

# **Doctor Who - the Art of Destruction Study Guide**

**Doctor Who - the Art of Destruction by Stephen Cole**

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# Plot Summary

"Doctor Who - the Art of Destruction" by Stephen Cole is the story of an alien invasion on a planet in the future. Doctor Who and his traveling companion must fight for their lives as they help fend off the alien species.

Down in the caves underneath the volcano in Africa, Kanjuchi and Adiel go to check on the mushrooms in the new chambers. While they are there, they see a strange substance that looks like gold. It goes after Kanjuchi, attacking him and covering his body while Adiel runs for help.

The TARDIS lands and Doctor Who and Rose Tyler step out. Locals question them on who they are and why they are there when Adiel's screams are heard. One of the men and the Doctor enter the lava tubes while Rose and the other man go to the common room. While they are there, another man brings in a gold-plated vulture.

The Doctor tries to determine what the strange gold substance is while Rose learns more about the people and politics in the area. The local villagers are starving. The little food that they have is taken by rebels. Adiel has worked for weeks to set up a situation where the rebels are caught by the guards, but her plans are not going well thanks to the new arrivals and the gold blobs.

Rose and Basel meet a many-tongued alien named Faltato. He is a thief who is looking for the famous lost art of the Valnaxi. He thinks the art is in the volcano. The Doctor realizes that the golden blobs are there to protect the art.

The rebels show up earlier than anyone expects. The gold blobs are still on the attack, and an alien space ship lands. The Doctor figures out that there is something extremely important in the caverns, and the gold blobs must protect it. The Wurms that came on the alien spaceship have put the blobs on defensive mode. The Wurms take the humans prisoner while they make plans to track down the Lona Venus.

While this is all happening, Adiel learns that Flynn has been using dead people for his experiments regarding food growth. This horrifies her. Still, she is literally linked to the scientist as they are forced to join hands to protect a Wurm. A gold blob comes at her, and she breaks the physical link to the others and is consumed by the blob.

This angers the Doctor, who is determined to save her. He comes up with a protective antidote and sets off to find the Valnaxi in order to save Rose. When he talks with them, he learns about their plan for survival, and he also discovers that their plan went very wrong. They use Rose as a template for their new form.

The scientists escape, and the tunnels collapse. The muck left is perfect for growth, making Adiel extremely happy. Every sets off in their own way, ready to face adventures and the future. The Doctor and Rose take off in the TARDIS while the new Valnaxi templates embrace living rather than just enduring through the ages.



# Beginning - Chapter 4

## Beginning - Chapter 4 Summary

"Doctor Who - the Art of Destruction" by Stephen Cole is the story of an alien invasion on a planet in the future. Doctor Who and his traveling companion must fight for their lives as they help fend off the alien species.

Kanjuchi is down in the caves with Adiel. Both of them are on edge. They are checking out the mushrooms in the new chambers. They have to go through a narrow opening to get to the first of the new chambers, and Kanjuchi has a hard time fitting through with his paunch.

In the cave he sees something sparkling. It looks like gold, and it's all over. As Kanjuchi bends down to check it out, it begins to move, rolling closer to him. He tries to get away, but it stretches and sucks at him. He can't get it off, and it starts spreading on him. It's extremely painful. Kanjuchi shows Adiel that it's eating him, and she slips through the entrance to go get help. He tries to follow, but he's trapped due to his gold-covered arms.

The TARDIS lands in a crop field and a man and girl hop out. It's Doctor Who and Rose Tyler. They aren't certain where they are because all the space pollution messed with their instruments. Doctor Who examines a plant and notes that it's aloe vera produced by high-yield corn. This makes him think that they are on Earth in the future. They stop talking as a voice tells them not to move.

In Chapter 1, expecting nasty aliens, Rose is relieved to discover the voice belongs to humans. They ask where Rose and the Doctor came from. After talking, they discover that they are in Chad, Africa. They introduce themselves, and Rose notices that Basel's watch says it's April 11, 2118.

They hear screaming, and everyone runs off to see if Adiel is all right. She tells them that something is wrong with Kanjuchi. Some weird gold stuff ate him. Doctor says that's right up their street and instructs Rose to help Adiel. He tells Solomon to show him through the tunnels, but the man doesn't want to. Doctor runs off in the direction Adiel came from. Basel tries to comfort Adiel.

Solomon and the Doctor make their way through lava tubes, and Doctor realizes that they are farmers. They grown genetically modified fungus inside the volcano since there is little land left for growing outside.

The two take a turn in the passageway and come across something that looks like a warped, twisted man that is now a golden statue. It's Kanjuchi. Doctor goes to examine him and notes that it's odd that Adiel said she left him in the chamber, but now he's in the corridor looking like he is standing guard.



In Chapter 2, Basel takes them to the common room, which is air-conditioned. Adiel is staring into space, fingering the beads on her necklace. Basel gives her a drink and a passive-pill. He hopes it will calm her down. Basel speculates on how Rose and Doctor came to be there. He thinks they saw the crops and got hungry. Rose thinks this is a good cover story. He asks if they are refugees from the fighting.

They talk about the volcano, and Basel says that Africa has large debts so it rents out land to Europe and America so that the others can feed their people. The people in Africa, themselves, are starving. Edet Fynn stands in the doorway and tells them that it's called bio-piracy. Doctor and Solomon come into the common room and inform the director that Kanjuchi is dead. Doctor asks Adiel where her necklace came from, and she responds that she made it from local stones. The Doctor says the stones are tektites.

The Doctor finds Adiel's data-get, and they learn that she did a scan on the gold. The readings are gibberish. The Doctor points out that the elements are a product of geology. A worker comes in with a golden vulture, and they realize that it was once a real bird. They make plans to go out to look for more wildlife, and the bird suddenly move and flies at Rose.

In Chapter 3, Basel jumps on top of Rose, protecting her. The bird smashes into a wall and collapses to the ground. It gets up and breaks through a window, flying outside. They realize that if the bird came back to life, maybe Kanjuchi will, also.

