

!

!

1

. A AC - DA 1

1

FX: The EARTH from space - Suddenly a FLAMING METEOR FLASHES from the top of the screen, HURTLING towards Earth -

CUT TO:

2

. A A A ' A C - DA 1

2

FAST! SARAH JANE, CLYDE and RANI gathered around MR SMITH - screen shows a GRAPHIC of the meteor on collision course with the Earth. PRAC lights FLASH, ALARMS -

MR SMITH

Meteor redirected to these co-ordinates -

On the screen, the graphic of the METEOR SWERVES, co-ordinates FLASH up -

MR SMITH (CONT'D)

Strong possibility of germ pathogens.

SARAH JANE

We've got to neutralise it! Rani, bio-coolant!

Rani grabs something like an advanced fire extinguisher -

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)1

Clyde, thermo-clamps!

Through the smoke - SARAH JANE, CLYDE and RANI run up -
the watch BEEPS louder, faster -

SARAH JANE
Just in time - Rani!

RANI
On it!

Rani aims the bio-coolant at the meteor -

Suddenly - a shower of PRAC SPARKS from the meteor!

Sarah Jane, Clyde and Rani recoil -

Another larger HISS of SMOKE from ahead -

CLYDE
Whoah! What was that?

Suddenly the BEEPING cuts out - Sarah Jane stares at her
watch, shakes it - baffled -

SARAH JANE
It's reading all clear?!

RANI
But I didn't do anything!

Suddenly - through the smoke - a vague shadow -

Sarah Jane steadies the kids - takes the spray from Rani -

SARAH JANE
Wait - something's there!

Suddenly the smoke CLEARS to REVEAL RUBY - 40s,
glamorous, holding an extinguisher almost identical to
Sarah Jane's - on her wrist a bejewelled BANGLE -

They stare at each other, amazed -

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)
Who are you? What are you doing here?

RUBY
Saving the world. All in a day's work.
Goodbye!

During this, she runs to a sports car parked on the
hilltop -

Sarah Jane, Clyde and Rani run after her, around the
meteor -

SARAH JANE
Wait! Who are you!?

CLYDE
She's exactly like you!

CUT TO _____ :

5 . - DA 1

5

SARAH JANE strides back to the car - kids follow -

SARAH JANE
She's bad news, whoever she is. Last thing we need is amateurs under our feet.

CLYDE
Looked pretty professional to me.

RANI
She must have detected the meteor. So, she's got alien tech. Plus she knew what to do.

SARAH JANE
I'll get Mr Smith on the case. We'll find her!

CUT TO:

6 . BA A AD/ D AD - DA 1

6

The car pulls up through the Old Forest Road entrance to the drive of Number 13 -

CLYDE jumps out first - runs back to look down Old Forest Road - RANI gets out in b/g -

CLYDE
Wait wait wait - what did I just see?

He points -

Outside number 46 Old Forest Road - RUBY, emerging from her car - house keys in hand - she hurries inside -

RANI
We've found her.

SARAH JANE joins them -

SARAH JANE
What? *What?*

RANI
There was a big furniture van out there the other day.

CLYDE
Wonder Woman's moved in down the road!?

The car starts to roll forward slowly towards the bushes -

(CONTINUED)

CLYDE (CONT'D)

Hand brake!

He dashes over, pulls the handbrake - slams the door -
comes back and gives Sarah Jane the keys -

SARAH JANE

Must be getting old.

RANI

What now?

SARAH JANE

We find out exactly what's going on
here.

She strides off down the road, kids follow -

CUT TO:

. B ' - DA 1

SARAH JANE knocks at the door - CLYDE and RANI behind -

RUBY opens the door -

SARAH JANE

We need to talk.

RUBY

You followed me!?

RANI

We only live over there!

RUBY

Like I care, get lost!

She tries to shut the door - Sarah Jane puts her foot in -

SARAH JANE

RANI

Those days at the South Croydon Echo
have never left her.

RUBY

You're a journalist? Should have known.
Get out now, or I call the police.

