

**THE SARAH JANE
ADVENTURES 3**

**Episode 11
By**

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Yellow Revisions

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3 CONTINUED:

3

RANI

He's just a kid! What does he want with
a... what's it called?

LUKE

A matter compressor.

CLYDE

Maybe he wants some matter compressed?

SARAH JANE

Whatever his reason, the Pharos
Institute need it back!

(beat)

Split up.

The gang search in different areas, peering cautiously
behind the piles of junk -

Just then the silence is broken by a huge *FAAAAAART!* -

LUKE

It can't be...

A PRAC bright blue light, from behind some boxes -

Then a massive *CRASH!* and a small SLITHEEN, formerly
CHRIS, bursts out in front of Clyde, roaring, its claws
raised! (NB, the SPORTS BAG over its shoulder.)

CLYDE

It is! The Slitheen! They're back!

The Slitheen lunges for him -

CUT TO **TITLES:**

4 **INT. WAREHOUSE -- CONTINUOUS**

4

- But instead of attacking CLYDE, the SLITHEEN shoves him
to the ground and lumbers off -

SARAH JANE, LUKE and RANI race across to Clyde -

LUKE

You okay, Clyde?

They help him to his feet -

CLYDE

Never mind me, where did it go?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 4

They turn - but the Slitheen's gone.

CUT TO:

5 **EXT. SUBURBAN STREET -- AFTERNOON 1** 5

SARAH JANE, RANI, LUKE, CLYDE burst out of the warehouse -
But too late - no sign of the Slitheen anywhere.

SARAH JANE
If the Slitheen are back on Earth it
means mayhem - on a global scale.

LUKE
What do they want this time?

SARAH JANE
Same as usual, I'd imagine, convert our
planet into cash.

RANI
So how do we find him?

CLYDE
We'd need a bloodhound.

SARAH JANE
Why didn't I think of that?

She pulls a DOG WHISTLE from her pocket and blows -

CUT TO:

6 **EXT./INT. SARAH JANE'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS** 6

Sarah Jane's car parked on a street nearby -
Inside, K9 -
His ears swivel, tail twitches, lights flash -

K9
Affirmative, Mistress.

There's a *click* and a door opens -

K9 (CONT'D)
Activating hover mode.

CUT TO:

6A **INT. WAREHOUSE TUNNEL -- AFTERNOON 1**

6A

CHRIS SLITHEEN is scurrying along the corridor.

CUT TO:

*

7 **INT. SLITHEEN BASE -- AFTERNOON 1**

7

CHRIS SLITHEEN runs in - out of breath, SPORTS BAG still over his shoulder.

REVEAL, empty basement - dark, shadowy, eerie.

DAVE

What you doing out of your disguise?

REVEAL, his accomplice, DAVE - a Slitheen in human skin - a bit older than Chris, chubby too, brains of the outfit.

CHRIS SLITHEEN

Can't run in human skin. Too tight.
Needed to lose them.

Dave lets out a squelchy FART, wriggles in his skin.

DAVE

Lose who?

CHRIS SLITHEEN

Give you one guess.

DAVE

(resignedly)

Sarah Jane Smith. I wondered how long
it'd be before she shoved her oar in.

CHRIS SLITHEEN

Yeah, but I got away. And I nabbed the
matter compressor.

DAVE

We wouldn't have needed to steal one if
you hadn't sat on ours!

Dave's snatched the BAG. He opens it, lifts out the
MATTER COMPRESSOR - a solid, shiny cylinder, wires
sticking out.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Now nothing can stop us turning this
scuzzy little planet into a massive
money-spinner.

He moves to the other end of the base -

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

REVEAL, their machine, alien yet makeshift, with a large monitor and a digital countdown clock; and below this a control panel of levers, switches, dials - all inert -

Dave inserts the MATTER COMPRESSOR into a socket at the front, then flicks a switch and stands back -

WHOOOOOM! The machine powers up, shuddering as it does so, more and more lights snap on; a hum rapidly builds -

DAVE (CONT'D)

And so it begins!

CUT TO:

8 **EXT. SUBURBAN STREET -- AFTERNOON 1**

8

SARAH JANE, CLYDE, LUKE and RANI beaming proudly as K9 trundles towards them down the street -

SARAH JANE

We need you to follow a trail, K9.

CLYDE

He can smell? How?

K9

Psycho-spoor and olfactory sensors.

CLYDE

Yeah, right, clears that up.

SARAH JANE

We're looking for a Slitheen, K9.

K9's probe extends, he lowers his head and scans the ground for clues. His ears turn and he burbles.

K9

Alien pheromone detected, Mistress.
Trail leads in this direction.

And he's off, following the scent -

CUT TO:

9 **INT. SLITHEEN BASE -- AFTERNOON 1**

9

DAVE's adjusting settings on their machine -

DAVE

Give me a visual!

