

THE SARAH JANE ADVENTURES

**Episode 6
By**

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**Shooting Script
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1 INT. SCOUTSHIP. TRANSMAT AREA -- DAY 1 [1423]

1

White light sears, and fades.

LUKE and CLYDE collapse to the floor, but quickly recover, taking in their surroundings - which appear to be exactly the same as the corridor they were in at Combat 3000.

CLYDE

Whoaaw! What was all that about? If you ask me, someone went over the top with the effects budget on this place.

LUKE

I feel sick.

Luke sits on the floor, looking pale.

CLYDE

Well do me a favour, if this is where they hand us the trophy, don't puke in it.

CUT TO:

2 INT. COMBAT 3000. CONTROL ROOM -- DAY 1 [1424]

2

KUDLAK draws an alien gun and aims it at SARAH JANE and MARIA.

KUDLAK

I don't like to kill unarmed women and children but, forgive me, this is war.

His finger tightens on the trigger...

SARAH JANE

Run!

She lunges for the door, taking Maria with her.

Kudlak whips around.

FX SHOT: Fires!

PRAC a shower of sparks as the shot hits the door frame.

CUT TO:

3 INT. COMBAT 3000. OFFICE CORRIDOR -- DAY 1 [1424]

3

SARAH JANE and MARIA run for their lives.

CUT TO:

4

INT. COMBAT 3000. CONTROL ROOM -- DAY 1 [1425]

4

GRANTHAM appears in the doorway, still disoriented from Sarah Jane's sonic blast. He's in KUDLAK's way. Kudlak grabs Grantham by the shirt front, lifts him clean off his feet...

KUDLAK

Idiot!

And tosses him aside, storming through the door in pursuit.

CUT TO:

5

INT. COMBAT 3000. OFFICE CORRIDOR -- DAY 1 [1426]

5

SARAH JANE and MARIA push open a door...

CUT TO:

6

INT. COMBAT 3000. ARENA 1 -- CONTINUOUS DAY 1 [1426]

6

SARAH JANE and MARIA find themselves in the deserted arena.

MARIA

Where now?

SARAH JANE

There has to be an emergency exit.

They hear KUDLAK enter the arena. They dive for cover. Kudlak makes his way slowly across the floor, gun ready. And turns in Sarah Jane and Maria's direction. Aims.

FX SHOT: Kudlak fires.

PRAC explosion - as Sarah Jane and Maria run for their lives.

FX SHOT: Kudlak fires again.

PRAC explosion that just misses Sarah Jane and Maria as they dive behind a pillar.

MARIA

Are you all right?

Sarah Jane catches her breath.

SARAH JANE

UNIT training. Never forget it. You just get a little older, that's all.

Maria spots a sign pointing the way to a fire escape..

MARIA

This way!

They get to the fire escape and push down the bar, but it won't budge. It's locked.

As Sarah Jane takes the sonic lipstick from her bag, Maria sees Kudlak heading towards their cover.

MARIA (CONT'D)

He's coming!

PRAC: The sonic lipstick works at the edge of the bar handle and springs the lock. They push the bar down and open the door. Daylight floods in - Sarah Jane and Maria rush into it.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. COMBAT 3000 -- DAY 1 [1428]

7

MARIA slams the door shut behind them, and SARAH JANE locks it with the sonic lipstick.

MARIA

What about Luke and Clyde?

SARAH JANE

They're not there any more, Maria. But we'll find them! First we have to find out who we're up against!

They run to her car.

CUT TO:

8 INT. SCOUTSHIP. TRANSMAT AREA -- DAY 1 [1435]

8

LUKE is still sitting on the floor, looking ever-more concerned. CLYDE is pacing impatiently.

CLYDE

Where is everyone? I want my ticket to the world championships.

LUKE

I thought you were getting worried before.

CLYDE

Adrenaline-hype, that's all. Look, nothing's happened to us. We're just stuck in this room off the arena waiting for that Grantham guy to come get us.

But Luke is looking distracted by more than an upset stomach. His hands are spread on the floor which is vibrating gently.

LUKE

I don't know, Clyde, there's something not right...

And then the door opens. It's four of the BLACK HELMETS. Two of them have a large crate. Clyde is unfazed.

CLYDE

About time. I guess you're the honour guard. Going to do this properly. You know, Luke, I like their style here.

And two of the Black Helmets grab Clyde and roughly force him into the crate...

CLYDE (CONT'D)

Hey - what the...

Alarmed Luke springs to his feet, but the other Black Helmets are on him instantly, dragging him towards the crate.

CUT TO:

9

INT. COMBAT 3000. CONTROL ROOM -- DAY 1 [1437]

9

GRANTHAM is sitting, nursing his head, as furious KUDLAK storms in.

KUDLAK

You have compromised the mission!

GRANTHAM

What?

KUDLAK

The woman and the female child have escaped.

Grantham's head hurts. He can't cope with any of this.

GRANTHAM

Hey, you went after them. If they got away, seems to me like it's your fault.