SARAH JANE

You don't really want to do that. Not
with alien technology lying about the
place.

RUBY

You've no idea what you're getting into
here! Or you wouldn't be bringing kids
with you.

SARAH JANE

Wherever I go, they go.

RUBY

(beat)
You get one minute.

SARAH JANE

What's your name?

RUBY

What's yours?

Clyde finds a pile of paperwork on a box top -

CLYDE

Ruby White.

RUBY

(to Clyde)
Put that down, who d'you think you are?

SARAH JANE

You just used a bio-coolant spray on a
meteor you couldn't possibly have known
was falling to Earth.
To destroy germs you couldn't possibly
have known it contained. Would you like
to explain?

RUBY

All of which applies equally to you.
Don't think I haven't met amateurs
before.

SARAH JANE

Why this house, why move here?

RUBY

This area, they call it the Ealing
Triangle.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RUBY (CONT'D)

RANI

Went over there the other day. Just to say hello.

GITA

A secret new friend, why wasn't I invited?

CLYDE

She's not the friendly type. Hello sir.
(of the house)
Nope, still not getting used to the yellow.

HARESH

It was Gita's idea.

GITA

Like summer all year round.
(of Ruby)

Number 46, is she? Always wanted a look in there, but she was a ratbag that old Mrs Kuthrapali.

*

HARESH

Gita! The woman's only been dead a month!

During this, SARAH JANE has pulled up across the road in her car - she gets out, carrier bags in her hands -

GITA

Afternoon Sarah.

SARAH JANE

Hi. Can't stop, I'm putting Luke's tea on.

HARESH

Is Luke back? Rani didn't say.

Rani and Clyde shocked - Sarah Jane stands stock-still -

SARAH JANE

What ... no he's not back - I -
(trails off)
Excuse me.

She rushes in to Number 13, upset -

GITA

Shall I go over?

RANI

No, mum, leave her alone. Come on Clyde, we've gotta pick up that - stuff -

She nods over the road -

CUT TO:

CLYDE and RANI approach the door of Number 13 -

CLYDE
She's been acting a bit weird, but that
was off the scale!

Rani reacts to the front door -

RANI
Now she's left the front door open! You
know what, she needs a holiday.

CLYDE
Right, let's tell her -

Rani restrains him -

RANI
Whoa! You hang back five minutes, I'll
do it.

CUT TO:

SARAH JANE before MR SMITH - on the screen, LUKE via
webcam -

LUKE
Mum! Is there something wrong?

SARAH JANE
No, nothing, just wanted a chat.
Missing you.

LUKE
Already? It's only been a couple of
hours since you called.

SARAH JANE
Mum's prerogative. How's - whatsisname,
metal dog?

LUKE
You mean K9? He's good.

During this, RANI comes in.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Mum. Sure you're all right?

SARAH JANE
Absolutely fine!

LUKE
Rani, hi!

Sarah Jane turns -

(CONTINUED)

RANI

Hi Luke. Don't worry, I'm keeping your mum out of trouble.

LUKE

That's a tough job. Listen, I said I'd meet Sanjay down the Union, better go - bye, you two.

SARAH JANE

Love you.

The connection clicks off -

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

(to Rani)

What can I do you for?

RANI

You're not all right, Sarah Jane.

SARAH JANE

Oh, I've been waiting for this Rani, I forget something, make a silly mistake, and you blow it up into some big disaster -

(gives up)

Oh, I'm not even gonna try.

RANI

You're missing Luke?

SARAH JANE

Of course. But it's not just that. It's like - I can't concentrate.

Sarah Jane moves to the sofa, Rani joins her -

RANI

When was the last time you took a holiday, a proper holiday?

SARAH JANE

I love my work, I don't need one.

RANI

When was the last time?

SARAH JANE

I can't put up a sign on the dark side of the moon, "please don't invade this week, Old Smith is on her hols".

RANI

Go and see Luke just for a few days. It's only an hour down -

Suddenly - ALARMS!!! RED ALERT GRAPHICS over MR SMITH -

(CONTINUED)

MR SMITH
RED ALERT! RED ALERT!