Fynn and the Doctor are making their way through the growth chambers. Fynn thinks about how he wanted to transform the world of death and famine around him into a world of new life. He warns the Doctor to be careful since the fungus is very fragile. They talk about the fungus, and Fynn explains how he has already reengineered the DNA in order to increase the fungus' nutritional value. He's trying to make it so that it can be farmed in places where regular crops would never grow. Unfortunately, at this point, the fungus is poisonous.

Fynn thinks that everything everyone is telling him regarding the gold is a joke. They come across the statue of Kanjuchi, and he realizes it's not a joke. The Doctor says that the man may have been infected by an alien substance. As they are getting the data, the composition shifts, and the statue begins to swell. It comes to life and punches the Doctor. The statue's eyes are consumed with dark energy. Fynn tries to come to terms with what he has just witnessed. He shuts his eyes, and when he opens them, the statue has moved to the side, and the way into the chamber is clear.

In Chapter 4, Solomon watches Nadif and some guards hunt for golden creatures. He whispers aloud that it's his fault. He's the only one who can do something about it.

Rose and Basel run after the vulture—a difficult task in the heat. They have to climb up a rock face. They look down and see some substance like molten metal coming out of a hole in the volcano. It rolls towards them. They run away, and when it gets too close to



them, Basel traps it under a billycan. Basel comments that Rynn has been messing with nature too long. Rose comments that it seems more like an alien substance.

The Doctor regains consciousness and wonders why the statue attacked them one minute then stepped aside to welcome them the next. He and Fynn realize it happened when he used the sonic screwdriver. They also note that while Kanjuchi is dead, his body is in service for someone else. They just don't know who.

Fynn is anxious to check on his crop. To his dismay, it's covered in gold. The Doctor thinks the gold might be designed to target organic life. The gold vulture flies in they see it's heading towards a glowing blob in the chamber. The blob splits and rolls so it surrounds them. They are trapped.

## Beginning - Chapter 4 Analysis

This chapter sets the scene for the book and introduces the reader to the main characters. The conflict in the story comes quickly, before the official story begins. Two people are down in the caves, and they have a premonition that something is amiss. They both feel unsettled. Things have changed in the caves. Adiel has been away, and now there are new caves. The doorways are narrow, showing that the designer is more concerned about making space quickly than about making maneuverability convenient for others. This leads to entrapment for the pudgy Kanjuchi.

Doctor Who arrives with Rose at this time. He's a traveler who is used to foreign lands and times. A true scientist, he uses deductive reasoning to determine where they are. The two observe unusual plants, showing that hybridization is common in the area. This hints at the fact that genetic engineering might be a critical element in the story's conflict.

In Chapter 1, the Doctor and Rose are in the future. They hear screaming, and instead of panicking, they rush off to help. Solomon tries to hold the Doctor back, but the man good-naturally evades him and rationally points out how he can help. Even as they run through the volcano, the Doctor is taking note of his surroundings.

In Chapter 2, in the common room, Basel speculates aloud, offering Rose more information regarding her surroundings. She learns that even though it's a farm, people in the surrounding area are hungry. She also discovers that there is warfare around them. The politic scene is so filled with unrest that it has interfered with Basel's education. They are interrupted by the others who come in and offer insight into topics such as bio-piracy. The Doctor notes that Adiel's necklace is made of tektites, which are glassy crystals formed from meteor impact.

Chapter 3 brings some hope. The bird comes back to life, and there is hope that Kanjuchi will as well. It provides more incentive to determine what is going on with the strange substance. The team splits up - Rose and Basel go after the bird while Fynn and the Doctor go after Kanjuchi. Fynn doesn't really believe all the occurrences are real until he confronts the aggressive statue himself.



In Chapter 4, Solomon comments that all this is his fault and only he can fix it. This provides more mystery for the reader who has no idea how he fits into the story's equation. The others offer suggestions on what might be happening. At this point in the story, the humans are in defensive mode and have no idea what's going on, but they continue to observe and theorize in order to determine how to deal with the alien substance.



# Chapters 5-9

## Chapters 5-9 Summary

In Chapter 5, the Doctor uses the sonic device again to ward the substance off. It works on the bird and blobs, but Kanjuchi tries to enter the chamber. He's no longer scared. He's furious. Kanjuchi pushes in and runs to the back wall as if he's guarding something. Fynn wants to run away, and The Doctor warns Fynn that ignoring it won't make it go away. Fynn thinks it's all alarmist nonsense.

Solomon walks through the abandoned eastern caverns. A figure greets him asking for more food. Solomon says he can only give one delivery a week, and if he's caught, he will be sent to the labour camp. The figure is Talib. He sends Talib away saying that he will deliver food on Sunday in the marked cavern.

After Talib leaves, Solomon follows the tunnels to the machine. It has started glowing. He realizes it's glowing because he found it as he was working on the catacombs. He decides it would be wise to hide the machine, which looks like a panel. As the roof caves in, he runs away. Solomon doesn't notice Adiel watching him from the shadows.

In Chapter 6, Rose follows Basel to the entrance of the growth chambers. He turns on a low light, telling her that they don't want to disturb the thousands of bats that live in the ceiling. As they walk forward, she feels something strange beneath her feet. It's the bats. They are now golden and littering the grounds. Rose calls for the Doctor, and he answers back just as the bats begin to fly around. They run outside, and the Doctor keeps a bat for observation. He names it Tolstoy.

Adiel runs up to them and asks about Kanjuchi. The Doctor says he is dead. The statue that looks like him is using his body, but it's not really Kanjuchi. They need to find out who is controlling the body.

As the Doctor studies Tolstoy, the bat mutates into a hideous, bloated caricature of its former self. It's now a golem - a living being created from clay. In this case, the golem is made from magma instead of clay. They determine that it's made from alien technology. The data-get shows that Adiel's necklace is alien. The stones weren't formed from meteor impact. They were formed by an alien spaceship landing.

