

HERITAGE

Dale Smith

*A novel featuring the Seventh Doctor
and Ace, set after Prime Time.*

The Doctor and Ace arrive on Heritage on a shuttle craft, much to the surprise of the locals. They are met by Sheriff, the local lawman. Ace is complaining about not being able to bring the TARDIS, but the Doctor won't be drawn: the TARDIS tends to attract undue attention and they are merely two travellers visiting old friends. Sheriff wants to know who they are visiting, and is disturbed by the Doctor's answer of "the Heyworths". He tries to convince the Doctor that they moved, but doesn't succeed as he has just admitted that the Doctor's shuttle was the first to land on Heritage since its colonisation. As Ace and the Doctor head for the bar, Sheriff heads off to warn "the Professor".

The Doctor goes to the bar and meets Cole, a large one-armed Geordie trying to fix his basic robot arm. The Doctor enquires why he doesn't use a cybernised one, and is told that Cole's grandmother died fighting in the last Cyber-war. The problem is, the dust gets everywhere, into everything, grinding it down, making it seize up and stop. Cole gives the Doctor a brief history of the colony, explaining how they came here to mine Thydonium and how a couple of years later, a scientist elsewhere found a way of synthesising it. The colonists had no reason to stay, but nowhere else to go. He says people got used to it, even with the dust, and things

going missing all the time. Ace's interest is piqued by the disappearances, but the Doctor appears to have had all of his curiosity turned off.

The Doctor enquires about the possibility of renting a jeep or a horse to get out to Adobe Flats, but Cole tells him there's no chance. Unfortunately, he lets slip that Jimmy has a horse, and Ace volunteers to see if she can arrange to borrow it. She finds out where Jimmy lives and heads off. The Doctor tells her to be careful, to which she complains that he's trying to smother her.

Whilst in the bar, the Doctor sees the Fussies – small robots designed to clean the dust away like a vacuum cleaner (their name is a corruption of Sisyphus, a nick-name that reflects the unending nature of their task) – and is then accosted by Bernard and some of his cronies. Bernard is a dolphin in a cradle – like R'tk'tk in STORM HARVEST – only he likes to think of himself as human. He moved to Heritage because there was no sea to remind him of his non-humaness and changed his name to a more humanised one. He and his two friends try and intimidate the Doctor, and scare him into leaving. Needless to say, it doesn't work. The Doctor rents a room from Cole and tells him he'll only be needing it the one night.

Ace arrives at Jimmy's house, and finds the interior of a different design to the rest of the colony: Jimmy prefers to live with "retro" furnishings and fittings. He is roughly the age that the Doctor looks and – like most of Heritage – used to be a miner. Whilst many of the other colonists have gone into farming, however, Jimmy has not really found a new occupation. He plays at making furniture, but the colonists find his designs too old fashioned. He is also lives with photographs of his lover – another miner named Ryan – but will not explain where Ryan is now. Jimmy is happy to give a lift to Ace and the Doctor (although she doesn't mention where to), and he takes her to his paddock.

Whilst the Doctor is upstairs settling in, Sheriff arrives and Bernard, Sheriff, Cole and some others discuss the Doctor in fearful terms. They all want to know who he is, and how they're going to get rid of him. They each have different theories about why he's there – he's an

investigator, he's a private hit-man, he's just a nobody – but they all agree he can't get out to see the Adobe Flats. Sheriff is sent up to try and suss out the Doctor.

Ace is surprised that the colonists use horses rather than air-cars or some such futuristic nonsense, but Jimmy explains that modern vehicles have such a hard time with the dusty atmosphere that it's simpler and cheaper to use horses. Ace suggests that it's also so he can pretend to be John Wayne, but Jimmy's never heard of the Duke. The embarrassment is soon forgotten when they reach the paddock and find the horses missing.

The Doctor is sitting petting one of the Fussies – they seem to like him. The Doctor is concerned about the reception he's been getting, and tries to find out from Sheriff about the Heyworths and their house. Sheriff refuses to tell him anything, and the Doctor muses aloud about how strange it is that everyone is so tight-lipped about them. Sheriff suggests it might be better if he just left Heritage, and the Doctor seems to consider it. He decides, finally, that perhaps he ought to go and find Ace. Sheriff goes down to the bar for a drink.

