

When I said goodbye to the Doctor on Deva Loka, I thought that would be the last time I saw him. I didn't expect, as I joined Project Mind World, that it would mean I'd work with him again. Well, I say working... I don't think he ever saw it as work.

'What's Project Mind World' you ask? This is. You're part of it. You don't understand? All-right then, I suppose I'll have to tell you the whole story from the very beginning...

## Horrors of the Mind

by Elinor Ekman

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Before I joined Project Mind World, I'd spent the majority of my career as a scientist going with Expeditionary and Alien Reconnaissance Units to different planets, to determine whether or not they were suitable for full scale colonisation. However, while discovering and studying new planets can be very interesting, after doing it for several years I felt it was time for a change. Not a whole career change though. I was, am and always will be a scientist. That said, there's quite a lot of different things you can do within that job and I wanted to do something new.

I checked several web pages for work-ads, but most of what I found seemed too similar to what I'd been doing before. A couple of weeks went by, before I finally found something that looked interesting. It was an ad for something called Project Mind World. An experiment where they would connect people's minds and have those people create a mental world together. It was something different, unlike anything I'd ever worked on before, and they did need someone who could monitor the brain activities of the test-subject's. Both to study how the brain reacts to the different stages of the experiment and also to make sure

it didn't harm the test-subject's mental health.

This experiment had a job for me and I was interested, so I took it. A couple of days later, I left the home world to begin my new work.

One of the reasons I wanted a change of work was because I hoped to avoid all those close-minded military men that always seemed to come with your standard scout party. However, it appeared I wouldn't be so lucky. As I arrived at the docking port, at the space station where Project Mind World was held, I was greeted by a security guard, that looked to be about 30 years old.

"You are doctor Hannah Todd?" he inquired, in a tone that was very militaristic and a bit on the loud side. Like a sergeant, addressing a private.

I sighed inwardly as I confirmed my identity. He then proceeded to escort me inside, with a "This way ma'am!" and I followed him in silence.

The guard, whose name was Captain Chance Alden, led me to a lab in the lower levels of the building. In the middle of said lab was a table, with a lot of books and papers on it, and around the table stood a number of different types of machines, some of which appeared to be monitoring equipment. By the table stood two people, one a tall man with glasses and a cane by his side, the other a woman with permed hair and a bit too much make-up. When I entered the room (the guard stayed outside) they both looked up and studied me with their eyes. The woman's seemed rather unimpressed by my appearance, while the man just seemed indifferent. I introduced myself and in turn learned who they were.

"I'm chief scientist doctor Toby Sniders,," The man said, very matter-of-factly.

"And my name's Madison Carlyle, I'm the technician.," The woman smiled, a very fake smile, and offered me her hand, which I took, if only out of courtesy. Doctor Sniders then proceeded to tell Miss Carlyle to go and complete something in the test chamber. As she made her way out of the lab, he turned to me.

"The test-subjects will arrive soon,," he said in the same tone as he had used before, "but before that, let me show you how the monitoring equipment works.," I nodded and he walked over to the machines, that I had already figured were made for that purpose. As he did so, I noticed that he had a limp, which explained the cane. I followed him to the machines and he proceeded to show me their functions.

It was pretty straight forward stuff. There was one machine with a large screen, made to monitor brain activity, but there were also to smaller ones who's purposes were to monitor pulse and breath respectively. Doctor Sniders explained that while he didn't think the project would pose any threat to the subject's health, one could never be too careful. I was just about to open my mouth to agree, when security guard Alden entered the lab. He told us that the shuttle with the test-subjects had arrived and Doctor Sniders and I left the lab to greet the newcomers.

We arrived at the docking port just as the outer door on the shuttle opened. Out of it came two girls and a boy, all appearing to be in their late teens, or possibly early twenties. The girls looked like each other's opposites. The one called Melissa was pale and skinny, her hair blonde and her eyes blue. Audrie on the other hand... well, she was the opposite of skinny, and both her curly hair and squinty eyes were dark as night. Taylor, the boy, was rather short. He had a gentle face and a dreamy look in his silvery eyes. I think he might have been bald, though I don't know for sure as he always wore a blue cap on his head. I shook hands with all three of them, each handshake being different from the other. One shaky and quick, one strong and firm and the last gentle, if a little absent.

