removed.

As Calum reaches the door, Ossavar's eyes (burning red behind the cold grey of the mask) fix on him. But he is now gone.

RUNCELL

Cardinal Ossavar?

All the Quiescence have now relaxed.

OSSAVAR

It is of no matter. Continue.

DUENNA

As a token of our good will, we give you these books as you requested.

Ossavar holds out one hand but does not touch them. The Duenna proffers them but Ossavar recoils.

OSSAVAR

All of them, they contain the Earth, yes?

RUNCELL

(confused)

They pertain to the planet of Sol 3 in the Mutter spiral, either in whole or in part, Cardinal Ossavar, yes.

OSSAVAR

Yes.

There is revulsion and pleasure in the cardinal's voice. His hand is still outstretched, still untouching, and it begins to waver. Invisible waves sear the air between his claw and the books, and the Duenna releases them in fright.

The books remain in mid-air, held by the energy from Ossavar's hand.

And then they ignite.

RUNCELL

Good god!

Something like a cackle is emitted from beneath Ossavar's mask, and the books burst suddenly into a crimson roman candle and vanish with a puff of smoke.

Klaxons sound at the destruction of the books, and someone fumbles for a remote control to deactivate the alarm.

RUNCCELL (CONT'D)

What in the name of the seven galaxies is going on here? How dare you invade my library and without a word of warning begin destroying the knowledge we've worked so hard to maintain here!

If it were possible, Ossavar would seem to be smiling here.

OSSAVAR

You think we would do this without permission? You think the Quiescence are uninvited guests? Are terrorists? You are wrong!

Runcell looks about and chokes.

RUNCCELL

What could you possibly...

His gaze falls on the smug face of the Duenna.

DUENNA

Yes, Runcell. Your time as overseer of this library is over. Your policies, your methods, your free hand with the precious knowledge we hoard - it's over. All of it. You've been terminated.

Ossavar reaches for a torch-like device at his hip which he extends in Runcell's direction.

DUENNA (CONT'D)

You might call it a hostile takeover.

OSSAVAR

You will be silent hereafter.

Steel webs fly from the device and wrap themselves around Runcell's head. Most of them work to secure his eyes, but a few threads attach themselves to his mouth and begin to sew shut his lips.

Runcell tries to scream, but his face is already sealed.

INT. LIBRARY STACKS

Calum runs through the brightly-lit stacks, bumping one or two unforgiving customers in the process. His face looks like tears may have been wiped from it, though it is dry now.

Fear still lingers there.

MARISSA (O.S.)
Watch it, boy!

Calum spins from an impact, and we see that he has collided with Marissa. He falls to the floor, and Marissa knocks into a bookshelf and similarly winds up groundside. Calum glares at her in anger - which quickly turns into shock.

Marissa suddenly recognizes him as well, and leaps to her feet.

CALUM
You! Wait!

Marissa legs it out the door and Calum follows her as quickly as he can.

He passes into another room of

LIBRARY STACKS

and just catches a glimpse of Marissa's loose clothing flapping out a side door. Calum turns and enters the

INT. LASER STUDY

Several patrons are using the room, and Calum gets turned around, blinded by the bright rays of information shooting through the air. He turns giddily through the door into

INT. CHASM CHAMBER

Calum skids to a halt, teetering over a seemingly infinite precipice.

A narrow walkway spans the abyss, and as we look down we can see a rusty metal ladder leading down to another opening far below. In fact, there are dozens of levels to be accessed here - hundreds. Who knows how far this extends?

CALUM

God, I hope she didn't come this way!

He turns back.

INT. ETCETERA ROOM

Calum enters alertly through one of many doors to this hall. His face flits about birdlike as he attempts to catch a glimpse of Marissa.

Suddenly his view is obscured by the grinning face of the Doctor. Calum grimaces in annoyance.

DOCTOR

Hello! Me again. Sorry about that. That card catalogue's a right monster, isn't it? Could spend half my life trying to find something in there, and believe you me that's quite a bit of time. You don't have any other way of locating a book in here, do you?

CALUM

There's the computer index.

DOCTOR

Computer? Why didn't you show me that before? That's much easier!

CALUM

You asked for the card catalogue.

The Doctor sighs.

DOCTOR

Yes, I suppose I did. Do what you're asked, don't question. I get it. So show me this computer index.

INT. COMPUTER CORE

The Doctor and Calum approach a tall cylindrical pillar that reaches from floor to ceiling. All faces of it are covered with blinking lights and rotating terminal displays.

CALUM
Each level has an access point to
the index.

DOCTOR
Levels? There are levels? Blimey,
this could take a while.

CALUM
We'll want to use the textual
input. Here, we'll just type:
"Earth."

A display shows some unreadable gobbledygook, but the Doctor
and Calum seem to understand it just fine.

DOCTOR
Four entries. Interesting.

CALUM
Hold on, though. That doesn't make
sense.

He taps some buttons.

DOCTOR
What? What is it?