The Doctor asks to borrow the necklace for a while, and Adiel hands it to him. She asks for a break and walks out. The Doctor asks Rose to wait a few minutes then follow her. He's worried that Adiel is up to something.

As the sun sets, Solomon watches the guards at the main gate. He wants to help those at his home in Gouronkah, but he also wants a better life for his children. He hopes he isn't caught for his thieving, and he also hopes they don't die the golden death.





In Chapter 7, Adiel and Basel are in the common room when Rose walks in. They are whispering. They tell Rose they will speak Kenga since their conversation is personal. Basel tells Adiel that people are going to get hurt. Adiel says it's for the greatest good. They want Fynn investigated. Basel can't believe she is setting up Solomon, and she says that if he's been involved with the glowing stuff, he deserves punishment. Basel insists that Solomon is straight. Adiel says that she saw him go straight to the door-he knew it was there. Rose asks about the meeting that Adiel was going to attend, and they ask her how she understands what they are saying. They are speaking Kenga. Ruth realizes that the TARDIS translators have just gotten her into trouble.

Adiel and Basel question her, wondering if she is a reporter. Rose asks some questions saying that she and the Doctor might be able to help. Back in the lab, the Doctor talks with Fynn. The Doctor tells Fynn that there is a spaceship near them. He figures that whatever the creatures in the spaceship have come for is inside the volcano.

It's night and Rose, Basel, and Adiel go back into the tunnels. Adiel leads them to the golden panel. The Doctor is outside using a gadget that shows imaging from the inside the volcano. A bright light flashes, and the Doctor says that his data get picked up a massive energy surge from inside Mount Tarsus.

Basel and Rose are walking inside the tunnel, and they hit what seems to be a dead end. Rose turns around to ask Adiel what's going on, and she bumps into an invisible wall. Adiel says that she needs them to stay in there because she doesn't want them interrupting her plans. There is going to be an attack within the next few hours.

Basel explains that the local villagers are starving to death. Solomon has been trying to help them. Adiel had talked with the village leader, Talib, telling him to make sure that robbers and bandits saw him coming down into the tunnel so they would know about the place. The rebels plan to invade, but she is tipping off security, who will attack them. As they talk, Rose sees the silhouette of a strange creature around the corner. It comes towards them.

In Chapter 8, neither Rose nor Basel recognize the creature, and they're happy now for the invisible wall. They think they're safe until the creature comes closer and begins picking the lock on their invisible wall. They run towards the dead-end hoping that there is some way through. They dig through rocks and hear the creature getting close to them. Soon they find themselves in a trophy room strewn with skeletons with fluffy mold hugging the bones.

Fynn is trying to write in this journal about the day's events. The box with the bat keeps shaking as if the animal is trying to break free. Fynn tries to contact the main gate using a two-way radio. He doesn't get any response. He goes outside and discovers that the guards are covered in gold. He sees a golden blob coming towards him, and he runs for the volcano.

Rose and Basel continue looking for a way out, and they realize that the alien caught up with them. He introduces himself as Jaxamillian Faltato. The alien says has come from



a world of style and class. His world is full of art treasures. Rose realizes that he must have come from the space ship that they saw.

Adiel can't believe all that is going on. After weeks of preparation, tonight is the night of change. There is a lot at stake—the survival of the villagers, the removal of the rebels, and hopefully an upcoming official inquiry regarding Fynn's affairs. She sees Fynn coming to her. He tells her that the guards are now gold. She calls for help as the one that looks like Kanjuchi comes towards her.

In Chapter 9, Rose and Basel continue trying to make their way out of the cave under Faltato's watchful eye. They break through and find a room of statues and paintings. A gold blob comes towards them, and the Doctor shows up. Rose tells the Doctor that Faltato was controlling the magma forms, but he says he isn't controlling them. He's observing and measuring them. The blobs are sentries, guarding the art. The Doctor points out that Faltato is a thief. The blob comes after the Doctor, who calls out to Solomon, who blasts the blobs with a green light from a tube. Faltato grabs the tube with one of his many tongues. The blob begins moving once again, determined to get revenge on Solomon, and they'll begin to run out of the cave. They go through an opening that leads to the central lava tube and find themselves looking at the wrong end of a plasma rifle. They have met Adiel's rebels.

## Chapters 5-9 Analysis

In Chapter 5, the mystery deepens as the Doctor and Fynn realize that the gold-plated statues change personalities. Kanjuchi went from scared to furious. He's acting as if he is guarding something. The Doctor is intrigued, and Fynn just wants to ignore it all. This is consistent with what the reader knows about Fynn's character. He wouldn't believe that the gold-plating situation was real - preferring to think it was a joke. Now that he sees the statue in action, he will be willing to walk away, pretending the situation doesn't exist.

This chapter begins to show the reader more of the social and political situation the locals are dealing with. They are starving enough to risk their lives to get food. Adiel notices the exchange between Solomon and a local, and this foreshadows trouble coming.

In Chapter 6, the bats are covered in gold, and they are small enough to observe - a fact which delights the Doctor. Part of the mystery of what's going on is revealed in this chapter. There is true evidence of alien involvement. Adiel acts strangely, and the Doctor doesn't trust her. In this chapter, the reader gets more insight into Solomon's personality. He is willing to risk his life and his future to benefit his children. He is caught between worlds, knowing that he has to remain with the workers to benefit his family. He can't go back home to the village he loves even though the conditions in the "better world" are far from Adiel. The workers live in poor conditions and are promised better, but they don't get better conditions. This shows that the ones in command don't really care about those under them.



In Chapter 7, thanks to the TARDIS translation, Rose gets a clear picture of what's going on behind the scenes politically. The Doctor has been suspicious of Adiel in the past, and his intuition is correct. She blocks Basel and Rose behind a wall and leaves them in the tunnels. She is a trickster who spends weeks setting up a trap for the rebels. In the last chapter, the Doctor determines that aliens are involved in the situation. In this chapter, Rose gets her first glimpse of the alien.