KUDLAK

Your security at this compound should never have allowed them access. You are a liability to the success of this operation and the survival of my people.

Kudlak aims his gun at Grantham. Grantham sweats.

KUDLAK (CONT'D)

You are a disgrace to your own species,
Grantham. You have always sickened me.
Killing you will be a service to both
our worlds.

GRANTHAM

No! Please...

MISTRESS (O.S.)

Kudlak? What is happening?

KUDLAK

The mission is compromised, Mistress.
We must evacuate.

MISTRESS (O.S.)

No! You will stay there. You must send
me children! More children!

KUDLAK

But our security has been breached.

MISTRESS (O.S.)

Do not argue, Kudlak. I am your
Mistress!

KUDLAK

(reluctant, but
obedient)

Yes, Mistress.

Grantham takes his opportunity.

GRANTHAM

Sounds like you'll still be needing me
around, Mr Kudlak. And I think I can
fix your security problem.

CUT TO:

10 INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- DAY 1 [1500]

10

SARAH JANE and MARIA are with MR SMITH

SARAH JANE

Luke and Clyde have been abducted by an
alien. I need you to identify the
species.

MR SMITH

Please describe.

SARAH JANE

Humanoid. White face.

MARIA
With scales. Kind of slimy.

A kind of alien identi-kit on Mr Smith's screen is building up an approximation of Kudlak from their description.

SARAH JANE
Wide cheekbones... Wider.

MARIA
And big teeth... No less of them.

Mr Smith gets it.

SARAH JANE
Yes! That's it!

MR SMITH
Uvodni. Their home planet is in the Spiral Cluster of the Dragon Nebula. Thirty four thousand lightyears from Earth.

SARAH JANE
His name is Kudlak.

MR SMITH
Accessing Uvodni database...Kudlak. General Uvlavad Kudlak. One of the Uvodni Signus Brigade's most decorated warriors.

MARIA
A soldier.

MR SMITH
The Uvodni were part of a planetary alliance that fought the Malakh in the Ghost Wars of the Horsehead Nebula.

MARIA
Who are the Malakh?

SARAH JANE
Not very nice to know. They would start a war with you just for looking at them.

MR SMITH
When the other allied worlds had been crushed by the Malakh Empire the Uvodni continued to fight.

SARAH JANE
But why is Kudlak on Earth abducting children?

MR SMITH

My last data registration of General Kudlak is from a cyber-con download with a Zantoxian trade vessel that passed through the Solar System two months ago.

MARIA

A what?

SARAH JANE

Mr Smith sometimes connects with the on-board computers of passing alien vessels.

MR SMITH

It pays to stay in touch.

SARAH JANE

So? What about Kudlak?

MR SMITH

Twenty years ago the Uvodni suffered massive casualties in a battle with the Malakh. Kudlak was badly injured and forced to leave the front line.

MARIA

Which still doesn't tell us why he's taken Luke and Clyde.

But Sarah Jane pales.

SARAH JANE

Maybe it does. Remember what Grantham said in his office? Children love war games. An old soldier like Kudlak wouldn't just retire. I think he's been here recruiting.

MARIA

What?

SARAH JANE

I think he's looking for soldiers.

Maria is horror-struck.

CUT TO:

11 INT. CRATE -- DAY 1 [1505]

11

Dark. Muffled sounds of footsteps. The crate is being carried. CLYDE activates his mobile phone. The glow emitted from the screen lights up the crate.

CLYDE

I've got no signal. You?

LUKE tries to activate his phone.

LUKE

Nothing. My battery's dead.

Clyde's phone light picks up blankets and a bucket in there.

CLYDE

A bucket? Oh man. This is not good.

LUKE

I think you're right. Back there, did you feel it? The floor was vibrating.

CLYDE

How d'you mean?

LUKE

Very slightly.

CLYDE

Which means?

LUKE

It didn't do that before. I don't think we're at Combat 3000 any more.

Suddenly the boys both shout as the crate lurches -

CLYDE / LUKE

Yahhh!

- and then stops moving.

Neither one of them moves. They just listen. And all they hear is silence.

CLYDE

I think we arrived.

LUKE

Shine the light on me.

Clyde holds his mobile phone up to Luke.

CLYDE

What are you doing?

Luke is working quickly, ripping a wire from his Combat 3000 harness.

CUT TO:

12

INT. SCOUTSHIP. PRISON DECK -- DAY 1 [1508]

12

Tight on the door of the packing case.

A wire pushes through the gap in the doorframe, passes around the latch in a loop and goes back inside the crate. It tightens. The latch lifts.

A beat. LUKE and CLYDE kick the door open and it falls open (hinged at the bottom). They bundle out, anticipating danger.

They find themselves in what looks like a warehouse - with more crates like theirs.

CLYDE

If you've got any idea what's going on here, I'd love to hear it.

Luke shrugs.

LUKE

I don't think we got to the world championships.

Then from one of the boxes, a girl's voice...

JEN (O.S.)

Who's there?

CLYDE

(to Luke)

Did you hear that?

JEN (O.S.)

Who is that?