Jimmy is very upset about the disappearance of the horses, and Ace helps him back to his house. He tells her a cautious tale about things going missing in Heritage. Ace wants to know if this is the first time anything living has vanished, and Jimmy reluctantly tells her about Ryan. One night a few years ago – when Jimmy was out – Ryan disappeared from the house. He's not been seen since. When asked if any of the other colonists saw anything, Jimmy becomes evasive. Ace is unsure whether to take this information to the Doctor – he has been restless and sullen recently, and she doesn't know whether he'll actually want to do something about it. In the end, the lack of evidence – the dust has covered any tracks – makes her decide to get the Doctor's help.

Whilst the Doctor is out walking, he meets Professor Wakeling who is the model of charming congeniality. He apologises for the townsfolk's general mistrust of him, but they are so unused to strangers. Wakeling invites the Doctor around for tea, and reluctantly the Doctor accepts.

When they enter the Professor's house, the Doctor is attacked by a large raven. Wakeling saves him, and explains that he is the colony's geneticist and the raven is a hobby: it is a clone of a real raven from the Earth archives. The Doctor is quite impressed, knowing about the experiments in cloning mentioned in THE INVISIBLE ENEMY being such a failure. Wakeling assures him he has not achieved complete success yet himself, but he is pushing back the boundaries. The Doctor agrees, looking into the bird's eyes and saying there is a noticeable defect there.

When the Doctor asks about the Heyworths, he gets the same story: they left some time ago. However, he is introduced to Sweetness, the little red-haired girl. Wakeling explains that it is a very sad story, the Heyworths up and leaving her when she was only a little girl. They abandoned her, and Wakeling stepped in to bring her up as his own daughter. The Doctor goes tight-lipped at this, but does not explain why. All that is clear is that he suddenly doesn't trust Wakeling, and decides to take his leave of him.

Ace finds the Doctor and explains about the disappearances. The Doctor, however, seems more concerned with not getting involved: he has made a grave error by coming here and wants to leave immediately. Ace wants to know who'll find out what happened to the horses, to the Heyworths, to Ryan if they don't. But the Doctor tells her it's not his fight, he won't get involved again. Ace, however, isn't convinced and vows to help Jimmy herself.

Wakeling has conversation with Bernard and the others, about whether they have found anything out about him. They say they've contacted their associates on the nearest worlds and none of them have heard of a Doctor. The further worlds will take longer to get back in touch, but Wakeling doesn't care. He has decided that the Doctor is a nobody, somebody just nosing around who could quite easily "disappear" without anyone kicking up too much of a fuss. Bernard understands.

The Doctor arrives back at the bar and tries to arrange an off-planet call. Cole says all the lines are busy at the moment, but he'll call the Doctor when there's one free. The Doctor says he needs to think, and heads for his room. As Bernard settles down for a whisky and a cigar, Cole tries to get Sheriff to do something about Wakeling and his gang, trying to make him feel guilty for not doing anything "last time". He needn't bother – Sheriff already feels guilty: so guilty he is proceeding to crawl into the bottom of a bottle of vodka.

Ace is seething at Jimmy, assuming the Doctor has another great master plan on the go and is trying to keep her out of it. She decides to try to think the problem through herself, and decides that something is taking people, animals and equipment somewhere for whatever purpose. The logical place for it to be would be in the mines – down in the darkness where no-one ever goes, lurking like monsters do. When Jimmy tells her that the mines are all the way out on Adobe Flats and too far away for anything to sneak to the town and back again without being seen, Ace is even more convinced: she knows that is where the Heyworths disappeared. She decides to go and check out the Flats, much to Jimmy's concern.

Whilst the Doctor is presumably asleep upstairs, Bernard is preparing a surprise. His cronies wait downstairs, and he heads to the Doctor's room. Using a gun built into his cradle, he fires twice at the Doctor's bed (downstairs, everyone hears the shots, and assumes that it's over) whereupon the gun jams. Some more of the dust has worked its way into the workings. The Doctor comments on how annoying that must be, and Bernard sees that he wasn't in the bed: he was sat on the floor, toying absently with one of the Fussies.