CHRIS SLITHEEN hits a switch on the control panel -

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

CLOSE on monitor: a map graphic of Earth from space -

And like Google Earth, we're zooming in towards Europe, then the UK, then London, and then Ealing. A flashing light marks their location on a street map -

DAVE (CONT'D)
Initialise compression web!

Chris clumsily turns a dial -

And all the lights in the area go out!

DAVE (CONT'D)
Not that one, idiot!

Chris turns a different dial, the lights come back on -

CHRIS SLITHEEN
Compression web initialised!

CLOSE on monitor: a silvery strand shoots from their location, and out to show it looping right round Earth. Then another strand and another, beginning to form a web.

DAVE
Very soon the Slitheen family will be
the richest family in the galaxy!

They look up at the COUNTDOWN CLOCK: 96... 95... 94...

CUT TO:

10

EXT. SUBURBAN CUL-DE-SAC -- AFTERNOON 1

10

SARAH JANE, CLYDE, RANI, LUKE following K9 -

He suddenly starts spinning round and round in circles; whirring, ears swivelling.

K9
Insufficient data. Insufficient data.

SARAH JANE
You've lost him, K9? No!

K9
Affirmative, Mistress.

CLYDE
We'll never find him now.

*

Rani is staring at something, over Sarah Jane's shoulder -

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

RANI
That might help!

Sarah Jane spins around, sees what Rani's seen -

FX SHOT: dozens of silvery strands criss-crossing the sky, like a web, and coming from one location.

SARAH JANE
Right. Follow me!

She races off to the side - the others follow.

CUT TO:

11 **INT. SLITHEEN BASE -- AFTERNOON 1**

11

CHRIS SLITHEEN and DAVE before their machine -

Monitor: graphic of Earth, with more and more web strands encircling it, being spun quicker all the time -

CHRIS SLITHEEN
The web's nearly complete!

The COUNTDOWN CLOCK: 40... 39... 38...

DAVE
And when it is, Earth'll be squished!
Just our base left standing.
(beat, frowns)
You have set the safety shield, haven't you?

CHRIS SLITHEEN
Yeah... of course...

He hasn't, and so surreptitiously presses a button -

CHRIS SLITHEEN (CONT'D)
This time tomorrow we'll be relaxing on the Pleasure Moons of Pagros.

DAVE
This time tomorrow we'll own the Pleasure Moons of Pagros -

SARAH JANE
Switch it off, boys!

They spin round - it's SARAH JANE, RANI, LUKE, CLYDE -

DAVE
Sarah Jane Smith. How predictable.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

SARAH JANE

I prefer reliable. Now, I won't ask you again, switch - it - off!

DAVE

No chance!

Sarah Jane pulls out her SONIC LIPSTICK and gives the machine a serious zap! -

PRAC sparks fly, but the COUNTDOWN continues unaffected:
34... 33... 32...

CHRIS SLITHEEN

Good try, Miss Smith, but not good enough. It's sonic-wave resistant.

CLYDE

So what does that thing actually do?

LUKE

And why steal the matter compressor?

DAVE

This little planet's stuffed full of carbon. And thanks to your compressor, we can crush it.

RANI

And if carbon's crushed enough it forms a diamond. Did that in Physics.

Sarah Jane slyly clocks K9, his head poking round the door.

DAVE

A gigantic diamond, worth a fortune.

SARAH JANE

(shouts)

K9! Now!

K9 enters, nose gun extended -

K9

Maximum defence mode.

FX SHOT: he fires off a red laser bolt.

It hits the side of the machine - *BANG!* - and sends PRAC sparks flying.

DAVE

Grab the girl!

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

Chris seizes Rani, holds her arms behind her back -

RANI

Get your claws off me!

She attempts to break free, almost does, but -

Chris grabs her again, holds her more tightly this time, putting a deadly looking claw to her throat -

CHRIS SLITHEEN

Try that again and you'll be sorry!

SARAH JANE

Rani, don't move! K9, hold fire!

DAVE

Disable the dog, or she gets it!

SARAH JANE

(deep breath, sad)

I'm sorry, K9. Power down.

K9

Unit deactivating.

And K9's lights fade to black, his head droops.

DAVE

Wealth beyond our wildest dreams, and we get to finish off Sarah Jane Smith and her little friends. What a day!

They all gaze up at the COUNTDOWN CLOCK: 6... 5... 4...

LUKE

Mum! There must be something we can do?!

ON Sarah Jane - there really isn't this time...

Just then - *KA-ZZZAP!* - the sound of a teleport, and a flash of PRAC orange light illuminates the room -

WHIP-PAN to LEEF and TREE BLATHEREEN, stood at the other end of the base. They're just like Slitheen, but their skin is deep orange, their nails short.

LEEF BLATHEREEN

Stand back, Miss Smith!

Leef raises an arm, a LASER GUN strapped to it -

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (3)

11

FX SHOT: a beam hits the Matter Compressor and it vanishes, leaving nothing but an orange haze where it once stood.