In Chapter 8, the author builds tension as Rose and Basel scramble to get out of their dead end with the alien coming after them. Jaxamillian Faltato introduces himself in this chapter. He is not the stereotypical bad-guy alien. Although he is very strange looking and has the potential of doing much harm, he considers himself refined and is arrogant in regards to his appreciation of art.

In Chapter 9, when things get tense, the Doctor reappears. He assesses the situation and begins to understand what's happening. The gold blobs are protectors of the art. Now that they know what they are dealing with, they find themselves faced with a new dilemma as they run out of the cave and meet up with the rebels.



# Chapters 10-14

## Chapters 10-14 Summary

In Chapter 10, both Adiel and Fynn head to the crop fields for cover. Everything is falling apart around them. They see Solomon's Jeep and get in, but Kanguchi comes after them.

Rose and the Doctor go through a narrow fissure as they look for a way to escape. Rose questions him about the Valnaxi. She wonders why they store their art treasures in the volcano. The Doctor explains that it's a good hiding place because the art is safe even during a war. He thinks that they have treasures hidden all over the galaxy. They stop talking as they see Basel and Solomon held at gunpoint.

The rebels are there to get a hold of the food, and the Doctor warns them about the killer alien blob coming behind them. The rebels fire a weapon, and the cave begins to fall in. They see the golden blobs and know that they have to get away before it pulls itself together. They discuss how they are going to get out the caves, and the Doctor seems more intrigued than frightened by everything going on.

Fynn stomps on the accelerator, telling Adiel to hang on. As they go past the entrance to the eastern network, some men come out and scream that they need a transport. Fynn yells for Adiel to stay down, and he floors the accelerator as a rebel opens fire.

In Chapter 11, Solomon has the rebel's weapon, and he stares at his surroundings expecting the worst. They are in another large, vaulted chamber. The Doctor tells him to block off the entrance with one of the paintings. Bats come flying in, and Solomon screams. He tries to shoot them, and they fly at him, scraping his face.

Basel tries to help his boss as the Doctor uses a sonic blast. They realize that one of the caverns is a safe within a safe. When pollution and digging digging in the caverns occurred, the magma that guard the safe woke up. It's very quiet in the chamber. Rose wonders where the roomful of moldy skeletons came from. The Doctor points out that there doesn't seem to be any art stored in the chamber, but whatever is in there is most likely something special. He says it's a shame about Fynn because he feels that the man really does want to save the world. Instead, his agri-unit might be the catalyst for the world's destruction.

Fynn keeps driving until they are out of range of the bullets. One of the rebels calls him by name, and Adiel points that out. He says it's because he's the director. Adiel looks up in time to see some golems coming to block their path. Fynn drives straight at them. They collide, and the Jeep stops. Fynn encourages Adiel to leave immediately, and they see driver ants. They are worried that they're going to be torn to pieces.

Faltato is back in the cave of human bones, and he is happy the others he is with can't see him now. He is bothered by the appearance of the Doctor. Still, everything is worth it



if he can find the Lona Venus. He is certain that this is the last remaining Vanaxi art warren. He just needs to find a security plaque. Still, something seems wrong. He notices that his hooves are gleaming orange. He is standing on top of the security plaque. Faltato goes off to get his sponsors.

In Chapter 12, Rose, Basel, the Doctor, and Solomon walk through a narrow passage until they find a hole in the wall. If the growth chamber. Rose asks if there are mushrooms in there, and the Doctor warns her not to eat any because she will break her teeth on the gold plate. Basel asks what gold plate, and the Doctor notes that the DNA of the original mushrooms has reverted. They wonder how this can happen to the fungus but not the people. A guardian comes in after them, and they try to escape, but the guardian catches Solomon's hand. It sucks him completely in and moves off. The rest hurry to leave, figuring the best way to help Solomon is to stay alive.

Adiel is terrified that the driver ants are going to attack them. She knows how horrible they can be. Instead of attacking, they just swarm past. She and Fynn notice bats coming out of Mount Tarsus as well. As they try to come to terms with what they observe, a rebel named Guwe comes up to them. One of the golden guards suddenly mutates and strikes out at another rebel, killing him. Together they decide that they need to find shelter immediately.

Rose, the Doctor, and Basel look out over the grounds and see all the golems gathering together. Noting that they are in formation, the Doctor points out that they must sense something is coming. He thinks it's a sub orbital landing beacon.

Faltato comes up behind them and accuses them of wanting the treasures for themselves. The Doctor tells Faltato that he has opened Pandora's box by triggering the Valnaxi defenses. Faltato says that his sponsors are on the spaceship. He grabs the sonic wand from the Doctor.

They see the space ship, and it lands in a thick cloud of pollution. Huge, monstrous shapes squirm out of the spaceship. Each one looks like a giant earthworm the size of a baby elephant. They are called Wurms according to the Doctor. The golems go to attack the Wurms.

In Chapter 13, Adiel can't believe what she is seeing. The Wurms eat everything in sight, including the golems. They have a hard time with the flying protectors, however. As the Doctor and Faltato discuss what is happening, the Doctor understands that Faltato isn't just a thief. He is an antiques expert.

The Doctor decides to leave, but Faltato pulls him back with one of his tongues. The Doctor tells Rose to run, and she obeys. Meanwhile, Guwe is holding a gun at Adiel's head. They hear fighting outside, and Guwe goes to check out what's going on. Before he goes, he says he doesn't want to stay inside so that they can experiment on his dead body. He shuts the door, and shortly thereafter Rose comes flying into the room. They discover that Guwe has been eaten. Adiel begins crying, saying that Flynn has been



using dead human bodies for research. Flynn apologizes to her as a Wurm arrests them.

Basel has never remembered such a long night. The Doctor asks Faltato who his leader is, and he responds that it's King Ottak. They are in a transparent bubble floating over the ship. The prisoners are told to kneel before the king who talks about destroying the planet. They come to realize that he is insane.