"We don't have to take any injections for this project, do we?" Melissa spoke up in a worried tone. "No...," I began to answer in an assuring tone, before I realised I wasn't sure that was true. "They don't, do they?" I turned to Doctor Sniders, who shook his head. The girl looked relieved, but said no more as Doctor Sniders lead us all to a place called the access room.

In the middle of the said room was a metal triangle and by each corner of said triangle stood a chair. Miss Carlyle was screwing something onto one of the chairs when we entered and looked she looked up at us with another of her wide fake smiles. "All is ready Doctor Sniders!" She said cheerfully. He only nodded in response and proceeded to lead the three young test-subjects to their chairs. After that he strapped them in with cables and devises that I was told would connect them to both the Mind World itself and to the monitors in the lab. "Hey? Could I make a food castle in this 'mind world'?" Audrie asked Doctor Sniders as he attached a device to her chest. "This project is not meant for the purpose of satisfying your personal fantasies," he answered coldly. "We're supposed to create a new world for the entire human race. Ones the stage one testing is completed, we

will start to merge the Mind World with the real world.” With that note, he moved from Audrie’s chair to a control panel on the far side of the room. The kids were instructed to close their eyes, as Doctor Sniders opened the access point, and the three of them entered the Mind World.

On Doctor Sniders’s orders, I went back to the lab, to do my job of monitoring their brain patterns. It looked fine at the time and so it would continue to do for weeks. The kids were slowly, but steadily, building a world in their minds. Every morning, after breakfast, they would be strapped in their chairs and enter the Mind World. They had breaks for lunch and dinner and at ten pm they exit the project and go to bed. Meanwhile, Doctor Sniders and Miss Carlyle would go between the access room, the lab and other parts of the station, to check that all machines and computers run properly, while captain Alden patrols the corridors restlessly. However, one day, everything changed...

I had returned to the lab after my lunch break, only to be alarmed by what I saw on the brain monitor. The readings were off the scale! I turned to the other monitor and saw that the pulse and breathing of the test-subjects had accelerated. I turned on the vid-com to see what was going on in the access room. On the screen, I saw that Melissa was mumbling to herself, but I couldn’t hear what she was saying. Maybe I should have called for Doctor Sniders immediately, but he had been acting quite uncaring towards these young people, so I was afraid he’d dismiss the danger they might be in and instead go on about the brain readings being remarkable. Therefore, I decided to leave the lab and check on the kids myself.

I entered the access room and went straight to Melissa, to hear what she was mumbling about, and was shocked when I heard the words. “Blood,” she said “too much blood.” It wasn’t just the what she said that frightened me, but also the way she said it. It was as though she was in trance. I made the decision then to tell Doctor Sniders about it after all. He was more invested in the project than I was and more likely to have a clue as to what was going on.

I was just about to go and get him, when suddenly... “Alert! Intruders in sector 5! Alert! Intruders in sector 5!” The computer’s voice and it’s accompanying alarm ring seemed to come from everywhere around me. I temporarily abandoned my idea to locate Doctor Sniders and headed for sector 5, to see what was going on.

As I entered said sector, I heard a familiar voice trying to explain to Captain Alden that he was making a mistake, that they were not spies and that they're arrival here was purely an accident. I smiled as I got to the corridor that the voice was coming from and saw a fair-haired man dressed in a beige coat with a celery in the lapel. He sighed heavily and appeared to just be about to try to explain himself to the Captain ones again, when he spotted me. His face seemed to lit up and he grinned widely as he called my name. Captain Alden turned around and asked me if I knew these men. I was just about to ask him what he meant with 'these men', when I saw a ginger-haired boy behind the Doctor. He was wearing suit and tie and had an annoyed look on his face.

