

THE SARAH JANE ADVENTURES II

**Episode 5
By**

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1

EXT. TRUEMAN'S FLAT -- NIGHT X

1

FX SHOT: A clear night, the sky filled with brilliant stars.

TRUEMAN (V.O.)

Mars will enter Capricorn on the 17th.
But beware! Mercury is moving
retrograde through Scorpio. And that
can mean only one thing -

During this, PAN down to a small terraced house.

There's a flickering light in an upstairs window.

We see MARTIN TRUEMAN close the curtains, cutting off the light.

CUT TO:

2

INT. TRUEMAN'S ATTIC ROOM -- NIGHT X

2

PAN across a shabby upstairs room. A crystal skull; a dream-catcher; a poster of the zodiac. Three candles on a sideboard. -

At a rickety table sits TRUEMAN, in late middle age - scruffy, unshaven, round shouldered. Life has disappointed him. Trueman is consulting charts and ledgers spread out on the table. He is a pretty obvious fake.

Opposite sits CHERYL FARLEY, mid-20s, mousy and badly dressed, hanging on his every word. This session is coming to an end.

TRUEMAN

- a vital letter will be lost in the post!

CHERYL

I'll watch out for that. Can you see anything else? What if I do go ahead and leave the carpet shop? Will I get another job?

TRUEMAN

Yes. Saturn signifies a new occupation. In communications? Yes, the mists are parting - I see a call centre.

CHERYL

With better money?

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

TRUEMAN

Jupiter, planet of abundance, is traversing the fifth house. Yes, there will be better money for all born under the sign of Gemini.

CHERYL

Fantastic! For both of us! You're a Gemini too aren't you?

TRUEMAN

(nodding)

The sign of the twins. Two faces.

A timer on the table goes *bing*!

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

And that's this session over, Cheryl.

CHERYL

Thanks. You're brilliant, Martin.

She gets out her purse, starts counting out some notes.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

My husband says I'm mad, coming to see you. He says none of your predictions come true. Like when you said I was gonna win that holiday, and we were gonna move to Scotland. But I told him, the stars work in mysterious ways.

TRUEMAN

They do indeed.

CHERYL

I said so what if we fall a bit behind on the mortgage this month, Martin's worth every penny!

She hands out thirty quid across the table. Trueman holds it, then passes it back with a sigh.

TRUEMAN

No. Stop. Cheryl, I can't take your mortgage money.

CHERYL

Why not? Martin?

TRUEMAN

I'm a fraud.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

CHERYL

Say again?

TRUEMAN

I won't take your money. Because I'm just making it all up. The whole astrology thing, it's one great big racket.

CHERYL

You're joking Martin. There's power in the stars, you always say.

TRUEMAN

No. I just tell people what they want to hear, and they keep coming back. There is no power in the stars. Please. You need the money. I can't take it.

CHERYL

I can't believe I'm hearing this. The stars guide everything we do!

TRUEMAN

You think anything up there has an influence down here, on you or me? You really believe there's such a thing as destiny?

CUT TO:

3 EXT. NIGHT SKY -- NIGHT X

3

FX SHOT: A red comet of light shoots down from the stars.

A crackling, rushing noise building up.

CUT TO:

4 INT. TRUEMAN'S ATTIC ROOM -- NIGHT X

4

TRUEMAN and CHERYL as Sc.2.

TRUEMAN

If only there was. When I was a kid, I was convinced I was going to do great things. It was fate! But I failed at everything I tried. All my life. And I end up like this. A con artist.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

He stands, crosses to the window, moves the curtain aside slightly and looks out.

CUT TO:

5 **EXT. TRUEMAN'S FLAT -- NIGHT X**

5

FX SHOT: The light shrieks down towards Trueman's house.

CUT TO:

6 **INT. TRUEMAN'S ATTIC ROOM -- NIGHT X**

6

TRUEMAN at the window. CHERYL at the table, still can't take it in.

CHERYL

Martin. Are you being serious?

FX SHOT: Cheryl's POV. FFFZZZZZZ! The red light smashes through the window into Trueman, bathing him in a crackling red aura.

Cheryl leaps up - stunned.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

What was that? Martin?

FX SHOT: The aura is absorbed into Trueman.

Sudden silence.

She walks slowly towards him.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

Mr Trueman? You alright?

TRUEMAN

At last ...

CHERYL

What just happened there?

Trueman turns round - and he's transformed. It's nothing tangible, but his manner is now straight-backed, magnetic, certain, Al Gore. A wide beatific smile.

TRUEMAN

Gemini. You are going on a long journey. A very long journey.

He places his right hand on her left shoulder -

FX SHOT: A crackling red light glows around his fingers.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

Cheryl screams and we -

CUT TO:

TITLES

7 **EXT. NEW THEATRE -- DAY 1**

7

CAPTION: TWO MONTHS LATER

CLOSE on a big poster of Trueman, smartened up, looking straight out a la Paul McKenna. The lettering reads "EAST ACTON NEW THEATRE - SECRETS OF THE STARS with Martin Trueman".

Pull back and we see CLYDE, LUKE and RANI stroll past the posters.

CLYDE

The only reason I'm down here is because this is free. Horoscopes, signs of the zodiac. It's so sad.

CUT TO:

7A **INT. NEW THEATRE LOBBY -- DAY 1**

7A

CLYDE, LUKE and RANI enter the Lobby, where some of the AUDIENCE are milling about, waiting for the show.