TREE BLATHEREEN

Now release the child!

Chris lets go of Rani, and she runs back over to Sarah Jane, who hugs her protectively.

TREE BLATHEREEN (CONT'D)

(to the Slitheen)

By order of the High Council of Raxas Prime, you are charged with crimes against the state: fraud, theft, high treason. The penalty for each is death.

CHRIS SLITHEEN

It's him you want! He made me do it!

DAVE

Please! No! I'm innocent!

Tree hits a control on the TELEPORT attached to his wrist -

FX SHOT: a teleport field - a ball of orange energy - immediately circles Chris and Dave, and they vanish away.

SARAH JANE

What have you done to them?

LEEF BLATHEREEN

We've teleported them to our ship. They will stand trial on our home planet.

Sarah Jane is dumbfounded for a moment, and then -

SARAH JANE

I guess we owe you our lives. Thank you.

RANI

Yeah, thanks. I was very nearly Slitheen lunch.

SARAH JANE

But who are you?

TREE SLITHEEN

We are Blathereen.

LUKE

Blathereen? Never heard of you.

(CONTINUED)

LEEF BLATHEREEN

The Slitheen aren't the only family on Raxacoricofallapatorius. But they are the only criminal one. We Blathereen respect the law.

They're warm, sensible - total opposite of the Slitheen.

CLYDE

Why should we believe you?

LEEF BLATHEREEN

As you can see, we do not disguise ourselves in human skin, like Slitheen. We could never kill a human.

TREE BLATHEREEN

Not all visitors to your planet intend harm, Miss Smith. Some come here out of anthropological interest, some are asylum-seekers.

LEEF BLATHEREEN

And some actually want to help.

LUKE

So why are you here?

LEEF BLATHEREEN

We've dedicated our lives to tracking down Slitheen, bringing them to justice.

CLYDE

You mean you're bounty hunters.

LEEF BLATHEREEN

It isn't something we do for profit, it is our duty.

SARAH JANE

To be honest, we're pretty good at handling Slitheen by ourselves.

TREE BLATHEREEN

We do not doubt it. Your work is spoken of with great regard back home.

RANI

Interstellar fame, eh, Sarah Jane?

LEEF BLATHEREEN

And it is the Blathereen custom to offer thanks for such brave deeds - by sitting down to dinner.

(CONTINUED)

CLYDE

Oh yeah? And what's on the menu? Clyde burgers with a side of Rani?

TREE BLATHEREEN

It's wrong to have come this far without showing our appreciation.

SARAH JANE

That might be a bit tricky.

RANI

Why? Sounds like a great idea to me. A dinner party.

Sarah Jane pulls Rani aside, Clyde and Luke follow -

All the following sotto, so the Blathereen can't hear:

SARAH JANE

Think about it, Rani, they can't exactly come to my place.

LUKE

Mr Smith's there, and loads of alien stuff.

RANI

They can come to mine then.

CLYDE

Your mum and dad'll love that.

RANI

They're away at a head teachers' conference, remember? That's why I'm staying with Sarah Jane.

Does nothing sink in with you?

(all sweetness, to Sarah Jane)

C'mon, it's an amazing opportunity. Clyde'll cook. He's a secret Jamie Oliver.

CLYDE

I can't deny it.

SARAH JANE

(convincing herself)

I suppose so. And after all, they did save all our lives.

LUKE

Are you sure, Mum?

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (6)

11

LEEF BLATHEREEN
 (interrupting)
 Miss Smith? What do you say?

SARAH JANE
 Yes. Dinner would be lovely. You're
 very welcome, Mrs..?

LEEF BLATHEREEN
 Please, my name's Leef-apple-glyn. Leef
 for short. This is my husband, Tree-
 lorn-acre. I call him Tree.

SARAH JANE
 Sarah Jane. And this is Rani, Clyde,
 and my son, Luke.

TREE BLATHEREEN
 Pleased to meet you all.

LEEF BLATHEREEN
 Right. Let us have your teleport
 coordinates and we'll join you in an
 hour. We must freshen up first.

CUT TO:

12 **OMITTED**

12

13 **INT. CHANDRAS' KITCHEN/DINER -- EVENING 1**

13

The kitchen area is abuzz with food preparation.

CLYDE is layering mashed potato over a shepherd's pie;
 RANI is getting soup bowls out of a cupboard; LUKE stirs
 a pan of soup on the stove, a dozen empty soup cans
 nearby. SARAH JANE just paces, frowning:

SARAH JANE
 I'm still not sure we can trust them.

CLYDE
 Yeah, like when have the Slitheen ever
 helped us?

RANI
 But they're not Slitheen. They're not
 even the same colour.

LUKE
 Doesn't matter what colour they are,
 they're from the same planet.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

SARAH JANE

All I know is we have to keep our guard up, until we're certain.

