

Epilogue

At the centre (or near it) of the multiverse there was a universe. At the centre of the universe there was a planet (or so its natives wished to believe) called Gallifrey. At the cultural centre of Gallifrey there was a Capitol. Beneath the centre of the Capitol there was a Microverse called the Matrix. And hidden deep within the centre of the Matrix there was a dungeon. Inside the dungeon, where the imprisoned never slept and whispered out their murderous rage endlessly, there was a coffin.

Within this broken and burnt out coffin (which was bigger on the inside than the outside) sat a young, pale woman with dark hair in a dark dress whose feet were bare. She was collecting the dust strewn about her and carefully moulding those sooty particles into the shape of a man – tall, thin and striking in form. All that was lacking in the shape was its eyes.

The woman looked up at a nearby object: the melted husk of a hexagonal shaped structure, which sprouted up from the ground like a diseased mushroom. She reached her hand deep into the bowels of the husk and pulled out a small, thin tube which glowed viscously in the tangible darkness, as if it were alive. She held this object over the dust shape's head, and with the tip of a long-bladed knife she bored a small hole through the cylinder's top edge, and poured out a portion of its contents which sank deep into the dust below.

The woman smiled at her recreation and placed the knife in the shape's hand before slipping back into the darkness. Alone, the dust shape glowed, trembled,

became flesh and blood, breathed, and lived.

It opened its eyes – cold and dark as ice – and felt the cold metal in its hand. Its fingers closed upon the blade and the skin ripped on the edge. It clenched its hand in pain and raised it to the level of its eyes and saw the blood oozing from the wound. For a moment it wondered, and then it remembered. Everything.

The Valeyard was dead. But his ghost would never rest in peace and would live on as the Ripper. All reason deserted this shadow form and he threw back his head and laughed.