RANI

Come on, Clyde, everyone checks their stars. I'm Aries. Confident, a great leader. What sign are you?

CLYDE

I'm not getting into this.

LUKE

His birthday is June the fifth.

RANI

Right. Gemini. Funny, popular?

CLYDE

Oh yes. Maybe there is something in it.

RANI

Lazy, shallow?

CLYDE

There. You see? It's rubbish.

(CONTINUED)

7A CONTINUED:

7A

RANI

How about you Luke?

LUKE

Astrology has no scientific basis. It's based on primitive observations and a fundamental misunderstanding of the way the universe works.

RANI

Thanks for that. But I meant what's your sign, when's your birthday?

LUKE

I don't have one.

They move further into the throng of people.

CUT TO:

8

INT. NEW THEATRE - REAR OF LOBBY -- DAY 1

8

RANI, LUKE and CLYDE moving through the AUDIENCE.

Suddenly - CHERYL is at their side, her expression glazed. She is now considerably more confident and better dressed.

CHERYL

Good evening. If I can just ask you to write down your names and dates of birth and pop them in the box over there?

She indicates a silver box with a zodiac pattern on a table, neat slips of paper and pens beside it.

CLYDE

Do we have to?

CHERYL

Everyone has to. It's part of the show. An essential part.

Cheryl moves off.

Clyde and Rani start to write down their details.

LUKE

What do I put? I don't have a birthday. I wasn't born.

RANI

Sorry. I forgot. What about the day you were, er -

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

CLYDE

Switched on.

LUKE

Activated.

Luke looks thoughtful about this, as Clyde and Rani put their details in the box.

CLYDE

What am I doing here? This is no way to spend a Friday night. I should be out there moving, shaking.

During this speech, HARESH, GITA and SARAH JANE walk over from the small bar. Gita has a flyer in her hand.

HARESH

Or perhaps doing your homework?

RANI

Dad. You said you weren't coming.

GITA

He's so narrow-minded. I said how can you dismiss something, Haresh, if you don't give it a chance?

LUKE

I'm going to do my homework on Sunday between two and six pm.

CLYDE

Same for me, Mr Chandra. The minute that Hollyoaks omnibus is over, I'll be glued to my desk.

LUKE

(to Sarah Jane)

I didn't think you'd be here either, Mum.

SARAH JANE

Nice to spend time with some adults for a change. And this Trueman's come from nowhere - now he's pulling in these people. Who knows, there might be a story in it.

GITA

You work too hard.

(to the others)

I've been telling her, she needs a night out. It should be a giggle.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

GITA (CONT'D)
(to Sarah Jane)
What sign are you again?

SARAH JANE
Taurus.

RANI
Strong, intelligent, good sense of
humour.

GITA
Haresh is Taurus, like you Sarah. I'm a
Gemini.

RANI
Same as Clyde.

CLYDE
You're really into this stuff, aren't
you?

GITA
(to Luke)
And what are you darling?

LUKE
I don't have a star sign.

GITA
Come on. Everyone's got a star sign.

SARAH JANE
He means he doesn't believe in it.

The theatre bell rings.

TANNOY (V.O.)
Tonight's performance of Secrets Of The
Stars With Martin Trueman will begin in
five minutes.

The crowd starts to move into the theatre.

GITA
Right, come on, we want good seats.

Gita and Haresh go in, Clyde and Luke following.

We see that Cheryl is now at the door to the auditorium.

Rani hangs back at the door with Sarah Jane. The
audience filing past them into the auditorium.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (3)

8

RANI

Do you believe in astrology?

SARAH JANE

No, but I'm always willing to be convinced. Just not expecting to be convinced.

During this, the last of the audience go through.

Suddenly, STUART FARLEY, 30 - the pre-transformation Cheryl's perfect mate, a bit mousy himself - strides up to Cheryl.

FARLEY

Cheryl. I need to talk to you.

CHERYL

Stuart. Nice to see you. Why not come in and see the show?

FARLEY

I don't want to see the show. I want you to come back home with me.

CHERYL

I've made my decision Stuart. I'm staying with Mr Trueman.

FARLEY

He's done something to you. I can see it, Cheryl, it's in your eyes.

CHERYL

Typical Scorpio, jealous and obsessive. I'm the same as I've always been. Go home.

FARLEY

I'm not leaving here without you!

CHERYL

Go, Stuart! Or do you want me to call the police?

Farley - psyched out - backs away.

FARLEY

I'm not gonna let you go, Cheryl!

Cheryl walks off with the box, heading for a side door.

REVEAL that Sarah Jane and Rani have seen all this from the door.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (4)

8

RANI

No, hang on, there's your story.

SARAH JANE

I knew it.

RANI

What's wrong?

SARAH JANE

I can't even have one night out without something weird happening. Come on.

They enter the auditorium.

CUT TO:

9

INT. NEW THEATRE AUDITORIUM -- DAY 1

9

HARESH, GITA, LUKE and CLYDE have settled in seats near the front. Clyde is in an aisle seat, and there are two seats saved between him and Luke.

LUKE

(reading from a flyer)

Martin Trueman says 'I drifted through life without meaning until suddenly I felt the power of the stars. These performances are a chance for me to share my insights.'

CLYDE

Does it say how long this lasts? Is there an interval? I need an escape plan.

HARESH

(to Luke)

I hope you don't take this man Trueman too seriously, Luke. Unlike certain people, who have let themselves get carried away.