Rani and Sarah Jane jump up...

SARAH JANE
Mr Smith, report!

MR SMITH
Spacecraft approaching the solar system!

SARAH JANE
Get them on the screen!

FX: On the screen - The RIM of EARTH, space beyond -

MR SMITH
Scanning - no visual contact - suggest
intruders are using shields -

SARAH JANE
Bring up their data traces, quick!

CLYDE races in!

FX: An ARROW FORMATION of TWENTY BIG DOTS appears -

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)
A fleet! Moving in to attack!

MR SMITH
Inference: invasion of Earth!

SARAH JANE
Identify them!

A GRAPHIC of a DARK HORDE WARRIOR appears - a long deep-
red hooded cloak - carries a metal STAFF.

CLYDE
Whoahhhh ...

Sarah Jane pulls herself together - suddenly she's gung-
ho, like the young SJ who travelled with the Doctor -

SARAH JANE
The Dark Horde! Bad news - they've
never come this near to Earth -

MR SMITH
Their ships are undetectable by human
technol - ALERT! Our scan beam is being
traced!

SARAH JANE
Switch it off!

The scan beam clicks off -

(CONTINUED)

MR SMITH

Too late - they have located us.

SARAH JANE

It's never too late!

MR SMITH

Dark Horde strategy will be to neutralise any technology considered a threat.

SARAH JANE

I know all about them, what they did on the Kravasta colonies - they'll be coming straight for us!

MR SMITH

A teleport beam is locking down on the attic.* I can divert it but not reverse it -

SARAH JANE

Put them down in the nearest uninhabited area!

MR SMITH

Complying -

SARAH JANE

And contact UNIT!

MR SMITH

All transmissions are now blocked!

RANI

We're on our own!

SARAH JANE

Things were getting boring anyway -
(points)
Rani - bring that!

Rani snatches up a small BAUBLE of alien tech - it's a SCANBLIND -

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

Clyde - your hour has come!

Sarah Jane opens the SAFE - hefts out a Sontaran gun -

RANI

What are you doing?

Sarah Jane locks and loads, tosses the gun to Clyde -

SARAH JANE

Our job is to protect this planet! By any means!

(CONTINUED)

RUBY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

You got it wrong boys! Scan over here -
wait til you see what I've got!

HERO SHOT - RUBY stands, legs astride. She takes two
small white SPHERES from her pocket, a button on each -

The Horde aim their staffs at Ruby and STOMP towards her -

RUBY (CONT'D)

Clyde! Rani! Trust me - catch!

She throws them one at a time in different directions -

Clyde and Rani run to catch them, Clyde dropping the gun -

The Horde reach Ruby, the leader waves his staff again -

Ruby doesn't flinch. She produces a smooth, white
moulded piece of alien tech - size and shape of an 80s
mobile phone - (this is MR WHITE). She fiddles with it -

RUBY (CONT'D)

Clyde, Rani, When I shout, press the
buttons! Trust me!

Clyde and Rani look to each other - why the hell not!

Sarah Jane looking on in horror and confusion -

HORDE WARRIOR

Scan complete. Inferior. Eliminate!

RUBY

Now!

She points Mr White at the Horde, as they point their
staffs at her -

Clyde and Rani press the buttons on their spheres -

FX: THREE BEAMS OF WHITE LIGHT SHRIEK from Mr White and
the two spheres, surrounding the Horde in a triangle of
fizzing energy -

FX: The DARK HORDE engulfed in blue TELEPORT GLOW

FX SHOT: SCHLUPPP!!! They ZOOM UP - gone!

FX: The triangle of energy snaps off -

Ruby runs towards the stunned gang -

RUBY (CONT'D)

Everyone okay?

Sarah Jane scrabbles to her feet -

CLYDE

What did you do?

(CONTINUED)

RUBY

You mean what did we do?