Jimmy tries to dissuade Ace, by telling her the truth about Ryan's disappearance. He tells her how Ryan grew more and more depressed once the mines shut down, and how he used to spend whole days towards the end just sitting in the mines, doing nothing. The night he disappeared, he must have gone to the mines and had an accident. Ace suggests that he might have met the monster in the mines, but Jimmy tells her that he often goes to the mines and has seen nothing. When asked why he goes there, Jimmy admits he is looking for Ryan's body. Ace is almost convinced that she is wrong about the monsters, but knows that

somehow the Adobe Flats are at the centre of all this: she is still determined to go and Jimmy can't stop her.

The Doctor talks to Bernard for some time, trying to find out his real name, talking about the ocean, about denying the things that make us us. He comments that as much as Bernard tries to deny his “dolphin-ness”, he still needs his exo-suit to pump water across his body, otherwise he'd overheat and die. Bernard is not impressed, even when the Doctor says that all he wants to do is visit some old friends, but it seems wherever he goes, somebody has to try and kill him. He wants to know what's going on, but Bernard refuses to tell him.

Ace walks out, her rucksack on her shoulder, and Jimmy watches her go, a troubled look on his face.

The Doctor walks down the stairs, much to everyone's amazement, and announces that unless anybody else would like to try and shoot him, he is going for a walk. Cole says there's nowhere to go, except the town, but the Doctor just walks out. The two henchmen look surprised, try to work out if he's leaving. Bernard arrives and instructs Sheriff to arrest the Doctor – on any charge he can think of. Sheriff bristles and says that he is the law around here, not the dolphin. Bernard wants to know how long that will last, if the Doctor keeps poking around . . .

Wakeling is in his laboratory again, watching Sweetness looking out of the window. He takes a blood sample from her to test, and notices the Doctor simply walking out of the town. He is interrupted by one of his henchmen telling him someone has some troubling news for him. Jimmy is stood in the foyer.

Ace reaches the flats some time later, tired by her journey and wishing the horses hadn't vanished. She soon forgets that when she sees a wooden cross planted in the ground, indicating a grave, right by the burnt out shell of a house.

Bernard and his goons get themselves onto horseback to get after Ace – and presumably the Doctor. They thank Jimmy for the information and – with a sly laugh – for providing the horses. Jimmy says nothing as they ride out.

Ace investigates the burnt out house, finding a few destroyed remains of what must have once been a family home. As she looks, she hears someone else in the house. It is the Doctor, staring at the mantelpiece. He asks Ace how many people she thinks she has known in her life. “I’m so much older than you, Ace,” he tells her. “I’ve known millions of people. Seen millions die. But these two . . . I just didn’t want to find out that these two were dead, too. And as long as I didn’t come here, I didn’t have to know for sure.” Ace is sorry, asks who they were. The Doctor tells her it was an old friend, and her husband. He also tells her that they met, once. He indicates the mantelpiece: there is a damaged picture still resting there. It is Mel Bush and her husband.

The Doctor remembers finding a message, floating in a bottle, in space. The message was a recording: Mel and her husband, Ben Heyworth, in their farm on the Adobe Flats. Mel is heavily pregnant, radiant, happy. She explains about making a go of it, despite the mining not panning out, says she’d like to name junior after the Doctor, but what kind of a name for a boy is that? Instead, she invites the Doctor to visit – perhaps if he arrives in time he can be a God-parent, or just Uncle Doctor.

Ace is stunned. Somehow, the idea that someone who travels with the Doctor could die seems . . . wrong. She wants to know if there’s anything that he can do, some clever tuck he can sew into the timelines to make it not have happened. The Doctor tells her that he has considered this a lot recently. All the time he spent manipulating the timelines, pulling them like puppet strings. If they left now, it might be possible. If they stay and find out that Mel is definitely dead, then the consequences of any changes might be too damaging to risk. But the Doctor is no longer sure he has the ability or the ruthlessness to perform the task: he has been out-played and out manipulated by a greater opponent than himself. Ace says that if it was her, she’d want the person whose fault it was punished. The Doctor’s face is dark.

