

ANGEL RISE

OUTLINE

A malfunction forces THE DOCTOR and NYSSA to make an emergency landing in Texas, 1953. With its safety protocols damaged, the TARDIS materialises around three people. Two of them, a PRIEST and a PRISON GUARD, appear in the console room either side of the TARDIS console where until a few moments ago, the third man, TRAVIS ANGEL, was sat ... in an electric chair.

Travis' voice taunts them over the intercom and the truth dawns on the Doctor - the electricity flowing through Travis' brain coupled with the TARDIS malfunction have caused the two consciousnesses to merge. The TARDIS has been possessed by a convicted serial killer!

The TARDIS dematerialises of its own accord. Travis controls the time machine and is hell bent on notching up another kill - Nyssa. Quickly, the Doctor isolates the TARDIS databank and gets Nyssa to encrypt the controls with a cipher known only to her. The Doctor insists he mustn't know the combination or Travis will learn it via the TARDIS' telepathic circuits.

The Doctor forms a plan: the secondary console room is powered down, there's no way Travis could have infiltrated it. If they can get there, they may be able to flush him out of the TARDIS. The Doctor can't allow Travis full control of his ship, that's why he locked the controls. If they don't reach the secondary console room in fifteen minutes, the TARDIS will plunge straight into the heart of a supernova - destroying the craft and killing them all.

They set out for the secondary console room, a trip fraught with peril and danger as Travis does everything he can to stop them. He can change the temperature, the gravity, the atmosphere, even the architectural configuration. Using the telepathic circuits, Travis can intuit the Doctor's moves almost before he conceives them. Only the Doctor's unmatched knowledge of his craft keeps them alive. Even so, the Prison Guard takes a wrong turn and is jettisoned into the vortex.

Travis separates Nyssa from the Doctor and the Priest in an attempt to force her to reveal the cipher. She tries to reason with him, but he is resolute - as soon as he breaks the cipher, Nyssa is dead.

The Priest tells the Doctor about Travis' upbringing - a poor boy with no education who went off the rails. Travis kills women in revenge for the schoolteacher who mocked his low IQ. The Doctor thinks it can't be that low if Travis can divine how to operate the TARDIS.

Travis threatens to kill the Doctor unless Nyssa reveals the code and increases the gravity tenfold. The Doctor orders Nyssa to unlock the console, granting Travis access to the TARDIS systems ... including the databank.

As the knowledge flows through Travis, so do concepts of morality and justice. Travis is ashamed of his actions. He leaves the TARDIS, determined to be a force for good in the universe as a non-corporeal entity.

Travis Angel promises to live up to his name.

ANGEL RISE - SAMPLE SCRIPT

SCENE 2: INT. TEXAS STATE PENITENTIARY, EXECUTION CHAMBER

(FX: TICKING CLOCK, RISING HUM OF CHARGING CAPACITORS)

MAYBURY:

... and may God have mercy on your soul.

TRAVIS:

Your God, father, ain't mine.

CALDER:

Travis Angel, for the murder of five young women, you have been condemned to die by a jury of your peers, sentence imposed by a judge of good standing in the Great State of Texas. Do you have anything to say before your sentence is carried out?

TRAVIS:

This ain't the end.

CALDER:

If it ain't, it's something mighty similar. Travis Angel electricity will now be passed through your body until you are dead, in accordance with state law. ROLL ON TWO.

(FX: OFF, A SWITCH CLUNKS. ELECTRICITY ARCS. THE TARDIS MATERIALISATION FADES IN FROM THE EDGE OF HEARING)

MAYBURY:

What's happening?

TRAVIS SCREAMS ... (FX: TARDIS MATERIALISATION GROWS LOUDER. AMBIENT PRISON SOUND SLOWLY FADES TO ...)

SCENE 3: INT. TARDIS CONSOLE ROOM

(FX: FADING CRACKLE OF ARCING ELECTRICITY. RISE AND FALL OF THE TIME COLUMN AND TARDIS MATERIALISATION. THE CLUNK OF LANDING. THE AMBIENT HUM OF THE TARDIS AT REST)

DOCTOR:

Oh no.

MAYBURY:

What is this, what's happened?

NYSSA:

Doctor!

(FX: CLOISTER BELL TOLLS)

DOCTOR:

No, no, no!

MAYBURY:

Who are you people?

(FX: GUN DRAWN FROM HOLSTER)

CALDER:

You are interfering with a state-mandated execution. You have precisely ten seconds before I start shooting. What happened to my prisoner?

NYSSA:

Doctor? Who is that? How did they get in here?

DOCTOR:

The TARDIS materialised around them.

NYSSA:

But that's impossible!

DOCTOR:

(FX: BUTTONS PUSHED) Residual neural energy. As if ... an external consciousness has fused with the TARDIS.

(FX: PISTOL HAMMER COCKED)

CALDER:

Five seconds. Where is Travis Angel?

TRAVIS:

(ELECTRONIC DISTORTION. LAUGHS) Why, Calder ... I'm right here.