Suddenly, from Mr White, a VOICE - not unlike Mr Smith,
but less formal -

MR WHITE

Dark Horde fleet retreating.

Rani points -

RANI

What's that?

MR WHITE

I'm an artificial intelligence. Hello.

CLYDE

Hello. Somebody explain.

MR WHITE

With your help I reflected back to the
Horde an image of a slightly stronger
version of themselves. Their logical
reaction was to flee.

CLYDE

Cool! Should call him Mr White!

During this, Sarah Jane walks to Ruby -

SARAH JANE

Ruby, you saved our lives, you saved the
Earth! You are amazing!

RUBY

If anyone's amazing, it's you, Sarah
Jane. I've been doing some research.
Clyde Langer, Rani Chandra, thank you
both. I don't think we were properly
introduced last time. Which was my
fault, jumping to conclusions. You're
no amateurs. Is that handshake still on
offer, Sarah Jane?

She holds out her hand to Sarah Jane -

CLOSE on their handshake -

15

D

15

16

. A A A ' A C - DA 2

16

RUBY shown into the attic - she's gobsmacked -

SARAH JANE

Welcome to the attic!

RUBY

This is incredible!

(CONTINUED)

MR SMITH
And rather unexpected.

CLYDE
Ruby White, say hello to Mr Smith!

He replaces the Sontaran gun near the safe. *

SARAH JANE
She's a friend.

RUBY
Mr Smith - wow, hello! Makes my
revelation look a little bit less
impressive.

RANI
Nah, he's good - pocket-sized!

RUBY
Mr White, I like that - reminds me of my
dad.

RANI
Where did you get him?

RUBY
New Zealand, dredged out of a swamp. I
couldn't turn him over to the
authorities. They'd just strip him
down, use him as a weapon of war.

Rani takes Mr White and places him on Mr Smith's console -

RANI

RUBY (CONT'D)
 Finally, people I can talk to about
 this. It's like a dream.

CLYDE
 Welcome to the club.

CUT TO:

17 . A A A ' - DA 2

17

CLYDE and RANI coming out of the front door -

CLYDE
 I really like her.

RANI
 Me too! She's so much like Sarah Jane.

CLYDE
 Cooler car, though.

RANI
 This is proper good news. We've got a
 new mate, Sarah Jane's got someone to
 take the pressure off.

CLYDE
 Isn't that what we're for?

CUT TO:

18 . A A A ' A C - DA 2

18

SARAH JANE and RUBY talking on the sofa - cups of tea -

SARAH JANE
 I love Clyde and Rani. They're great
 kids, but they're a different
 generation. I could do with a grown-up
 friend.

RUBY
 I need a friend too. I got you so wrong
 the other day. My big mouth.

SARAH JANE
 You were right about one thing. I put
 children in danger. And today I nearly
 got them killed.

She picks up the sonic lipstick -

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)
 Sonic lipstick, which I take everywhere
 with me. Except this afternoon, when I
 really needed it.

(CONTINUED)

RUBY

Sonic lipstick? Now I really feel inadequate.

SARAH JANE

You've had a normal life. Nothing's been normal for me. I was 23, thought I knew it all. Just another day, chasing a story, trying to make my name. Then the world turned upside down.

Ruby takes her hand -

RUBY

Oh no. What happened?

SARAH JANE

I met him, didn't I? The man who changed my life.

RUBY

Who's that?

Panic moment - Sarah Jane searching her memory -

SARAH JANE

FX: MR SMITH'S SCAN BEAM flickers over Sarah Jane -

CUT TO:

. B ' C A - DA 2

A dark, bare brick cellar. RUBY coming down the stairs -

RUBY

Right.

She gets out MR WHITE -

RUBY (CONT'D)

(to Mr White)

Scan position 4.

On the facing wall, a SCREEN lights up - on it, SARAH JANE in the attic, the medi-scan beam playing over her -

MR WHITE

How's it going, Ruby?

RUBY

Oh, 'Mr White', it's going good. Sarah Jane Smith is a perfect victim. My best one yet! Almost worth listening to her drivelling self-pity. And drinking her terrible tea.