CALUM
There should be more than that.
Some of the books I took to the
Duenna this morning should be on
this list. Unless...

The Doctor looks on, somewhat impressed, as Calum brings up a
new list.

CALUM (CONT'D)
Oh my God. Here, in the recycle
bin. The books, the ones I held in
my hands this morning.

DOCTOR
I don't understand.

CALUM
They're gone.

DOCTOR
You mean, checked out?

CALUM

No, gone. Destroyed. As if they never were, except that there's a record of them here in the deleted section - a backup system that refreshes once every solar cycle.

DOCTOR

What could happen to a book here in your library? Don't you have security systems to prevent this kind of thing?

CALUM

Yes, but if the Librarians were involved themselves... Those volumes were intended for the Quiescence.

The Doctor snaps to attention, grabbing Calum by the shoulders.

DOCTOR

The Quiescence, they're here?

Calum seems surprised by the Doctor's reaction.

CALUM

Yes, they're visiting the library. They arrived today, at the Duenna's request.

DOCTOR

Then we've got even less time than I thought. All right, this screen here. Assuming they haven't already destroyed the book - and I can't allow myself to believe it - it must be one of these. Here, what about this?

CALUM

That's currently in use.

DOCTOR

In use? You mean someone's checked the book out?

CALUM

No, sir. That volume is in the gastro-textural section.

(MORE)

CALUM (CONT'D)

The patron has swallowed the volume and its information is being absorbed through the intestinal tract. When it emerges, we can reconstitute it if you like?

DOCTOR

Digest version. Interesting. But no, that's not it. This one's a 5D construct - won't do. Two left. Both hardbacks. It's got to be one of them. All right, Calum, pick one.

CALUM

I'm sorry?

DOCTOR

50-50, Calum. Trust your gut. Which one are we looking for.

Calum doesn't know what criteria the Doctor needs, and he looks helpless. But as he stares at the screen, one seems to jump out.

CALUM

That one.

The Doctor smiles.

DOCTOR

Where'd you learn that then?

CALUM

Sorry?

DOCTOR

Never mind, let's find that book. Allons'y.

INT. FOUNTAIN CHAMBER

All around, different-colored fountains gush forth. Several patrons are taking part, drinking in the knowledge gushing from the walls.

But down the center, taking no heed of the learning being experienced on either side, stride the Duenna and Ossavar, followed by two silent Drudges. They stomp purposefully forward, swift but unhurried.

DUENNA

What exactly is it you seek,
Ossavar?

OSSAVAR

You have more, yes? More Earth?

She looks faintly puzzled.

DUENNA

I believe so, yes. What we
provided was not sufficient?

OSSAVAR

Prime FACT still remains. All
traces must be removed, but the
prime FACT we must have! We must!

DUENNA

(flustered)

Of course, Cardinal. Of course.
I'm not certain why you're so
concerned though, Ossavar. No one
knows of this strange planet you
seek. It doesn't exist. I don't
know if it ever existed.

OSSAVAR

Cease your talk, woman. We will
hear no more of this FACT. Or do
you wish to be silenced?

Duenna shivers, glancing back. They walk on.

One of the Drudges has his hood pushed slightly back so we
can see his face. It's misshapen, ugly, and sealed with
steel web.

And it used to be Runcell.

INT. LIBRARY STACKS

Dark again, and musty.

The Doctor and Calum hurry down the aisles, the bookshelves
blurring as they speed past.

DOCTOR

Where are we now?

Someone SHUSHes them, and the Doctor grimaces an apology.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Where are we now?

CALUM
Section 156.green.4.theta, I think.
Yes! Phi. Sigma!

A loud SHHH sounds again.

DOCTOR
This is where it's going to be!

CALUM
If the Quiescence haven't gotten
here first.

DOCTOR
I don't think like that. Oh hello!

A flying drone skims past.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Security?

CALUM
Customer. Here we go! Oh no!

DOCTOR
What? What is it, what's the
matter.

Calum indicates a hole in the otherwise tightly-packed array
of tomes.

CALUM
We're too late. It's gone.

DOCTOR
Then the Earth is gone, too.

INT. HAND ROOM

The Doctor and Calum dejectedly enter the room. On all
sides, and at many terminals dotted around the hall, people
sit with both hands plunged into a console which conveys
information to their fingertips.

DOCTOR
I can't believe it. Hey, what's
this?

CALUM
Palm-reading.

DOCTOR
Let your fingers do the walking.

His mood drops again, and he tears at his own wild hair.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Aah! Think, Doctor, think!
There's got to be a way!

CALUM
I don't understand. What are we
looking for - what is all of this
about.

DOCTOR
Okay, you've lived your life around
books. I know you don't read them,
but you respect them, am I right?
You're aware of their potential, of
their power. Can you understand
that it's possible for a book to
totally capture something? To so
totally encapsulate a topic that it
can be said in every way to
encompass that subject? A book
can, in a very specific sense,
contain a whole world.