The Doctor's thoughts are broken by the sound of horses approaching. They are bearing down on him and Ace, trying to run them down. As they dive out of the way of the attack, the Doctor tells Ace to throw herself on the floor, as the horses won't step on her. She does, and so does he: whilst Ace is fine, the soft ground starts to swallow the Doctor, and soon he has completely vanished beneath the sand. Bernard and Ace watch him vanish, convinced he has fallen to his death in an abandoned mine. Ace is to be taken back to Wakeling.

Jimmy sits in his house, a picture of Ryan in his hands.

Sweetness is sent to bed as Ace is brought in kicking and screaming. She manages to catch Wakeling tell one of his henchmen to take Ace outside before her bedroom door is shut.

The Doctor finds himself in one of the underground mines, surrounded by the Fussies. They have sucked him through the fine sand, into the chamber. He takes a quick look around, seeing a variety of objects stolen from the townsfolk that have been wrought into a city for the tiny computers. He also sees that they are guiding him to a rudimentary bed that has been made for him. Too exhausted by the day to resist he falls into it and sleeps. For at least an hour.

Bernard is gloating, enjoying the idea of shooting Ace, perhaps even letting his friends have a little fun with her. He would himself, but . . . His plans are interrupted when things start blowing up all around him. As the henchmen run off in fear, Ace bolts, but is caught. Luckily, it's Jimmy who does the catching. He lets Ace throw a couple more of the explosive charges (old mine equipment) in Bernard's general direction, and then tells her they'd better leave. Ace agrees: she's got to find the Doctor.

When he wakes, the Doctor notices that most of the Fussies have gone – presumably heading for the town to do their work. There are a few around, though: most noticeably, a couple seem to be warily guarding a smaller, less well crafted computer. They trust the Doctor enough to let him examine it, and he notices there is no serial number on it: he asks the

Fussies whether it is all their own work, but they cannot answer him. He has a look around, and finds a schematic for the Fussies, quite old, and dotted with annotations in Mel's handwriting. The Doctor asks if she told them about him, but again can get no answer. This disappoints the Doctor, as he correctly guesses that the Fussies could tell him what happened to Mel.

It is at this point that the Doctor notices a newer structure that the creatures have created. The focal point is the Doctor's sonic screwdriver. As he takes it back, chiding the machines, he notices something else. There is a heavy piece of scientific equipment in the structure – and it has dried blood on it. The Doctor looks at it intently.

Jimmy and Ace are still looking for the Doctor: having given up at the site of his disappearance for fear of causing another cave-in, Jimmy takes her back to the mine entrance so they can try searching inside. They don't need to bother, though, as the Doctor comes strolling out looking right as rain. He is still unwilling to get too involved himself, but has got a plan of action: he talks to Sheriff whilst Ace calls up the shuttlecraft and gets them to contact the Adjudicators. Jimmy is concerned that Wakeling controls the town, and that he'll never let them make an off planet call. The Doctor seems disheartened, but suddenly brightens: "We'll just have to use somebody else's radio, then, won't we."

As day breaks, Sheriff is in his office with another bottle. He has clearly not slept. He is clearly not happy when the Doctor walks in, looking ominous. Sheriff tells him that he should be heading for his shuttle, should get away while he still can, that he shouldn't get involved. The Doctor wants to know what happened here, what it was that was so bad that it seems to be eating away at each and every colonist. Sheriff won't answer, just repeats that the Doctor should leave. Quietly, the Doctor agrees.

He gives Sheriff a long speech: the Doctor used to get involved, used to think that every problem was his to dive into, his to solve. But he's come to think that maybe some things aren't, maybe some things are best left to people to sort out for themselves. Perhaps they always were. We can't alter the past, he tells Sheriff, no matter how much we might want to,

no matter how hard we try. But we can make amends in the present, can try to make now better.

The Doctor places the bloodied scientific instrument on Sheriff's desk.