MR WHITE

What about the children?

RUBY

Yeah, I can see potential in the junior apprentices. I'll make sure their last days are full of fun.

She gets to the bottom of the steps - addresses something unseen - indicates the screen -

RUBY (CONT'D)

And how do you like her?

A PRAC red glow washes over the cellar - and we hear an organic gastric RUMBLE.

CUT TO:

. A A A ' A C - DA 2

Later. SARAH JANE pacing before MR SMITH, anxious -

SARAH JANE

Come on!

MR SMITH

Sarah Jane, I do not know how to -

(CONTINUED)

SARAH JANE

Just tell me!

MR SMITH

There is evidence of deterioration of brain tissue - cognitive dysfunction - impaired reaction times. Damage is not serious, but it cannot be treated. I am sorry.

SARAH JANE

Listen. In my current condition, should I be given a position of authority and responsibility over other people's lives?

MR SMITH

Sarah Jane, it is not my -

SARAH JANE

I want an answer!

MR SMITH

(beat)

No. ((beat))Tj ET Q q 14m

RANI

Mum, it's one lesson!

Rani gets in to driving seat -

RUBY

Bye Mrs Chandra!

GITA

Oh, Ru - call me Gita!

RUBY

Call me Ruby.

The car zooms off -

REVEAL Sarah Jane in doorway, looking on -

DISSOLVE TO:

24

. BA A AD - DA C

24

FX: The front of Number 13, Clyde and Rani armed with brooms, steering TRAVAST POLONG across the drive towards Ruby, who is armed with a big BUTTERFLY NET - all three laughing -

CLYDE

He can't keep away! Get in there, Polong!

RANI

Now, Ruby!

Ruby brings the net down - laughs -

And then we ZOOM slowly right up to Sarah Jane's face in close-up - the decision is made.

CUT TO:

25

. A A A ' A C - DA 3

25

CLOSE on SARAH JANE -

SARAH JANE

Ruby. I can't do this any more.

Reveal RUBY on the sofa -

RUBY

What? Don't be so stupid -

SARAH JANE

Mr Smith scanned me. Second best doctor I know. I'm getting old, it's too much for me. Ruby, look at my hands!

They're trembling -

(CONTINUED)

RUBY

You need to calm down -

SARAH JANE

Listen! I am ill. My life has made me ill. I am old and I am tired and I am dangerous. I nearly got Clyde and Rani killed. That must never happen again. It is over. I am over, my story is finished. But this planet needs someone to protect it. Are you that person? Are you the woman I think you are?

RUBY

You want me to take over?

SARAH JANE

You're so much like I used to be.

RUBY

Wait wait wait, we need to stop, and think -

SARAH JANE

We do not have time, and we do not need to think. You're the only other person in the world who can do this. I wouldn't ask unless I was completely sure. If you agree you get this house, you get Mr Smith, you get Clyde and Rani, you get everything. Yes or no?

RUBY

I can't suddenly decide something this big -

SARAH JANE

Yes or no!

RUBY

(long beat)

Yes.

Massive relief from Sarah Jane - almost collapses -

SARAH JANE

Right. I'm leaving - right now.

RUBY

You can't be serious!

SARAH JANE

It has to be now! If I wait I'll change my mind.

RUBY

What about Luke?

(CONTINUED)

SARAH JANE

Doesn't need me any more. He's got a new life, and I won't be a burden to him. It's harsh, but this life is harsh. Just remember - one day, this will happen to you. So - it's a deal?

Sarah Jane extends her hand -

They shake on it - CLOSE on the handshake -

RUBY

It's a deal.

SARAH JANE

Mr Smith, program Alpha 3. Delete my voice from the command program. Your orders now come from Ruby White.

MR SMITH

Are you sure that's wise, Sarah Jane?

SARAH JANE

It's an order! My last order.

MR SMITH

Con...con...CONFIRMED.

RUBY

So, Sarah Jane, what are you gonna do with yourself now?