GITA

Oh hush. One of the girls at work went to his show last week. Apparently it's really spookily accurate. He knows all about you. Things you've never told anybody.

HARESH

You used to think there was a mystic significance in the front covers of Kate Bush albums.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

Gita spots SARAH JANE and RANI.

GITA
Rani, Sarah! Over here!

Sarah Jane and Rani come over.

SARAH JANE
(quiet - to Gita)
Sarah Jane. My name is Sarah Jane.

GITA
That's what I said, Sarah.

SARAH JANE
Never mind...

RANI
Budge up.

CLYDE
Oh no. Never sit in a middle seat or
you're trapped.

Sarah Jane and Rani ease past Clyde and take their seats
as the lights go down.

Suddenly through a speaker -

CHERYL (V.O.)
From the dawn of time Man has looked up
to the stars for insight. For guidance.
For the power to realise his destiny.

Corny, breathy new age music starts to play.

CLYDE
Oh no, is that Dido? Help.

RANI
Shut up.

The curtains part, revealing a large golden zodiac and a
mic on a stand.

REVEAL CHERYL in the wings, speaking into another mic.

CHERYL
Tonight the secrets of the stars will be
revealed to you. Ladies and gentlemen.
Please welcome ... Mr Martin Trueman!

A spotlight picks out TRUEMAN, who bounds from the back
of the theatre. The music changes - pumping, dancy.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

He shakes hands and touches people's shoulders as he moves down the aisle - charismatic, energetic, now smartly and simply dressed.

TRUEMAN

(to audience members)

Hello! Nice to see you!

He touches the shoulder of a woman, REBECCA.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

(to Rebecca)

Welcome, welcome!

More handshaking -

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

Oh yes! What a special day, lovely turnout! How marvellous!

He taps a second woman, NADINE, on the shoulder.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

(to Nadine)

Thanks for coming out.

He spots two elderly ladies -

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

Eh up, you pair!

Shakes their hands -

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

(to the rest of the audience)

A couple of golden girls here!

LUKE

He's a bit milky, isn't he?

CLYDE

Cheesy. For the hundredth time, the word is cheesy.

Trueman touches Clyde on the shoulder as he passes.

TRUEMAN

Hello young man - yo, keep it real!

Wicked!

Trueman moves on.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (3)

9

CLYDE

Yeah, he is.

Trueman hurries up side steps on to the stage.

The music reaches a crunching climax, and -

TRUEMAN

(taking a mic)

Ladies and gentlemen. I want to share my journey with you. I was a nothing. A nobody. Until I learnt the secrets of the stars. In some ways I feel I was chosen.

He's hypnotic, captivating. PAN ALONG our regulars, listening.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

The universe is so much more than what we can see from here on Earth. Did you know there are 200 billion stars in our galaxy alone? Huge, shifting stellar forces, pulsing with ancient light ... But you didn't come here for a science lesson, did you? No! So let's try a bit of showbiz.

He puts a finger to the side of his head, thinking, a Derren Brown gesture.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

Who in tonight's audience was born on May the twenty-ninth?

REBECCA stands - bolting up, an unnatural movement.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

And what about June the sixteenth?

NADINE jolts to her feet.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

How about June the 5th?

Suddenly - Clyde jolts up out of his seat.

CLYDE

Whoa! What did I do that for?

TRUEMAN

There we are. A little demonstration of the power of the stars. Let's have another one -

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (4)

9

He turns to each 'victim' in turn -

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

(to Rebecca)

Down!

She slams down.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

(to Nadine)

Down!

She slams down.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

(to Clyde)

Down!

Clyde slams down.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

Up!

Clyde jolts up.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

Down! Up! Down! Up!

Clyde goes up and down - as if he's a puppet on a string.

CLYDE

(sotto)

No no no.

The audience - including our regulars - laugh and clap.

TRUEMAN

That's enough, thank you! Down!

Clyde's freaked out. He slams down into his seat.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

A round of applause, please, for my
three accomplices!

The audience applaud.

CLYDE

What? How did he do that?

SARAH JANE

The power of suggestion. It's simple
stuff, a parlour trick.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (5)

9

CLYDE

Nobody ever mentions that again, ok?

RANI

Don't worry, you were really funny.

CLYDE

I choose when I'm funny. Not him.

TRUEMAN has started on a new tack.

TRUEMAN

Now I asked you to drop off your birth details outside in the mystery box. My assistant, the lovely Cheryl -

Cheryl walks on, bringing a folder marked with a zodiac symbol.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

Has printed up your birth charts using my own computer program. Thank you Cheryl.

Cheryl heads back into the wings.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

So let's get started!

He flips open the file.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

I'm looking for a Diane Cope?

A woman, DIANE, raises her hand.

DIANE

That's me.

TRUEMAN

Diane, your Pisces moon indicates a love of learning. I think perhaps you've recently gone back to college?

DIANE

(amazed)

Yes! That's true!

TRUEMAN

Mercury in Virgo. I think you're studying ... history and sociology?

DIANE

Yes!

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (6)

9

During this:

SARAH JANE
She's a plant.

LUKE
A vegetable life form?

SARAH JANE
It means he knows her. He's planted her
in the audience.

RANI
She looks genuine.

CLYDE
Well he's not gonna plant somebody who
doesn't.

TRUEMAN
Right, I know what you're thinking.
Diane's my oldest mate. I'm a fraud!
But let's try somebody else, shall we?

He flips through the file.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)
Where's Rani Chandra?

Gita's thrilled at Rani being picked.