CLYDE

And look at me, head chef to the enemy!

But he's actually loving it, being in charge.

SARAH JANE

I didn't know you could cook, Clyde.

CLYDE

Man of many talents.

(beat)

It's only shepherd's pie. Mum taught me.

LUKE

My mum's idea of cooking is piercing the film lid.

SARAH JANE

He's right. My jam tarts were a disaster.

(peers at soup)

I hope they don't have any strange dietary requirements. Though it's hard to go wrong with soup.

Just then - KA-ZZZAP! - and a flash of PRAC orange light signals the Blathereen teleport -

LEEF BLATHEREEN

Good evening, Sarah Jane.

CUT TO:

14 **INT. CHANDRAS' KITCHEN/DINER -- EVENING 1**

14

A few minutes later -

RANI, CLYDE, LUKE, SARAH JANE, crammed around the dining table, bowls of tomato soup before them, staring wide-eyed, trying not to look too horrified or disgusted as -

SARAH JANE

Sorry it's such a squeeze.

REVERSE, TREE and LEEF, massive, cramped in; slurping, guzzling soup straight from trifle bowls, going everywhere, making a disgusting noise, and in a second it's all gone!

(CONTINUED)

TREE BLATHEREEN
(wiping mouth)
And this delightful liquid is..?

LUKE
It was tomato soup.

CLYDE
(under breath)
Though you probably prefer something
more meaty.

RANI
(elbows him, hissed)
Shut up, Clyde.

LEEF BLATHEREEN
Delicious. We must take some home, for
next time the Rackateen come to dinner.

TREE BLATHEREEN
They adore foreign food.

Awkward silence. Sarah Jane fumbles for chit-chat:

SARAH JANE
So, tell us about your home planet.

LEEF BLATHEREEN
(beat, with a sigh)
Raxacoricofallapatorius was once the
most admired planet in the Raxas
Alliance. Clom, Plix and
Raxacoricovarlonpatorius all took their
lead from us.

TREE BLATHEREEN
And the Blathereen were one of the most
respected families.

LEEF BLATHEREEN
Until the Slitheen bribed their way into
power. They ruined our planet's good
name.

RANI
That must've been terrible for you.

LUKE
What happened to the Slitheen?

(CONTINUED)

TREE BLATHEREEN

The economy crashed, then the rest of the population rose up against them, and they were deposed.

LEEF BLATHEREEN

Some faced justice, others fled to the farthest corners of the galaxy.

TREE BLATHEREEN

It was our duty to hunt them down.

LEEF BLATHEREEN

We're deeply sorry for the trouble they've caused here. And as this seems an appropriate moment - Tree?

She nudges him, he reaches down, beside his stool.

LEEF BLATHEREEN (CONT'D)

This is not just a gift for your hospitality, but compensation for the Slitheen's behaviour on Earth.

Tree presents a METAL CONTAINER, like an alien cool-box -

Clumsily, he plonks it on the table; it opens with a hiss -

A PRAC icy mist obscures the contents -

The gang look to one another, and Rani leans in -

CLYDE

Careful!

RANI

It's just a present, Clyde.

LEEF BLATHEREEN

His concern is understandable. Though this is something that will truly delight you.

The mist clears to reveal... a PLANT in a pot.

Tree lifts it out and places it on the table -

The PLANT is small, innocent looking, hardly alien at all; it has no flower, just delicate green leaves -

SARAH JANE

(unsure how to react)
Lovely. Thank you. Very... lovely.

(CONTINUED)

LEEF BLATHEREEN

This is Rakweed. It's a staple food back home. It can grow anywhere. Even in the harshest conditions.

TREE BLATHEREEN

Nutritious - and delicious.

LEEF BLATHEREEN

But this isn't just a gift for you. We want you to share it - with your entire world.

TREE BLATHEREEN

We know you suffer from famines on Earth. Rakweed could put an end to them - forever.

LEEF BLATHEREEN

Of course, if it came directly from outsiders such as ourselves your people would be distrustful. That is why we want you, Sarah Jane, to be our... our ambassador.

TREE BLATHEREEN

Imagine the fame and the glory.

SARAH JANE

I'm not really bothered about the whole fame thing. I do what I do to help the human race.

Sarah Jane picks up the PLANT, studies it carefully.

LEEF BLATHEREEN

This little plant could save millions of lives.

CLOSE on Sarah Jane, thoughtful...

Just then - *PING!* - saved by the oven timer -

Sarah Jane puts the PLANT back on the table -

SARAH JANE

Main course. Excuse me.
(to Rani)
Can you give me a hand?

Sarah Jane and Rani collect the empty soup bowls -

FOLLOW them, as they head through to the kitchen -

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (4)

14

In very hushed, urgent voices:

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

Is this all too good to be true, or have I become totally paranoid?

RANI

You've always taught us to keep an open mind.