SARAH JANE

No plans. I'm going to drive off, see where I end up.

(beat, gestures around)

It's all yours.

Sarah Jane tosses her the house keys -

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

Here's the keys. And the watch.

Ruby catches them - satisfied - puts them down -

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

And I mustn't forget this -

She pulls the sonic lipstick from her pocket and hands it to Ruby. Big moment.

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

Now you've got everything.

RUBY

Thank you.

And Sarah Jane sways - staggers - Ruby watches, playful, cat with a mouse - got what she wants now -

(CONTINUED)

RUBY (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

SARAH JANE

(sharp)

I'm fine!

RUBY

We're all gonna miss you, Sarah Jane.

(toying with her)

Me and all your little chums.

She rips a photo of Rani from the wall -

RUBY (CONT'D)

Wonderful, brilliant Rani.

She rips down a photo of Clyde -

During this, Sarah Jane struggles to focus -

RUBY (CONT'D)

Amazing, plucky Clyde.

She rips off a photo of Luke -

RUBY (CONT'D)

And your son. Lukey-wukey-pukey.

She waves the photos in Sarah Jane's face -

Sarah Jane reaches out for them -

And Ruby whips them away, Chris Tarrant-style -

RUBY (CONT'D)

But you don't want these. Your mind's made up. No goodbyes. No looking back. You're a hard woman, Sarah Jane, what am I gonna tell those poor, poor kids?

SARAH JANE

Ruby? Wait - please, I can't think -

RUBY

(enjoying it)

No time to think, you said. And no-one can change your mind, least of all me.

SARAH JANE

No, I can't leave -

RUBY

Oh you can't?

SARAH JANE

Not like this -

She holds on to the back of a chair, very weak now -

(CONTINUED)

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

I wasn't even going to say goodbye to Luke - what's wrong with me!?

RUBY

It's the way you wanted it.

SARAH JANE

Mr Smith, get Luke on the screen.

No reply -

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

Mr Smith!

RUBY

He's not answering! Oh silly me. Your voice has been erased from the command program, hasn't it?

SARAH JANE

Yes, of course - Ruby, patch me back in, I must speak to my son -

Ruby cold, hard - big moment -

RUBY

No.

Sarah Jane staggers, holds on to Ruby -

SARAH JANE

Ruby - what do you mean? What's happening?

Ruby slowly lets her sink to the floor -

RUBY

What's happening is you're not in charge any more. You gave me these,
(the keys, watch and
sonic)

You gave me this place. And then you gave me yourself. What's left of you.

SARAH JANE

What - Ruby, no -

She holds Sarah Jane -

RUBY

Don't struggle.

She pushes a control on her bangle -

FX: TELEPORT glow - they teleport out -

CUT TO:

FX: TELEPORT glow - RUBY and SARAH JANE teleport in -

SARAH JANE
Where - where are we -

RUBY
You've got your secret attic. Welcome
to my secret cellar.

Suddenly - PRAC red glow washes over them -

SARAH JANE
What - is that -

RUBY
You mean over there? In the darkness?
Where all the best monsters hide?

Ruby grabs her shoulder and forces her down!

Sarah Jane looks up -

REVERSE to REVEAL - FX SHOT: A hideous blood-red BLOB -
about 5ft diameter - jellyfish-like fronds attached to a
central glowing bladder -

RUBY (CONT'D)
It's my stomach. And it's hungry! For
your soul! You are ill, yes. I made
you ill. I've been draining you dry.
Sucking your life force, every time we
met, one drop at a time. Would you like
to see?

Ruby places one hand before Sarah Jane's face, stretches
the other to face the BLOB -

FX: SILVER ENERGY streams from Sarah Jane into Ruby's
hand -

FX: SILVER ENERGY streams from Ruby's other hand to the
BLOB -

FX: The BLOB SWELLS - it gets BIGGER -

SARAH JANE
No ... Ruby, let me go, please!

RUBY
Soon it will drain you completely! Then
my adventure begins! And I shall feast
on this world!

D

D