# Doctor Who fans disappointed by underwhelming return of the Rani in mid-credits twist



Doctor Who fans have expressed their disappointment regarding the much-anticipated return of a beloved villain in the recent episode "The Interstellar Song Contest." The mid-credits scene revealed that Mrs. Flood, portrayed by Anita Dobson, is in fact the Rani, a character last seen 32 years ago. Although the reveal aimed to serve as a climactic twist, many viewers found the execution to be underwhelming and unsatisfactory.

Introduced as Ruby Sunday’s mysterious neighbour, Mrs. Flood has been a recurring character throughout the second season, appearing increasingly ambiguous in her intentions towards the Doctor (Ncuti Gatwa) and his companion Belinda Chandra (Varada Sethu). The dramatic reveal that Mrs. Flood is a "Time Lady" with a unique backstory merely added to the perplexity of the situation. As the sequence unfolded, it became apparent that Archie Panjabi’s version of the Rani would play a dominant role, leaving many fans questioning why such an important part was relegated to a mid-credits scene.

The Rani, known for her cunning and scientific genius, was originally portrayed by Kate O'Mara in the 1980s and '90s. Her complex narrative, involving plots to usurp the Doctor, has endeared her to loyal fans of the series. Yet, the sudden transition of Mrs. Flood to a subservient role under the new incarnation sparked confusion. Fans took to social media platforms like Reddit to voice their displeasure, noting the lack of gravity in how the reveal was presented. Many argued that it subdued the depth of Mrs. Flood's character, trivialising what could have been a haunting return.

Additional concerns circulated about the character dynamics in future episodes. Some fans were intrigued by the duality of the Rani narrative—how one version of this formidable villain could suddenly become subordinate to another. Such possibilities promise further twists and developments, which, although exciting, have led to speculation about whether the creative decisions are pulling the narrative in a satisfactory direction.

Russell T Davies, the showrunner, has teased monumental developments ahead. He asserts that the returning villains, including both incarnations of the Rani, will form an "Unholy Trinity," suggesting that the forthcoming two-part finale will be rife with intense confrontations. Furthermore, he has praised O'Mara's original portrayal as "brilliant, ruthless and unforgettable" while hinting at unexpected twists that could take fans by surprise.

In addition to the narrative intricacies, the episode featuring this reveal coincided with Eurovision, contributing to its strong viewership figures of 2.6 million. This popularity reflects the ongoing fascination with Doctor Who and its ability to blend varied themes—like music competitions with sci-fi elements—in unique ways.

As the series gears up for its climactic finale, it remains to be seen if the threads woven through this season will culminate in a satisfying resolution. Fans eagerly await to see how these new developments will resonate with the core narratives that Doctor Who has maintained for over five decades.