SARAH JANE

But I've had bad experiences with aliens bearing gifts.

Sarah Jane gets the shepherd's pie out of the oven; Rani strains a saucepan of carrots, puts them in a dish -

RANI

Mr Smith will know if it's dangerous. You can't pass up a chance to feed the entire human race - can you?

SARAH JANE

Do you really think we can trust the Blathereen?

Rani frowns, thoughtful.

RANI

I think so. If they wanted us dead they'd have done it by now.

SARAH JANE

Not necessarily.
(beat, unsure)
Oh I just don't know.

RANI

Go with your instincts. They're always right.

SARAH JANE

This time, my instincts are all over the place.

She's torn, then dismisses it, picks up the shepherd's pie, carries it out to the table -

Rani follows with the dish of carrots -

Clyde spots his dish coming through; proud:

CLYDE

Ta-daaa! Shepherd's pie. I made that.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (5)

14

During the following Sarah Jane dishes up, Leef's first:

LEEF BLATHEREEN

Shepherds are a delicacy on Earth?

CLYDE

Yeah, but you couldn't eat a whole one.

SARAH JANE

It's just the name of the dish.

Leef scoops up a massive clawful of pie from her plate, shovels it into her mouth, chomps, some falls out.

Everyone stares, trying not to look disgusted.

LEEF BLATHEREEN

Ummm. More delicious than the Land Prawns of Clom.

CLYDE

(more to himself)

Might apply for Masterchef after all.

Beat. Tree stares at Sarah Jane -

TREE BLATHEREEN

So... Sarah Jane... will you be our ambassador?

FX SHOT: he slowly blinks that eerie Slitheen blink -

LEEF BLATHEREEN

It's our chance to finally put things right. And it could mean a new friendship between our races.

SARAH JANE

You know I'll have to analyse the Rakweed, make sure it's... safe.

LEEF BLATHEREEN

Of course. Do that straight away.

SARAH JANE

But thank you. In principle, I... we... Earth accepts.

CUT TO:

15 OMITTED

15

16

INT. CHANDRAS' KITCHEN/DINER -- EVENING 1

16

Later - SARAH JANE, CLYDE, RANI, LUKE all standing; TREE and LEEF ready to depart.

LEEF BLATHEREEN

It's been a most wonderful evening.

TREE BLATHEREEN

But it's a long journey back to Raxacoricofallapatorius.

SARAH JANE

Amazing to meet you both. I'll never forget you. Or what you've given us.

Leef holds out her claw, for shaking -

LEEF BLATHEREEN

Will you accept the claw of friendship, Sarah Jane?

A beat, then Sarah Jane slowly takes Leef's claw -

CLOSE on human and alien hands shaking - a proud moment.

TREE BLATHEREEN

We're sure our Rakweed will change your planet forever.

LEEF BLATHEREEN

And how perfect that Sarah Jane Smith will be the one to lead Earth into a rich and fertile future.

SARAH JANE

Thank you. Have a safe journey.

Tree hits a button on the TELEPORT strapped to his wrist -

FX SHOT: the Blathereen are surrounded by an orange ball of energy and, in a flash, they are gone.

We catch just a glimpse of Sarah Jane quickly clicking her SCANNER WATCH, as Rani steps to her side -

RANI

Dinner with aliens and a plant that can save the world. Most exciting day I've ever had!

CUT TO:

17

INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- NIGHT 1

17

SARAH JANE, LUKE, RANI, CLYDE, K9, gathered before Mr Smith's chimney. Sarah Jane has the PLANT in her hands.

(NB, Luke's school tie should be draped over a chair.)

SARAH JANE
Mr Smith, I need you.

MR SMITH emerges with his usual showy fanfare.

MR SMITH
How may I assist you, Sarah Jane?

SARAH JANE
I need you to analyse something.

K9
This unit also capable of analysis.

MR SMITH
Thank you, K9, but this unit was requested.

SARAH JANE
Now now, boys, no squabbling.

FX SHOT: she holds out the PLANT and Mr Smith scans it with his beam from bottom to top -

MR SMITH
Processing.

CLOSE on screen: leaf cross-section, then zoom in even closer to view cell structure.

In the b/g, Sarah Jane puts the PLANT down on the desk.

RANI
It's such an amazing opportunity.

CLYDE
Yeah, or it could all be a trap.

RANI
They're Blathereen not Slitheen.

CLYDE
Slitheen. Blathereen. Whateverreen.
They're from Raxacorico-doodar, and that place has got a seriously dodgy reputation.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

RANI

You can't condemn an entire race just
cos a few of them are bad. There are
bad people on Earth too.

LUKE

Rani's right. And we're here to help
aliens, not just fight them.

RANI

Sarah Jane?

Sarah Jane is really thinking, staring at the PLANT -

SARAH JANE

This is huge.
If I make this public, it'll change
everything. No more hiding in the
shadows, saving the world in secret.
I'll be front page news.