Something dawns in Calum's eyes.

CALUM
You don't mean...

The Doctor looks amused at this, when suddenly something else
enters his vision.

From another doorway, Ossavar and the Duenna enter the room,
more Drudges now behind them.

DOCTOR
It's them. The Quiescence!

Ossavar stops in his tracks and gapes at Calum.

OSSAVAR
The FACT! Contain it!

Two Drudges leap forward, shambling along towards Calum, who
trips over a cable and sprawls across the floor.

The Doctor quickly intervenes, placing one restraining hand on each of the Drudges' chests.

DOCTOR

Now hold on, just one minute, lads.

The Drudges "look" at each other in confusion, then try to lurch forward.

The Doctor still restrains them. They try again, still to no avail. They seem confused.

Calum gets up, and they turn to him, but the Doctor steps in the way. Calum moves, and they turn in his direction again.

The Doctor begins to understand. He waves his head in the Drudges' faces, bobbing around, but they do not react.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

They can't see me, can they? Ha!
Well, I say "see," I mean,
"perceive." They don't know I'm
here. I'm standing right in front
of them, and they don't know.

OSSAVAR

It cannot be!

DOCTOR

Hello!

OSSAVAR

You do not exist! You are not a
FACT, you are not a person. You
cannot exist. You cannot be--

DOCTOR

The Doctor. Yes, in fact I am.
Pleased to meet you. Well, I say
"pleased," I mean, "acceptable."
Well, I say "acceptable"...

OSSAVAR

How can this be possible?

DOCTOR

Well... "Possible" is a funny
thing.

OSSAVAR

Drudges! Revise your databanks.
The Doctor exists. Kill him!

The Drudges pause and stiffen as their worldview alters to allow for the Doctor's existence. And then they attack.

DOCTOR

Whoops, maybe not such a good idea.
I'd rather be a legend, anyway.

He darts around a palm-booth, and the Drudges upset a chair which contained a now-perturbed customer, and the Doctor legs it, Calum close in tow.

Ossavar steps toward the complaining library patron, and extends the silencing device he keeps at his side.

INT. ETCETERA ROOM

The room is alive with activity. The Doctor and Calum race in, paying no heed to what's in their path.

CALUM

That was close.

DOCTOR

We're not away from them yet. But hey! Did you notice something about them?

CALUM

What? That they're big, ugly and scary?

DOCTOR

No. That they didn't have the book.

Calum grins in realization, and barrels straight into Marissa. All three of them go arse-over-teakettle and lie in a heap on the floor.

MARISSA

Hey, watch where you're going you short little--

CALUM

You!

MARISSA

Whoops-a-daisy!

DOCTOR

Hold on now.

As they stand, the Doctor restrains Calum from attacking Marissa.

MARISSA
Watch how you treat me. I am a
client, you know.

CALUM
Client my--

MARISSA
Manners!

DOCTOR
We can resolve this when we--

He has turned towards the exit, but now finds two hulking Drudges blocking the way. The door they came through is suddenly filled by Ossavar, two Drudges backing him up.

OSSAVAR
And now we have you both. Drudges!

They all step forward at his word, but suddenly stop when Ossavar yells:

OSSAVAR (CONT'D)
Wait! The book. The prime FACT.
It is here. The girl! The girl
has it!

The Doctor and Calum turn to glare at Marissa in accusation. She manages a wide an apologetic grin in response.

CALUM
You dirty little thief!

The Doctor restrains him again as he lunges viciously at Marissa.

OSSAVAR
Take it! Retrieve it! Acquire the
prime FACT!

DOCTOR
All right, Calum, Marissa. When I
say "run"...

He turns, to see both youngsters already heading out another door at a breakneck pace.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
And here we go.

He turns and follows them at an equally rapid pace.

INT. LIBRARY STACKS

The three fugitives barrel down the stacks, dodging patrons and weaving their way through a labyrinth of bookshelves.

CALUM
You stole it! You stole the book!

MARISSA
No I didn't. I checked it out.

CALUM
Liar! The computer index lists at
as still on the shelf.

MARISSA
Maybe I forgot to go through the
actual process...

DOCTOR
Tree!

A mobile sapling trundles along the pathway between two aisles, and the Doctor and companions swiftly turn to the right to jog down a different aisle.

CALUM
I can't believe you took it. Do
you have any idea what you're
holding?

MARISSA
I know what it'll fetch me once I
get it out the doors.

CALUM
You little--

DOCTOR
Best not berate her too hard,
Calum. She may have saved us - and
possibly the world.

CALUM
But she--

DOCTOR
Remember, the early bird gets the
worm, but the second mouse gets the
cheese.

CALUM

Eh?

DOCTOR

I don't know. I'm just trying to
head off an argum-- Hey!

A Drudge blocks their way now, and one of the Quiescence
races up behind him. They turn, another Quiescence.

OSSAVAR (O.S.)

There they are. Get them!

DOCTOR

No no no no no. This way.