Sheriff stares at it for a few seconds, his face unreadable. The Doctor tells him that he will leave the matter in his hands, but leaves him a few hints: if he DNA traces the blood, he'll find it belongs to Melanie Heyworth, nee Bush; if he checks up on the instrument, he'll find out it's fairly standard issue for any serious geneticist. As the Doctor leaves, Sheriff watches him go.

Ace and Jimmy are crawling through the abandoned mines, on the Doctor's instructions. According to him, the Fussies have acquired quite a collection of components from the colony since they were "born", and in particular two of their structures contain enough bits of a sub-space communicator to get a message to the shuttle. If they're connected up properly. And if they can find them. And if they don't have the whole mine fall in on them. Ace decides that the Doctor must be feeling better, because his plans are back to their old standard.

Sweetness – the red-haired girl – decides that its time she had an adventure, rather than getting treated like a pin-cushion. She escapes from Wakeling's house, and heads into Heritage.

The Doctor arrives back at Cole's bar. The barman seems edgy around him, but the Doctor tries to reassure him. He explains what he is doing on Heritage – trying to forget. He explains about his past, how he used to meddle in the unknown without due concern, how he learned something he shouldn't. He came to Heritage to try and decide what to do next, but instead it's just shown him that he shouldn't get involved: people can look after their own lives, and their own ends. He's even thinking about going home, at last.

Ace and Jimmy narrowly escape getting covered by a ton of rocks. Jimmy considers himself extra lucky that none of the rubble hit his backpack: he's still carrying some of the explosives. "Wicked," sighs Ace.

Sweetness arrives in the bar, looking at the Doctor with wide expressive eyes. He immediately starts putting on a show for her with his spoons and his magic. He even manages to get Cole to rustle up some ice-cream for her.

At his lab, Wakeling has noticed Sweetness' absence and is yelling at Bernard and his two companions to go and find her. She is absolutely vital, to everything. The three people hurry away, terrified.

The Doctor is telling Sweetness about his home, how there are no children on Gallifrey, when he suddenly asks her about her parents. She says nothing, looking away. As the light catches her eyes, the Doctor notices something. Then Bernard and his two henchmen walk into the bar. The Doctor isn't worried by them, but Cole makes sure he is somewhere else as they walk over. One henchman takes Sweetness, while Bernard and the other talk about the Doctor as if he isn't there, saying people who run around on main roads in the middle of the night ought to be careful: they could end up dead. When one of Bernard's henchmen decides the Doctor is in his seat, the Doctor politely moves. Then Bernard decides that the Doctor's new seat is *his* favourite.

The Doctor is about to give them a speech about how they should enjoy their moment of power while they still have it, when he notices outside: Sheriff is crawling onto a horse and galloping away, without looking back. His hearts fall. Bernard suggests that the Doctor come with them, so Wakeling can *thank* him personally for looking after Sweetness, but the Doctor hardly hears. He just allows himself to be herded out by the three of them, while Cole watches, doing nothing.

Ace asks Jimmy why he's stayed in Heritage. He answers that some small part of him believes that since he never found Ryan's body, then he *could* still be alive. Mostly, he stays because it gives him a link to Ryan, and because he doesn't really have anywhere else to go. And, he says quietly, because he deserves Heritage.

Wakeling is making several preparations to some kind of large scale experiment. It involves lots of technical equipment, and a video link. When the Doctor arrives, he is quite chatty, discussing the future with the Time Lord without a care in the world. He seems quite jolly, even. The Doctor wants to discuss the past. Wakeling merely nods, saying the he expected as much: he suggests that the Doctor is an agent, sent to investigate something big on Heritage. The Doctor is non-committal, choosing instead to needle Wakeling for answers. He manages to get out of the scientist that he believes that under certain circumstances, certain people can only be held accountable to history, people resting on the hub of immortality. The Doctor informs Wakeling that he is something of an expert when it comes to history, and that sometimes all that matters is that there is a grave on the Adobe flats, next to a burnt out farm. Sometimes, history only remembers where the bodies are buried.