Captain Alden got impatient, as I didn't answer him, and repeated the question. I explained to him that I did know the Doctor and assured him the man could be trusted. When he asked me about the other boy, I told him the truth and said I had not seen him before. The Doctor explained that was because he hadn't met Turlough (that was the boy's name) by the time he last saw me.

I begged the captain to release the Doctor. I told him something was going wrong with the experiment and I thought the Doctor might be able to help. The captain looked alarmed at this and asked me what exactly was the problem. I told him I didn't know and that was why I needed the Doctor's help. The captain looked suspicious and I knew what he was thinking. He thought the Doctor and Turlough might be behind this. "The Doctor couldn't have sabotaged the experiment!" I told him, before he could even suggest otherwise. "Not if your alarm system is as good as you claim it is. The readings were off before the alarm started. So neither the Doctor nor his friend could have been the cause of that."

After some more arguing I finally convinced him to allow the Doctor to help me. However, as he still wasn't entirely convinced of their innocence, he insisted that he should hold the ginger boy hostage in the meantime. The Doctor reluctantly agreed to this. The boy was about to protest, but the Doctor gave him a hard look and he fell silent.

And so, I showed the Doctor to the lab, explaining the experiment to him on the way. Meanwhile, his friend was held at gun point as captain Alden took him to the cellar to lock him in. In the lab, I showed the Doctor the monitors and explained what they were supposed

to show. He stared at the brain-wave reader in silence for a while, before he pointed at the screen. "Todd, look at this," he said. "What is it?" I asked, as I followed his finger to a specific reading. "This isn't one of the test-subjects," He answered. I frowned, not entirely sure what he meant. My confusion must have shown as the Doctor went on to explain that the reading he was pointing at couldn't be that of a human brain.

"There's something in there with them," he said. I was alarmed at this and was immediately reminded of the creature we had dealt with on Deva Loka. However, when I suggested to the Doctor that it could be the Mara that was in the Mind World now, he shook his head. "I don't think so," he said, with a deep frown on his face. "Good guess though," he added and shot me what I think was an approving glance, before he returned his attention to the monitor. "Don't you think we ought to do something about it?" I asked and the Doctor nodded. "Yes... but I don't think we could do much from here." "You mean we have to enter the Mind World?" Another question, answered by another nod from the Doctor. "Well, then we better ask Doctor Sniders to give us access," I said and headed for the door. The Doctor nodded ones again before he followed me out.

As we walked towards Doctor Sniders office I began to worry. My impression of the chief scientist, at that point, wasn't that of a man who'd let a stranger, with no papers to prove his credentials, get involved with his project. I feared he would snap at the suggestion of that the Doctor and I should enter the Mind World and would throw him off the space station. I was proven wrong however, very wrong, as we entered the office. The Doctor managed to quite quickly convince Sniders that he was a skilled scientist and they soon got along like a house on fire. So much so that they got so deep into a, frankly irrelevant, discussion that I had to remind them what we were really there for. Once I'd done so, Doctor Sniders then reminded me that we needed one more person to enter the Mind World. You had to be three to be able to enter, else the access point wouldn't work.

The Doctor suggested that Sniders himself should join us, but was met with disagreement. Doctor Sniders would be more help to us if he staid on the outside. At least that's what he himself thought and he may have been right. "What about Turlough?" I suggested. "Who?" Doctor Sniders asked. "My companion," explained the Doctor "You're security guard locked him in the cellar, as a hostage, to make sure I'd behave." Doctor Sniders looked appaled at this. He had evidently been charmed by the Doctor and couldn't

understand how captain Alden could mistrust this man. He agreed to let us release the boy, so he could enter the Mind World with us, and gave me his keys to the cellar rooms. The Doctor and I both thanked him and left to get Turlough.