GITA
Wow! Here she is!

TRUEMAN
Hello Rani! Now, can you confirm we've
never met before?

RANI
No, we've never met before.

TRUEMAN
So, in your chart, Rani, Mercury is in
conjunction with Neptune at the
midheaven. And there was a transit of
Pluto recently - am I right in thinking
that you've just moved house?

RANI
Yes. You're right.

Applause.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (7)

9

TRUEMAN

In fact, your whole life has changed recently. Suddenly you're seeing the world in a new light. It's exciting - you love it.

RANI

Yes. Incredible!

TRUEMAN

And there's an anchoring influence in your life, represented by Saturn. A Taurus man, someone very calm and reliable? Is that your dad? A teacher?

GITA

My husband, right here!

Haresh shrinks in embarrassment.

TRUEMAN

And there's Mum, who has to be a Gemini! Thank you Rani!

Applause as Trueman flicks through the folder -

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

Now. I'm being strangely drawn to -

He stops at a particular chart.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

Sarah Jane Smith?

He looks out.

Sarah Jane raises her hand.

SARAH JANE

That's me.

TRUEMAN

Taurus! Strong, determined.

He falters.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

You were born under a very special star indeed. Neptune in your fifth house. Some years ago - you travelled. Far and wide. The things you've seen ...

He locks eyes with Sarah Jane.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (8)

9

Reaction from Sarah Jane and the gang.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

And there was a man. A very special man.

Sarah Jane can't believe she's hearing this.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

No. Let me think. It wasn't a romance - it was something much, much more than that. He taught you so much, and there was laughter, and adventure, and you prayed that your time with him would never, never end. But then, suddenly, he left you.

Under this:

GITA

(sotto to Haresh)

Knew there was a bloke somewhere. What did I say, broken heart.

HARESH

He's upsetting her.

TRUEMAN

A man with no name. A scientist? No - a Doctor! The Doctor!

Big moment. Reaction from Clyde, Rani and Luke - *WHAT??*

Sarah Jane is shocked - but composes herself.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

Am I right?

SARAH JANE

Yes. You're right. But you tell me, right now. How do you know that?

TRUEMAN

All in your stars!

He consults the chart again.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

And there's Jupiter in the twelfth house. You are the keeper of secrets.

SARAH JANE

Oh yes? Right. If you're so clever. Tell me about the future?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (9)

9

TRUEMAN

If you want. Oh. I'm afraid Saturn is transiting Taurus. You've fought many battles in your life. You're about to fight another, but this time it's going to be different. This time, Sarah Jane, you lose.

CUT TO:

10

INT. NEW THEATER CORRIDOR -- NIGHT 1

10

Later. The AUDIENCE have left the auditorium. GITA, HARESH and RANI wait as people head toward the lobby - waiting behind them are SARAH JANE, CLYDE and LUKE.

HARESH

He probably looked it all up on the internet.

GITA

He didn't have time. He got it all exactly right for everyone.

(to Sarah Jane)

And as for secret Sarah, woman of mystery! Come on, what're you hiding? And who's this Doctor, he sounds gorgeous.

RANI

Come on, Mum.

(to Sarah Jane, Clyde, Luke)

See you later.

GITA

Bye!

HARESH

See you on Monday, lads.

The Chandras get to the exit and head into the lobby.

Sarah Jane, Luke and Clyde pause for a moment.

LUKE

How could he know so much about you?

CLYDE

How could he make me bounce up and down like that? It was like I had to.

Didn't want to!

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

LUKE

If he knows about the Doctor, he could be an alien.

Sarah Jane indicates her watch.

SARAH JANE

No. I did a scan. Trueman is a human. We'll see what Mr Smith says.

They head out -

CUT TO:

11

INT. NEW THEATRE - DRESSING ROOM -- NIGHT 1

11

TRUEMAN enters a small dressing room, CHERYL behind.

CHERYL

Another good show, Martin. Wonderful.

TRUEMAN

A pity it had to be the last performance. But the shows have served their purpose. Tomorrow I will speak to the entire world!

CHERYL

But how? Only people here know of you, Martin.

TRUEMAN

It is destined. Any moment - now.

There's a knock at the door.

Cheryl answers -

And in walks LISA TROTTER, early 20s, media type. Trueman and Cheryl snap into near-normality.

LISA

Hey, Mr Trueman. Great show. Lisa Trotter.

They shake hands.

CHERYL

I've seen you on tv. Paranormal Planet, on the Psychic Channel?

LISA

Yeah.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

LISA (CONT'D)

We're doing a live interview tomorrow afternoon. But we've had a bit of bad luck. We had a guest lined up, the Celestial Deirdre, you know her?

TRUEMAN

I am familiar with her work.

LISA

Anyways, she rang me, she's had an accident, had to drop out.

TRUEMAN

Oh dear. Nothing serious I hope?

LISA

She says she fell down the stairs at home.

Which is very strange, actually, cause come to think of it, she lives in a bungalow.

TRUEMAN

How very unfortunate. Is there anything I can do to help?

LISA

I know it's short notice, but I'd really like you to step in as our guest.

TRUEMAN

Yes. Of course. That would be wonderful.

LISA

Great! You star! We could do it right here. I'll check with the theatre management. You're a life saver!

TRUEMAN

Not at all. I want to get my message across to as many people as possible.

CHERYL

What a wonderful surprise.

LISA

Yeah.

(to Trueman)

Thought you'd've seen it coming!