RANI

Sarah Jane Smith. Ambassador for Earth.

CLOSE on Sarah Jane - the dilemma - and then:

MR SMITH

Analysis complete.

His screen: plant's cellular data scrolling across -

MR SMITH (CONT'D)

Although the Rakweed has a more complex
cell structure than Earth flora, there
is, as far as I tell, no threat.

LUKE

It's harmless then?

RANI

(to Clyde)

See, nothing wrong with it.

CLYDE

Yeah, but I still don't like it.

SARAH JANE

Anyway - it's time you lot were in bed.
School tomorrow. And you've all got a
test. Am I right?

CLYDE

Test? Sorry, did someone say 'test'?
Don't quite understand that word.

(CONTINUED)

*

K9

Test. Assessment of knowledge. Method through which one human demonstrates intellectual superiority over others.

Clyde's eyes narrow, he stares at K9 - a plan forming.

RANI

He knows what it means, K9. Just not how to pass it.

SARAH JANE

(to Luke & Rani)

C'mon, you two, bed.

(to Rani)

I've put a towel in your room.

Sarah Jane, Luke and Rani head for the door. Clyde lingers.

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

Clyde - home.

CLYDE

(covering)

Yeah, one sec, I just want to, er... borrow a book. For revision.

Sarah Jane looks sceptically at him for a moment, then shrugs, and follows the others out.

When they're gone, Clyde carefully closes the attic door and goes over to K9. He squats, leans in close, quietly:

CLYDE (CONT'D)

How much do you know about GCSE biology, K9?

K9

General Certificate for Secondary Education syllabus in biological science includes seven key areas -

CLYDE

(in)

Yeah, I know all that. But I need your help. Can you come to school with me tomorrow?

K9

Negative. Directional commands may only be issued by the Mistress.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (3)

17

CLYDE

Then you leave me no choice. Sorry, boy.

He puts a hand over K9's mouth -

*

K9

(muffled)

This unit may not be removed...

And Clyde hefts him up.

*

MR SMITH

Excuse me, Clyde.

CLYDE

Please don't tell Sarah Jane. I'll have him back by lunchtime.

MR SMITH

I was going to thank you. A break from the dog is most appreciated.

CLYDE

Bit annoying, isn't he?

MR SMITH

I couldn't possibly comment.

Clyde calls downstairs as he exits, carrying K9:

CLYDE

I'll see myself out!

CUT TO:

18 **EXT. BANNERMAN ROAD -- DAWN 2**

18

WIDE SHOT, dawn over Bannerman Road.

CUT TO:

19 **INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- CONTINUOUS**

19

Mr Smith is *not* out.

FX SHOT: A stream of sunlight falls through the open skylight and across the desk, lighting up all the artefacts on it. Finally, the light hits the PLANT's delicate green leaves and like speeded-up nature footage, a FLOWER springs forth from the PLANT, big and red, and its petals unfurl -

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: 19

There's a low WAILING sound - an unearthly, sinister chorus, like the Siren's song in Greek mythology -

FX SHOT: as the WAILING intensifies, the FLOWER puffs open - inside it's spiky and dangerous looking - and sends out a cloud of twinkling, red SPORES that float up into the air -

FX SHOT: FOLLOW the majority of the SPORES as they head for the half-open skylight -

CUT TO:

20 **EXT. BANNERMAN ROAD -- MORNING 2** 20

FX SHOT: the cloud of SPORES floats down on the breeze and across Bannerman Road, dispersing -

FX SHOT: CLOSE on some SPORES as they hit the ground and disappear, burrowing themselves into the soil -

CUT TO:

21 **OMITTED** 21

22 **INT. LUKE'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS** 22

LUKE's getting dressed for school -

He buttons his shirt to the top, turns the collar up -

LUKE
Tie. Tie... tie?

He opens the wardrobe door, but can't see it -

So he exits, in search -

CUT TO:

23 **INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- MORNING 2** 23

LUKE enters, sees his tie hanging over the back of a chair -

FX SHOT: CLOSE on a cloud of SPORES looming near him -

FX SHOT: without realising it, he inhales them -

Luke's POV: the attic goes in and out of focus -

He steadies himself on the chair, frowns, staggers out.

CUT TO:

24

INT. LUKE'S BEDROOM -- MORNING 2

24

LUKE stumbles in, sits on the edge of his bed, dazed.

SARAH JANE (O.S.)

Luke! Rani! Toast's getting cold.

SARAH JANE's head appears round the door.

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

Hurry up or you'll be late.

She senses something's wrong, comes in, sits beside him.

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

Hey. What's the matter?

LUKE

I feel strange.

SARAH JANE

In what way?

LUKE

I dunno, it's probably nothing.

Suddenly panicked, Sarah Jane feels Luke's forehead -

SARAH JANE

It's not nothing if you're feeling ill.
The Bane gave you perfect health.