A mostly empty bookshelf stands to their left, and the Doctor
ducks through to the aisle behind and the children follow his
lead.

MARISSA

They're right behind us.

DOCTOR

Oh, I hate to do this. Sorry.

He shoves at a bookcase, and it topples over, spilling books
every which way. It hits another case, which hits another,
and like dominoes they all topple over - effectively blocking
the Quiescent pursuit (and possibly crushing one or two
Drudges in the process).

INT. FOUNTAIN CHAMBER

The Doctor wipes his hands as they emerge into this room.

CALUM

I can't believe you did that.
That's... horrible!

DOCTOR

I didn't like it any more than you,
Calum.

CALUM

It'll take me a year to clean up
that lot!

DOCTOR

Let's hope you have that year.
Come on. Not over yet.

Suddenly, their way is blocked by the Duenna.

CALUM

Oh, Duenna. I had nothing to do with that mess in there.

DUENNA

Hush, child. It is of no moment. And who are these?

CALUM

Oh, Lady Duenna, this is the Doctor-

DOCTOR

Hello!

CALUM

And Marissa.

DUENNA

The girl-thief.

MARISSA

I see my reputation precedes me.

DUENNA

You caused our former Duoniver quite some irritation.

Marissa curtsies.

DOCTOR

Former?

CALUM

Duenna, she stole the book! The Earth book!

DUENNA

Hush now. It's all over with now. Ossavar! They're here!

Calum shakes his head in dismay as they back away from the Duenna. She, however, holds Marissa's wrist in a firm grip.

CALUM

No, you can't!

DUENNA

There is no escape, Calum. We will not share you with the world, we will not share anything. We have the knowledge, we have the power.

(MORE)

DUENNA (CONT'D)

I have it. This world, this book,
will be mine along with all else
this library contains.

MARISSA

Give it a rest, sister!

Marissa kicks the Duenna hard in the shins, and she lets go
just as Ossavar and the other Quiescence and Drudges arrive.

DUENNA

After them!

DOCTOR

Come on!

INT. MAP ROOM

A looped chamber where every curved surface displays an area
of the library. The color of the light changes constantly as
the displays flicker and alter.

The Doctor and his companions race through here, until Calum
stops them short.

CALUM

Show us the maintenance tunnel off
Alpha Seven.

The tall display switches to a life-size representation of a
dirty and dismal hallway.

Calum removes a strange keycard and kisses it.

CALUM (CONT'D)

Runcell, I hope the code you gave
me still works.

The screen flickers almost imperceptibly.

CALUM (CONT'D)

Yes!

MARISSA

What is it?

CALUM

Follow me!

He laughs as he steps INTO THE DISPLAY and stands waving at
them from inside it.

DOCTOR
When in Rome.

MARISSA
Where?

DOCTOR
Never mind.

He pushes Marissa through and steps in himself.

INT. MAINTENANCE TUNNEL

The Doctor emerges from a glow in the wall, and they all stand together.

DOCTOR
Not bad, Calum. Not bad at all!

CALUM
I guess maybe I do know one or two things, after all.

MARISSA
Let's save the self-congratulation till we're out of this place, eh?

DOCTOR
Right enough. We're not out of the woods yet.

MARISSA
We're in a library, Doctor.

DOCTOR
Out of the... It's just a... Oh, never mind.

They stride on.

MARISSA
Won't the Quiescence be able to come through that map thing, too?

CALUM
Not without a key. One with Runcell's code, and not the Duenna's.

MARISSA

Oh, good. I was afraid you might not have locked it back up after us!

CALUM

Um...

MARISSA

You stupid little--

DOCTOR

And we're running!

Ossavar and the Drudges emerge into the tunnel from the same glowing portion, and the Duenna is with them.

CALUM

This hatch here!

They open a grimy door in the wall and belt through it, to emerge in:

INT. FIVE-D READING CHAMBER

A long, but not too wide, hall with many units on each wall projecting a holographic display. Each device hangs like a tall picture frame on the wall, with a hologram beaming into the frame from a projector on the floor.

MARISSA

They're right on top of us.

CALUM

Maybe we can lose them through here.

DOCTOR

No wait. Here.

He indicates one of the picture frames.

CALUM

This isn't a map room, Doctor.

DOCTOR

I know. Get in, we'll wait them out and double back. Now!

Calum leaps inside, followed by Marissa. Then the Doctor.

EXT. SPACE PLATFORM

The Doctor and companions stand on a complex platform in space, though it jitters like the hologram that it is.

In front of them, hangs the giant globe that is the Earth.

CALUM

Great Mastocles. Is that the Earth?

DOCTOR

Yup. There's a coincidence.

MARISSA

What's the Earth?

DOCTOR

Well...

He pushes a button on the railing, and a disembodied NARRATOR fills the air.

NARRATOR

Earth, also known as Sol Three, lies in an area of the Mutter Spiral in disputed territory. Many residents of that galaxy have laid claim to the planet over the centuries, despite its proximity to, and participation in, the age-old war between the Sontarans and the Rutans.