As we headed down the stairs to the cellar captain Alden came running up towards us, yelling his head off. "Get it off me! Get it off!!" He screamed, his grace and dignity completely lost. "What's the matter, captain?" I asked, trying to sound worried when, in fact, I was almost laughing inside. "Get it off!!" He repeated, pointing at his back. The Doctor took a look and raised his eyebrows when he saw what the captain was yelling about.

"It's only a spider.," He said, as he lifted the eight-leg of the man's spine. The captain didn't seem to think there was anything 'only' about having a spider on his back. I yelled at the Doctor to kill it and, when the Doctor refused, he said "At least get it as far away from me as possible!" and ran up the stairs to the ground floor. The Doctor put the spider down and we continued downwards.

When we finally came down into the cellar, we found Turlough laughing loudly in his the room and had been made his cell. The Doctor shot his friend and angry look and the laughter stopped, though the boy still didn't seem all that intimidated by the man's glare. While he did apologize, I highly doubt his words were genuine. I let the boy out and the Doctor explained the situation to him as the three of us headed for the access room.

As we entered it I could see that three new chairs had been set up between the ones that the kids still used. "Please be seated," said a cheerful voice to my left. I turned around and saw Miss Carlyle smile at us. "I will help you with the proceeding," she continued. "Where's Doctor Sniders?" the Doctor enquired. "In the lab. Since doctor Todd will be entering the Mind World with you, Doctor Sniders has to take over her monitoring job." The Doctor gave Miss Carlyle a response of understanding and then turned to the chairs. "So, we'll just sit down in those?" He asked and Miss Carlyle nodded.

And so the Doctor, Turlough and I all got seated and strapped in. Miss Carlyle opened the access point and waved to us with a cheerful 'good luck!' as we entered the Mind World.

It was nothing like I imagined. I'd thought there would be a city, or at least some kind of recognisable landscape, but no. It was mostly darkness, except for a strange, weak light with

a slightly blueish tone. "I don't like this," I heard Turlough's voice say from behind me. I couldn't help but agree. The place gave me an odd, creepy feeling and it seemed to have the same effect on the boy. Even the Doctor, who seemed like a man who often faced danger, actually looked a bit pale. Though I suppose, that could just have been the strange lighting. "Well...," he said "we're here now, so we better take a look around, don't you think?" Turlough didn't really look like he agreed, but still nodded. "That said," the Doctor continued, "I think it'll be best if we stick together. Wouldn't like to be alone in a place like..." He suddenly stopped. It was so sudden that it sounded like when you stop a recording in the middle of a word. I turned to where I figured the Doctor was standing, to see what was wrong, but he was gone.

"Doctor?" No response. "Doctor!" I started to get frightened. "Turlough! The Doctor is..." I trailed off, as I realised Turlough wasn't there either. I almost panicked, but somehow managed calm myself a bit by taking deep breaths. I came to the conclusion that I wasn't going to make my situation any better by just standing there, so I began walking.

I wandered around, alone in the dark, when suddenly I heard a scornful laughter. "Who's there?" I asked, but didn't get an answer. The laughter just continued. It got louder and louder until it seemed to come from all around me. For some reason it made me upset. It shouldn't have, but somehow, I was convinced that whoever the laughing person was, he was laughing at me, and that made me upset. I didn't want to hear any-more so I pressed my hands over my ears and ran. I don't know for how long I kept running, but as I did so, I thought suddenly occurred to me.

What if, whatever had infiltrated the Mind World, had turned it from a place of dream to a place of nightmares? Yes, that was it! There was no person laughing at me. Not really. It was my nightmare, made real by the power of the Mind World. As I had come to this conclusion, I stopped and, as I lifted my hands from my ears, the laughter was gone. I continued walking at a slower pace, but jumped as I thought saw a spot of blue light fly past me at high speed. I spun around and looked in all directions, expecting something awful to come out of the shadows, but there was nothing. After a while, I relaxed and was about to move on, when I suddenly heard two familiar voices.

