

## Chapter 59

As they went more into winter months on their little planet, the snow got deeper and impossible to navigate. They could no longer go outside as the temperatures plummeted way below zero. Days inside the TARDIS passed slowly, and they had to find ways to keep themselves busy. The Doctor tapped down the hallway towards the swimming pool. She carried a big plate with pizza she just made and was quite proud of herself making it from scratch. Yaz spent time at the pool with Anaya nearly every day. Since they couldn't go outside, she spent more time in parts of the TARDIS she rarely visited before, and it was a nice change.

As the Doctor stepped from the hallway into the swimming pool area, she left the plate on one of the tables by the bar and leaned her back against the wall watching as her wife giggled dipping Anaya into the water. She watched her wife's hair as it draped down her back, now so long it almost reached her waist, her beautiful curves as her cinnamon skin shimmered underneath the soft light and her daughter as she giggled haply. Her tiny hands splashing the surface of the water and a little chubby leg as they kicked with excitement each time Yaz would lift her up into the air. The Doctor basket in every second of this moment storing it somewhere deep inside her soul. She pushed herself off the wall with a smile

"Hiya...pizza is done"

"Hey baby...didn't see you come in... Look she loves it"

"She's having a time of her life"

"You should join us the water is beautiful."

"Might do later"

"I think she should probably go out now. She's turning into a prune"

"Cute prune" the Doctor walked up to the edge of the pool as Yaz passed her the baby.

"Nappies and her clothes are in pram."

"Hey tiny prune. Had a nice time? Oh noo...don't cry. Can't be in water the whole day munchkin. I hate when she cries" the Doctor pressed her to her chest kissing the top of her head rocking her

"I knooooow...She gets so upset. I tried getting out three times." She stepped out and squeezed the water out of her hair then wrapped the towel around herself.

The Doctor used one of the tables to change Anaja. She shoved the toy into her hands in hopes it would distract her from crying.

"Missed ya" Yaz pressed a kiss to her temple

The Doctor smiled from the corner of her lips and lifted Anaya into her arms "She might be hungry after all of that"

"Probably...There's a bottle in the bag" Yaz said having a bite of pizza "Mmmmm...waaaw....You did a good job on this pizza babe. I'm impressed"

"Did I?"

"Mmmm...Try..." she waived a slice in front of her mouth

"Didn't burn it this time"

"Nope, it's perfect. God...I needed this I was starving."

The Doctor sat down next to her feeding Anaya who was now falling asleep in her arms exhausted. She finally got used to being bottle fed and the Doctor used any opportunity she had to do it.

"You should take that swimming costume off you know" she glanced at her "Not good to have it wet on you, you're gonna catch a chill"

"I will...I'm still hoping I'll get a swim with you" she nudged her shoulder

"Might do" she looked up and winked at her

"You should eat that pizza, it's getting cold"

"I will..." the Doctor smiled as Anaya fell asleep. Her tiny fingers gripping her hand "Here we go. Over and out"

"I think you can put her in a pram now"

"In a minute" she enjoyed a moment brushing a tip of her finger over tiny chubby cheek

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With their daughter sound asleep Yaz headed towards the part of the TARDIS she rarely visited. It was one of those places where the Doctor would go late at night while everyone was asleep and spend hours there mixing different medicines, food for her plants and many different lotions and potions she needed for thousands of animal species the TARDIS homed. It was a relatively small room at the end of the long hallway filled with wooden shelves floor to ceiling, packed out with bottles of all shapes and sizes and it reminded Yaz of an old apothecary. It smelled of honey and beeswax mixed with Lavender and Immortelle.

She found the Doctor balancing on the wooden ladder trying to reach the top shelf which was so obviously meant for a lot taller person and Yaz wondered how many other places in the TARDIS her tiny wife could no longer reach since she gained this face.

"Arrrrh" the Doctor moans as she stretched her arm and lifted herself on tiptoes "These legs were definitely longer" she grumbled and finally picked up the small bottle she was aiming for as the ladder underneath her wobbled giving Yaz a hernia.

"But not as cute as they are now" Yaz giggled

"Oh...hello cupcake..." she stretched a massive smile "Munchkin sleeping?"