MARISSA

What's so special about it?

CALUM

I'm from there.

MARISSA

Like I said.

DOCTOR

Quiet.

NARRATOR

But all that changed in the Space Year 4 gamma hedron, when the planet mysteriously disappeared.

DOCTOR

I was wondering if they'd get to that bit. Very up-to-date, this library.

MARISSA

Disappeared? How does an entire planet disappear?

CALUM

The Doctor did it.

MARISSA

The Doctor? How?

The Doctor peers at Calum.

DOCTOR

Do you really believe that? Do you really think I have the power to steal an entire planet and hide it away in your library? Do you think I'm that powerful?

CALUM

Yes. I do.

The Doctor stares at him for a beat, then breaks into a rueful smile.

DOCTOR

Nah. Not me. Thanks, though. No, it was someone else, a race of very powerful beings indeed. They hid it, to keep it safe. I may have a hand in it, though. Just a little.

MARISSA

Hid it? From who?

CALUM

From whom.

DOCTOR

Who do you think?

MARISSA

The Quiescence...

DOCTOR

Got it in one.

He presses a button, and the narration (which actually has been droning on in the background this whole time) drops away, and the world zooms up into frame.

Like the platform, it flickers and buzzes, but it's still there, still huge, still alive with activity, still overpopulated and polluted and dangerous. And still beautiful.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

The Quiescence are a funny bunch.
Everyone treats knowledge in a
different way. Some hoard it.

He looks at Calum.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Some steal it.

He looks at Marissa.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Some give it away. That's my
favorite. But some feel threatened
by it.

He looks at the flickering and discolored version of the world, spinning away in front of their faces.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

The Quiescence want control.
They're censors, unmaking the
universe to fit their worldview.
Anything that doesn't fit with the
way they think things are, or
should be, well...

CALUM

They're destructors.

DOCTOR

In a sense. Really, they're
unmakers. They make things never
to have been. Whatever voices the
universe speaks with that offend
their ears, they will silence. A
wise man once said: "The great and
the foolish have one thing in
common - they change the facts to
fit their beliefs, rather than
change their beliefs to fit the
facts."

CALUM
Who said that?

DOCTOR
Well, I did. Long ago. Point is,
it's rather inconvenient if you
happen to be one of the facts that
needs changing.

MARISSA
Like us.

CALUM
Like me. I'm from there. I'm one
of those inconvenient facts. But I
won't be altered, I won't be
deleted. They can't do it; I won't
let them.

DOCTOR
Good.

MARISSA
Um, Doctor. These facts the
Quiescence are silencing. They're
all to do with the Earth, right?

DOCTOR
Well, right now at least. Why?

MARISSA
Um...

She points. The Doctor looks. The Earth.

DOCTOR
Ah.

They turn to look behind them. Through a hazy screen, they
can see Ossavar at the doorway to this hologram. He holds
out his hand, and energy seems to emanate from that hand.

The platform wobbles - the universe wobbles.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Hold on, we're in for a bumpy ride!

The Doctor grabs hold of the children and leaps toward the
gateway. Behind them, all around, the view fritzes and
fizzles. The picture zips out of existence just as the
Doctor and co land in:

INT. FIVE-D READING CHAMBER

And they land on top of Ossavar. In a heap, they come to their senses, and realize where they are. At Marissa's touch, Ossavar unexpectedly retreats, sliding backwards in shock and possibly pain.

Marissa is confused, but realizes her opportunity and runs as fast as she can away from the Quiescence.

DOCTOR

She's got the right idea, come on!

And he and Calum are right behind her.

Ossavar remains on the floor, still in shock. The Duenna stands over him haughtily.

DUENNA

Are you afraid of a little girl?

OSSAVAR

You do not know of what you speak. The knowledge she possesses is dangerous. It burns. It must be silenced.

DUENNA

Well you're not going to do that from down there. After them!

OSSAVAR

The book is not the only thing we can silence, Duenna.

And with that threat, he picks himself up off the floor and the chase is on again.

INT. CHASM CHAMBER

The Doctor and his companions run out onto the ledge which opens out onto the bottomless chasm. Only the narrowest of bridges leads to the other side, and it has no railings or support of any kind.

CALUM

I can't, Doctor, I can't. I just can't!

DOCTOR

You can do this, Calum. Yes you can.

MARISSA

Oh, out of the way you wimp.

And Marissa agilely leaps onto the beam and nimbly skips her way across. At the other side, she stands and waves cheekily.

DOCTOR

You see? You can do it.

CALUM

I can't. Don't you understand, Doctor, I can't!

DOCTOR

You can-- Listen to me. I have knowledge that spans the universe, I can speak in five billion languages and know the history of peoples in worlds twice that number. I know more than any person in this existence has ever known, and you can believe me, Calum, when I tell you that I KNOW that you make it across there. Do you understand me. I KNOW.

Calum still trembles, but calms himself as he looks into the Doctor's eyes.

