

THE SARAH JANE ADVENTURES II

**Episode 3
By**

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1 **EXT. PLAYING FIELD -- DAY 1**

1

Sunday. It's an urban playing field/park. A group of 12 year old boys (including TONY WARNER and DAVE 'FINNEY' FINN) are playing football (jumpers for goalposts).

Nearby there's an area of thick bushes. From within them, someone is watching...

As Tony kicks the ball deep into the bushes.

CUT TO:

2 **EXT. PLAYING FIELD. BUSHES -- DAY 1**

2

TONY is in the bushes looking for the lost ball. But it's like a labyrinth in there. The bushes are thick and although we can hear the other boys, we can't see them...

FINNEY (O.S.)

Get a move on, Tony!

TONY

I can't find it!

Tony plunges deeper into the bushes. Out of the corner of his eye he catches a flash of clothing - bright, blue and red. Tony spins around, but sees nothing.

He's spooked.

But he sees the ball. Relieved he goes to get it.

More half-glimpsed motion off to the other side - another flash of red, blue and yellow. Then it's gone.

TONY (CONT'D)

Who's there?

No answer. Tony grabs the ball.

And hears an eerie, low sniggering sound.

He freezes. Scared.

TONY (CONT'D)

Stu? Finney? Is that you?

Silence.

Tony turns to run with the ball - and sees...

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

CLOSE-UP: A scary big red painted clown's smile, revealing yellowed, ugly teeth.

CUT TO:

OPENING TITLES

3 **INT. SARAH JANE'S KITCHEN -- DAY 2**

3

Monday. LUKE is at the breakfast table, his denim jacket hangs over the back of the chair. He has a laptop open beside his untouched cereal bowl. He is reading a long email.

SARAH JANE enters. She's reading the Ealing Echo - the headline screams THIRD CHILD VANISHES.

SARAH JANE

(to herself)

There are worse things than aliens.

She puts the paper aside and notices Luke. He's (still) reading the email so Sarah Jane pours herself some tea. The lightness of her tone masks an edge of worry...

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

How is she? Does she like Washington?

Luke doesn't look up from the laptop.

LUKE

She says it's awesome.

SARAH JANE

(smiles)

It sounds like Maria's going to fit in perfectly.

Luke closes the laptop.

LUKE

Sounds like it.

He just plays with his breakfast. He's more than a little withdrawn. Sarah Jane feels for him.

SARAH JANE

Luke, I know it's hard when a really good friend - someone you really care about - moves out of your life, but you'll see Maria again. She's going to come back for her mum's wedding, isn't she? I'm sure we'll all meet up then.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

LUKE

It won't be the same.

SARAH JANE

Maybe not, but, you know, that's not always so bad. One of the best things about life is it's always surprising us.

And CLYDE is coming through the kitchen door, school bag over his shoulder.

CLYDE

Morning people. This is Clyde Langer reporting live from Bannerman Road where, at this precise moment, a new family is moving in at Number 36.

CUT TO:

4 **EXT. BANNERMAN ROAD -- DAY 2**

4

A removal truck is parked outside Maria's old house. REMOVAL MEN carry furniture inside as SARAH JANE, CLYDE and LUKE, his denim jacket now on, bag over his shoulder, stand and watch.

CLYDE

Boy, they have no idea what they're moving in over the road from!

Sarah Jane is suddenly very serious.

SARAH JANE

No, and they're never going to find out, do you hear? Both of you - promise me you'll never breathe a word about what we do, Mr Smith, any of it.

LUKE

Why would we? It's not like it's Maria, is it?

Sarah Jane aches in sympathy for Luke, and Clyde gets wind of just how much he's missing Maria - he gives Sarah Jane a glance.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Come on, we're going to be late.

Luke starts to head off.

CLYDE

Yeah sure.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

4

CONTINUED:

4

CLYDE (CONT'D)

(to Sarah Jane)

Don't worry, we won't say anything.
We'd just better hope Maria never left
anything lying around when she went.

SARAH JANE

What do you mean?

CLYDE

Well - you know - we've been hanging
with some pretty random intergalactic
sorts. Who knows what might have rubbed
off and still be over there?

Clyde moves off to catch up with Luke. Sarah Jane looks
across at Maria's old house and worries.

CUT TO:

5

INT. PARK VALE SCHOOL CORRIDOR -- DAY 2

5

The place is bustling with kids. LUKE and CLYDE arrive
for school in the middle of something - Luke is over-
sensitive.

LUKE

I did not fancy Maria.

CLYDE

Boy, I taught you well, didn't I?
Clyde's Cool Rule Number Two - deny all
emotion, especially where involving
girls.

LUKE

I just miss her, okay? Don't you?

CLYDE

'Course I miss her. But people move on,
Luke. Ask my mum and dad.

LUKE

I've never lost anyone before.

That cracks Clyde's cool a little.

CLYDE

Well, it's not going to be the same
without her, that's for sure...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

CLYDE (CONT'D)
(remembering Cool Rule
Two)

I mean, who am I going to have to save
from Sontarans, the Slitheen and Gorgons
now?

And Clyde is almost knocked over from behind...

CLYDE (CONT'D)
Hey! Watch where you're...

... by new girl, RANI, in a hurry, small, athletic, and
pretty. Clyde is instantly and clearly taken...

CLYDE (CONT'D)
... Don't mention it. No problem.

RANI
Sorry. I'm looking for Mr Cunningham's
form.

LUKE
That's our class.

RANI
I start today.