"Passed out" she chuckled "What are you up to?"

"Slugs"

"Slugs?" She frowned confused

"Slugs Yaz...way too many of them...You should see my cabbage patch...looks like a Swiss cheese. And I was nice...I explained that the left side is only for them..."

"You're talking to slugs?" She asked taking a bottle out of her hand

"Why not?" She jumped off the ladder "People talk to plants...isn't that the same thing?"

"But they don't ask them not to eat cabbage" she laughed fixing her coat and pulled her into a kiss "You lovable weirdo"

"I need to sort this room out. I've got way too much junk"

"Well, you have all the time in the world for that now. Snow is halfway up the TARDIS" she smiled running her hands down her braces

"We should clean it..." she scrunched her face and closed her arms around her

"We should...But you know we won't" she laughed "You can always move us just few meters to the left" she raised an eyebrow

"Aaaaa....clever"

"I learned from the best"

"You have"

Yaz burst out laughing "No fake modesty...Come on Doctor Dolittle...Let's watch something before she starts crying again."

"Can I pick?"

"Yees" she laughed dragging her by the hand

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Yaz woke up to an empty bed again. She rolled and looked into a bassinet. Anaya was gone as well so after getting up and getting herself ready she quickly grabbed some breakfast before going looking for them.

"Morning" the Doctor chirped on the phone and threw the book over the railing.

"Where are you?"

"Library...Sorting stuff out before we get Vashta Nerada in here"

"The waaa?"

"Forget I said that...Come over"

"Coming"

"Oh, can I get some tea and biscuits by any chance? I can hear you're in the kitchen"

"Yeah, sure it's why I called you...Anything else?"

"Nope, that's it..."

She was about to hang up "Oh...and a sandwich please if its not too much bother"

"Course not. Alright...give me ten minutes" she moved the phone from her ear

"Oh Yaaaz..."

"Yeeyees?"

"And the bottle for munchkin. It's been a while since she ate, she might be peckish"

"Anything else my lordship?" She laughed

"No... that's it. I'll call you if I think of something else"

"Alright" she rolled her eyes laughing and finally hang up

As Yaz came into the library she saw a pile of books on the floor. Then as she was about to walk up to the stairs a book flew down from the balcony almost smacking her on the head.

"Oi...careful...Almost knocked me out"

"Oh, sorry..." she leaned over the rail "Didn't hear you come in"

The Doctor hopped over the pile of books and ran to the stairs "Here... Let me take that" she took the tray out of her hands and popped a short kiss to her lips "Thanks for that. I'm starving"

"What are you doing?"

"Just some organizing. I started about 150 years ago and I'm still on S. Hopefully I'll get to Z in this regeneration"

"Right...you and me both.... Aaaa...There you are bumblebee..." she smiled and picked up Anaya from the floor "Did she snatch you again?"

"She's been up since half five, ate, peed, pooped, then had a nap at 7:45 and now she's just been babbling nonstop keeping me company. It's a nice change to have someone to talk to whilst you're asleep"

"Your little helper. She'll be running around this place in no time"

"I can't wait...I'm so chuffed just thinking about it" she sat on the floor crossing her legs and grabbed the sandwich "Thanks for that. I was getting hungry, but I got into this and didn't feel like stopping halfway through."

"It always blows my mind how many books are in here...Did you ever read all of them?" Yaz joined her on the floor feeding the baby.

"You already asked me that a long time ago"

"Have I? I forgot"

"I didn't..." she smiled "Not even I have that much time, but I did read quite a lot. There's only so many times you can watch the same movie, books are different...There are so many out there.... I can't possibly read all of them no matter how long I live....So there's always something new to surprise me."

"Never thought about it that way..."

"You have to find some way to keep busy when you're me...Wanna help me in here?"

"Course I do" she smiled

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A few hours later they were still in the library. The Doctor was hopping around endless piles of books, some of which brought back memories of the past. Those moments between adventures when, in a forgotten corner of the library, she would find her companion sitting on the floor and reading stories about some distant galaxy. Something fell out of an old dusty book she held in her hand, and she picked it up from the floor. It was a photo of her and Bill, she must have marked the pages with it. - Me and the penguin - said in the back and the Doctor laughed. With a tear in her eye, she ran her fingers over it then placed it back between the old pages and carefully put the book back on the shelf.