CALUM

I understand.

He steels himself, taking a deep breath, and steps out onto the bridge.

The Doctor watches encouragingly as Calum takes several more steps forward. Calum looks back happily.

And sees Ossavar and his associates arriving.

DOCTOR

I also know you can do it quickly.
Now MOVE!

The Doctor turns to face their pursuers. One of the Drudges reaches for him, and the Doctor dodges, sending the Drudge mutely over the edge into the abyss below.

Another one goes over, but catches the edge of the bridge in order to save itself.

The Doctor looks back to see that Calum is near the middle of the bridge, and he leaps up onto it himself.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Ossavar! Give it up. There are some facts that need to exist. The Earth is one of them. You have a whole universe of unpleasant realities out there you can take a pop at. Go after them, I won't stop you. Not right now, anyway. But leave this one. Because there's one FACT you haven't taken into consideration about that book, about that planet.

The Doctor's eyes go steely.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

It is defended.

Ossavar stops at the edge, whether contemplating the Doctor's words or the bottomless pit before him is impossible to tell. But behind him, the Duenna steps haughtily forward.

DUENNA

Words are your only weapon, Doctor, and they pale before the ocean of words in this mighty place. You seek to control a thing, Doctor, to take this one element of existence under your wing and deny it to all else? But knowledge, Doctor, knowledge is the power over all. To know a thing is to possess it, and here we know all and possess all. Give us the book and you can live. We will even let the boy live - one last living fact of Earth's existence - an anomaly that sees and tells nothing of a world it has never known.

She stretches forth her hand.

DUENNA (CONT'D)

But give me the book!

Ossavar looks evilly at the Duenna, then bounds forth onto the bridge himself.

DOCTOR
 Sorry, it looks like the Quiescence
 have the last word on that subject.

And he scampers across the way.

Ossavar's ankle is grabbed by the dangling Drudge, and he trips. His mask is knocked aside, revealing a sinister face like a cross between a crocodile and a bird of prey. He slips, and slides, and tumbles over the edge.

Clinging to the Drudge who inadvertently caused his fall, Ossavar yells and flails.

OSSAVAR
 Help me! Someone, save me!

The Doctor pauses, seeing Calum approach the far side of the walkway, and curses himself as he turns back.

Reaching a hand down, the Doctor grasps Ossavar and tugs him up to safety.

DOCTOR
 Come on! Up we go.

As Ossavar clambers up the Drudge, the Drudge loses its own grip and plummets into the darkness below. But Ossavar manages to find his purchase, and pants there on his knees.

OSSAVAR
 You... rescued me.

DOCTOR
 Yeah, well, don't mention it.

OSSAVAR
 I won't.

And he reaches forth his hand. Energy waves pulses from it, encompassing the Doctor who writhes in agony before the Quiescence.

OSSAVAR (CONT'D)
 In case you haven't noticed, facts
 that disturb me have a way of
 vanishing without a trace. As you
 will, Doctor.

CALUM (O.S.)
 Know that for sure?

Ossavar's mask, held by Calum's trembling hand, swings down and beats Ossavar's own arm down - and the energy waves stop.

CALUM (CONT'D)

I think you dropped something.

He throws the steel mask into Ossavar's face, and as the latter stumbles from the impact, Calum and the Doctor scamper across to safety.

MARISSA

Calum! I can't believe that.

He looks chuffed, but tries to be self-effacing.

CALUM

Well, you know. We're not out of the walls yet.

DOCTOR

It's "out of the--" Oh never mind. Actually, we're just about where I need us to be.

INT. LIBRARY STACKS

The Doctor and his companions arrive in front of that bookcase full of recognizably blue books.

CALUM

TARDIS.

DOCTOR

What did you say?

CALUM

This is the TARDIS collection. I saw it earlier this morning.

DOCTOR

Quite right. The people who hid the Earth also helped me hide my ship. Well, I needed to get in here, and the only way to do that undetected was to become part of the library itself. And so...

While he has been speaking, the Doctor has been rearranging the books, taking the few that were in the wrong order and putting them in their rightful position. Now the picture of the police box is complete - except for...

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Where's Volume 45? There's one
missing, Volume 45! I can't do it
without...

Sheepishly, Marissa removes the blue book from beneath her
loose-fitting clothes and hands it to the Doctor.

MARISSA
I... may have found it lying
around. Somewhere.

DOCTOR
We'll talk about this later. Come
on.

And he inserts his key into the spine of a book which depicts
a keyhole, and one whole section of the bookcase swings
inward revealing a doorway.

MARISSA
You want us to... go in there?

The Doctor just grins. Calum pats Marissa on the back.

CALUM
Come on, Marissa. They say you
learn something new every day.

And he enters.

Off to the side, a crash sounds, and a couple of Drudges
enter the room.

DOCTOR
Time's almost up, Marissa. Make
your choice: stay here where you
know exactly what will happen,
or...

She hesitates, glancing at the approaching villains.