Clyde and Luke fall on one of the nearby crates. Have it quickly open. Releasing a pretty girl of their age.

CLYDE

Whoah! Maybe things are picking up around here. What's your name?

JEN

Jen. Who are you?

CLYDE

Clyde. Luke. You got a good reason for sitting in a crate or are you like us, itching for a clue to what the hell is going on here?

As Luke goes to investigate the other crates.

JEN

I won Level Two at Combat 3000. Next thing those jokers are locking me up.

LUKE

Clyde? I think I've found you that clue.

Clyde turns around - sees the Luke has just released LANCE from one of the other boxes.

CLYDE

Lance! Your mum's going mad.

CUT TO:

13

INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- DAY 1 [1510]

13

SARAH JANE and MARIA are with MR SMITH still.

SARAH JANE

Mr Smith, do you have a trace on the storm today? When Luke and Clyde were taken.

MR SMITH

Yes. I have been monitoring weather conditions across the country.

SARAH JANE

Is it possible to track the transmat beam? To calculate where it's taken the boys?

MR SMITH

Detection of such a transmission trail would require synchronous data scraping in all eleven dimensions around Combat 3000.

SARAH JANE

(short)

Can you do it?

MR SMITH

Of course. One minute.

There's the sound of breaking glass from downstairs. Sarah Jane and Maria exchange a look.

SARAH JANE

Wait here.

Sarah Jane goes to investigate...

CUT TO:

14

INT. SARAH JANE'S LOUNGE -- DAY 1 [1511]

14

... And finds GRANTHAM waiting for her, alien looking gun in hand.

GRANTHAM

I know I should probably have called first, but...

SARAH JANE

Not at all, Mr Grantham. I'm always delighted to study new forms of human low-life in the comfort of my own home.

GRANTHAM

You're a cool old bird, I'll give you that.

Sarah Jane, studies him coldly. Moves around the room; Grantham moves with her in the opposite direction, keeping the gun trained on her. He ends up where she started, with his back to the door.

SARAH JANE

Collaborating with an alien child abductor. That really is a new depth in the low-life stakes.

CUT TO:

15

INT. SARAH JANE'S HALLWAY/STAIRS -- CONTINUOUS DAY 1 [1512]

MARIA creeps down the stairs and listens...

GRANTHAM (O.S.)

I didn't come here to discuss my business dealings, Miss Smith.

She looks around her, desperate to find some way to help Sarah Jane. Her eyes fall on the weather machine sitting in the hallway.

CUT TO:

15A

INT. SCOUTSHIP. PRISON DECK -- DAY 1 [1513]

15A

(THIS IS THE TOP OF SC 17 from the previous draft).

All the crates have been opened now. LUKE, CLYDE, LANCE and JEN have been joined by three other KIDS - so seven in all. Some still wear their Combat 3000 gear.

LUKE

So we all played Combat 3000 and ended up here?

CLYDE

And we played all over the place.

London,

(indicating individual
kids)

Brighton, Manchester, Leeds and
Inverness. Kids from all over the
country must have been going missing.
But how did we get here?

JEN

Wherever that is.

LUKE

And what's it for? Who are they? What
do they want with us?

LANC

I played that stupid game again and
again to get to Level Two - and I end up
in a crate. What's going on?

Jen hears footsteps beyond the door...

JEN

Someone's coming.

CUT TO:

16 INT. SARAH JANE'S LOUNGE -- DAY 1 [1514]

16

SARAH JANE and GRANTHAM as they were.

SARAH JANE

Business dealings? You're helping that
monster press gang children into a war
lightyears away just for money?

GRANTHAM

It's what makes the galaxy go round.

SARAH JANE

You're despicable.

GRANTHAM

And you're done with.

Grantham raises his gun to fire. As MARIA appears behind
him, in the heavy rubber gloves, a fuse rod from the
weather machine in each hand. She presses them into
Grantham's back.

FX SHOT: Power surges through Grantham. He crashes to
the floor, unconscious.

SARAH JANE

No, Mr Grantham, I think you're the one
that's done with.

CUT TO:

17

INT. SCOUTSHIP. PRISON DECK -- DAY 1 [1515]

17

CLYDE, LUKE and JEN are hiding together. The other kids
are also hidden elsewhere in the room.

CLYDE

(whispers to Jen)

Just stick with me. I'll look after
you.

He doesn't catch her withering look as a BLACK HELMET
comes in carrying vacuum-packed food sachets.

The Black Helmet goes to the crates and opens one to feed
the kid inside - and Jen piles in, catching the Black
Helmet off guard and knocking him into the crate as Luke
leads other kids in to slam it shut, and lock it.

Clyde just stands there staring at Jen with open-jawed
astonishment.

She gives him a smile.

JEN

Just stick with me. I'll look after
you.

PRAC blast as the crate is blown open by the Black
Helmet's gun.

LUKE

Come on!

And he leads the kids out of the door.

CUT TO:

18

INT. SCOUTSHIP. CORRIDOR 1 -- DAY 1 [1517]

18

The KIDS are running down a corridor.