CLYDE
And you run into me. That's what I call
a start!

RANI
(with a wry smile)
Yeah. Like starting the hundred metres
in the Olympics and tripping over your
laces.

Luke laughs at the put-down, Clyde takes it like a bucket
of water.

LUKE
This is Clyde. He thinks he's cool.
I'm Luke.

CLYDE
Who isn't.

RANI
Rani. My family just moved in to
Bannerman Road.

LUKE
Bannerman Road?

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

CLYDE

Of course. Where else? Sarah Jane is right, the universe never stops weirding you out.

RANI

Sarah who?

LUKE

Never mind. Come on, I'll take you to class.

RANI's POV: A flash of yellow, blue and red moving quickly among the other kids.

RANI

(anxious)

Did you see that?

CLYDE

See what?

She's disturbed, but tries to hide it. (This isn't the first time she's seen it.)

RANI

Never mind. Come on, I'd better not be late.

Rani manages a smile, follows Luke. Clyde shrugs and follows.

CUT TO:

6

INT. PARK VALE CLASSROOM -- DAY 2

6

LUKE, CLYDE and RANI are at desks as MR CUNNINGHAM runs through some notices. Also amongst the kids in class are DAVE 'FINNEY' FINN and STEVE WALLACE.

MR CUNNINGHAM

The football team is out of the Inter-Schools Cup, after a 4-0 mauling by West Hill last night.

There's a burst of moans and good-natured booing from the class.

MR CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D)

We'll be looking for better news in the National Schools Science Challenge.

Anyone who wants to sign up for the team should see Miss Webster.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

MR CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D)
I'll be expecting to see your name on
the list, Luke.

The class starts chanting with the same good-natured
footie spirit - *Lukey! Lukey!*

Luke shifts in his seat, a little embarrassed, as Clyde
nudges him hard in the ribs. Rani is impressed/intrigued
by the other kids' reaction.

RANI
You a bit of a brain-box then, Luke?

CLYDE
They haven't got a box big enough.

The class breaks apart with laughter at this as a man in
his early forties comes through the door, assured like he
owns the place, HARESH CHANDRA. On sight, Rani shrinks a
little in her seat, and Mr Cunningham all but jumps to
attention. The class fails to quieten and Haresh takes
them all in with a laser look.

HARESH
That's enough! Silence, the lot of you!

The class goes quiet. Haresh is hard as nails.

HARESH (CONT'D)
This is a classroom not the home end at
Stamford Bridge!

MR CUNNINGHAM
Class, this is Mr Chandra, our new Head.

HARESH
And let's get things straight from Day
One - this is a school, my school, and
you come here to learn, not to play
about.

Haresh picks on Dave, slumped in his seat.

HARESH (CONT'D)
You, boy! Sit up straight and pay
attention!

Dave quickly sits up.

HARESH (CONT'D)
That goes for all of you!
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

HARESH (CONT'D)

I know it's been a while since your last Head Teacher, Mr Blakeman, disappeared, and it looks like standards around here vanished with him! But, listen up, Park Vale has a new captain on the bridge, now.

CLYDE

(whispers to Rani)

I'm getting a very serious sinking feeling.

HARESH

I'm a fair captain but, believe me, I run a very tight ship.

Rani is rolling her eyes in disbelief.

HARESH (CONT'D)

I expect every one of you on course for top marks! Not just in your examinations, in every piece of work you do. And any slackers among you will answer to me!

CLYDE

(sotto)

Aye aye, Skipper.

But some of the kids hear and giggle - and Haresh gives Rani the briefest glance (which she avoids) before he homes in on Clyde.

HARESH

Ah, the joker in the pack.

CLYDE

I do my best.

There's an exercise book on the table in front of Clyde. Haresh checks the name.

HARESH

Well, Clyde Langer, I hope your classwork is as sharp as your wit.

As something catches Rani's eye in the window - a clown, leaning casually, dressed in bright red, blue and yellow. ODD BOB. He waves at Rani. In his other hand he holds a red balloon. Rani's eyes pop with fright.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (3)

6

CLYDE

(to Haresh, unaware)

Don't worry, sir. It takes brains to be this funny.

Rani looks quickly at the others in the room - it's clear that no-one else can see the clown as Haresh glances doubtfully through Clyde's exercise book.

HARESH

No, Langer. It takes brains to know when to shut up and listen!

Haresh tosses the book back on to the desk. Clyde considers himself told. Rani looks back at the window - the clown has vanished. She is shaken. The others notice nothing. As Haresh ploughs on...

*

HARESH (CONT'D)

Now, a third child has gone missing. I'm speaking to all classes today, reminding you all to be careful and - just as importantly - telling you all that if you see anything or anyone suspicious, tell the police immediately.

Rani's eyes linger on the now empty doorway...

CUT TO:

7

EXT. 36 BANNERMAN ROAD -- DAY 2

7

SARAH JANE presses the doorbell of Maria's old house. The removal truck has gone. She looks a little awkward with a flask and a plate of cakes - this isn't normal Sarah Jane.

The door opens. A woman in her late thirties in jeans and tee-shirt, grimy and hassled - GITA.

GITA

Yes? Hello?

SARAH JANE

Hello. I live over the road. I saw you were moving in. Thought maybe you haven't been able to find the kettle yet.

Gita's eyes light up.

GITA

Oh, tell me, do you save the world every day, or is it just on Mondays?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

Sarah Jane doesn't quite know how to answer that one.

GITA (CONT'D)

Come on in, come in.