In Chapter 14, a new day begins and Rose is surrounded by destruction. She realizes that she and Adiel are marched in front of their captors as human shields. A golem comes after them, but won't touch the humans. The worms comment on this, and Adiel and Rose wonder why the golems changed.

While Basel is in the control room, they ask him to explain the nature of the people's alliance with the Valnaxi. Basel denies any alliance, and the Doctor says he can see why they might think there is one. They are looking on the monitors and see Adiel and Rose. Korr comments that he had never seen the guardians act this way. They figure something must have happened to the deactivation plaque during the rock fall. The Doctor tells them that they are going to need him. They need his machine and its memory weepers.

Rose is happy to be locked away instead of being used as a human shield. Adiel asks Flynn to explain what happened to her parents. They had been driving across the Chad border to help out in one of the refugee camps when they were shot, according to witnesses. Adiel asks how he can work with someone like Roba Isako. Flynn defends himself by saying that he knows there isn't enough food to go around so he has been experimenting with farming the dead. He insists he never knew the identities of the subjects so he didn't know if he used her parents. He views a dead body as an empty shell, but the women think it's horrible.

They hear the Doctor talking outside, and they are released from their cells. They are taken to the complex. The Wurms plan to use the humans as the work force to transport the treasures to the ship.

## Chapters 10-14 Analysis

In Chapter 10, the battle is raging as the scientists try to maneuver around rebels and alien blobs. The Doctor is beginning to uncover more of the mystery regarding the Valnaxi stash. He realizes that the volcano is a perfect hiding place. Amidst all the chaos, he remains cool and intrigued.

In Chapter 11, underneath the volcano, the scientists deduce that they are in a very special cavern. They don't know what it's holding, but it must be very important. The Doctor points out the irony of the fact that Flynn wants to save the world by creating more ways to grow food. In the end, they noise and pollution have raised up vengeful armies, and the haven he found for growing could well be the beginning of the end of the world he is trying to save.



Fynn and Adiel try to escape, and she notes that a rebel calls Fynn by name. This clues her in to the idea that he might be more of a problem than she originally thought, and she never really trusted him to begin with. He offers a quick cover story, however.

This chapter shows another side of Faltato. At first he was a scary beast, then an art connoisseur. These character traits were followed by the declaration that he is a thief. Now, the reader sees how much he cares about finding the Lona Venus. It's what he needs to get his life back on track.

In Chapter 12, Doctor Who and the others have been observing the magma for a day now and suddenly things are changing. The DNA of the original mushrooms has reverted, offering hope, but still baffling the scientists. The animals aren't acting normal. This all foreshadows changes to come. Doctor says right out that Pandora's box is now open thanks to Faltato. The Valnaxi are on alert.

In Chapter 13, yet another side of Faltato appears in this chapter as the Doctor uncovers the fact that he is an antiques expert. Even though the Doctor is taken as a prisoner, he never shows fear, even when he realizes the Wurm leader is insane.

In Chapter 14, an interesting ethical question arises. Flynn has been using dead bodies in his experiments for growth. He is fine with this ethically, but Adiel and Rose have a hard time with the concept, thinking it's horrible.





# Chapter 15-19

## Chapter 15-19 Summary

In Chapter 15, a worm soldier is moving across the battleground. Rose, the Doctor, and Fynn have to hold hands around it to shield it. While Fynn and Rose have to hold hands, she can't even get herself to look at him. She doesn't understand how he could do what he did. The Doctor tries to liven things up with some conversation. He asks Fynn about his experiments. Fynn responds that the genetic structures of fungus and of humans are not compatible. The Doctor thinks this might be their only chance. The Doctor wonders why the guardians pick humans like Solomon, and Rose suggests that it might be to get him back for bringing down the roof on the golden plaque.

One of the guardians comes straight at them, and Rose holds her hands away, breaking the circle. The gold hits her feet, and she can feel the heat rising up in her. She is dissolved.

Fynn is frozen in terror and the Doctor is filled with angry pain. He doesn't want to believe this happened. They run off with the Wurm calling for them to stop. They refuse to listen and run on. The Doctor locks himself in Fynn's lab along with Fynn. They have a very short amount of time, but he is determined to create an anti-golem serum. After asking Fynn a series of questions, he creates a repellent to use on himself. He also plans to test it on Tolstoy, the bat. The Doctor has to work fast because the Wurms are already battering on the door.

Faltato drags Basel and Adiel through the narrow passages. He takes them to the security plaque and tells them that if they put in the right security codes, it will deactivate the warren's defenses. As they begin to remove the rocks, they realize something is wrong. It isn't a real deactivation plaque. They wonder what the plaque really does.

Chapter 16 - Fynn and the Doctor continue to work in the lab. The Doctor says he's going to go out another door, get through the common room, and come back in order to draw Korr away. Fynn realizes that he could hide as well, but he also realizes that the Doctor could have abandoned him. The Doctor follows through on his plan, and he warns Korr that he can destroy him. The lab behind Korr explodes after Fynn throws the phial. While the Doctor is in there, the dying Fynn points out that the serum worked on Tolstoy. Sadly, the changes in the bat's system were too severe for survival. Fynn dies, and the Doctor uses the new antidote on himself. It makes him turn gold, but it doesn't totally overcome his brain and body. He doesn't know how long it will be before his body chemistry reasserts itself so he must move fast. He doesn't see the Wurm rise up behind him. The fighting is now at the main entrance of the Western Cape. He goes after Rose.





Chapter 17 - Adiel is helping Basel load the art into the transporter. He tells her to work slower so they have some strength to escape. Faltato notices that something is amiss. He thinks the artwork should be much older, and he doesn't trust what he sees.

King Ottak dislikes the art and looks forward to destroying it all. He feels like he is missing something, but he doesn't know what. Someone comes, and he discovers that Korr is there to tell him that the humans betrayed them.