LANCE

Where the heck are we? Where do we go?

LUKE

This way.

CLYDE

Why this way?

LUKE

Why not?

They take LUKE's lead. Turn a corner and come to a sudden stop. Their faces register shock. Big shock.

LANCE

When did the moon turn blue?

JEN

That - that isn't the moon.

LANCE

I don't believe it. We can't be...

CLYDE

Oh, man. We are...

But Luke is strangely calm.

LUKE

I never thought it would be quite so beautiful.

And then we see what they see.

FX SHOT: Through the window, far below them, the Earth.

CUT TO:

19

EXT. EARTH ORBIT -- CONTINUOUS DAY 1 [1518]

19

FX SHOT: And we see the KIDS in the window, looking out on Earth and we pull back rapidly to see the space ship on which they are trapped in orbit around the Earth.

CLYDE (V.O.)

Oh, we are a long way from home.

CUT TO:

20

INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- DAY 1 [1520]

20

SARAH JANE and MARIA are with MR SMITH. Maria is reeling with shock as she stares at a computer printout from Mr Smith (space co-ordinates and information).

MARIA

They're in space?

MR SMITH

In Earth's orbit.

SARAH JANE

Twenty two thousand miles over our heads. But it could be worse.

MARIA

How?

SARAH JANE

The transporter could have sent them right across the galaxy to the Uvodni world.

MARIA

But they're in space. Doesn't matter if it's Earth orbit or the Planet of the Apes. Unless you've got a friend at NASA that'll lend us a shuttle, we're stuffed, Sarah Jane. And so are Luke and Clyde.

SARAH JANE

Maria, we're going to get them back.

MARIA

How?

SARAH JANE

Mr Grantham is going to help us.

CUT TO:

21

INT. SCOUTSHIP. CORRIDOR 1 -- DAY 1 [1521]

21

FX SHOT: The CHILDREN cluster round the window, amazed, excited as through the window they see the earth hanging in space.

JEN

It's a trick. It's got to be a trick.
We didn't fly anywhere.

LUKE

We were teleported.

JEN

Beam me up, Scotty. Like, yeah!

CLYDE

Trust me. It's real.

There's the sound of a laser bolt and explosion in the background.

CLYDE (CONT'D)

And that's a real gun. Come on!

And the kids are running again, as the BLACK HELMETS chase.

LANCE

If we're really in space - how are we
going to get away?

Clyde looks unnerved. Looks at Luke.

CLYDE

He's got a point.

Luke is determined.

LUKE

We'll find a way.

He turns a corner - and comes face to face with a bunch
of Black Helmets - and Kudlak.

KUDLAK

My warriors. Such very fine warriors.

CUT TO:

22

INT. SCOUTSHIP. CONTROL ROOM -- DAY 1 [1530]

22

KUDLAK is followed by LUKE, CLYDE, JEN, LANCE and the
other KIDS, as they are herded by the BLACK HELMETS.

CLYDE

What are we doing here? What's with all
this warrior stuff? All we did was win
a game of laser tag!

LANCE

Hey, maybe that's it! Maybe this is
just another part of the game. Level
Three.

JEN

Some chance.

KUDLAK

Silence! Behold, your Mistress!

A screen suspended in the middle of the room lights up.
An imperious female Uvodni stares down at them. THE
MISTRESS.

MISTRESS

Welcome, my warriors.

LUKE

We're not warriors. We're just kids.

KUDLAK

None of those before you had the initiative to escape the holding deck. None forced my return to the ship to deal with them. You are good warrior stock.

CLYDE

This is such rubbish.

MISTRESS

You have proved yourselves in the arena. You have the hearts of heroes. You will not suffer our enemies to live, and we will honour your sacrifice.

CLYDE

Hey, your majesty, or whatever, no offence, but I think you're a bit mixed up here. Back there in the arena we were playing.

As Clyde talks, Luke's eyes are wondering over the computer equipment in there. He edges towards it.

MISTRESS

And what is play if it is not a preparation for life?

Clyde sees what Luke is doing. Keeps the Mistress talking.

CLYDE

Yeah, well fight your own war. It's got nothing to do with us - we want to go home!

But as Luke starts to try to tap into the computer...

FX SHOT: A bolt of light bursts from the Mistress and hits Luke's hands. He cries out in pain, and stumbles back from the computer.

CLYDE (CONT'D)

Luke!

Clyde steadies Luke.

LUKE

I'm all right.

MISTRESS

Such determination. Such loyalty to each other. You have chosen well, Kudlak.

LUKE

Suppose we refuse to fight. What then?

MISTRESS

Then you will be cowards. You will not fall as heroes. But, nevertheless, you will die.

They absorb with horror.

CUT TO:

23

INT. COMBAT 3000. ARENA 2 -- DAY 1 [1550]

23

GRANTHAM, his hands tied behind his back, is being led by SARAH JANE and MARIA.

SARAH JANE

That teleporter is here, Mr Grantham and you're going to take us to it.