And Sarah Jane goes in.

CUT TO:

8 INT. CHANDRAS' HOUSE. LOUNGE -- DAY 2

8

Boxes everywhere. Not much unpacked as SARAH JANE picks her way across the lounge followed by GITA.

GITA

Sorry it's such a state. I had a plan - a list of what was what and where it was going. But then you have to go and use removal men, don't you? Forget it, my darling, you might as well give in to chaos. I'm Gita.

She offers her hand, Sarah Jane juggles the flask and cakes to take it.

SARAH JANE

Sarah Jane.

GITA

Well it's very nice to meet you, Sarah.

SARAH JANE

Jane.

GITA

Lovely.

Gita whinges on, but in a good-natured way, smiling at adversity.

GITA (CONT'D)

This has been a nightmare, I can't tell you. We should have moved in last Friday but the removal company double-booked us. Can you believe it?

Sarah Jane struggles to feign interest.

SARAH JANE

No.

GITA

What a way to run a business?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

GITA (CONT'D)

So here we are, Monday morning, and I have to take care of everything all by myself. Still, what's the difference there then, eh? Shall I see if I can find some cups?

SARAH JANE

Oh. Perfect.

As Gita heads for the kitchen and Sarah Jane quickly puts her things down and flicks open her watch and starts to scan the room.

GITA (O.S.)

So, that's your house, is it? The big one right opposite?

SARAH JANE

(still scanning)

Yes.

GITA (O.S.)

You got kids, Sarah?

SARAH JANE

(to herself,
frustrated)

Sarah Jane.

Sarah Jane finishes her scan.

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

(to herself)

All clear.

And finds Gita, returned from the kitchen.

GITA

Sorry?

SARAH JANE

Just my son, Luke. There's just the two of us.

GITA

We've got a girl. Rani. She's very clever.

CUT TO:

9

EXT. PARK VALE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND -- DAY 2

9

LUKE and RANI are talking as CLYDE plays playground basketball with a bunch of other kids (including DAVE FINN, and STEVE WALLACE). He's showing off for Rani, but she's hardly noticing...

RANI

So what were the last people like that lived in our house? Mr Jackson and his daughter?

LUKE

Nice. I miss Maria.

RANI

(teasing)

Oh, yes?

LUKE

I mean... we were friends. Maria, Clyde and me.

RANI

We can be friends.

LUKE

Yes. But it wouldn't be the same.

RANI

Oh. Sorry I suggested it.

LUKE

No - I didn't mean... I can't explain.

(frustrated,
apologising)

Inter-personal relationships is something I haven't mastered yet.

Rani studies him for a moment.

RANI

You know, I hope you don't mind me telling you - but you do know you're a bit weird, don't you? I mean, I think you're all right. Just a bit strange.

LUKE

(matter-of-fact)

I'm not strange, I'm just different.
There's a difference.

(CONTINUED)

RANI

Yeah. I suppose. These kids going missing, though, that is weird. Three in two weeks. And the police just don't have a clue.

LUKE

Don't worry, statistically the chances of you being abducted are extremely remote.

She gives him a side-long look.

RANI

Like I said, strange. I'm not worried. I'm interested, that's all. It's weird. I'm...
(thinking uneasily of the clown)
I'm into weird.

Luke gives her a sidelong glance - she's moved into the right road, then...

RANI (CONT'D)

(tentative, probing)

Have you ever seen anything strange? I mean around school?

Luke hesitates, frowns.

LUKE

Like what?

But she's overtaken by events.

As Clyde in the basketball game calls out...

CLYDE

Finney, over here!

Dave Finn passes Clyde the ball, and Clyde goes for a basket - but misses badly - and the ball hits passing HARESH on the back of the head.

Everybody winces, including Luke and Rani, as Haresh slowly turns around, fuming...

HARESH

Langer! My office. Now!

CUT TO:

10

INT. CHANDRAS' HOUSE. LOUNGE -- DAY 2

10

SARAH JANE and GITA are finishing their tea. Sarah Jane is looking anxious to get away; she's been here longer than she intended, already...

GITA

So what do you do for a living, Sarah?

SARAH JANE

I'm a freelance journalist.

GITA

A journalist? My Rani wants to be a journalist. What a coincidence. Maybe she should come round? You could give her some tips.

The last thing Sarah Jane needs!

SARAH JANE

My work tends to be rather specialized. And I am very busy. In fact, I really should be getting on now.

Sarah Jane gets up, ready to make her escape...

GITA

She'll be so excited. And she and your Luke are bound to be friends. You'll love her. She's very curious. Wants to know everything about everybody.

SARAH JANE

Does she? Oh, good.

That's great! Just what Sarah Jane needs - a nosy 14 year old neighbour.

CUT TO:

11

INT. PARK VALE OUTSIDE HARESH'S OFFICE/ STATIONERY SUPPLIES -- DAY 2

CLYDE is sitting outside a door marked HEAD TEACHER. He's restless, resigned and at the same time angry with the injustice of it. He looks at his watch. It's one o'clock - he's evidently been there some time.

FINNEY comes along, sees Clyde...

FINNEY

He still got you here? But it was an accident.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

CLYDE

Yeah, well we didn't exactly hit it off from the start. I think Mr Chandra's jealous of my popularity.

FINNEY

Your trouble is you don't know when to lay off.

CLYDE

Yeah. Being funny is a curse. Me and the Wolfman - life's just one big shaggy dog story.