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

Trueman and Cheryl share a sinister smile.

CUT TO:

12 INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- NIGHT 1

12

SARAH JANE enters the attic with LUKE and CLYDE.

SARAH JANE
Mr Smith, I need you!

MR SMITH emerges in all his steamy glory.

MR SMITH
Good evening Sarah Jane. What can I do for you?

SARAH JANE
Mr Smith, I want you to scan the area around the New Theatre, East Acton. Look for anything unusual or alien.

CLYDE
Psychic energy, yeah? We know that's real.
(to Luke)
You nearly brought the moon crashing down with your almighty brain.

SARAH JANE
No. That's not what Trueman is about. He can see into people's lives, see into their destinies.

CLYDE
Yeah, by mind reading.

LUKE
No. By calculating the positions of the stars and planets at the time they were born. Which is impossible.

MR SMITH
Sarah Jane. Scan completed. I have detected no irregularities in the vicinity.

SARAH JANE
But there must be something. An atmospheric disturbance, an energy spike?

MR SMITH
There has been no such event.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

CLYDE

What if it's real? How could we detect it? We don't even believe in it.

LUKE

Say that again?

CLYDE

Wow. Have I finally done it? Yes. I have confused you.

SARAH JANE

Think ... Of course! He must be using a bio-damper.

CLYDE

What's that? Washing powder?

LUKE

It's an alien device for shielding high technology emissions.

SARAH JANE

Mr Smith, I need you to locate a man called Martin Trueman.

CUT TO:

13 INT. TRUEMAN'S ATTIC ROOM -- NIGHT 1

13

FX SHOT: TRUEMAN and CHERYL stand looking out at the night sky. Then Trueman closes the curtains.

TRUEMAN

I can feel the power of the stars - not just the ones we can see. Suns, planets, whole galaxies, shifting and turning, cogs in the great machine of the universe. The conjunction is perfect. Right now, across that infinite distance. The Ancient Lights is aligned precisely. With me.

CHERYL

And tomorrow, the television broadcast.

TRUEMAN

It is destined. The whole world will know my blessing.

He senses something out in the stars -

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

But I have an opponent. Sarah Jane Smith. She has travelled, out there among the stars.

CHERYL

How? That's impossible.

TRUEMAN

Not for her. Now Taurus is rising. She will try to prevent the broadcast.

CHERYL

But you will stop her?

TRUEMAN

Oh yes. She can't interfere. All the forces of destiny are gathered against her!

CUT TO:

14 EXT. 13 BANNERMAN ROAD -- DAY 2

14

It's Saturday morning.

CUT TO:

15 INT. SARAH JANE'S LIVING ROOM -- DAY 2

15

SARAH JANE finds LUKE slumped in front of the tv, watching it.

SARAH JANE

I'm off to see Trueman then.

(taps her watch)

I've reset the scanner. To search for bio-damper interference patterns. Might just work.

She notices something's wrong.

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

Hey. What's up?

She sits down next to him.

LUKE

Last night. Everyone was talking about their star signs. And I don't have one.

SARAH JANE

I could give you a birthday if you want.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

The day I found you, that's what I put on the adoption forms.

LUKE

I wasn't born though Mum. I was activated. 'Happy Activation Day'. It doesn't sound right, does it? It's another strange thing. Something else that sets me apart.

SARAH JANE

Whatever particular day it is, that doesn't matter. You're not celebrating the day, you're celebrating the person.

LUKE

But where you come from, a childhood, it makes people who they are. I come from nowhere. I was never a baby.

SARAH JANE

Oh, Luke ...

LUKE

I thought it would get easier. But there are always new things coming along, like this, to make me feel different.

SARAH JANE

Just remember. You're strong. I've seen you learn. You're my son. And you're brilliant.

She smiles and ruffles his hair.

LUKE

That's me.

Sarah Jane gets up.

SARAH JANE

And what's my my brilliant son going to do today?

LUKE

I thought I'd look for clues. Read up on astrology with Mr Smith.

SARAH JANE

Fantastic. I'd better be off. If you're ok?

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

LUKE
I'm ok. See you later.

Sarah Jane heads out.

CUT TO:

16 **EXT. 13 BANNERMAN ROAD -- DAY 2**

16

SARAH JANE walks to her car. RANI's walking over from her house, checking the road for traffic.

RANI
Morning Sarah Jane.

SARAH JANE
I'm off to see Trueman.

RANI
You made an appointment?

SARAH JANE
Oh no. It's going to be an old-fashioned foot-in-the-door job.

RANI
Need another pair of feet?

CUT TO:

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

17

LUKE, an old, heavy book in his hand, stands before MR SMITH.

MR SMITH
The origins of astrology are lost in the mists of time.

LUKE
It says in here that the earliest record of astrology was in Babylon. In the sixteenth century BC.

MR SMITH
It is older than that. And not just here on Earth. Primitive cultures across the universe charted the patterns of the stars. This is the zodiac of the planet Ventiplex, for example.

Graphics: An alien zodiac wheel, with strangely positioned moons and planets, twin suns in the system.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

MR SMITH (CONT'D)
And this is the zodiac of Draconia.

Graphics: Another alien zodiac wheel.

LUKE
There's astrology in the cultures of
other planets?

MR SMITH
Yes Luke. A similar system operates in
the culture of almost every inhabited
planet.

LUKE
So it's everywhere.

On Luke - intrigued.