GRANTHAM

Then what? Beam yourself up to the Uvodni ship and take them all on with your lipstick?

MARIA

You won't be so cocky when you go down for abducting all those children!

GRANTHAM

So you're going to tell the police I was helping some butt-ugly alien send kids to war in a galaxy far, far away. It won't be me going down, love. It will be you, down the funny farm.

SARAH JANE

Who needs to mention aliens? There's enough evidence to link you to the disappearances.

That shakes Grantham's cool. Sarah Jane sees it.

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

I doubt that men like you fare too well in prison.

Grantham absorbs.

GRANTHAM

All right, all right. I'll help you as much as I can. For all it's worth. First thing is, it's not Kudlak that calls the shots.

Sarah Jane is listening.

CUT TO:

24

INT. SCOUTSHIP. CONTROL ROOM -- DAY 1 [1555]

24

KUDLAK is alone with the MISTRESS (on screen).

MISTRESS

You have done well, Kudlak. The recruits have spirit. They will see it is better to fight than to die a coward's death. Fighting, there is always a chance to survive.

Kudlak is distracted by his own thoughts.

KUDLAK

How many that we have sent into battle these last years have survived, do you suppose?

MISTRESS

We have survived, Kudlak. The Uvodni have survived.

KUDLAK

(reserved)

Yes, Mistress.

MISTRESS

You seem weary, General.

Kudlak considers...

KUDLAK

It has been a long war, Mistress. I grow old dreaming of peace.

MISTRESS

Peace?! Dreams of peace are for farmers, Kudlak!

Kudlak bows, subservient. A little frightened.

KUDLAK

Of course, Mistress. I beg forgiveness. I am tired.

MISTRESS

We have done glorious work for our people, Kudlak. Humans are among the most aggressive species in the galaxy. Their young have untamed potential.

(MORE)

MISTRESS (CONT'D)

Their imagination and adaptability have, for decades, helped our armies do glorious battle against the Malakh.

KUDLAK

Yes, Mistress. But I wonder how these battles fare. It has been so long since I have heard word from the Front.

MISTRESS

Our battles are glorious, Kudlak. One day we will crush the Malakh.

KUDLAK

And then there will be peace?

The Mistress seems to watch Kudlak closely for a long moment.

MISTRESS

A man like you should not dream of peace, General Kudlak. Neither you nor I are creatures of amity and harmony. Without war, the cosmos has no need of us.

Kudlak's heart sinks at what he knows is the truth.

MISTRESS (CONT'D)

Prepare the recruits for transportation to the Front.

KUDLAK

Yes, Mistress.

CUT TO:

25

INT. SCOUTSHIP. PRISON DECK -- DAY 1 [1600]

25

LUKE, CLYDE, JEN, LANCE and the others have been returned to the locked deck, but not to the crates - on which most of them sit, talking through their situation. Luke is looking at a panel and small screen on the wall, a little apart from the others.

Lance is introspective.

LANCE

My dad was a soldier. He thought there were times when you had to fight.

CLYDE

Yeah. Sure. When it's your fight.

Luke approaches Clyde.

LUKE

Can I borrow your phone, Clyde?

CLYDE

We're in space, Luke, who are you going to ring?

(with a grin at Jen)

Have you got a number for Captain Kirk?

Clyde basks in Jen's smile.

LUKE

Who?

Clyde gives him the phone.

CLYDE

Just don't break it.

Luke wanders off again. We don't see what he gets up to.

JEN

(getting back to their conversation)

Whatever's going on across the galaxy, it's got nothing to do with us.

LANCE

Kudlak doesn't see it like that.

CLYDE

And why do you think they need us to fight for them, any way? If you ask me, Kudlak and his Mistress aren't on the winning side.

JEN

But - what can we do? We're in a space ship and the only way we're ever going to get off is when they send us into the middle of some alien war.

LUKE

Or we steal a shuttlecraft.

The others look at him - and we find Luke with Clyde's mobile phone in hand. He has hooked cables from the wall panel into it.

CLYDE

What did you say?

Luke smiles. And the others crowd around him as he shows them what he's been up to.

LUKE

I've wired Clyde's mobile up to the ship's computer...

JEN

(to Clyde)

He did what?

CLYDE

Sorry. My friend's a bit of a geek.

Luke indicates the diagram on the small screen on the wall. It's filled with alien symbols, but is clearly a deck plan of a space ship - their space ship.

LUKE

This is a plan of the spacecraft.

CLYDE

Just like the Isle of Wight ferry.

Clyde gives Lance a look.

CLYDE

Yeah. Just.

As he looks back he catches Jen's eye. She's smiling at him. Clyde feels another foot taller.

Luke is talking them through the map.

LUKE

We're here. This is where they took us to see the Mistress. And this, I'm sure, is a -

CLYDE

Shuttlecraft. Genius.

JEN

Yeah. Genius. He can wire your phone into an alien computer. Can you fly an alien shuttlecraft?

CLYDE

No. But he can wire my phone into an alien computer. Give the kid a chance. He's on a roll.

CLYDE

Doesn't make any difference whether he can fly it or not. We're not going anywhere.

