

# **THE SARAH JANE ADVENTURES 3**

**Episode 8  
By**

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**Yellow Revisions**

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1

INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. SECRET CHAMBER -- NIGHT

1

CONTINUOUS FROM PREVIOUS EPISODE.

CLYDE and RANI shrink back as ERASMUS DARKENING closes on them, slowly, menacingly pointing his staff.

DARKENING

You will never leave this place. You will be mine for Eternity.

CLYDE

Mr Darkening. Good to meet you. You're a legend. Really. But this is a One Night Only appearance.

RANI

It's not like we're not tempted. But we've got school on Monday.

DARKENING

You crossed my threshold. In one pace you left choice behind. Now you are in my dominion, my world.

CLYDE

Your world? Mate, you need to get out more. Sorry, you can't. I forgot, you're a ghost.

Darkening laughs.

DARKENING

A ghost? Is that what you think I am? Child, there are no such things as ghosts.

RANI

Oh boy, this is worse than The Sixth Sense. Are you in for a shock.

And Darkening reaches out towards them -

As, from nowhere, LORD MARCHWOOD leaps between Darkening and the kids ...

LORD MARCHWOOD (O.S.)

No, Darkening! You will not have them!

And draws his sword, darkly heroic.

And momentarily Marchwood flickers and fades in and out...

Rani's eyes pop -

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

RANI  
(to Clyde)  
That's -

DARKENING  
Marchwood!

CLYDE  
It's a super-spoak smackdown!

Darkening sneers. And again Marchwood flickers and fades in and out, briefly.

DARKENING  
(to Lord Marchwood)  
Have you not yet faded into the ether?

LORD MARCHWOOD  
Not while your shadow still stains the walls of my family, wizard!

Darkening leers.

DARKENING  
We exist at different frequencies. Your steel cannot harm me, Marchwood.

LORD MARCHWOOD  
And your magic cannot hurt me again! I have an account to settle, and will demand payment of your soul if it takes eternity.

Darkening laughs.

And Marchwood brings the sword down on the table - which shatters like matchwood.

Clyde and Rani see their chance, breaking away from Darkening -

RANI  
Run!

She and Clyde run for the door.

DARKENING  
You cannot escape me! None shall escape me!

CUT TO:

2 **INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. SECRET PASSAGEWAY -- CONTINUOUS** 2

RANI and CLYDE run through the passageway lit by only Clyde's torch.

RANI

Which way? How do we get out of here?

CLYDE

Just keep running.

Darkening's laughter booms through the tunnel as the passageway splits into two. They come to a stop, undecided.

CLYDE (CONT'D)

Which way?

And a small hand slips into Clyde's.

Clyde gasps. And looks down - JOSEPH looks up at him - and flickers and fades for a second.

CLYDE (CONT'D)

Oh, wow! Ghost Boy!

And Rani sees ELIZABETH there, too.

ELIZABETH

Come this way. Quickly.

And Elizabeth sweeps along the passageway. Joseph tugs on Clyde's hand, and they follow.

CUT TO:

3 **INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. ENTRANCE HALL -- NIGHT** 3

SARAH JANE, worried. Looking for Clyde and Rani.

SARAH JANE

Clyde?! Rani?!

And a door swings open on its own...

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

Clyde? Rani? Is that you?

Cautiously, Sarah Jane moves through the door.

CUT TO:

4 **INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. RED ROOM -- CONTINUOUS** 4

SARAH JANE steps into the darkened study. She's on edge.

(CONTINUED)

SARAH JANE

Who's here? Whoever you are, whatever you are, I'm neither frightened of you, nor here to hurt you. If you want to communicate, I'm listening.

Beneath one of the dust sheets - a television (1980s). Which suddenly turns itself on. The sound of static. Sarah Jane jumps, then pulls away the dust sheet.

The room is lit by the eerie glow of an un-tuned TV channel. Sarah Jane regards it, nervous...