CUT TO:

18 **EXT. TRUEMAN'S FLAT -- DAY 2**

18

SARAH JANE and RANI get out of the car. Sarah Jane nods
to Trueman's door.

SARAH JANE
That's the one.

They walk up the metal steps.

RANI
What if he tells us to clear off?

SARAH JANE
Never take no for an answer. I learnt
that lesson a long time ago.

Sarah Jane raises her hand to ring the bell -

But the door opens, to reveal smiling CHERYL.

CHERYL
Miss Smith! Please, come in. Oh, and
you've brought a friend! Little Rani.
(to Rani)
Hello!

CUT TO:

19

INT. TRUEMAN'S ATTIC ROOM -- DAY 2

19

SARAH JANE (with notebook out) sits opposite TRUEMAN. Trueman is his stage self, relaxed and jocular. RANI is by the window, her jacket over her arm. CHERYL watching from the corner.

SARAH JANE

So. I've done some research. Up until about two months ago, you led a pretty quiet life.

TRUEMAN

No no no, Miss Smith, I made a lot of noise. But nobody ever listened.

RANI

Then two months ago, you declare yourself the new Messiah of the Zodiac.

TRUEMAN

(laughs)

Oh, she's good. Your protege. Just like you were the Doctor's protege? Is she your 'companion'?

SARAH JANE

How do you know about the Doctor?

TRUEMAN

(to Sarah Jane)

We come from two different worlds, Miss Smith. I'm a believer. You're a sceptic. No common ground. So how can I explain myself to you?

SARAH JANE

How can you tell I don't believe you?

FX SHOT: Underneath the table, Sarah Jane flips open her watch, scans.

TRUEMAN

I've read your chart. Did you know, you both have Mars in Sagittarius?

RANI

And that means what?

TRUEMAN

You're both fighters. Adventure, excitement - battles against the most remarkable things.

(CONTINUED)

19

CONTINUED:

19

He nods, indicating the watch under the table.

Sarah Jane flinches.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

Oh, please, scan away, you won't find anything.

Sarah Jane raises the watch from beneath the table.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

See. How can you understand me? People like you have to scan everything, boil it all down to facts and labels.

RANI

Only if it helps us to understand things.

TRUEMAN

And where does that get you in the end?

SARAH JANE

There is no end. There doesn't have to be. Learning. Finding out about the universe. It's all the wonder and beauty and strangeness I'll ever need. Often it's more than enough.

TRUEMAN

Such a shame it's all got to end. But I can't have you standing in my way. I've got things to do. Such amazing things...

SARAH JANE

Whatever you're planning, Trueman, I'm going to stop it.

TRUEMAN

Oh, a threat! Taught you well, didn't he? The Doctor. But he's not here. Not this time!

Trueman stands, advances on Sarah Jane.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

(to Sarah Jane, of
Rani)

Poor little Rani! You've been lying to her mother, haven't you? Really, Miss Smith. Allowing children into your dangerous world.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

CHERYL

Where they could easily get hurt.

Trueman raises one hand up above his shoulder.

SARAH JANE

Rani, come on. We're leaving.

TRUEMAN

Yes. You are. You see, I have received a special gift. Observe!

He brings his hand down, fingers splaying out -

FX SHOT: A red crackle of energy burns shoots from his hand -

Rani jumps aside -

FX SHOT: The bolt glances off the jacket she's carrying - creating a spark and a puff of smoke.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

I can channel all the power of the stars!

SARAH JANE

Rani, come on!

Sarah Jane and Rani run for their lives -

CUT TO:

20

EXT. TRUEMAN'S FLAT - METAL STAIRCASE -- DAY 2

20

SARAH JANE and RANI clatter down the stairs.

Smiling TRUEMAN is at the top of the stairs.

TRUEMAN

Your choice, Sarah Jane! Keep away from us, or -

He raises his hand -

FX SHOT: An energy bolt zaps from his hand. It takes a chunk out of a postbox.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

The Ancient Lights will destroy you!

SARAH JANE and RANI race towards the car -

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

SARAH JANE

Get in!

Sarah Jane and Rani dive into the car -

TRUEMAN and CHERYL watch the car heading off.

CHERYL

Now she'll keep away.

TRUEMAN

No. She's a Taurus. Among other things. Determined, brave. She'll keep interfering.

CHERYL

I'll deal with her.

TRUEMAN

No. I need you with me. I'll have to use somebody else. Wait! Last night. That boy sitting on her right.

CHERYL

Clyde Langer.

TRUEMAN

Gemini!

CUT TO:

OMITTED

22

EXT. NEAR THE PARK -- DAY 2

22

CLYDE is walking, setting up social arrangements, phone to his ear.

CLYDE

I'll see you then, Finney. Laters.

Suddenly TRUEMAN steps out in front of him.

TRUEMAN

Clyde. We need to talk.

Clyde clicks off the phone. Unnerved.

CLYDE

What?

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

TRUEMAN
About your destiny.

Clyde turns to run - but CHERYL stands behind him.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)
Stand still.

Clyde finds he can't move.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)
Turn to me.

Clyde turns - against his own will.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)
You won't need that.

Trueman takes the phone.

CUT TO:

23 INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- DAY 2

23

SARAH JANE and RANI enter - Sarah Jane carrying Rani's jacket.

SARAH JANE
Mr Smith, I need -

She sees that he's out - conferring with LUKE.

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)
Oh. Right.

LUKE
Mum? What's happened?

RANI
We nearly got zapped by Trueman.

SARAH JANE
And it's time we found out where he gets his zapping power.