Lance indicates the locked door.

LUKE

(smiles)

Want a wager?

Luke taps into the phone - and the door slides open.
Unlocked, by the onboard computer.

CLYDE

Bet, Luke. It's a bet.

Not that anyone cares. Luke basks in the adulation of
the other kids.

CUT TO:

26 EXT. COMBAT 3000 -- DAY 1 [1605]

26

FX/PRAC SHOT: Lightning splits the sky above Combat 3000.
Rain washes across it.

CUT TO:

27 INT. COMBAT 3000. TRANSMAT AREA -- CONTINUOUS DAY 1 [1605]

SARAH JANE and MARIA enter and take their places, ready
to be transported.

Sarah Jane addresses a CCTV camera.

SARAH JANE

I'll warn you again, Mr Grantham. If
you don't uphold your end of the bargain
and see to it that we reach the Uvodni
ship in one piece, my friend, Mr Smith,
has detailed files on you that will be
in the hands of the police by midnight.

CUT TO:

28 INT. COMBAT 3000. CONTROL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS DAY 1 [1605]

28

GRANTHAM smiles. It's an ugly thing.

GRANTHAM

Don't worry, Miss Smith. I'll get you
to the Uvodni ship. Why wouldn't I?
You're never going to come back.

CUT TO:

29 INT. COMBAT 3000. TRANSMAT AREA -- CONTINUOUS DAY 1 [1605]

SARAH JANE

Oh, I'll be back, Mr Grantham. I'll be
back.

There's a rumble of thunder outside.

FX SHOT: SARAH JANE and MARIA are swallowed by a flash of blinding light.

CUT TO:

30 INT. SCOUTSHIP. CORRIDORS -- DAY 1 [1606]

30

The CHILDREN jog along a corridor.

LUKE

Not far now.

JEN

What was it, first right or second right?

LANCE

First.

CLYDE

No, second, it was second.

They hit a T junction and turn left.

CLYDE (CONT'D)

Whoa.

Up ahead: BLACK HELMETS down the corridor. They run the other way.

LANCE

They're over there, too.

The footfalls get closer.

CUT TO:

31 INT. SCOUTSHIP. TRANSPORTER CHAMBER -- DAY 1 [1607]

31

FX SHOT: A blinding flash of light. That fades to reveal SARAH JANE and MARIA. Both stumble a little, Maria catches Sarah Jane's arm.

MARIA

Are you all right?

SARAH JANE

It's been a while since I've been space hopping.

Sarah Jane uses the sonic lipstick on the door control panel. It opens.

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)
Come on. We've got to find the
Mistress.

They're out of there.

CUT TO:

32 INT. SCOUTSHIP. CORRIDORS -- DAY 1 [1610]

32

LUKE, CLYDE, JEN, LANCE and the other KIDS are dodging
the BLACK HELMETS in a network of corridors.

FX SHOT: One of the Black Helmets fires. But misses.
PRAC sparks off the corridor wall/floor.

CLYDE
Hey! We can't fight for them if they
grease us!

JEN
Maybe we're too much trouble!

Clyde flashes her a grin.

CLYDE
Oh, yes! We rock!

Jen grins at him. High Fives!

Then the kids take a turn and come up against a locked
door.

LANCE
What now?

LUKE
Just stay calm.

Luke is pulling the casing off a wall panel, getting
Clyde's phone out again...

Behind them, Clyde can hear the running Black Helmets
getting closer. Fast.

CLYDE
Don't want to freak you, man, but I'm
kind of losing "calm" as an option,
here.

Luke works quickly on the wall panel. The other kids
sweat.

CUT TO:

33

INT. SCOUTSHIP. CORRIDOR -- DAY 1 [1611]

33

SARAH JANE and MARIA run along a corridor and past a window. Maria stops at the window and sees -

FX SHOT: The Earth hanging in space (as in 6/18).

Sarah Jane turns to see Maria transfixed by the scene through the window. She goes back to join her. They stare at the view before them.

SARAH JANE

I never thought I would lay eyes on a sight like this again.

MARIA

It's incredible. Even after everything I've seen, I never thought I'd see this.

SARAH JANE

Maybe if everybody could see the Earth from up here, they might appreciate it more.

They take in the view for a moment longer.

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

Come on Maria, we have to go.

And Sarah Jane takes off again. Maria follows.

CUT TO:

34

INT. SCOUTSHIP. CORRIDOR -- DAY 1 [1612]

34

The kids are still outside the locked door. Unseen Black Helmets are still closing. LUKE still works on connecting Clyde's phone to the ship's computer system, watched by the others. We see alien graphics running across the phone screen.

CLYDE

Okay, I've gone past "anxious" now. I'm not even stopping by at "worried". I'm full-throttle into "panicked totally beyond reason". Will you get a move on?

And triumphant Luke punches buttons on the phone. The door slides open. The other kids pile through. Clyde eyes Luke warily.

CLYDE (CONT'D)

You're enjoying this, aren't you?

But Luke has seen something on the phone screen. He frowns.