The Doctor is turning into a golem, and he refuses to let his mind follow suit. He realizes that there must be some sort of secret passage such as a teleport. He asks the Valnaxi if he's coming to them or if they are coming to him. Lights appear in front of him, and he feels a current through his skin. His surroundings shift, and he sees a guardian in front of him. A voice whispers around him telling him not to resist. He asks them for Rose Tyler. The Doctor demands to talk to whoever is in charge as statues of the man and girl come into the arena. The male is Solomon, and the female is Rose.

Chapter 18 - As King Ottak looks at his monitors, he sees the Valnaxi guardians dropping from the sky. He sends his men to secure the entrance to the tunnels and the gateways to the network. He orders everyone to destroy the enemies where they are.

The Doctor moves toward Solomon and Rose. He begs for Rose's body to be freed. The Valnaxi tell him to stop fighting, and they will. He asks who he is talking to. He wants to know who they are. Rose's skin becomes brittle, and arteries and veins come up in her arm and split open. Solomon punches him, and the Doctor falls. He realizes Rose's face is a chrysalis. There is a muscular shape underneath Rose's body. It isn't really Rose. They are using her as a template for the future of the Valnaxi race.

Basel and Faltato are still looking for artwork when King Ottak announces the victory over the guardians. Adiel and Basel realized that they aren't needed for protection anymore, and they attack Faltato. He defends himself, and they realize that they blew their chance.

The Doctor backs away from the Valnaxi who are trying to kill him. They are trying to strangle him, but he doesn't feel it. He fights back, shutting them off and tells them that he must have Rose. He also wants Solomon. Moments later, the real Solomon and Rose appear. The Doctor gives them the dose of his concoction. He asks for them to be teleported, and they tell him that as soon as he stops blocking their network, Rose and Solomon will be taken away. He slips into darkness, whispering for Rose to take care.

Chapter 19 - Adiel and Basel are saved as King Ottak's Wurm hoardes come into the chamber. The king asks where the art is, and Faltato tries to explain what happened.

The Doctor is happy that he is feeling something. He is back in human form. This means that Solomon and Rose are all right as well. A voice in the darkness communicates with the Doctor, and he realizes that he is talking to the survivors of the Valnaxi race. They tell him that their bodies died long ago, but their intelligence survives. They knew the Wurms would come after them so they set up a plan where they would



remain sleeping until they had a future to wake up to. They wanted the Wurms to find them someday, which is why they left riddles. Their plan was a trap.

The Valnaxi knew that if they were ever going to return to their own world, they needed new identities. They set it up so that they would look like the Wurms. They had thought that perhaps the Wurms would find them in about 300 years, but instead, they were stuck there for 2,000 years. They want to go home and go back to their art. After all this time, however, it went wrong. The Wurms didn't get to the bogus deactivation plaque first. Solomon did.

Adiel knows that she should have been frightened, but she isn't. She feels something digging into her back and realizes that it's the plasma tube. She grabs it and sneaks it over to Basel. He uses it to attack, and Faltato collapses. Adiel sees two golden figures forming then closes her eyes.

The Doctor wonders why the Valnaxi share their stories with him. He realizes that they are waiting for his cells to revert so that they can turn him into one of their golems. It begins to happen, and the magma forms surges towards him.

## Chapter 15-19 Analysis

In Chapter 15, Rose is put in a very awkward position. She is extremely upset at Flynn regarding his scientific methodology, yet she is forced to hold hands with him, protecting their enemy. When the gold blob comes after her, she simply reacts by impulsively breaking their handholds.

The Doctor faces every situation up to this point with a cheerful, inquisitive nature, even when the situations seem dire. However, when the gold overcomes Rose, he shows that he is very capable of different emotions. Driven by anger and mental anguish, he is spurred to find a quick solution. Her change is the catalyst for serious action on his part.

In Chapter 16, just as the Doctor shows emotional growth in Chapter 15, Fynn does so in Chapter 16. He realizes what saving others really entails. All along he wanted to save humanity with his science. After seeing how the Doctor risks himself to save Fynn, instead of running away while he has the opportunity, Fynn realizes that he is capable of standing up to adversity as well. He pays the ultimate sacrifice to help others.

In Chapter 17, the Doctor turns into a golem, risking his own self in order to save Rose. In the process, he learns more about the Valnaxi.

In Chapter 18, things are not always how they appear. Faltato was going after ancient art, but instead, they discover that the true treasure lies in the fact that they found the Valnaxi themselves. The Doctor tries to save Rose, and when all seems lost, he discovers that the one he thought was Rose was only a template. The real Rose is fine.

In Chapter 19, the reader comes to understand the brilliant plan the Valnaxi came up with to ensure their survival. They also see how the plan went terribly awry.



# Chapters 20-22

## Chapters 20-22 Summary

In Chapter 20, Adiel keeps her eyes shut tightly as she listens to the fighting. She opens them when she feels human hands gripping her. It's Solomon. Rose is there as well. They realize that the Doctor is still down there.

The Doctor keeps the Valnaxi talking. He asks why they needed Solomon after they already have DNA. He realizes that they didn't get enough. Next, he wonders why they had to take Rose as well. They answer him by saying that since they didn't become Wurms, they had to find a way to reproduce. They feel that they can improve on humans in the future. The Doctor tells them that humans are not just clays to mold. The magma form comes close to him, he climbs up the rock. The Valnaxi tell him that he can't escape, and he tries to convince himself that this is not true.

Faltato tells the king that there is a secret lair hidden somewhere close by. It is there that they will find the masterworks and the last of the Valnaxy.

The Wurms enter the Valnaxi chamber. Rose is now working together with Faltato, Solomon, and Adiel. Together, they defeat Korr. The Doctor watches Ottak and his squad head to the throne room. The magma guardians fight back. During the battle, Rose flies a Wurm transporter into the room. The Doctor explodes the control panel with a phial as he leaved. Inside the transporter he sees Rose with the golden couple. As they take off the Doctor says he had to make a choice between the Earth or them. They are trapped on the transport for the rest of their lives.