LUKE

Is this what being ill is like?

SARAH JANE

How do you feel exactly?

LUKE

Everything's gone blurry, my chest is
aching and my head hurts.

Sarah Jane looks fearful, but she's strong for Luke and gives him a comforting hug. Just then:

RANI

Come on, slowcoach!

RANI is standing in the doorway, dressed for school.

RANI (CONT'D)

What's up?

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

SARAH JANE
Luke's not feeling well. But you get
off to school.

RANI
Shouldn't we call a doctor?

SARAH JANE
(in, stern)
Rani. School, please.

Rani quietly retreats.

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)
You should stay home this morning.

LUKE
But I don't want to miss the biology
test.

SARAH JANE
The test can wait. I'll call the
school, let them know.

CUT TO:

25 **EXT. 13 BANNERMAN ROAD -- MORNING 2**

25

RANI leaves the house - off to school.

Just then SARAH JANE emerges, MOBILE in hand -

SARAH JANE
Rani? Sorry I snapped. If Luke's sick,
what do I do? How do I explain him,
what he is, to a doctor?
(beat)
No - he'll probably be fine, it's just
never happened before...

She speed-dials a number, puts MOBILE to her ear -

RANI
I can stay home if you like.

SARAH JANE
Your dad wouldn't want you skipping
school. Especially when there's a test.

RANI
It was worth a try. See you later.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

SARAH JANE
 (into mobile)
 Hi, this is Luke Smith's mother...

Sarah Jane waves Rani off, takes the AD-LIBBED call inside.

Rani walks away, with a last worried look back, then she's off down the driveway, and out onto Bannerman Road.

The WAILING noise can be heard, though very faintly.

As Rani disappears off, we PAN DOWN to a herbaceous border near the house -

Several new PRAC PLANTS dot the soil, in full bloom.

CUT TO:

26 **OMITTED**

26

27 **INT. PARK VALE SCHOOL. CORRIDOR -- MORNING 2**

27

FOLLOW RANI as she marches down the corridor -

Other PUPILS, chatting, messing about, heading to class -

Rani comes to a halt outside the SCIENCE LAB -

CLYDE emerges from the LAB, looking shifty -

RANI
 What have you been up to in there?

CLYDE
 Got in early to do some revision.

RANI
 You're such a bad liar, Clyde.

CLYDE
 It's the truth, honest.

RANI
 I so know when you're up to something -
 and you're up to something.

No response, so she turns away, a little huffy -

But Clyde can't help grinning at his own cleverness.

CUT TO:

28

INT. LUKE'S BEDROOM -- MORNING 2

28

LUKE's in bed - still in school clothes - looking worse.

SARAH JANE enters with a cup of tea, sets it down -

SARAH JANE
How are you feeling?

LUKE
Not great.

SARAH JANE
Worse?

Though reluctant to admit it, Luke nods.

Sarah Jane over, so concerned, sits on the edge of his bed -

Then a deep breath; she pulls herself together -

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)
Right, let's be methodical about this,
go back to the beginning. What were you
doing when it started?

LUKE
I was in the attic -

SARAH JANE
The attic?

CUT TO:

29

INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- MORNING 2

29

Few minutes later -

MR SMITH is out, lights flashing, computing something -

SARAH JANE paces; so agitated, angry -

MR SMITH
Analysis complete. The Rakweed is not
harmless.

SARAH JANE
I knew it! The Blathereen!

MR SMITH
Adaptation to its cell structure
suggests a more deadly life-form.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

Mr Smith's screen: leaf cross-section, flashes danger red.

SARAH JANE
Couldn't you have seen this coming?

MR SMITH
I'm sorry, Sarah Jane, but the plant appears to have mutated since my last report -

SARAH JANE
I can see that. There's a great big flower sticking out of it now!

MR SMITH
It was probably in a state of deep hibernation.

*

LUKE's in the doorway; unsteady, weak, not himself.

LUKE
What's going on?

SARAH JANE
You should be in bed.

MR SMITH
According to my analysis, Rakweed seeks out life-forms that it deems a threat to its propagation and drains them of energy.

*
*
*

SARAH JANE
And what does that mean?

*

MR SMITH
It will send its victims into a deep coma. One from which... they will never return.

*
*

Sarah Jane looks at Luke - he's very weak now.

CUT TO:

30 INT. PARK VALE SCHOOL. SCIENCE LAB -- CONTINUOUS

30

The start of the biology lesson.

PUPILS file in, chatting, laughing, taking their seats at the wooden lab benches, getting books out.

RANI and CLYDE enter. Clyde's ever-so-slightly distracted.

(CONTINUED)

CLYDE

That's so weird about Lukey-boy. He's never got sick before.

RANI

Hope it's nothing serious. Sarah Jane was really worried.

CLYDE

How's the pot plant? Savaged anyone in the night?

Rani sits down, starts unpacking her stuff.