Yaz was rummaging through the dusty shelves when she found an old, battered book with "TARDIS MANUAL" stamped on the cover.

Her eyes sparkled with excitement "Babe, look what I found!"

The Doctor glanced over "Aaaa, that's a TARDIS manual! Funny that...I thought I threw that in Supernova" she scrunched her face trying to remember.

Yaz opened the manual casually flicking through the pages "It's like a guide to TARDIS. Must be proper useful, right?"

"Neah, those manuals are just full of "don't do this" and "you've mucked that up." They're more use as a paperweight."

"If you say so...I'll just lob it then. Seems a bit pointless keeping it then." She turned around smirking cheeky

"No, no don't lob it Yaz....It's not useless!" She jumped over the books

"You literally said it were pretty useless like a minute ago" she grinned holding the manual out of reach

"I did not say it were useless!" She smugged trying to snatch it "I said it's not the most practical."

"Nooo...you said there's more use out of it as paperweight and that you thought you chucked it out"

She hopped on one foot, trying to reach it "Yeah...but you know...it's like an old friend who's hopeless with directions!"

Yaz waived the manual dramatically "Oh, so now it's a friend! Should I make it a cuppa?"

"Just give it back!"

She held the manual above her head laughing "Only if you admit that it's a total and utter waste of space!"

"Fine! It's a waste of space! But I still want it!"

"Alright, alright. Here you go" she laughed pressing a quick kiss to her lips

"We might come across a "How to Fix a Broken TARDIS" manual next. That one could be right handy!"

"Right after we find the "How to Avoid Catastrophic Temporal Collapse" manual."

The Doctor laughed "Don't give me ideas! Might start a collection."

"And here I thought you were done with collecting."

"There's always room for one more!" She winked

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The TARDIS nursery is a coziest room on a ship, brightly colored space filled with toys and soft furnishings, the air filled with smell of baby powder and TARDIS fabric conditioner. The Doctor gently laid Anaya on a changing table. Yaz standing nearby, watching with a fond smile.

"Alright then munchkin, let's see what you got for me...Huh..." She waives her hand removing the old nappy "Blimey...I see you had an adventure in your nappy? Never mind that, we'll sort it out. Oh don't you give me that cheeky smile" she tapped her little nose.

The Doctor started washing her, talking to Anaya as if she understood every word.

"Did you know, you're like the tiniest time traveler in the universe? Isn't that cool munchkin? There's nobody out there like you. You never know, maybe you'll discover a new planet made entirely of marshmallows! Now that would be exciting?"

Yaz laughed softly "She's got a good teacher, that's for sure."

Doctor grinned proudly "And speaking of marshmallows, did you know that's how we keep the TARDIS running smoothly?"

Yaz shook her head laughing "You just tell her that, and the next thing you know she'll be shoving marshmallows down the Artron mainframe"

Doctor lifted her head "I shouldn't have said that"

"Not you shouldn't have" she couldn't stop laughing

"Right....Forget that...Just kidding! It's more like a dash of stardust and a sprinkle of quantum whimsy."

Yaz rolled her eyes laughing kissing her temple and went about her chores folding the washing.

One finished with a bath, the Doctor placed a fresh nappy on, gently kissed her tummy, and slipped a snug onesie over her tiny, chubby legs. "There we go, you're all fresh, smelling nicely and ready for dinner," she said with a smile.

"Thanks babe" Yaz took the baby and sat in the armchair to feed her

The Doctor leaned on the chest of drawers watching them "What's it like to do that?"

"What feeding her?" She smiled

"Mmmm" She nodded her head

"Absolutely beautiful...It felt a bit weird at first...Now it just seems so natural."

"So, it doesn't hurt?"

"Nooo....Feels nice...It's a relief actually...cause I feel like I'm about to explode." She laughed "Then when she starts suckling it tingles...like prickling inside. It's crazy cause I can literally feel the milk moving...Would you do it...you know if you could?"