MARISSA
Ooh, I know I'll regret this.

And she steps inside the bookcase too. Still grinning, the
Doctor enters and closes the door.

There's a wheezing, groaning sounds as the Quiescence arrive,
and the blue books on the shelf begin to fade away. One
Drudge leaps at the Tardis, but by now all that is left is an
empty bookcase, and the Drudge sails right through to the
other side.

Ossavar screams in impotent rage.

INT. TARDIS

You know the drill. Huge dome, coral, eerie green lighting.

Calum and Marissa don't however, and they stand in awe even while the Doctor whizzes around the console pushing buttons, ringing bells, and using every limb available to operate the machinery.

CALUM

It's bigger on the inside.

DOCTOR

All books are, Calum. They may look like simple things, but open them up and you find entire worlds within. Which reminds me: I'll have that book now, Marissa.

And he holds out his hand, expectantly.

Reluctantly, she withdraws it from the folds of her outfit but still clings to it.

MARISSA

What is it, Doctor? What has all this been about?

CALUM

You know how the Doctor said that the entire Earth had been hidden away in a safe place.

MARISSA

Yeah.

(beat)

Oh, you don't mean...

DOCTOR

Fraid so. You're holding in your hands the Book of the World, Marissa.

Reverently, she begins to hand it across.

But suddenly the ship shakes, and they are all thrown to the floor.

MARISSA

What's happening?

The Doctor has leapt to the console and is frantically pushing buttons.

DOCTOR

I don't understand - we're being drawn back in. The library's security measures have kicked in.

CALUM

It thinks we're trying to steal the TARDIS!

DOCTOR

No, when the ship changed form it should have confused the sensors enough to not register as library property, but... Oh no.

They all look at it. The Book of the World. Lying on the grating of the TARDIS.

CALUM

We never checked it out!

DOCTOR

Emergency landing, here we come!

The room shakes again as the ship comes to a stop.

MARISSA

What now?

DOCTOR

Nothing for it. We'll have to go out there.

MARISSA

But won't they be waiting?

CALUM

Of course they will. But we can't spend the rest of our lives in here.

(to the Doctor, hopefully)

Can we?

DOCTOR

Nope. Well, yes. But I'm afraid as tough as the old girl may be, the TARDIS isn't completely impenetrable. They'll find a way in. Somehow, sometime. They will.

(MORE)

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

And I can't let them get their hands on this book. We need to remove it safely from this library.

CALUM

Well then, what are we waiting for?

DOCTOR

Hold on, Calum. Just a minute. You've been raised in relative ignorance - surrounded by all the knowledge in existence but taking part in none of it. What you have to understand is that in the wrong hands some knowledge can be dangerous. There are ideas out there that can destroy, that can maim, that can conquer. Dangerous knowledge, Calum. Do you understand?

The Doctor looks intent, as though he's saying something very specific, but Calum looks unsure.

CALUM

Yeah, of course.

It doesn't sound like he means it, and Marissa's face reflects that. The Doctor doesn't seem to notice, however, and places the Book firmly into Calum's hands.

DOCTOR

Good. All right, then. Once more unto the breach.

And he heads out into:

INT. MAIN HALL

The TARDIS stands in the center of the Main Hall. The disc by which the Quiescence made their entrance stands off to one side, but other than that the hall is empty.

Except for the Duenna.

DOCTOR

Well, Duenna. Nice of you to see us off. We'll just take this book to the counter and be off. Night then.

DUENNA

I don't think so, Doctor.

She slowly circles him, coming to rest with her arm up against the disc.

DUENNA (CONT'D)

For myself, I don't care about the book. About the world. Makes no difference to me whether one small planet in the mudpit of the universe exists or doesn't exist. But the Quiescence, they don't see it that way. And we have an alliance. They have allowed me to gain and maintain the run of this, the Great Librarian of Falclaxicon 6, center of all knowledge in the universe. And that, dear Doctor, I cannot afford to let go.

DOCTOR

Forgive my rudeness, Lady Duenna, but how do you intend to prevent us from simply leaving with the book? Where are your Quiescence now?

DUENNA

That's the question, Doctor, isn't it?

MARISSA

Doctor, look out!

What the Doctor couldn't see, but we now can, is that when viewed from above the disc by Duenna's shoulder is a staircase. And on that staircase is an army of Drudges and Quiescence.

From within the circle, Ossavar leaps, landing with a snarl atop the Doctor. They roll over each other and come to a rest in a crouch, opposing one another warily.

Ossavar, still without his mask, growls at the Doctor.

OSSAVAR

You are a thorn in my flesh,
Doctor, and that is a fact!

And he reaches out his hand to begin removing that fact.

CALUM

No!

Calum steps forward, holding the book before him. As he approaches, Marissa slips off to the side.

CALUM (CONT'D)

This is what you want, isn't it?
The Book of the World? The
knowledge of Earth, the entirety of
Earth? A whole planet, trapped
inside one book. Is this what
you're after?