Wakeling loses his patience with the Doctor, telling him lies about the town's children burning the farm down once the Heyworths left, that they had to shoot their horse when they left. Most of all, he tells the Doctor that it's time he left them, went back to whatever hole he crawled out of. The Doctor takes it to mean that he will be killed, but Wakeling insists that he would never do that: not in his own house. He thanks the Doctor for returning Sweetness, and insists that Bernard escorts him to his hotel room, and then to his shuttle. The Doctor takes that to mean he wants the town to see him leave, so nobody goes looking for him, but Bernard is already lugging him away. Wakeling goes back to his work, clearly agitated. Sweetness looks quite worried.

Ace and Jimmy find the cavern.

The Doctor is trying to turn Bernard, explaining that if he works for someone so ruthless, sooner or later he will become the next victim: Wakeling can't afford any witnesses. Bernard won't listen, though, and simply escorts the Doctor to his room. The Doctor enters, but as Bernard enters behind him, the dolphin is struck a cruel blow across the jaw, knocking him unconscious. As the Doctor spins around, he sees Cole standing behind him, grinning.

Sheriff is sitting on the Adobe Flats, Mel's murder weapon in his hands, looking out at the burnt out farm house, remembering. In his other hand, is a bottle of vodka. There is a pistol by his side, just within reach.

Ace and Jimmy wire up the different structures as per the Doctor's instructions. They manage to contact the shuttle and get it on its way, but the equipment shorts out before they can ask for Adjudication. Jimmy is more concerned by something else he has seen in the Fussies structure: human bones and a knife he recognises. It used to be Ryan's.

The Doctor takes some components from Bernard's cradle, leaving the dolphin immobilised and only able to speak in his natural clicks and whistles. Cole and the Doctor hurry away, Cole explaining that there just comes a point in a man's life where he has to do something, stop running away. The Doctor is silent. Finally, the Doctor says that perhaps it's time he found out what was going on. He tells Cole to tell him everything he knows, and Cole looks worried.

Examining the bones, Ace finds that some are missing, but that the clavicle and a thigh bone in the structure are broken. Trying to be as kind as she can, she explains to Jimmy that it looks like Ryan fell whilst he was down in the mines and couldn't get back out for help. The Fussies found his bones and used them in their architecture. Jimmy, however is simply staring at the bones, emotionless. He tells Ace that Ryan didn't fall: he knew the mines too well to let something like that happen. He tells her that it was deliberate. Ace looks at the tiny Fussies, milling around them, eyes lit.

Sheriff and Cole remember the story between them, from the point where Wakeling and Ben Heyworth arrived in Sheriff's office, Ben accusing the silent Wakeling of killing his wife. When Sheriff asks whether it was true, Wakeling merely nodded, looking like his world had crumbled. Sheriff and a deputy went to look over the scene of the crime. After a brief look, Sheriff decided that Mel had tripped and fallen down the stairs: an accidental death. Ben cannot believe what he is hearing, and Sheriff tries very calmly to explain that the work Wakeling is doing is the only thing that can stop Heritage from crumbling into the dust. It will bring jobs and money to the colony, to everyone. None of them can afford for Wakeling to be taken away, for that work to stop. Sheriff instructs Ben to go home and think about it, to go home and look after his child. Ben is furious, but the deputy and Sheriff form a formidable team. He walks home in the desert, barely comprehending what has happened. The Doctor is appalled, but Cole tells him the story gets worse.

Jimmy tells Ace that Ryan killed himself. Because he was ashamed. Ashamed of what Jimmy had done, one night.

The story is now remembered by Cole and Jimmy. Heyworth did raise his child, and keep his farm going, burying his wife right by his farm house. But he also built up a damning case of evidence against Sheriff and Wakeling. It was only when he came to present that case, that he needed help. He asked Cole – the only man on Heritage he trusted – to help him. To his eternal shame, Cole went and told Sheriff what Ben was planning, and Sheriff told Wakeling. The response was immediate – he held a rally to talk to the whole town, to tell them what would happen. If they sided with him, prosperity and rebirth; if they sided with Heyworth, the same dusty poverty they had known since they landed here.