RANI
He said 'Ancient Lights'. Whatever that means.

Sarah Jane holds Rani's jacket out to Mr Smith.

SARAH JANE
Mr Smith. Analyse the damage to this fabric. What caused it?

(CONTINUED)

23

CONTINUED:

23

FX SHOT: Mr Smith's scanner light plays across the scorched section.

MR SMITH

The fabric has been burnt.

RANI

By what?

MR SMITH

By nothing.

LUKE

That doesn't make sense.

MR SMITH

Nothing has burnt the fabric.

SARAH JANE

But it's been burnt?

LUKE

By something Mr Smith can't detect.

RANI

Like Clyde said. How can we detect something we don't believe in. The power of the Ancient Lights - what if it is astrology? What if astrology is true?

SARAH JANE

It can't be true.

LUKE

It's completely contrary to the laws of physics.

RANI

I'll call Clyde. He won't want to miss this.

CUT TO:

24

INT. TRUEMAN'S ATTIC ROOM -- DAY 2

24

Close on CLYDE as he comes to.

REVEAL he is on a chair in Trueman's room -

TRUEMAN and CHERYL stand before him.

CLYDE

Whoa. How did I get here?

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

TRUEMAN

I made you want to come here. You're one of the lucky ones. It's your destiny.

CHERYL

We're your friends Clyde.

CLYDE

Sorry. No vacancies in my peer group.

Suddenly - a mobile ring tone.

Trueman holds up Clyde's mobile - checks the screen.

TRUEMAN

Oh. Rani calling.

CLYDE

Here, give that back!

He makes to stand up -

TRUEMAN

Down.

Clyde struggles - then sits. Scared.

Trueman declines the call.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

Not today, thank you.

CLYDE

What are you gonna do to me?

TRUEMAN

There's nothing to be afraid of. You're been chosen to join my inner circle.

Life's going to be so much less complicated for you.

Trueman places his right hand on Clyde's left shoulder -

FX SHOT: The red glow crackles against Clyde's shoulder -

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

Accept the Ancient Lights!

CUT TO:

25

INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- DAY 2

25

SARAH JANE, LUKE, RANI as before.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

RANI

No answer. He's put it on silent?

LUKE

He never puts it on silent. Not even in school. He's probably just got his headphones on.

SARAH JANE

So. This energy. We saw it. It exists.

RANI

Hang on. Astrology breaks the laws of physics.

LUKE

What are you getting at?

RANI

Well. What if the Ancient Lights come from somewhere else - a place where the laws of physics are different? So they can break ours?

LUKE

That's like saying you could break the law of gravity.

RANI

But maybe that's why Mr Smith said 'nothing' burnt my jacket. What if this energy, the Ancient Lights, is a different kind of energy to anything we know?

SARAH JANE

No Rani. The laws of physics are the same across the universe.

Luke has a brainwave.

LUKE

Our universe. But what if the Ancient Lights come from another one?

CUT TO:

26 EXT. TRUEMAN'S FLAT -- DAY 2

26

TRUEMAN and CHERYL stand at the door.

Blank-eyed CLYDE is setting off.

(CONTINUED)

26

CONTINUED:

26

CLYDE

I'll do as you said Mr Trueman.

TRUEMAN

I know I can rely on you Clyde.

Clyde sets off.

Trueman turns to Cheryl.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)

Now we must be on our way. One last performance ... It wouldn't do to keep the world waiting.

CUT TO:

27

INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- DAY 2

27

LUKE, SARAH JANE and RANI as before.

LUKE

Mr Smith told me. Every planet has its own form of astrology.

The alien zodiac wheels buzz over the screen by way of illustration.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Not just Earth. What if astrology is a kind of memory? Of a time before?

RANI

Explain.

LUKE

13 billion years ago the universe was created. A massive explosion, the Big Bang. But what was there before?

SARAH JANE

Nobody knows.

LUKE

What if there was another universe?

RANI

Where the laws of physics were different. Where astrology worked.

SARAH JANE

And this energy, somehow it survived the Big Bang.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

RANI

The Ancient Lights! So it's very ancient. What's it been doing the last 13 billion years?

SARAH JANE

And why's it picked Trueman?

MR SMITH

May I make a suggestion?

SARAH JANE

Go ahead, Mr Smith.

MR SMITH

If Luke's theory is correct, the energy form has been waiting for exactly the right astrological conditions across the universe. Trueman's birth chart is a vital part of that equation. He is the channel the energy needs.

LUKE

It needs him for what though? What does it want?

RANI

Yeah. It can't have waited that long just to appear on stage in Acton.

MR SMITH

Sarah Jane! My media sensor reports that Martin Trueman is about to appear live on television. Shall I relay the image?

SARAH JANE

Yes please.

Mr Smith's screen switches to a cheap-looking title sequence for PARANORMAL PLANET.

RANI

My mum watches this sometimes. It's on cable.

And then LISA appears, walking down the aisle of the theatre towards the camera, Trueman's Zodiac Wheel clearly behind her.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

LISA

(on tv)

I'm here at the New Theatre in East Acton, where astrologer Martin Trueman has been creating a buzz with some amazing live shows.

CUT TO:

28 INT. NEW THEATRE AUDITORIUM -- DAY 2

28

A CAMERA OPERATOR is tracking LISA down the aisle - to where TRUEMAN is standing on the stage.

An ASSISTANT PRODUCER is making notes.

NB: The golden zodiac wheel from last night's show remains on the stage.