DOCTOR

Calum, no! I'm not worth it!

CALUM

You are to me, Doctor. Here you
are then, Ossavar. Take the damned
thing.

He gets up, and the Duenna's eyes alight. Ossavar reaches
for the book, his hand beginning emit waves.

CALUM (CONT'D)

Or maybe, before you can erase the
book, you need to erase the last
fact of its existence. And that
would be me.

OSSAVAR

No. Erasure of this FACT would be
too simple. No, you must continue
to exist, must suffer. But suffer
in silence as your whole existence
unravels and you slowly go mad but
cannot scream.

He reaches for the silencer at his side, but his claws find
no purchase.

MARISSA (O.S.)

Looking for this?

Ossavar's eyes go wide as he swings his vulture-hinged neck
in Marissa's direction.

She points his own device in his face, and Ossavar backs up.

DUENNA

Ossavar, your army comes forth.

More Drudges and Quiescence arrive from the disc and their
numbers are quickly seen to be more than our own.

OSSAVAR

You think you can stand against us,
yes? Two children against an army?
(MORE)

OSSAVAR (CONT'D)

We will crush you, and your fate
will be as his. An eternity of
silent torture by my side. Every
word of mine, your very law. Yes.
I will enjoy this.

MARISSA

Oh, shut up.

And she fires the device.

Steel webs shoot from the end into Ossavar's face. He
squeals as they wrap over his eyes and sew shut his beak.
Other Quiescence step forward but Marissa's crows them with
the business end of the silencer.

CALUM

You're silenced, Ossavar. But not
broken. No, even now you feel it.
Don't you? The knowledge. The
FACT. Right here before you. The
Book of the World, right in front
of your face, and you can feel it.
But you don't like it.

Calum raises the book, and Ossavar backs away from it
instinctively.

CALUM (CONT'D)

This is what you wanted. It's what
you came here for. The Prime FACT,
the source of all your torment.
The Earth. The reality you just
can't bring yourself to accept.
Well, if you want it that badly -
here it is!

And Calum opens the pages of the book.

EXT. SPACE

Like with the hologram, Calum and Ossavar are suspended above
the Earth. But this is no hologram.

The world is real. Oh so real. Bright, and beautiful, and
REAL!

But Calum and Ossavar hang in space, above that beautiful
planet. And in space, no one can hear you breathe.

Ossavar clamps his claws to his beak, making struggling
gasping noises for breath.

Calum holds his breath, but the wildness in his eyes betrays the fact that he cannot hold on for much longer.

Ossavar makes a desperate grab for the book in Calum's hand, but is brutally repelled as though by a shock. He hurtles away from Calum, towards the Earth.

And the Earth welcomes its would-be-assassin with open gravity.

Calum closes the book.

INT. MAIN HALL

And is back. But Ossavar is no longer.

The Duenna falls back in shock.

CALUM
Ossavar is dead.

DUENNA
No!

DOCTOR
Inconvenient, isn't it? I'd suggest living in denial, but that's the type of thinking that led your friend to where he got to, isn't it? Ah well. See ya, then.

No one stops the three as they walk to the TARDIS.

CALUM
Oh wait! Checkout!

Calum takes the book to a terminal in the wall and scans it. A small ticket stub promptly prints out.

CALUM (CONT'D)
Here you go, Doctor. Due back in three weeks.

DOCTOR
What are the fines like for a library this big?

CALUM
You, uh, don't want to know.

They grin.

DUENNA

You can't do this, Doctor! I am
Duenna of this library.

DOCTOR

I think you'll find I can, Duenna.
And if I were you I don't think I'd
remain here that long either. Your
friends all around you might just
blame you for what happened here
today and, well. Failure is rather
an inconvenient fact - and right
now that's something you definitely
don't want to be. Cheerio!

The Doctor waves, and steps into his TARDIS. The Duenna
looks in sudden fear at the Quiescence all around her.

As the TARDIS vanishes with a fading VWORP, the Quiescence
gather around the Duenna.

DUENNA

This cannot be!

Her scream echoes throughout the chamber.

INT. TARDIS

The Doctor calmly works the controls, and the other two stand
and watch him.

MARISSA

What now, Doctor? Where do we go?

DOCTOR

Anywhere you like. I can drop you
off anywhere in space and time.
Or, you know.

MARISSA

What?

DOCTOR

You could come with me. Not a bad
life, here in the TARDIS. Plenty
to see, plenty to do. To learn.

CALUM

To steal?

DOCTOR

Play nice.

CALUM

Can we visit the Earth?

DOCTOR

Well... Earth's past. Can't let it out in the present yet - still a lot of those out there looking to get rid of it. Don't know how to get it out of the book, actually, come to think of it.

MARISSA

So there ARE things you don't know?

The Doctor grins.

DOCTOR

Oh yes! That's the thing about knowledge: the best bit is the finding out!

They stand together, three friends, about to make that journey. To FIND OUT.

Together.

THE END