"Blood! Too much blood!" came Melissa's shaky screams from my right. "Food! Where's my



food!?” came Audrie’s whiny sobs from the other direction. I was standing there, trying to decide which of the girls I should go to, when I heard a sound coming from behind. I turned around and took a step back when I saw a domed metallic figure rolling towards me from the shadows. “Halt!” The creature said in a voice that sent shivers down my spine. “Do not move!” It said, but I couldn’t help myself. I kept backing away from it. “Stay where you are or you will be exterminate-,” “DALEK!” The creature spun around quickly and I looked up to see the Doctor standing on the other side of it, with a furious glare in his eyes. I had never seen the Doctor look so angry, and though I had not known him long, it shocked me. “So you’re behind this,” He said in a low voice. “You are the Doctor! You’re an enemy of the Dalek!” the creature shrieked. “Oh yes,” the Doctor responded “and whatever you’re trying to do here, I’m going to stop you!” “It is the Doctor! He must be exterminated!” the creature sounded again. “Exterminate!” A new, but much similar voice came from my right. “Exterminate!” And another one from my left. Two other creatures, identical to the one in front of me, came out of the shadows from both sides. “Exterminate! Exterminate!” Their yells filled me with fear. “Todd, RUN!!” The Doctor yelled and he didn’t have to tell me twice.

“What are those thing!?” I asked the Doctor breathlessly as I caught up with him and we ran as fast as we could from the menacing metal forms behind us. “Daleks,” he answered “creatures of pure evil. Inside each of those metallic shells is a hateful tentacled monster, set to exterminate any who oppose them.” “Sounds very nice,” I said sarcastically. The Doctor just opened his mouth to answer me, when I wall suddenly appeared between us, out of nowhere, separating me from both him and the Daleks. I stopped to bang on said wall, while calling for the Doctor, but there was no response. I turned around and was surprised to find Taylor, the male test-subject, standing only a few meters from me.

I moved closer, and a chill went down my spine when I saw his face. It was still and pale, his eyes looking empty, starring at nothing. “Taylor!” I shook the boy, but his didn’t respond. At least, not at first, but after a few seconds I could hear him mumble something. “Nothing... there’s... nothing,” he said. “Oh, Taylor,” I said, exasperated. I was just about to make a second attempt to snap him out of it, when Turlough suddenly came running towards me from the shadows. “Help! The wolf! It’s after me!” He yelled. “What wolf? I see none,” I said, but just as the words left my mouth, I heard a howl, coming from out of the darkness. “Over there!” said Turlough, pointing in the direction the howl had come from. “Come on! We have

to get away from here!" The boy grabbed my arm, to pull me away in the opposite direction, but as we turned around, we were faced by another of those Dalek creatures. "Intruders detected!" it shrieked. "Oh no! Not them too!" Turlough whined beside me.

"Move!" the Dalek shrieked and, not wanting to be exterminated, we did as it said. "Move!" it said again. "We are moving!" I answered. "I think it might be talking to the other boy," Turlough suggested, pointing at Taylor. "Move!"

"He can't hear you!" I yelled at the Dalek "he appears to be in some kind of trance." "Make him move or you will all be exterminated!"

I moved back towards Taylor, slowly, so not to alert or antagonize the Dalek. As I reached him, I put my hands on the boy's shoulders and gave him a light push. To my surprise, he responded to this by taking a step forward.

"Hurry!" the Dalek shrieked impatiently. "Al-right!" I answered, pushing Taylor to where Turlough was standing, after which the Dalek lead the three of us into the darkness.

"Doctor!" I exclaimed as I saw him standing together with Melissa and Audrie, surrounded by Daleks, with what looked like a giant one in front of them. The Doctor looked up at us when he heard me. "Todd! Turlough! How nice of you to join us!" He said with mock-cheerfulness. "Have all the humanoids been assembled?" The giant Dalek asked in a voice that was much lower than the others', but just as chilling, if not more so. "Yes!" The Dalek that had lead me and the boys here answered. "Six life signs were detected and they are all here." "Excellent!" the giant Dalek said at that. I stared at it and the Doctor must have detected the question in my eyes, as he gestured towards it and said; "Let me introduce the Dalek Emperor!" with the same mock-cheer as before. "Be silent Doctor!" boomed said creature. "Silent! Silent! Silent!" echoed the other Daleks. The Doctor draw a deep breath but said no more.