FINNEY

(shakes his head,
despairs)

I need some stuff for art club from the stationery cupboard.

Finney crosses the corridor and goes through a door marked STATIONERY SUPPLIES. Clyde sees the door close after him, then, sick of sitting around, he gets up and wanders across to a glass-fronted trophy cupboard. He's checking out the school's awards collection without any real interest...

In the glass he sees the reflection of ODD BOB approach the stationery supplies door and slip through it. Curious, Clyde spins around - but the door is now closed.

He stands there for a moment or two, intrigued. And unable to shake the sense that something is wrong here, very wrong.

Clyde advances on the stationery supplies door. Pauses.

CLYDE

Dave? Finney, you in there?

No answer. Clyde swallows and opens the door.

The door opens on something between a small room and a large cupboard. Filled with stationery supplies. But there's no sign of Dave Finn, or the strange clown. Just a pile of disturbed art paper spread across the floor...

Behind him, Clyde hears a sinister snigger. He spins around - nothing.

CLYDE (CONT'D)

Finney? Are you messing me around?

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

At the bottom of the corridor - some way off - he sees Odd Bob. Just standing there.

CLYDE (CONT'D)

Hey!

And runs towards him. Odd Bob has time to pull a handkerchief from his pocket - it's huge. He holds it up - obscuring himself. As Clyde gets there it falls - and Odd Bob has vanished. Clyde is stunned.

Then hears a door swing behind him - it's the door to the boys' toilets...

Clyde steels himself and pushes it...

CUT TO

12 **INT. PARK VALE BOYS' TOILETS -- DAY 2**

12

The toilets are empty. CLYDE checks the cubicles - and, from behind...

ODD BOB (O.S.)

He's behind you!

Clyde spins.

FX SHOT: In the washbasin mirror he sees Odd Bob standing there. He looks like he's standing right next to Clyde - only he isn't there - just in the mirror.

CLYDE

Who - what - are you?

ODD BOB

All I want to do is give you a balloon!

FX SHOT: Odd Bob's hand, holding a red balloon stretches out of the mirror into the room! Clyde's eyes pop...

And the door bursts open - HARESH.

HARESH

Langer! I've been looking for you! Why aren't you outside my office?!

Clyde looks at the mirror - Odd Bob has vanished.

CUT TO:

13 **INT. PARK VALE - HARESH'S OFFICE -- DAY 2**

13

CLYDE is sitting opposite an angry HARESH.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

HARESH

A clown?

CLYDE

That's what I saw. Look, if I'm making it up, tell me - where is Finney - I mean Dave?

HARESH

He's been kidnapped by a clown? From the stationery cupboard? Langer, I don't know what sort of game you think you're playing, but this is not the way to make an impression on me!

Clyde is regretting this now.

CLYDE

Yeah, I know. I should've kept my mouth shut.

HARESH

Children are disappearing and you think that's something to joke about?

CLYDE

You told us - you said if we see anything suspicious, sing out. Well, I am. Listen, sir, I tell jokes - not lies.

Haresh considers this...

HARESH

David Finn has probably just bunked off school early.!

CLYDE

He wouldn't. Ask anyone.

HARESH

So how come no-one else saw this clown? Not even our CCTV cameras?

But Clyde's frustrated. Had enough.

CLYDE

Oh, what's the use? I knew I was wasting my time even talking to you! You're never going to believe me! It's a good thing that there's somebody else that will!

CUT TO:

14

EXT. PARK VALE SCHOOL GATES -- DAY 2

14

It's home time. Worried CLYDE and LUKE are deep in conversation as they leave.

LUKE

So you think we should tell mum?

CLYDE

What do you think? Mr Chandra's called in the police now. But they're not going to be looking for a clown that comes at you out of a mirror, are they?

LUKE

You didn't tell him that part, did you?

CLYDE

What am I? Mr Thicko of Thicksville? 'Course I didn't. But we know aliens have nabbed kids before. Remember Kudlak.

LUKE

Yes. Aliens. This was a clown. Why would an alien be dressed as a clown?

CLYDE

So you don't believe me, either. Thanks a lot, mate.

LUKE

Of course I believe you. I just don't understand it.

CLYDE

Well, there's a first.

And out of the corner of his eye, Clyde catches a flash of red, yellow and blue - ODD BOB!

CLYDE (CONT'D)

There it is!

Luke sees nothing -

LUKE

Where?

But Clyde has already taken off in the direction he saw the clown.

CLYDE

Come on!

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

Luke runs after him.

CUT TO

15 **EXT. STREETS/ALLEYWAY -- DAY 2**

15

A quick flash of ODD BOB disappearing around a corner.

CLYDE is in hot pursuit, LUKE running after...

Clyde comes around a corner, head zipping back and forth - no sign.

Then he spots Odd Bob on the other side of the road. He's leaning against the corner of a building, like he's got all the time in the world.

CLYDE

There!

As Luke catches up, Clyde glances away for an instant - looks back and the clown has vanished. But Clyde dashes across the road and down the alleyway - Luke follows.

The alleyway is a dead end. And there's no clown, and nowhere for him to have gone. Luke catches up with Clyde, looks around...

LUKE

Where is he?

CLYDE

Search me. But he was here. Look.

There's a red balloon floating on the end of a string tied to a bin lid. Clyde approaches it, reaches out to it...

RANI (O.S.)

Don't touch it!

Clyde and Luke spin around to see RANI behind them - unknown to them she's been running after them.

RANI (CONT'D)

I don't know why, just don't!