Heritage's decision was almost immediate: they followed Wakeling and his gang out to the Adobe Flats as one, and burnt the Heyworth Farm down to the ground. When Heyworth escaped the flames, he was beaten to death by the townsfolk, and left to rot in the desert. Heritage had been damned since that day.

The Doctor stares at Cole in silence.

Sheriff throws the murder weapon at the burnt out farm house, tears streaming down his face.

Jimmy reaches out to touch Ryan's bones, Ace sat wordless behind him.

Wakeling watches the Doctor's shuttle come flying back in, and landing on the landing pad.

Cole tries to convince the Doctor that there is only one course of action open to him – he can't take on the entire town, after all. He suggests that the Doctor get out as fast as he can on that shuttle, inform the proper authorities and let them deal with it. If the Doctor hangs around, Cole says, then Bernard and his friends will kill him, just as soon as it gets dark. If he so much as steps off the main street, he'll be worm-food. The Doctor agrees that maybe the most prudent course of action would be to retreat, and spread the truth, but he won't leave until Ace returns.

Ace doesn't know what to do. She doesn't want to leave Jimmy, but she can't bring herself to forgive a cold-blooded murderer. Jimmy tells her to leave, to tell the Doctor what happened, to make sure the universe finds out what they did. Without a word, Ace leaves Jimmy to the bones.

As they reach the shuttle, the Doctor and Cole find that the pilot is dead at the controls. The Doctor tries to power the ship up himself, but it is dead. One of Wakeling's henchmen appears behind him and says it looks like the main power cells have been damaged. He gives the controls a hit with a crowbar just to make sure, and the whole ship goes into meltdown.

Ace pulls herself out of the ground just in time to see the ship explode.

The henchman picks himself up, and dusts himself down and says that yeah, it looked like it was the power cells. He says he'll see the Doctor later, and wanders away, grinning to himself.

Ace arrives on the scene, berating the Doctor for not stopping the ship exploding, for not doing something Doctor-ish. She can't believe that he wants to sit back and do nothing whilst the universe dumps on him from a great height. The Doctor is quite philosophical, saying he's owes Wakeling something. He had come to Heritage to tidy up a few loose ends before he crawled away home to bury himself in obscurity. Some things had happened recently to make him question the life he led, his right to interfere. People got hurt, and he wasn't sure whether he could function in that kind of situation again. Wakeling has just proved to him that he not only can, but that he has to. And suddenly, the only thing that Cole is afraid of, is the little man standing in front of him, his eyes ablaze.

Wakeling is in his laboratory, the video link just coming on, as the Doctor and Cole burst in. Cole is just sitting back, seeing what the Doctor will do. Wakeling is furious. Sweetness hides behind some instruments, but looks on with curiosity. The people on the video conference are simply astounded, demanding to know what exactly is going on. The Doctor strides around, explaining what most of the machinery will do, introducing himself to the people on the video screens, accusing Wakeling of being a murderer.

Ace, in the meantime, is sneaking around the back of Wakeling's house, trying to find a convenient but secret way in. She manages to find one, and finds Sweetness looking at her, silently. Ace holds a finger to her lips.

As the hullabaloo starts, Wakeling is quick to regain control, explaining about some wild, unproven accusations a few years ago, some local madman. Cole protests, but Bernard and his friends arrive to subdue him and the Doctor. Just as Wakeling looks about to regain the upper hand, Sheriff bursts in, pistol in his hand, and arrests Wakeling for murder. Bernard over-reacts to the ensuing scuffle, and one of the henchmen and Sheriff are shot dead. When

Wakeling turns back to his video conference, every one of the delegates has logged off. He lets out a howl of disgust.

Ace is just helping Sweetness out of the house when she hears the gunshot. Wanting to go back, but knowing she can't, she climbs on a horse with Sweetness and gallops away.

Wakeling demands to know if the Doctor, if Cole, truly understand what they've done. The Doctor does, explaining that being the site of the galaxy's first stable cloning experiments would make quite a profit for Heritage, and that Sweetness really is a most impressive piece of work – despite the flaw in her eyes – but that the achievement was still built on the bones of others. Wakeling protests that it was an accident: Mel and Ben had come to him because they couldn't have children, they wanted a clone of both their genes combined to raise as their child, but to take his experiments to the next level Wakeling needed to copy just a single person. There could be no doubt that his clone was a fraud. When the Heyworths found out, they didn't understand, there had been an argument, a scuffle, and before he knew it, Mel was lying dead on the floor.