While the initial excitement surrounding the return of the Rani has somewhat been overshadowed by the manner of its revelation, anticipation for the finale remains high. The complexities of this storyline suggest that there may still be more on the horizon for fans, promising a thrilling resolution to longstanding mysteries as the series continues its legacy.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://metro.co.uk/2025/05/18/doctor-fans-disappointed-iconic-villains-return-30-years-23107093/)
2. Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://metro.co.uk/2025/05/18/doctor-fans-disappointed-iconic-villains-return-30-years-23107093/), [[2]](https://www.gamesradar.com/entertainment/sci-fi-shows/doctor-who-season-2-episode-6-review-the-interstellar-song-contest/)
3. Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://metro.co.uk/2025/05/18/doctor-fans-disappointed-iconic-villains-return-30-years-23107093/), [[2]](https://www.gamesradar.com/entertainment/sci-fi-shows/doctor-who-season-2-episode-6-review-the-interstellar-song-contest/), [[3]](https://www.gamesradar.com/entertainment/disney-plus/doctor-who-season-2-easter-eggs-and-references/)
4. Paragraph 4: [[3]](https://www.gamesradar.com/entertainment/disney-plus/doctor-who-season-2-easter-eggs-and-references/), [[5]](https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/a64399996/doctor-who-russell-davies-mrs-flood/), [[6]](https://www.thedoctorwhocompanion.com/2024/09/14/russell-t-davies-confirms-well-find-out-who-mrs-flood-is-in-the-next-series-of-doctor-who/)
5. Paragraph 5: [[4]](https://www.cinemablend.com/streaming-news/ncuti-gatwa-landed-another-gig-as-doctor-whos-fate-hangs-in-the-balance-this-give-me-hope-series-returns), [[6]](https://www.thedoctorwhocompanion.com/2024/09/14/russell-t-davies-confirms-well-find-out-who-mrs-flood-is-in-the-next-series-of-doctor-who/), [[7]](https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/a61510046/doctor-who-russell-davies-mrs-flood/)
6. Paragraph 6: [[1]](https://metro.co.uk/2025/05/18/doctor-fans-disappointed-iconic-villains-return-30-years-23107093/), [[4]](https://www.cinemablend.com/streaming-news/ncuti-gatwa-landed-another-gig-as-doctor-whos-fate-hangs-in-the-balance-this-give-me-hope-series-returns)
7. Paragraph 7: [[1]](https://metro.co.uk/2025/05/18/doctor-fans-disappointed-iconic-villains-return-30-years-23107093/), [[5]](https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/a64399996/doctor-who-russell-davies-mrs-flood/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://metro.co.uk/2025/05/18/doctor-fans-disappointed-iconic-villains-return-30-years-23107093/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.gamesradar.com/entertainment/sci-fi-shows/doctor-who-season-2-episode-6-review-the-interstellar-song-contest/> - This review of 'Doctor Who' Season 2, Episode 6, 'The Interstellar Song Contest,' highlights the episode's unique blend of sci-fi and Eurovision elements. The plot centers on the Doctor and Belinda Chandra attending a galactic music competition, only to confront villains Kid and Wynn, who threaten the audience with a Delta Wave. The episode features significant reveals, including the return of Carole Ann Ford as Susan Foreman and the revelation that Anita Dobson's character, Mrs. Flood, is a new incarnation of the Rani, portrayed by Archie Panjabi. The review praises the script, humor, and performances, while noting some pacing issues and underdevelopment of Kid as a villain.
3. <https://www.gamesradar.com/entertainment/disney-plus/doctor-who-season-2-easter-eggs-and-references/> - This article explores the numerous Easter eggs, cameos, and references in 'Doctor Who' Season 2, appealing to both longtime fans and newcomers. It discusses the mysterious Mrs. Flood, revealed to be the Rani, and references to past villains and stories, such as the Delta Wave from 'The Parting of the Ways' and the return of Susan Foreman. The season also nods to locations like Midnight and Gallifrey, and includes meta-commentary featuring real-world fans. The article highlights how these elements enrich the episodes and build toward a climactic end set on May 31.
4. <https://www.cinemablend.com/streaming-news/ncuti-gatwa-landed-another-gig-as-doctor-whos-fate-hangs-in-the-balance-this-give-me-hope-series-returns> - This article discusses Ncuti Gatwa's role as the UK's spokesperson for the Eurovision Song Contest 2025 and its implications for the future of 'Doctor Who.' Gatwa's involvement in Eurovision and the parallel episode 'The Interstellar Song Contest,' set to air on May 17, has sparked optimism among fans regarding the show's continuation. The article notes that Gatwa's prominent role suggests that cancellation is unlikely, as it would be surprising for the BBC to spotlight him if plans to end the series were imminent.
5. <https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/a64399996/doctor-who-russell-davies-mrs-flood/> - In this article, 'Doctor Who' showrunner Russell T Davies confirms that Mrs. Flood, portrayed by Anita Dobson, will appear 'every week' in the new season. The character, introduced in the 2023 Christmas special as Ruby Sunday's neighbor, has been shrouded in mystery. Davies hints at a significant reveal in the finale, stating that Mrs. Flood 'kind of unveiled herself at the end of the last series,' and promises that viewers will get 'great answers to that' in the upcoming episodes.
6. <https://www.thedoctorwhocompanion.com/2024/09/14/russell-t-davies-confirms-well-find-out-who-mrs-flood-is-in-the-next-series-of-doctor-who/> - This article reports on Russell T Davies' confirmation that the identity of Mrs. Flood will be revealed in Series 15 of 'Doctor Who.' Reflecting on the end of 'Empire of Death,' where Mrs. Flood was dressed like former companion Romana, Davies promises that viewers will get 'great answers to that' in the next series. He also hints at the character's resemblance to Romana, noting that 'probably because she’s wearing white fur, people are going to think she’s Romana.'
7. <https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/a61510046/doctor-who-russell-davies-mrs-flood/> - In this article, Russell T Davies teases the 'ride of a lifetime' in the Mrs. Flood mystery. The character, portrayed by Anita Dobson, has remained enigmatic on the show. Davies promises that viewers are 'literally in for the ride of a lifetime' regarding the Mrs. Flood storyline, with more revelations to come in the upcoming episodes. He hints at significant developments, stating, 'There's more revelations to come,' and emphasizes the excitement surrounding the character's arc.