Clyde looks back at the balloon.

BANG!

As if someone stuck a pin in it.

CUT TO:

16

EXT. BANNERMAN ROAD -- DAY 2

16

LUKE and CLYDE are walking with RANI.

RANI

I've been seeing it for days. It just keeps showing up. Always at a distance. Or, like today, in the window of the class. Not close-up. A clown dressed in red, blue and yellow.

CLYDE

Exactly what I saw.

LUKE

But you haven't told anyone? I mean, if you've been seeing it all over the place for a week now...

RANI

What am I going to say, "listen mum and dad, I don't want you to worry, but I'm seeing clowns that no-one else can see"?

LUKE

Why not?

RANI

You want them to get me locked up?

LUKE

Why would they do that?

RANI

(to Clyde)

What planet is he from?

CLYDE

Oh, Earth. Mostly.

RANI

Yeah. You're so funny, Clyde. No wonder -

(my dad)

- the Head Teacher loves you.

Clyde and Luke exchange a glance, remembering Sarah Jane's warning.

CLYDE

Look, Rani, whoever this clown is, we're going to have to leave it to the cops.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

RANI

They don't even believe the clown exists. You know that.

LUKE

But Clyde's right. It's nothing to do with us.

Rani is barely keeping hold of her anger now.

RANI

Look, there's something happening here that doesn't make everyday sense. Maybe you can ignore it because it doesn't go with your Mp3 players and your designer trainers but I can't. I've got to know what's going on.

CLYDE

(to Luke, quietly)

Oh, Sarah Jane's going to love this one.

As a car pulls up outside Rani's house. She gets suddenly agitated.

RANI

Look, there's something I've got to tell you. Something about me you ought to know.

CLYDE

You're from another planet. I already guessed.

But Luke has already seen...

LUKE

Actually, Clyde, it's worse than that...

And he indicates as HARESH gets out of the car.

CLYDE

Oh, no. Rani, tell me there's a good reason why our new Head just pulled up outside your house that doesn't include the word "dad".

RANI

Honestly, he's all right, really. It's just his job.

CLYDE

Yeah, that's what they said about Doctor Frankenstein.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

As Haresh sees her - and who she's with.

HARESH

Rani.

RANI

Hi, Dad.

As GITA emerges from the house.

GITA

Haresh! Don't worry, there are still plenty of boxes for you to open. Rani, my darling, how was your first day at school? Did your dad go all Captain Bligh again?

Luke and Clyde exchange a smile, Haresh simmers, embarrassed.

HARESH

I do not go Captain Bligh.

RANI

Just a bit. This is Luke and Clyde.

GITA

Luke?

LUKE

Luke Smith. Pleased to meet you.

Clyde rolls his eyes - Luke's so square!

HARESH

(with sudden interest)

Luke Smith?

As SARAH JANE closes on them from across the road, a tad defensive.

SARAH JANE

He's my son. I'm Sarah Jane Smith.

Haresh shakes her hand, excited.

HARESH

I've been looking at his results for the last year. Very, very impressive. Remarkable, in fact.

Sarah Jane puts an arm around Luke. It's part pride, part protection.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (3)

16

SARAH JANE
He's very gifted.

GITA
(to Rani)
Sarah is a journalist.

RANI
For real?
(to Sarah Jane)
I'm really interested in being a
reporter. Maybe I can come over some
time?

SARAH JANE
Well, I really am rather busy.

CLYDE
(to Gita)
Clyde Langer. The joker in the pack.
Apparently. Oh, and I see clowns that
don't exist.

Haresh simmers.

CUT TO:

17 **INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- DAY 2**

17

SARAH JANE bursts in, with LUKE and CLYDE behind.

SARAH JANE
Of course your Head Teacher was never
going to believe you, Clyde. Nor would
the police. Children don't vanish out
of closed rooms. It's impossible as far
as they are concerned.

CLYDE
But what about the clown? If it's an
alien that's taking these kids, a clown
disguise isn't exactly low-profile.

LUKE
But it might know that kids are supposed
to like clowns.

SARAH JANE
(shudders)
Personally, they always gave me
nightmares.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

LUKE

Clourophobia. It's the fear of clowns.
Johnny Depp has it.

CLYDE

What encyclopedia did you find that in?

LUKE

Heat.

SARAH JANE

We need to talk to someone close to the boy that disappeared today. His parents will be too busy with the police by now. What about any of his other friends?

CLYDE

It's Monday. They'll be at football training.

LUKE

What about Rani? If she's been seeing the clown...

SARAH JANE

I don't want her involved.

LUKE

But she's determined to find out what's going on. And she might be in danger.

Sarah Jane is worried.

SARAH JANE

You're right - someone should keep an eye on her.

Clyde is well up for it.

CLYDE

Yeah. You're right.

LUKE

(with a smile)

Only I don't think her dad would let you anywhere near her.

Clyde is crestfallen.

CUT TO:

18

OMITTED

18

19

INT. CHANDRAS' HOUSE. KITCHEN -- DAY 2

19

HARESH has been bringing GITA up to date with the disappearance, as they sit with RANI around the kitchen table with coffees - half un-packed boxes all around them.

HARESH

So, it looks as if the boy has disappeared like the others.

GITA

His poor parents. They'll be going out of their minds. Makes me ill, just thinking about it... You watch yourself, won't you, Rani?

HARESH

She'll be fine. As long as she keeps away from that Langer boy.

RANI

David Finn is one of Clyde's best friends, Dad. He wasn't making it up. Clyde saw a clown. Why would he lie?