"I shall signal our ally on the outside. It is time we entered the real world," said the Dalek Emperor. "What ally!?" I asked, feeling a mix of confusion and fear, but I never got an answer to my question, as at that moment a shining hole suddenly appeared in the darkness.

"It is time," the Dalek Emperor said again "We shall take full control over Project Mind World and use it to create a world where we are the supreme rules of the universe!" "No!" I yelled "Doctor we must stop them!" However, before the Doctor could say anything, the deep voice of that big monstrosity sounded again. "Too late! The gate is open! Go now

Daleks!” and one by one, the Daleks entered the light and disappeared, after which the emperor turned towards it him(or it?)self. “You shall remain here, Doctor. You will not be able to stop us this time,” he said, before he to entered the shining hole, which started to shrink as he’d done so.

“Quickly!” The Doctor yelled. “Into the light! Before it disappears!” He ran into the hole and we followed. Melissa, Audrie, Turlough, Taylor and me. Or rather... that’s what I wish had happened. Oh, the Doctor did run into the light, as did Melissa, Audrie and Turlough, but not me. I only just about managed to push Taylor through the hole, before it closed completely, leaving me here... alone.

For me, the adventure was over now. Yes, it was an adventure. An exciting and crazy, but scary and right out horrifying adventure.

It was that adventure that lead me here, to this cold, dark place.

I had an adventure with the Doctor, but not any-more.

I’m alone now. Alone... in my mind... with only nightmares and monsters for company.

Or rather, a monster. You.

You’re my monster. The tentacled creature called a Dalek.

That’s right, you’re a Dalek. Though not a real one of course.

You’re just a figment of my imagination, conjured up from my mind.

You may not even look like a real Dalek. After all, I’ve never seen what they actually look like under their tank-like armour. I only have the Doctor’s description to go on.

He’s fighting them now, I know he is. The Doctor and the Daleks, fighting over the human race.

“Todd!”

Doctor?

“Todd! Can you hear me?”

It is the Doctor! Well, his voice at any rate. But where is he?

“You should see a light coming from the same direction as my voice!”

Yes! I can see it, the light!

“Move towards it!”

I do as he says. I move into the light, closing my eyes as I'm enveloped in it.

"Todd? Todd wake up!"

I open my eyes again... and there I am. Back in the access room, surrounded by the others. The Doctor in front of me, looking relieved. Doctor Sniders and the girls, staning on one side of the Doctor, and Turlough, Taylor and captain Alden on the other.

Hold on. There's someone missing. Where's Miss Carlyle?

The Doctor gives me a pained look and opens his mouth to give me an answer, but it's Doctor Sniders who speaks it.

"She's dead. She was working for the Daleks, helping them to enter and exit the Mind World, but in the end they turned on her."

I stare at him for a moment, before I turn back to the Doctor, who nods.

"The Daleks are vicious creatures. Not even their allies are safe from their destruction."

But they're gone now?

"Yes! Partly thanks to Doctor Sniders actually. He has apparently encountered them before and had a few tricks up his sleeve. That's not to say I didn't have a hand in their defeat myself, but..."

"Doctor, can we go now?" Turlough interrupts the Doctor, who turns to his friend and then back to me, giving me an apologetic smile.

"Seems my companion is getting impatient"

Then you must go.

I stand up and offer him my hand. He takes it, with a slightly disappointed look in his eyes, before he turns his back to me and leaves the room, Turlough following closely behind him.

# DOCTOR WHO

CLASSIC DOCTORS - BRAND NEW ADVENTURES

## HORRORS OF THE MIND



by Elinor Ekman



THE CCPS VOL III - LOGORRHOEA OF THE LOOKERS-ON