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

Who's there?

Just as suddenly the TV snaps off. The room is plunged into darkness. And then a table lamp across the room snaps on.

And an old phonogram starts to wind itself up.

Sarah Jane's eyes - after everything she has seen, she can't believe that she's seeing this...

And the phonogram starts to play the old record lying on the turntable. It's crackling, like it was recorded in the 1920s, but it's PROFESSOR RIVERS...

PROFESSOR RIVERS (O.S.)

Sarah Jane! Help me! Sarah Jane! Help me! Sarah Jane! Help me!

SARAH JANE

Professor Rivers? Celeste, is that you?

PROFESSOR RIVERS (O.S.)

Sarah Jane! Help me! Sarah Jane! Help me!...

SARAH JANE

I will. I will help you, I promise.

And then the phonogram winds down, Professor Rivers' voice slowing, distorting...

PROFESSOR RIVERS (O.S.)

Sarah Jane... Help... me...

The table lamp snaps off. Another one across the room snaps on. Professor Rivers is lit eerily from below by it - hallowe'en-like...

PROFESSOR RIVERS (CONT'D)

He's coming for you!

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

And the table lamp snaps off. Sarah Jane is plunged into darkness - and, spooked, she lunges for a lamp.

The lights come on - Professor Rivers is gone. And in the same instant there's the sound of grinding stone - Sarah Jane whirls around.

RANI and CLYDE appear in the fireplace (another secret exit).

RANI

Sarah Jane!

SARAH JANE

Oh, I am so pleased to see you. But what on Earth are you doing in the fireplace?

CLYDE

We found Erasmus Darkening! He seemed pretty lively for a ghost.

SARAH JANE

Well, of course. He's not a ghost. I've seen him, too, but whatever is going on in this house, it's far more dangerous than a haunting.

CLYDE

We found Darkening's lab. And, from the look of what we saw, he was more than a magician making gold out of lead.

RANI

There's technology down there. It's ancient. Made of brass and iron and stuff. But there's no way it had any business being here 340 years ago!

SARAH JANE

Show me.

Clyde's heading for the door.

CLYDE

There's a secret door in the control hub.

And they are through the door...

CUT TO:

4A

INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. ENTRANCE HALL -- CONTINUOUS

4A

They rush into the entrance hall - and there, standing on his family crest is LORD MARCHWOOD, darkly heroic.

SARAH JANE  
Lord Marchwood!

LORD MARCHWOOD  
You must leave this place.

CLYDE  
Hey, your lordship! Thanks for earlier.

RANI  
(to Sarah Jane)  
He helped us escape from Darkening.

SARAH JANE  
Yes, he saved me, too.  
(urgently)  
Whatever you do, don't go into the grounds. There's something out there.

Marchwoood comes forward.

LORD MARCHWOOD  
There is time if you leave now. The creature needs time to reassemble. I will escort you to your carriages. You will be safe with me.

SARAH JANE  
No. We can't leave. Not without our friend.

LORD MARCHWOOD  
Your friend is lost to Darkening. As is everyone that comes here. As am I. As are my children.

During the above, Marchwood momentarily flickers and fades, as before...

RANI  
Your children helped us out of the tunnel.

LORD MARCHWOOD  
(stunned)  
You've seen Elizabeth and Joseph?

(CONTINUED)

4A CONTINUED:

4A

SARAH JANE

So have I.

There are suddenly tears in Marchwood's eyes.

LORD MARCHWOOD

They're here? In the house?

Clyde, Rani and Sarah Jane exchange a look, unsure of what to say...

SARAH JANE

They're looking for you.

LORD MARCHWOOD

But I have searched for over three hundred years.

RANI

Darkening says you exist at different frequencies

SARAH JANE

(starting to piece things together)

And that's how he has separated you from your children...