RANI

That's not funny, Clyde. This Rakweed stuff might be amazing. It could feed millions of people.

CLYDE

Yeah, but it'll probably still taste like salad. And like the world needs more salad.

RANI

Do you know what cynical means?

CLYDE

It's what I call being realistic.

He goes to move off, eager to get somewhere -

RANI

Where are you going? Sit here.

CLYDE

But I usually sit over there.

And he's off before Rani can say another thing. First offended, then suspicious, she gathers up her stuff -

CROSS to Clyde sitting at another bench -

Slyly, he drops down under it, doing something OOV -

Beat. His head pops up again, Rani's now sat next to him.

RANI

You're acting really weird. What are you up to?

She ducks down under the desk, comes nose to nose with K9!

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

(NB, he's tucked in the leg cavity space under the bench.)

K9

Good morning, Mistress Rani.

RANI

K9?!

CUT TO:

31 **INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- CONTINUOUS**

31

SARAH JANE leads LUKE over to the sofa and sits him down. *

SARAH JANE

Luke, you're all I've really got -
everything else, well, I've never said
this before, but it's all meaningless,
all of it, it makes no sense... without
you - *

The WAILING begins, but almost inaudibly at first -

MR SMITH

(in, grave)

I'm sorry to have to tell you, Sarah
Jane, but my sensors indicate the
Rakweed is not confined merely to this
house.

SARAH JANE

What?! How?!

MR SMITH

It has already reproduced itself. Most
likely by releasing spores.

Mustering all the strength he has left:

LUKE

Like a fungus? They must have got out
through the window.

SARAH JANE

We've got to stop this! Stop it right
now!

LUKE

Mum, I'm so tired... *

Luke lies back and closes his eyes *

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

SARAH JANE

Luke! Oh no - please!

She takes him in her arms; he's only half there -

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

Luke! Luke, can you hear me?

LUKE

I'm okay...

Sarah Jane spots something where his shirt's ridden up.
(NB, we can also see that Luke has no belly button!)

SARAH JANE

What's that?

She lifts his top, there's a red rash, matching the Rakweed petals, starting to spread across his stomach.

*
*

MR SMITH

He has been subjected to an incredibly high dose of Rakweed spores.

SARAH JANE

Please, Luke, you must stay awake.

CUT TO:

32 **INT. PARK VALE SCHOOL. SCIENCE LAB -- CONTINUOUS**

32

MISS JEROME, late 20s, trendy, moves between the benches handing out test papers. (NB, there's a TRAY OF PLANT SPECIMENS near her desk.)

MISS JEROME

Before the test begins make sure you've put all your textbooks away in your bags and have just a pen, pencil and a ruler in front of you on the benches. If you want to go to the toilet at any point after we begin then please raise your hand, do not shout out. There is to be total and absolute silence throughout. I want to be able to hear a pin drop...

MOST OF THIS RUNS UNDER THE FOLLOWING:

RANI

Sarah Jane will hit the roof!

CLYDE

Sarah Jane isn't gonna find out.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

RANI

What if someone hears him? He makes a right racket.

Clyde holds out an alien-tech EARPIECE -

CLYDE

Borrowed this too. Relays his voice straight into my ear.

He plugs it into his ear -

RANI

Using K9 to pass a test. Even by your standards, this is a whole new level of stupid.

CLYDE

We may not be allowed textbooks, but no one said anything about super-intelligent robot dogs from the Year 5000.

RANI

You're insane.

CLYDE

(chuffed with himself)
Yeah - an insane genius.

MISS JEROME

I hope you two are paying attention.

The teacher is suddenly right by their bench.

CLYDE

Course, Miss. And raring to go.

Miss Jerome puts test papers and answer sheets down -

Clyde beams at his jamminess. Rani shakes her head in disbelief and turns to look out of the window.

CUT TO:

33

EXT. PARK VALE SCHOOL. SCIENCE LAB -- CONTINUOUS

33

REVERSE, through the window, RANI staring out -

Then PAN DOWN below the window, until we reach the herbaceous borders surrounding the building -

FX SHOT: There are several Rakweed PLANTS there -

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: 33

And they're quietly WAILING -

CUT TO:

34 **INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- CONTINUOUS** 34

SARAH JANE
I'm so sorry. This is all my fault. *

FX SHOT: CLOSE on PLANT as it emits another cloud of SPORES -

LUKE
Mum! Look out! *

Sarah Jane looks up, horrified at what she sees -

FX SHOT: she's surrounded by SPORES, closing in on her -

She desperately tries to get away - but no use -

All her exits are blocked by FX SPORES -

Sarah Jane has nowhere to turn now -

SARAH JANE
Mr Smith! I need you! *

The WAILING reaches a crescendo. Over the din:

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)
Mr Smith! Please! Help me!

FX SHOT: the SPORES head straight towards her - *

EPISODE ELEVEN ENDS