It had been Wakeling's idea to go to Sheriff, to confess everything, but luckily Sheriff had seen the big picture, knew what was best for Heritage. Used to know what was best for Heritage. The Doctor asks about Ben, but Wakeling insist that Heyworth was just a fool who didn't know when it was best to keep his mouth shut. Like the Doctor and Cole. Well, Wakeling says archly, in a few moments, neither the Doctor nor Cole will be saying anything, and Wakeling will be free to reveal his discovery to the galaxy.

It is at this point that a small gang of Fussies blow a cloud of Heritage's red dust into their eyes, and give the Doctor and Cole and smokescreen for their escape. They take the opportunity, escaping towards the Adobe Flats on Sheriff's horse.

Down in the mines below the flats, Jimmy sits staring at the structure that contains Ryan's bones. He is obviously distressed, toying with one of the explosive devices.

Ace and Sweetness arrive at Mel's farm, where Ace says that all they need to do is wait for the Doctor. As she looks behind her, she sees dust clouds getting closer. Sweetness, however, has spotted something else.

Wakeling and Bernard and the remaining henchman follow on their horses, close behind the Doctor and Cole as they reach the Flats. Wakeling is fuming.

The Doctor decides it will be best to split up. They go separate ways, the Doctor heading towards an old abandoned mine, Cole heading the other way. When Wakeling and Bernard arrive, they too split up: Wakeling goes after the Doctor, Bernard and his henchman go after Cole.

Ace watches as Bernard and his henchman catch Cole and proceed to toss him between the two of them like a football. Telling Sweetness to stay put and not move for anything, she rushes to Cole's aid. Sweetness picks up the object she has been eyeing: Mel's murder weapon, lying in the dust.

Jimmy stares at Ryan's skull, willing himself to press the button.

As Ace arrives and knocks Bernard away from Cole, his henchman tries to help and suddenly disappears into the ground: Cole shouts out that the whole area is riddled with potholes and wells due to the nearby mine. Bernard doesn't care, he will still kill Cole.

Jimmy can't kill himself, and instead drops the explosives and attacks the earth around the structure, bringing the roof down on it and setting the ground shaking all around.

Wakeling finds the Doctor, who has stopped by Mel's grave. Wakeling attacks, and looks like he will be victorious: the Doctor comments that perhaps it will be easier to give in, to not have to make the difficult decisions any more. Then the ground shakes and rumbles and Wakeling

finds himself knocked onto an unstable patch of ground. As he falls, he clings on for dear life and begs the Doctor to save him.

Bernard catches Cole a good clunk across the forehead, sending him down. Ace manages to take him by surprise, however, and pull out some of the tubing on his exo-suit. The tubing is part of the system that keeps Bernard moist even in the desert heat, and with it gone he soon starts to over heat and pass out. Ace is triumphant, and checks on Cole. He'll survive, and he'll try to keep Bernard from drying up too much as well. Ace goes to help the Doctor.

Before the Doctor can help Wakeling out of the pit, Sweetness arrives, holding the murder weapon. She accuses Wakeling of killing her mother, of killing her. The Doctor tries to help him, but as Wakeling reaches out for his rescuer's hand, Sweetness drops the murder weapon. Reflex makes Wakeling catch it, and he plummets to his death. It's over, says Sweetness, and then bursts into tears.

Jimmy pulls himself away from the collapsed tunnel: "Rest in Peace," he murmurs.

Ace arrives, and finds the Doctor looking down at the bawling Sweetness. He cannot bring himself to comfort her. Ace moves in and hugs the girl, giving him a questioning look. The Doctor doesn't say anything, but as Ace looks away, he keeps looking at the two of them. There is a tear in his eye.

Heritage holds a funeral for Ben and Mel Heyworth, and after the service the Doctor and Ace slip away to meet with their shuttle.