LORD MARCHWOOD

He is a curse upon my house. Upon my family. He has taken the very land of my ancestors and turned it against us. And I am responsible. You must leave now, while you can! I implore you.

SARAH JANE

Not without our friend. I will find a way to help her. To help you and your children.

Marchwood stiffens, his hand going to his sword hilt.

LORD MARCHWOOD

Are you a sorceress, my lady?

SARAH JANE

There's no such thing as sorcery. And I don't believe in ghosts, either. You didn't die, did you? And neither did your children. No-one died here, did they?

Marchwood flickers and fades briefly as he says:

LORD MARCHWOOD

His curse is more than death itself.

(CONTINUED)

4A CONTINUED: (2)

4A

As TOBY dashes towards them from the direction of the grand staircase...

TOBY

Miss Smith! You should see this.

Sarah Jane and the others look back - Marchwood has vanished.

CUT TO:

5 **INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. GRAND STAIRCASE -- NIGHT**

5

TOBY leads SARAH JANE, RANI and CLYDE to the staircase.

TOBY

I was coming to look for you - and suddenly they were just there.

CLYDE

Whoah!

REVEAL - GHOSTLY PEOPLE standing on the stairs (as many as we can get). People from across history, dating from after 1655. Including the SCRIVEN FAMILY and 4 TEENAGERS (from the pavilion). And ELIZABETH and JOSEPH. They're just standing there, watching Sarah Jane, and during the scene, occasionally flicker and fade...

RANI

There are so many of them.

SARAH JANE

You poor, poor souls...

Toby has grabbed a video camera, is filming them. Excited.

TOBY

Still say there's no such thing as ghosts, Miss Smith?

ELIZABETH

You said you wanted to help us.

SARAH JANE

I do. You're all trapped here?

MR SCRIVEN

He trapped us.

CLYDE

Erasmus Darkening?

(CONTINUED)

MR SCRIVEN

He's as much a part of this house as the bricks and mortar. He took my whole family.

RANI

What about Professor Rivers? Where is she?

MR SCRIVEN

She hasn't been fully absorbed yet.

RANI

Absorbed?

MR SCRIVEN

By the house.

SARAH JANE

Then that means there is still time to get her back.

ELIZABETH

Please. Help us all. Joseph and I - we miss our father. We want him back.

CLYDE

It's okay. Your dad's okay. We've seen him.

MR SCRIVEN

I don't know if you can help any of us. But, if you can, you must put a stop to what's happening in this house. Burn it to the ground, if you have to. Release us from this purgatory.

Suddenly, at the top of the stairs - furious DARKENING!

DARKENING

What treachery is this? I grant you life eternal and this is how you honour my beneficence? Be gone! I banish thee back to the ether!

Darkening throws up his arms.

PRAC gale sweeps down the stairs.

Sarah Jane, Clyde, Rani and Toby lurch backwards against the blast. It lasts only a couple of seconds.

And then the ghostly people have gone.

Darkening stands on the stairs where they were.

Sarah Jane is defiant.

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

SARAH JANE  
What are you, Erasmus Darkening?

DARKENING  
I am lord of this place, of all who cross its threshold, and step into my dominion. I am Erasmus Darkening, the lord of magic!

SARAH JANE  
You really shouldn't believe your own press, you know. Maybe people believed in magic when you were conning Lord Marchwood that you could make gold from lead, but not any more.

And suddenly Darkening is behind her, within touching distance. Sarah Jane spins around, as -

DARKENING  
The passage of three hundred and forty years has bequeathed Human-kind a little more wisdom, I find.

Clyde edges a little closer.

CLYDE  
Are you saying you're not human?

RANI  
You're an alien?

TOBY  
An alien? What are you talking about?  
These are ghosts, not aliens.

Toby takes a step towards Darkening, almost devotional...

TOBY (CONT'D)  
This is an emissary of the Afterlife.

Darkening smiles at them, chilling.