In Chapter 21, they realize that they have a chance to teleport and grab the opportunity. The golden pair is with them, eager to live in any form. They see the injured Korr lying on the slope, and the Doctor wants to help him. He can get them on the Wurm spaceship, and it's also the right thing to do. The tunnels begin crumbling and everyone runs for the spaceship. The volcano explodes on their way there. As Rose and the Doctor try to protect themselves from flying debris, they find that nothing is falling on them thanks to a neutronic partition. Adiel sees them coming and works out the controls. The golden couple disappear before they reached the spaceship with Korr.

In Chapter 22, they can't leave until the Wurm's landing site muck is cleared since the SARDIS is under it all. This gives them time to tie up loose ends. They find out that Faltato was the one who set up the force field that protected them.

The muck from the landing is a gift. Everything grows in it. Adiel has great plans for studying it scientifically. She is going to say the muck came from the volcano and claim it for the African people.

Solomon turns in his resignation notice. He is going back to his old village—his true home. Faltato is up in the spaceship making plans for his future. Rose and the Doctor



enter the TARDIS. They set off for new adventures. At the edge of the desert, the gold couple relishes their freedom. They decide it's time to stop enduring and start living.

## Chapters 20-22 Analysis

In Chapter 20, while the Doctor is learning about the Valnaxi and trying to survive, the others do their best to save him. This is unusual since he is usually rescuing them.

In Chapter 21, they are faced with a moral dilemma as they realize that Korr is still alive. They make the decision to save him, knowing that it's the right thing to do.

In Chapter 22, the moral decision the Doctor made in Chapter 21 pays off when they discover that Faltato set up a protective field in order to save Korr. This saved them since they were transporting Korr. As the book wraps up, everyone is moving on to the next stage in their lives, ready to embrace the future and the adventures their futures hold.



# Characters

## Doctor Who

Doctor Who is an energetic literal genius who is a traveller. He travels in the SARDIS through time and space. The man is generally good-natured and enjoys finding solutions to problems. When he finds out that aliens are invading, he's actually intrigued rather than scared. He handles most difficult situations with humor and grace. When he is in a tight spot, he doesn't panic. Instead, he tries to come up with solutions. The only break in his good nature in this book occurs when Rose is turned to gold. This makes him angry and determined to get her back, even if he has to risk his own life. He is brilliant in the laboratory, but tells others of his observations in a matter-of-fact manner rather than speaking in a condescending tone. Throughout the book, he is simply referred to as Doctor or The Doctor.

## Edet Fynn

This is the Director of Development at Agricultural Technology Unit 12. He works with fungul in caves and tunnels. It's his dream to save humanity with his scientific knowledge, and he dedicates his life to finding alternate ways to grow food. Sometimes his methods are objectionable to those around him. He makes enemies easily. When trouble comes along, he ignores it or evades it. Throughout the book, he grows in character. He is inspired by what he sees in Doctor Who. When The Doctor easily finds solutions he has labored over without positive results, he is not envious. He is a true scientist dedicated to a cause. When it comes to a point where he must risk his own life to save humanity, he does so.

## Kanjuchi

This character is an agri-technician. He is chubby, and can't escape the caves quickly enough. He is the first human covered by the gold substance in the novel.

## Rose

This is the character who travels with Doctor Who. She is a shop girl from London.

## Adiel

This is the character who was with the first person who was covered in gold. She has a unique necklace made of tektite.



## **Basel**

This character spends a lot of time at the aid camps. He is a crop inspector who reports to Solomon. He volunteered at the rehousing camps.

## **Solomon Nabarr**

This is the chief overseer. He steals food for the local people, risking time in the labor camps.

## **Nadif**

This character is a worker. He is the man who brought the golde vulture into the common room.

## **Talib**

This character meets with Solomon down in the abandoned eastern caverns. He asks for more food.

## **Tolstoy**

This is the small bat that the Doctor catches. He studies it to see what happens after the animal is coated with the gold substance.

## **Faltato**

This is a many-tongued creature who is determined to find art treasures for his sponsors. He is out for himself.

## **King Ottak**

This leader of the Wurms is insane. He hates art and wants to destroy any art he gets in his possession.

## **Guwe**

This character is one of the rebel soldiers. He send greetings from Roba Isako.



## Solomon

This is a worker who comes across the plaque. The Valnaxi use his DNA to form a template.

## Korr

This character is the Knight-Major for the king of the Wurms. The Doctor saves his life by rescuing him near the end of the story.

# **Objects/Places**

## **Africa**

This is where the story takes place. It's a hot climate with volcanoes.

## **Chad Border**

This is where Adiel's parents were when they were killed

## **Mount Tarsus**

This is a volcano that hasn't erupted for 80 years. The farmers grow genetically modified fungus under it.

## **Agricultural Technology Unit 12**

This is a farming community that farms genetically modified fungus inside a volcano.

## **Plaque**

This is a device used to grab DNA so the Valnaxi can survive. Solomon comes across this when he is working on the catacombs. It starts glowing after he finds it.

## **Caves**

These are under the volcano. The scientists work on mushroom and fungus growth, trying to provide food for those on Earth.

## **Tunnels**

These have narrow passageways, which often contain dead ends.

## **TARDIS**

This is the ship Doctor Who travels on. It is telepathic.





## **Common Room**

This is the room where Basil takes Rose and a deal after Kanjuchi is attacked. It's nicely air-conditioned.

## **Tektite**

This is what Adiel's necklace is made of. The Doctore determines it's from a forced landing of an alien spaceship.

## **Gouronkah**

This is a small settlement near the volcano. The local women find the tektite stones and sell them. They don't appreciate the staff at the agri-units.

## **Lona Venus**

This is the magnificent piece of art Faltato hunts. He is sure it will change his reputation.