HARESH

(troubled)

I don't know. But a clown - it's ridiculous

All the same, Haresh is feeling a little guilty for not reacting to Finney's disappearance perhaps a little faster. He puts a bag of exercise books on the table.

HARESH (CONT'D)

I was thinking I should let the police take a look at Finn's school books. There's still the chance that something was worrying him and he ran away. If so, there may be a clue here.

Rani tries not to give away her curiosity. As Gita gets up from the table.

GITA

Well, first you can help me move the bed. Those removal men didn't listen to a word I said.

HARESH

(with a wink at Rani)
And they got out alive?

(CONTINUED)

19

CONTINUED:

19

And Haresh follows Gita out. Closes the door after him.

Quickly, Rani is into the bag of Finney's schoolwork. And it doesn't take her long... All over the books - pictures and pictures sketched by Finney of ever-more malevolent clowns.

Shocked, Rani looks up - and at the kitchen window, his face pressed to the glass, is ODD BOB!

In fright, Rani jumps backwards in her chair, almost knocks it over.

She closes her eyes, tight.

RANI

No. You're not there.

And she opens her eyes.

And Odd Bob is standing in the kitchen!

His painted smile breaks apart to show ugly, yellowed teeth. And he's reaching towards her with a red balloon...

Rani is speechless with fear...

And the kitchen door opens. Gita's coming through it.

GITA

Rani, you've got a visitor.

Odd Bob has gone. Like he was never there.

And Luke follows Gita into the kitchen, completely unaware.

Rani could almost cry with relief.

LUKE

(unaware)

I thought you might need help unpacking.

CUT TO:

20

EXT. PARK VALE SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD -- LATE AFTERNOON 220

The Park Vale school team is being put through its paces on the field.

STEVE WALLACE (one of the kids playing basketball with Clyde earlier) is on the sidelines, though, with SARAH JANE and CLYDE. Steve is mistrustful.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

STEVE WALLACE

My dad says journalists are scum.
They're like crows picking at road-kill.

CLYDE

I suppose he only buys a newspaper to
look at the pictures, then. Come on,
Steve. Sarah Jane is trying to help
find Finney.

Steve starts to bounce a football from knee to knee.

STEVE WALLACE

I don't know anything.

SARAH JANE

Had he been acting strangely recently?

STEVE WALLACE

Not that I saw.

CLYDE

What about clowns? Did he ever say
anything about clowns?

STEVE WALLACE

(like why would he?)

No.

Then he lets the ball drop - *there is something!*

STEVE WALLACE (CONT'D)

Hang on. The shopping centre.

CUT TO

21 **INT. SHOPPING CENTRE -- DAY X**

21

FLASHBACK: A typical Saturday afternoon crush. STEVE WALLACE, TONY WARNER and DAVE 'FINNEY' FINN just killing time.

And there is ODD BOB handing out tickets (like flyers) to one and all (not just kids). As Steve, Tony and Finney drift by...

ODD BOB

Want some free tickets boys? Bring all your friends.

Finney and Tony take the tickets that Odd Bob thrusts at them, Steve is too cool for clowns.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

STEVE WALLACE
Take a hike, Krusty.

And ignores the proffered ticket. The boys carry on their way. Odd Bob watches them go.

CUT TO

22 **EXT. PARK VALE SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD -- LATE AFTERNOON 2**

SARAH JANE, CLYDE and STEVE WALLACE as they were.

SARAH JANE
So Tony Warner, the boy that went missing in the park took a ticket, as well?

STEVE WALLACE
Yeah. But they were just tickets off a clown. It doesn't mean anything, does it?

But Sarah Jane is on the scent of something...

SARAH JANE
What were the tickets for?

As a thought hits Clyde. He digs into his coat pockets...

CLYDE
Just a minute. I'd forgotten all about this. My mum said she'd picked it up at the shops.

And he pulls out a carelessly folded ticket.

CLYDE (CONT'D)
Like I'd want to go.

Sarah Jane looks at the ticket. And looks at Clyde, worrying.

CUT TO

23 **INT. RANI'S BEDROOM -- LATE AFTERNOON 2**

23

More half-unpacked boxes, sitting ignored as RANI brings concerned LUKE up to speed.

RANI
It was in the kitchen, Luke. It's getting closer to me.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

LUKE

Don't worry, it's gone now.

RANI

There's more. Look at this.

She gives him one of Finney's sketchbooks from Haresh's bag. As Luke turns from one picture of the clown to the next, each more scary than the last...

RANI (CONT'D)

Dad's taking Finney's books to the police. They're looking for clues. But I don't think they'll be looking for size twenty footprints.

LUKE

Even if they do take it seriously, there might not be anything they can do.

RANI

(excited)

You see! This isn't natural. None of it. It's - it's supernatural!

LUKE

I doubt that it's supernatural.

RANI

You've got such a closed mind! The supernatural is only science we don't know yet - like life on other planets.

LUKE

That's different.

RANI

Look, I've got to do something, Luke. Look at those pictures. Finney was seeing the clown the same as I am.

Luke finds something trapped between two pages - another of Odd Bob's tickets.

LUKE

(reads)

Spellman's Magical Museum of the Circus?

Rani's eyes widen. She quickly hunts through some of her stuff - comes up with another ticket just like it.

RANI

People were handing these out by the tube.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

For Rani things start to fit into place. She's thinking fast. As Luke makes a decision.

LUKE

I think you should talk to my mum.