LISA

We're here to meet the man himself. Hi Martin.

TRUEMAN

Hello Lisa.

LISA

Right. Before the show I gave you my date of birth, so - what can you tell me about myself?

CUT TO:

29 INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- DAY 2

29

SARAH JANE, LUKE, RANI as before. TRUEMAN and LISA on the tv, their dialogue running under during the scene.

(CONTINUED)

29

CONTINUED:

29

SARAH JANE

I don't like this.

TRUEMAN

Well Lisa, you're a very trusting person.

RANI

It's only the Psychic Channel. When we switched on, we probably doubled their ratings.

LISA

Aw! So true, so true.

TRUEMAN

In fact, often you don't look closely at the details in a situation that seems - perhaps - to be too good to be true.

LISA

Story of my life!

LUKE

That's impossible!

MR SMITH

Paranormal Planet on the Psychic Channel now has approximately four billion viewers.

CUT TO:

30

INT. CHANDRAS' LIVING ROOM -- DAY 2

30

HARESH is watching Saturday afternoon tv - something about aviation.

Suddenly, the tv flicks over to 'Paranormal Planet'. And Trueman.

GITA

(calling)

Haresh!

HARESH

What?

GITA enters.

GITA

Have you seen the casserole dish?

She registers the tv screen.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

GITA (CONT'D)
It's him, Martin
Trueman. Why're you
watching that?

HARESH
I wasn't. Must've sat
on the remote.

LISA
Frankly, this is uncanny.

TRUEMAN
Yes Lisa. Now I hesitate to
use the word gullible - but
do you ever have the feeling
that other people - perhaps
less scrupulous people - are
using you just to get what
they want?

CUT TO:

31

INT. NEW THEATRE AUDITORIUM -- DAY 2

31

TRUEMAN talking to LISA.

TRUEMAN
And you find yourself somehow pushed
aside?

LISA
Again, that is so true!

TRUEMAN
Yes, and it's very convenient for me.
You see, you aren't important any more.
You've served your purpose.

During this, CHERYL has walked down the aisle.

FX SHOT: Trueman reaches over - places his right hand on
Lisa's left shoulder - red crackle and she slumps.

FX SHOT: Cheryl places a hand on the camera operator's
shoulder - red crackles - the camera operator slumps.

FX SHOT: Trueman shoulders the Assistant Producer
operator - red crackle - slump -

(It's all over in seconds - graceful, like a ballet, no
force.)

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)
(to Cheryl)
Remove them!

He turns to camera.

CLOSE UP -

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)
That's better.

CUT TO:

32 INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- DAY 2

32

SARAH JANE, RANI and LUKE watch in amazement -

On the screen, TRUEMAN fills the screen in CLOSE UP.

TRUEMAN
Now we can begin.

CUT TO:

33 INT. CHANDRAS' LIVING ROOM -- DAY 2

33

HARESH is flicking the remote.

TRUEMAN
(on tv)
This is a very important day.

The channel numbers in the corner of the screen change -

But on all channels - it's Trueman.

TRUEMAN (CONT'D)
(on tv)
The most important day in all of our
lives.

GITA
What? He can't be on all the channels.

HARESH
(flicking)
Come on.

CUT TO:

34 INT. NEW THEATRE AUDITORIUM -- DAY 2

34

TRUEMAN straight to camera.

TRUEMAN
Just one thing before we get started. I
cast a horoscope earlier today for a
'client' -

CUT TO:

35

INT. SARAH JANE'S ATTIC -- DAY 2

35

SARAH JANE, LUKE and RANI.

RANI
But how's he doing it?

SARAH JANE
Mr Smith?

MR SMITH
I can detect no
interference to the
television signal.

LUKE
How could you? It's the
power of the stars. The
old universe.

SARAH JANE
Right. We're going
there, to the theatre.

RANI
But how do we stop Trueman?

CLYDE (O.S.)
You can't stop him!

They all turn to see CLYDE has entered. Blank-eyed.

SARAH JANE
Clyde? Where have you been?

CLYDE
I've turned to the stars!

Suddenly -

He throws his hands wide -

And a mighty wind rushes through the attic - blowing
papers etc around -

Rani and Luke gripping on to fixed objects to save
themselves -

TRUEMAN
(on tv)
Now, ladies and gentlemen, don't be
scared.

(CONTINUED)

LUKE

Clyde!

SARAH JANE

Clyde, what's happening, what's Trueman
done to you?

CLYDE

He's given me power!

SARAH JANE

No! Clyde, no!

RANI

Mr Smith, what's happening?

MR SMITH

(continues under
remaining dialogue)Nothing is happening. Nothing is
happening. Nothing is happening -

LUKE

Mr Smith!

Clyde stands still and calm, arms outstretched -

CLYDE

It's the dawning of a new age. The
power of the Ancient Lights is reborn!

FX SHOT: The red light crackles around his hands.

Roaring wind, Mr Smith repeating "Nothing is happening",
noise, commotion -

TRUEMAN

(on tv)

Ladies and gentlemen, don't be scared.
The world is going to change. Very
soon. And things won't ever be the same.
But it's a change for the better! All
your worries, big or small - gone
forever. It's going to be a very happy
world, and you're going to be very happy
people. What more can I say, but:
Welcome to the future!'

FX SHOT: CLOSE on Clyde - red crackle around hands -

He raises his hands -

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

CLYDE
Sarah Jane - you must be destroyed!

End Of Part One