# Themes

## Overpopulation And Food Scarcity

Conflict resulting from overpopulation and food scarcity is a main theme in this book. There are so many people on the planet that there is little land left on which to grow food. People are starving and people have to sneak food to loved ones under risk of penalty. Solomon is part of a project that works to find ways to grow food using agriculture technology. In this book, he is growing food under a volcano where it isn't obvious to a general person passing by.

Because food is so scarce, he and his co-workers try to work with different forms of fungus to use for food. They even experiment with using dead bodies for farming. This is highly offensive to some of the scientists while others think it's wise, knowing that radical thinking can break the cycle of famine.

## The Ethical Boundaries of Working With Others

Whether dead or alive, the way a human is treated is a major theme in this book. Adiel is traumatized when she realizes that Fynn performs experiments in food growth using the bodies of dead humans. He doesn't think it's a big deal because, to him, the dead body is an empty shell. He thinks it's actually a good thing to take the old and use it as a tool to potentially benefit society.

The Doctor is very upset when he discovers that the Valnaxi are using Rose as a template. They say they need human bodies, but plan to change them over time so that they are not so inferior. He is very clear in telling them that the human body is not clay to be molded. IT must be treated with respect.

The Doctor is consistent, and he goes out of his way to save an injured being. He treats it with respect, even though it's the body of a Wurm. This benefits him in the long run as his own life is saved as a result of this good deed.

## The Value of Art

One of the main themes in this book was a respect for the value of art. Faltato has been hunting for a very long time to find the hidden art treasures so he can profit off them. The aliens are guarding Valnaxi art treasures. The Valnaxi were the creators of exquisite art. They were Avians who were also gifted telepaths. When their planet was overtaken by war, they had to find a way to survive so their art could continue. Faltato insists that under the volcano is the last Valnaxi art warren. The volcanic caverns were perfect for holding art. The Valnaxi hollowed out the chambers back when the lava tubes were initially formed so they would be safe from all eruptions in the future. King Ottak is the only individual in this book that is outrightly opposed to art. He wants to destroy it. The

man is considered to be insane. The sciences are also equated to art in this book. The hybridization of crops and genetic engineering are performed with skill and precision.



# Style

## Point of View

While the point-of-view in this book is consistently third-person subjective, the viewpoint shifts from person to person. At one point in the story, the reader might be seeing a scene from The Doctor's perspective, and two paragraphs later, they will be reading from Rose's perspective. This allows the reader to get into the minds of each of the characters, whether they are Valnaxi, travelers, scientists, or aliens. It adds to the chaos and confusion surrounding the battle scenes yet offers insight into how each character thinks and feels.

## Setting

The bulk of this story takes place underground. This adds mystery and danger, keeping the story suspenseful. The characters run from enemies and aliens, finding themselves in dead-ends and narrow passageways. The temperature is very hot outdoors, and cooler in the caves. There are rock formations and caves the characters use to evade enemies and to further their research. The underground setting adds a sense of intrigue because the world outside knows nothing of what is happening down under the ground.

## Language and Meaning

This story is very readable. The author uses short sentences filled with dialogue. He uses interesting verbiage (for example, instead of a character stepping into something odd, the author writes "Solomon's shoe squelched in something wet and smelly." The author also uses humor to take away some of the serious tone of the book. For example, those who know the phrase "right up my alley" will chuckle when the brilliant Doctor says, "This sounds right up our street."

## Structure

"Doctor Who - the Art of Destruction" by Stephen Cole opens with a table of contents. This is followed by a list of other Doctor Who books from various authors. The opening pages of the story begin right away, with no chapter header or mention of prologue. The story simply begins with an attack scene under the volcano. Chapter One begins with Rose and Doctor Who appearing on the scene. Each chapter thereafter is labeled by number. There are 22 chapters, which vary in length from under 10 pages to over 20 pages. The book closes with a page of acknowledgements and a section "About the Author." The last pages of the book advertise other BBC books.



## Quotes

'Rose Tyler!' He gave her a crooked smile of appreciation. 'You really are something special, aren't you? Help me save the universe every other day, make sure we never run out of milk - and even offer a quality clothes-care service" (Chapter 1, p. 11).

"'I'll examine him. I'm the Doctor, remember?' He advanced warily on the statue" (Chapter 1, p. 22).

"They feed on anything, dead or alive, breaking down matter and digesting it in order to grow" (Chapter 3, p. 38).

"Its eyes seemed fixed on him, not only reflecting the crimson light but absorbing it, burning with dark energy" (Chapter 3, p. 42).

"Rose risked an upwards glance to find the molten metallic thing was hissing its way towards them, faster and faster" (Chapter 4, p. 46).

"Something's woken up. Something very old and very hostile. And what we're seeing are the first stirrings, that's all. It's gonna get worse, a whole lot worse. We're talking huge amounts of worse here!" (Chapter 5, p. 53).

"In all the years since she'd left Moundou, Adiel had never once imagined that her survival might somehow depend on Director Fynn" (Chapter 10, p. 112).

"'You know, it's a shame about Fynn. I really think he did want to save the world. Instead, his little agri-unit here might just be the place that's gonna destroy it'" ((Chapter 11, p. 127).

"'But I'd take very good care of me - very, very, very good care - and you know why?' He stood back up. 'Because you're going to need me'" (Chapter 13, p. 157).

"'I'm a genius. So I'm gonna succeed where you failed, right'" (Chapter 15, p. 176).

'The moment I was taken, it was like I was part of some greater mind...Like that mind was listening to me.  
Chapter 20. Doctor Who - The Art of Destruction. p. 222).

"No more compromises, no more standing awkwardly between two worlds, no more wasting time" (Chapter 22, p. 249).

"'We have endured long enough. It is time we learned the art of living'" (Chapter 22, p. 253).



## Topics for Discussion

How are the scientists trying to grow food?

What is so terrifying about the gold they found?

Describe Faltato. Discuss his positive and negative attributes.

How do the Valnaxi ensure their own survival throughout the ages?

What goes wrong with the Valnaxi plan?

What does Doctor Who and his companions do to ward off the aliens?

What does the future look like for Africa in the future?