RANI

I can't talk to anyone, Luke. Don't you get it? You haven't seen the Clown. I think only kids that get one of these can see it. And then they disappear!

LUKE

(alarmed)

Clyde saw it.

RANI

Then he must have a ticket

LUKE

Believe me, Mum understands things like this.

RANI

Luke, whatever's going on here, no-one understands things like this. But this ticket has got to be a clue.

And she's on her feet as Luke looks anxious.

RANI (CONT'D)

Are you coming?

Luke is unsure.

CUT TO

24 EXT. CIRCUS MUSEUM -- LATE AFTERNOON 2

24

SARAH JANE and CLYDE take in the museum. It is gaudily decorated to look something like a big top. There are tall paintings of clowns on either side of the door. SPELLMAN'S MAGICAL MUSEUM OF THE CIRCUS. Clyde takes the place in. There's a sense of something sinister.

CLYDE

Welcome to the Circus of Horrors.

Sarah Jane is regarding the museum, uncharacteristically nervous.

(CONTINUED)

24

CONTINUED:

24

SARAH JANE

You know, Clyde, occasionally your sense
of humour really leaves something to be
desired.

She is looking at the life-size clown pictures, uneasy.
Clyde doesn't notice.

CLYDE

Who said I was joking?

Clyde starts moving towards the door, then notices Sarah
Jane holding back.

CLYDE (CONT'D)

Are you all right?

Sarah Jane is looking at the clowns. Steels herself.

SARAH JANE

Clowns make my skin crawl.
(steels herself)
Come on.

Ignoring the clowns (and her real deep-down fear of them)
she leads Clyde into the museum.

CUT TO

25

INT. CIRCUS MUSEUM -- LATE AFTERNOON 2

25

SARAH JANE and CLYDE find themselves in a strange, dimly lit world of old circus exhibits. In the background we can hear odd snatches of different pieces of circus music from the various areas. A mechanical laughing clown rocks back and forth, heightening Sarah Jane's unease. There are posters on the walls and pictures of circus acts dating back decades. Glass cases contain tableaux of circus acts from years gone by. There's circus music playing quietly in the background, but despite the frivolous colours and the nature of the display there's something *not right* about it all.

CLYDE

Like museums don't normally creep me
out, all those stuffed animals, old
bones and mummies, but this place
doesn't just take the biscuit, this
place gets the whole Christmas tin.

And then ELIJAH SPELLMAN, dressed as a ringmaster, is there. As if from nowhere. Beaming, welcoming, but somehow sinister...

(CONTINUED)

25

CONTINUED:

25

SPELLMAN

Welcome, welcome to Spellman's Magical Museum of the Circus and the story of the most wondrous family entertainment in the world.

Spellman bounds across to a model of the Colosseum in Ancient Rome.

SPELLMAN (CONT'D)

From the tumblers and jugglers of Ancient Rome.

And then on to an oil painting of early 19th century cavalry men charging on horseback.

SPELLMAN (CONT'D)

To the father of the modern circus - believe it or not, a Sergeant Major in the 15th Light Dragoons.

SARAH JANE

Mr Spellman, I presume.

SPELLMAN

Elijah Spellman at your service.

SARAH JANE

My name is Sarah Jane Smith. I'm a journalist. This is my friend Clyde. We're here to talk to you about clowns.

Spellman's eyes light up.

SPELLMAN

Ah, the princes of the sawdust ring!
This way, please.

Spellman leads them out of the room.

CUT TO

26

INT. CIRCUS MUSEUM. CLOWN ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

26

SPELLMAN leads SARAH JANE and CLYDE through - into a room filled with life-size clown mannequins. Every one with a painted smile.

Sarah Jane swallows down on her phobia.

Spellman is in his element...

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

SPELLMAN

Mankind has always needed someone to make them laugh, slave or king.

CLYDE

Can you do me a favour and drop a note to my Head Teacher?

Spellman ignores, irritated by the interruption to his schtick...

SPELLMAN

The Pharaohs had fools, so did Native Americans. We had the harlequin and, in the Middle Ages, the jester.

SARAH JANE

It's not so much the clown's showbiz history that I'm interested in, Mr Spellman, as their reputation for scaring people.

Spellman looks at her, senses her uneasiness among the clown mannequins.

SPELLMAN

Ah, the fear of the painted smile.

And Spellman smiles. It is an unsettling thing.

SARAH JANE

It's not as simple as that, Mr Spellman. They used to paint clowns on the walls of children's wards, but when they were asked, every child said the pictures scared them. Children sense things.

Sarah Jane pushes aside a memory...

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

I know.

CUT TO

27 EXT. CIRCUS MUSEUM -- LATE AFTERNOON 2

27

RANI and LUKE reach the museum.

RANI

Come on!

Luke holds her back.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

LUKE

I really don't think we should be doing this.

Rani pulls free.

RANI

Okay. We won't. I'll go in on my own.

And she goes in. Luke follows.

CUT TO

28

INT. CIRCUS MUSEUM. CLOWN ROOM -- LATE AFTERNOON 2

28

CLYDE, who's been mooching around the exhibition, calls SARAH JANE's attention to a picture.

CLYDE

Sarah Jane, look at this. These are the same colours as the clown I saw. Red, yellow and blue.

Sarah Jane looks at the picture, and frowns - A reproduction of Freiherr Augustin von Moersperg's watercolour of the Pied Piper.