She thought for a second, "Not too sure... I'd love to have that bond with her like you do..." She shuffled over and plonked herself down next to Yaz, gently brushing her fingertip over the tiny cheek. "It's something I'll never get to have with her," she said, a bit downhearted. "And it's so special, Yaz... I mean, you actually carried her. She grew inside you... It's amazing. I do wonder what it'd be like, though."

Yaz looked at her softly and palmed her face gently "But you feel her in a way I never can or ever will be able to. You hear her thoughts you feel what she feels...So I guess we both have our special kinda bond with her. Just in a slightly different way"

She kissed her palm and smiled "I suppose so"

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In the evening, the Doctor tinkered with the TARDIS. The console room was quiet, except for the gentle hum of the old ship, which provided the only sound as she carefully adjusted a set of wires. Her brows furrowed in concentration, the warm glow from the console reflecting off her intense gaze.



Yaz leaned over the railing, a soft smile playing on her lips as she watched her tiny wife, who was entirely absorbed in her work. A wave of love washed over her as her mind went back to the early days when she would watch the Doctor with longing, her heart fluttering at every glance, every word of praise. Those days felt so far away now, yet the love between them was stronger than ever.

Stepping quietly across the room, Yaz came up behind her. She pressed a long, lingering kiss to her shoulder blade, her hands running down the Doctor's arms, fingers brushing over the fabric of the tight blue jumper. The Doctor shivered slightly at the touch, a sweet sensation running down her spine.

"What are you doing?" Yaz whispered softly as she rested her chin on the Doctor's shoulder, looking at the tangled wires with a mixture of curiosity and affection.

The Doctor sighed, a small smile tugging at her lips. "Just trying to fix a little glitch in the navigational system. It's nothing major, but..." She trailed off, her hands stilling as Yaz's touch over her stomach sent another wave of warmth through her.

Yaz chuckled. "You and your glitches. You know, that can wait until tomorrow." Her voice was soft as her arms wrapped around the Doctor's waist, pulling her closer.

The Doctor turned slightly, her face softening as she looked into Yaz's eyes. "I suppose you're right. It can wait... I guess I have more important things to do tonight."

"Like what?" Yaz teased, raising an eyebrow, her hands gliding softly over her chest.

Her eyes twinkled with mischief. "Like flying us to the edge of a cliff, watching the night sky and the stars... You know... having a romantic evening with my wife."

"Really?" Yaz smiled.

"Mmm," the Doctor hummed, leaning in to capture Yaz's lips in a tender kiss. It was soft and slow, full of the love and connection they shared. The TARDIS hummed approvingly around them as if the old ship herself was content with the change of plans.

As they pulled away, their foreheads rested against each other. Then the Doctor suddenly turned on her heel.

"Right... let's go!"

Yaz laughed as she quickly started preparing the TARDIS. She watched the Doctor pull the lever, but the ship stalled for a moment, and the Doctor scrunched her face.

"What?" she asked, catching the Doctor's expression.

"Oh, nothing," she forced a smile and went back to the console.

“You have that look.”

“What look?”

“You know.... the one when something’s gone seriously wrong, but you’re playing it cool.”

“Nothing’s gone wrong, Yaz...” The TARDIS screeched to a stop, and the Doctor opened her arms with a grin. “See... nothing wrong... Come on.” She zoomed around the console, grabbing Yaz’s hand and dragging her to the door. Her expression was full of doubt, but she allowed herself to be pulled along.

The Doctor flung the door open proudly. “Ta-daa!”

Yaz’s eyes widened in a mixture of shock and confusion as she saw a vast valley with a massive medieval castle perched on top of a hill.

“What the hell?” she blurted, staring at the castle, then at the Doctor, who stood next to her with an equally baffled expression.

“What’s going on?” a familiar voice asked behind them, making both of them scream at the top of their lungs. They spun around to see Yaz’s mum standing there with her hands on her hips.

“MUM??” Yaz’s eyes couldn’t get any wider.

“Hii!” Hakim waved happily from the back, followed by Sonia, who looked equally perplexed.

Yaz blinked, then slowly turned to the Doctor, her voice dripping with disbelief. “Baaaabe... about that glitch in the navigational system?” ....

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