LUKE

Clyde, look at this...

But there's a small PRAC explosion just above the doorway. BLACK HELMETS are coming. Luke and Clyde lurch through the door. It hisses shut.

CUT TO:

35

INT. SCOUTSHIP. FLIGHTDECK. WALKWAY -- DAY 1 [1613]

35

LUKE, CLYDE and the other KIDS are on the other side of the door. Running across a high walkway.

LUKE

Clyde, I've just seen something in their computer banks -

CLYDE

Later, Luke, later!

JEN

Clyde, look! It's the shuttlecraft!

They are on a very flimsy looking, long, metal walkway in a cavernous chamber. The drop is vertiginous. They grip the rails, scared stiff.

FX SHOT: But there, down below, small in the centre of the wide open floor, is a spacecraft.

CLYDE

We made it!

Then the BLACK HELMETS are coming through the door. The kids are running again!

CUT TO:

36

INT. SCOUTSHIP. CONTROL ROOM -- DAY 1 [1614]

36

SARAH JANE and MARIA enter. THE MISTRESS appears on the screen.

MISTRESS

What is the meaning of this? Who are you?

SARAH JANE

I take it that you're the Mistress?

MISTRESS

I am.

SARAH JANE

My name is Sarah Jane Smith. And I want
my son back.

CUT TO:

37 INT. SCOUTSHIP. FLIGHTDECK. WALKWAY/ STAIRWAY -- DAY 1 [B015]

LUKE, CLYDE, JEN, LANCE and the other KIDS are running down a flight of stairs towards a 2nd walkway level above the flight deck. (NB the escape ship isn't in view).

BLACK HELMETS are gaining on them.

LANCE

Get a move on!

They reach the second walkway and run towards the next staircase, but KUDLAK emerges from the top of the stairs. He fixes them with his eyes. Then he bows, low.

KUDLAK

Warriors, I salute you. Yours is, without doubt, the finest war blood I have been honoured to gather. And now it is time to leave. To take your places on the Uvodni Front Line.

Now the Black Helmets close on them, and there is no escape.

CUT TO:

38 INT. SCOUTSHIP. CONTROL ROOM -- DAY 1 [1616] 38

SARAH JANE and MARIA are with the MISTRESS.

MISTRESS

You want me to give you back your son?

SARAH JANE

My son, Luke. His friend, Clyde. And I want you to return all the other children you've abducted to fight in your war.

MISTRESS

What do you know of my war?

SARAH JANE

I know war - any war - is no place for children. No matter how desperate your people may be.

MISTRESS

My people are not desperate. They are proud. They are victorious.

SARAH JANE

Victorious? Is that what you call a people that use somebody else's children to fight their war?

MISTRESS

Your species has a hunger for battle.

MARIA

We don't. The children don't. We've seen what adults have done to the world with their wars. We don't want it any more.

MISTRESS

Lies. I have seen your games.

MARIA

It's pretend. Can't you understand that? The children you've sent to fight the Malakh might score high in a game. That's not the same as fighting in a battlefield.

MISTRESS

They adapt. Or fall.

SARAH JANE

And just how victorious are your battles, Mistress? What is the word from the Front?

The Mistress hesitates. And the door opens. KUDLAK and BLACK HELMETS lead LUKE, CLYDE, LANCE, JEN and the others in.

KUDLAK

Mistress, your warriors are ready -

Kudlak sees Sarah Jane and Maria. He draws his gun.

KUDLAK (CONT'D)

Intruders!

MISTRESS

Execute them, Kudlak!

LUKE

Mum!

Luke runs to Sarah Jane, who holds him.

KUDLAK

And I had such hopes for you, young
warrior.

Kudlak aims his gun.

CLYDE

No!

He tries to rush Kudlak, but the Black Helmets hold him,
and the other kids back.

SARAH JANE

He's not a warrior, none of them are
warriors, they're children.

KUDLAK

War changes everything.

LUKE

Stop! The war is over!

Kudlak's finger eases off the trigger.

KUDLAK

What is this?

MISTRESS

Lies, Kudlak! Tricks and lies! Execute
them!

Luke pulls out Clyde's mobile phone.

LUKE

I found this in your computer banks.

KUDLAK

This is trickery!

Kudlak raises his gun again.

SARAH JANE

No! Let him show you!

LUKE

I hacked into your ship's computer.
That's how we escaped. I found this by
accident.

MISTRESS

I will not permit this, Kudlak!

Kudlak is in turmoil. Luke pulls a cable from the
computer and plugs it into the phone.

Computer screens around the room are suddenly filled with the same image - an ancient Uvodni in regal robes, upon a throne, the Uvodni EMPEROR.

EMPEROR

Vessels of the Imperial Fleet, this is your Emperor. We have agreed an armistice with the Malakh. After all these centuries, peace at last. Come home all my proud warriors. Come home, we have much to re-build.

Kudlak watches, unable to believe.

KUDLAK

What Malakh subterfuge is this?

SARAH JANE

Luke found it in your databanks. You have to believe it, Kudlak. The war is over.