SARAH JANE

This isn't a clown. This is the Pied Piper. The story goes that he rid Hamelin of its plague of rats, then when the town refused to pay him he came back and took all their children.

Clyde's attention is riveted. SPELLMAN turns slowly, his smile as broad - and as disturbing - as ever.

SPELLMAN

The oldest, and most accurate picture of the Pied Piper. The colours of his costume signify he was a travelling entertainer and, I'm afraid, even clowns have their dark days.

SARAH JANE

And that's exactly the sort of clown I'm interested in. One that makes children disappear.

Spellman's smile falters. Clyde is confused.

CLYDE

But the Pied Piper was a fairy tale.

(CONTINUED)

SARAH JANE

Myths, legends, fairy tales... Every
story has its inspiration, Clyde.

(turning around)

Mr Spellman...

But Spellman has gone. And the museum feels darkly
threatening.

CLYDE

Where did he go?

Sarah Jane looks around her at the clown mannequin.
She's anxious.

SARAH JANE

I don't know, but something tells me we
should get out of here, too. Quickly,
come on!

They turn to go - and find LUKE and RANI standing there.

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

Luke?

And Luke is just as shocked.

LUKE

Mum?

CLYDE

What are you doing here?

But Rani is as much confused as shocked.

RANI

What are we doing here? What are you
doing here?

LUKE

(to Sarah Jane)

You told me to stay with her.

Rani's confusion is getting to critical point.

RANI

Am I missing something?

CLYDE

(to Luke)

Yeah, and keep her out of the action.

RANI

What action?

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: (2)

28

And one of the mannequin clowns grabs Rani's arm. She screams. Clyde leaps to her aid, pulling the clown off her.

CLYDE

What's happening?

But around them the other mannequin clowns are coming to life. Closing in on them.

RANI

They're alive!

SARAH JANE

Run!

CUT TO

29 **INT. CIRCUS MUSEUM. CORRIDOR/ROOMS -- LATE AFTERNOON 2** 29

SARAH JANE, CLYDE, LUKE and RANI charge through the museum - other mannequin clowns grabbing for them, moving like automata.

CLYDE

What happened to Spellman?

SARAH JANE

He's controlling them.

I think they're like puppets - probably under some sort of telekinetic control.

RANI

Walking puppets? Telekinetic control?

LUKE

He's controlling them with his mind.

RANI

I know what it means, Luke. Who is Spellman?

LUKE

Probably an alien.

RANI

You know, that sounded just like you said "alien"?

As more mannequin clowns block their way. Sarah Jane pulls the sonic lipstick from her bag.

SARAH JANE

Stand back.

(CONTINUED)

29

CONTINUED:

29

She aims the sonic at the clowns and zaps. The clowns aren't moving forward any more, their arms jerk as if they're trying to move but can't.

RANI

What was that?

SARAH JANE

Sonic lipstick. Never leave home without it. I've seized up their joints. Should hold them up for a while, just be careful to stay out of their reach as you slip by.

And carefully Sarah Jane leads them through the clowns, nimbly dodging their twitching hands. Rani's eyes are wide with amazement.

RANI

(to Sarah Jane)

Aliens. Luke said aliens.

CLYDE

Actually, he just said alien.

SARAH JANE

And it will still be around here somewhere. Come on. There's no time for explanations.

Sarah Jane leads the way through the museum, sonic at the ready. Luke follows. Rani is just trying to keep up in her head, never mind on foot. Clyde takes her hand.

CLYDE

She's right. And from what I've seen before, one alien can be as much trouble as a whole invasion.

Rani just boggles at him, but allows herself to be led.

CUT TO

30

INT. CIRCUS MUSEUM. LOBBY -- LATE AFTERNOON 2

30

SARAH JANE, CLYDE, LUKE and RANI reach the deserted lobby. Sarah Jane tries the closed doors. Locked. Sarah Jane aims the sonic. No good.

SARAH JANE

He's sealed the doors.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

LUKE

Telekinesis. The same way he animated
the clown mannequins.

SARAH JANE

Whatever we're dealing with here, it's
extremely powerful.

CLYDE

(to Rani)

What did I tell you?

RANI

And it's got us trapped!

Sarah Jane is running her eyes over the lobby, searching
for some way to get out.

SARAH JANE

No, Rani. It just thinks it has.

And then Spellman is there. Out of nowhere.

SPELLMAN

Oh, no, Miss Smith, I'm convinced of it.

Rani takes in Spellman in his ringmaster gear.

RANI

Are you really an alien?

Sarah Jane steps protectively between Spellman and the
kids.

SARAH JANE

Stay back, Rani. Leave this to me.

RANI

(to Clyde)

I just never thought an alien would
dress like such a geek!

SARAH JANE

(to Spellman)

Who are you? And what do you want?

Spellman smiles.

SPELLMAN

Who am I?

FX SHOT: Spellman transforms into the PIED PIPER, his
whip is now his pipe.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

(NB: This should be the same actor playing all the aspects of Spellman)

PIED PIPER

I am the Pied Piper, who conjured away a whole town's infants, and has chilled the hearts of parents for more than seven centuries.

FX SHOT: The Pied Piper transforms into ODD BOB, the pipe is now the red balloon.

ODD BOB

And now I am Odd Bob the Clown, who snatches children in the heartbeat their mother's back is turned. I am the thing that lives in the darkest corners. I am all these things and more. I am all that you fear the most. And you are mine to feed on!

And Odd Bob reaches out to take them. Sarah Jane and the others cower away - but there is no escape!

PART ONE ends