LUKE

According to the data, the message is ten years old.

KUDLAK

Ten years? The Mistress would have told me. We would have gone home.

Kudlak aims his gun at them, angry.

KUDLAK (CONT'D)

This is a trick! You wish to destroy us!

SARAH JANE

No, Kudlak! We don't want to destroy you! No matter what your Mistress has told you, Earth wants to live in peace with its neighbours.

KUDLAK

But, Mistress, is this true? Is the war ended all these years?

The Mistress doesn't reply.

SARAH JANE

Perhaps she doesn't want to go home, Kudlak. Perhaps without a war, there's no need for her. Or for you.

Kudlak is horrified

KUDLAK

Mistress?

MISTRESS

Peace does not compute. Peace does not compute.

MARIA

What?

MISTRESS

Peace does not compute.

There is a crackle of static and interference across her screen.

LUKE

The Mistress. She's the computer!

SARAH JANE

She buried the message from the emperor.

KUDLAK

Is this true, Mistress?

MISTRESS

I am not programmed for peace. This scenario does not compute. It cannot be real.

SARAH JANE

You never expected the war to end. Your computer was never programmed to recognise it when it happened.

MISTRESS

Peace is an anomaly. Without war I cannot exist.

KUDLAK

But the point of our war was to achieve peace for our home.

MISTRESS

We have no home, Kudlak. Except the battlefield. Peace is a stranger's land. We have no place there.

KUDLAK

You may not, but I do.

(beat)

All these years of peace wasted. I thought the Malakh were my enemy, but all this time, it was you. And I will not suffer my enemy to live.

FX SHOT: Kudlak fires his gun.

PRAC EFFECT: The Mistress's screen explodes.

Kudlak turns to Sarah Jane, kneels, head bowed and offers his gun.

KUDLAK (CONT'D)

The Mistress is dead, and I have committed an unforgivable crime against your world. My life is yours to take.

SARAH JANE

Taking life is never the answer, General Kudlak, whether we've been wronged by one man, or a whole planet. It's always the innocents that suffer.

Kudlak stands up.

KUDLAK

I am not an innocent. But maybe I can find some of those that were. The ones that I sent far away, and that still survive. Perhaps I can return them, and one day find some peace for myself.

SARAH JANE

I hope you can, General Kudlak.

KUDLAK

It is my duty.

DISSOLVE TO:

39

EXT. COMBAT 3000 -- DAY 1 [1630]

39

SARAH JANE, MARIA, LUKE, CLYDE, LANCE, JEN and the other KIDS come through the doors of Combat 3000. It's been raining heavily, there are puddles.

CLYDE

Not much of a heroes' welcome.

Lance jumps into the nearest puddle. He grins.

LANCE

Who cares, we're back!

MARIA

(to Sarah Jane)

Looks like Grantham's done a runner.

SARAH JANE

I never really expected him to hang around. Did you?

MARIA

He can't get away with what he's done.
He was worse than Kudlak.

SARAH JANE

Don't worry, I don't think Mr Grantham
is the sort to stay out of trouble.
He'll get what's coming to him,
eventually.

Clyde and Luke are enjoying the rain, when Jen comes across, and gives Luke a peck on the lips - leaving Clyde stunned and out in the cold. Luke doesn't react, doesn't know what to make of it at all.

LUKE

That was a kiss?

JEN

You saved our skin, Luke. You deserved it. In fact...

And she kisses him again. Clyde can't bear to watch.

Sarah Jane and Maria chuckle.

CUT TO:

40

EXT/INT. METCALFS' HOUSE/ SARAH JANE'S CAR -- DAY 1 [1704D]

SARAH JANE, MARIA, LUKE and CLYDE watch from the car as LANCE stands on his doorstep. The door is wrenched open and a joyous, tearful CARRIE throws her arms around him.

MARIA

I bet he doesn't tell her where he's been. Boys never talk to their mums.

CLYDE

You're joking! How many people really get to go up in space? Like, er, no-one? She won't be able to shut him up.

SARAH JANE

She won't believe a word of it, but she won't want him to stop.

MARIA

I wonder if he'll be a soldier, like his dad? After everything he's been through.

SARAH JANE

After today he might want to be an astronaut. Be the first man on Mars. The first human man on Mars, that is.

Sarah Jane notices that Luke is very quiet

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

You're quiet, Luke. Is something wrong?

LUKE

No.

CLYDE

Hey, you were a hero up there, mate.
All that stuff with my mobile.
Brilliant.

Luke smiles.

LUKE

You all needed me. I felt like I
belonged.

Sarah Jane's heart melts.

CLYDE

So what's with the sponsored silence?

LUKE

I was thinking about something else.
You said, anything I wanted to know -
just to ask, right?

CLYDE

Encyclopedia Clydannica. I'm your man.

LUKE

Tell me about girls.

CLYDE

Oh, man!

And Sarah Jane's car pulls away to the sound of Sarah
Jane and Maria's uncontrollable laughter.

CUT TO:

END OF EPISODE SIX