DARKENING  
Call me what you will. Know only that this is my world, that I rule all that crosses its threshold, that there is no escape. And that this night I will come for you all.

And Darkening has gone.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (3)

5

CLYDE

He knows how to leave you wanting more,  
I'll give him that.

TOBY

So if he's responsible for the Professor  
vanishing - why didn't he take us when  
he had the chance?

Sarah Jane is grim.

SARAH JANE

Because he's playing with us. Trying to  
scare us.

RANI

But we don't scare that easily.

Sarah Jane, defiant, yells at the house.

SARAH JANE

Listen to me, Darkening! I have fought  
the worst things from the darkest  
corners of the universe. You don't  
stand a ghost of a chance!

Darkening's laughter echoes briefly through the house,  
then is gone.

TOBY

I'm not sure that was entirely wise.

RANI

Aliens are like bullies at school. You  
have to stand up to them.

TOBY

No. What we have here is not an alien.  
What we have here is a Magi of the Dark  
Arts who, even having passed on, remains  
sufficiently powerful to tap into the  
latent psychic energy of this house.

SARAH JANE

Toby, tonight is not the night you prove  
yourself to your father. This is not  
supernatural. There is a scientific  
reason for what's happening here -

CLYDE

It just might not be science from Earth.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (4)

5

SARAH JANE

Whatever it is, we're going to find it.  
Come on. Show me how to get to  
Darkening's chamber.

CUT TO:

6 **INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. PANELLED ROOM -- NIGHT**

6

The secret doorway opens. SARAH JANE, CLYDE, RANI and TOBY peer into the darkness.

SARAH JANE

Well, can't say that I'm looking forward  
to this.

As she goes to step into the passageway. Rani grabs her arm.

RANI

Hold on - if Darkening catches you in  
his lab you're going to be in real  
trouble.

CLYDE

She's got a point. When he found us  
down there before it wasn't exactly what  
you'd call a magical moment.

RANI

You need someone to keep him busy.

SARAH JANE

No. It's out of the question. It's far  
too dangerous.

RANI

And all of us piling into Darkening's  
lab isn't?

TOBY

The logic is undeniable.

CLYDE

Even a ghost can't be in two places at  
one time. Not even an alien ghost!

RANI

Which means if me and Clyde are keeping  
him busy there's no way he can stop you  
taking a look at that thing down there.

Sarah Jane agonizes for a moment...

(CONTINUED)

SARAH JANE

All right. But stay together. And, whatever you do, don't go outside.

Clyde hands her his torch.

CLYDE

You be careful

SARAH JANE

(wry)

Don't worry. I've got Toby to look after me. Come on.

And Sarah Jane drags Toby into the darkness.

Rani and Clyde exchange a look.

RANI

So how do you distract a ghost?

CLYDE

You find him a pretty ghoulfriend?

Rani shakes her head, despairing, and leaves.

CUT TO:

**INT. ASHEN HEATH MANOR. SECRET PASSAGEWAY -- NIGHT**

SARAH JANE and TOBY are making their way through the darkness.

SARAH JANE

Tell me, why are you so determined to believe in the supernatural? You're a scientist. Your father was nominated for the Nobel prize for physics. You must know it's nonsense.

Toby stops, looks at her in the torchlight.

TOBY

When I was six years old something used to come into my room.

SARAH JANE

Something?

TOBY

Something grey, with no face. It stood and watched me. All night.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TOBY (CONT'D)

And don't tell me it was a dream like my father did. I pleaded with him to let me sleep in another room. I begged him and I cried. But he wouldn't let me. I've never forgiven him for that.

And they move on into the darkness.

CUT TO:

**INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. STAIRS/GALLERY -- NIGHT**

RANI and CLYDE are climbing the stairs.

CLYDE

Hey! Darkening! Where are you hiding? We've come to bust you!

Rani glances about her, shudders, feeling chilly.

RANI

I'd feel a whole lot better if I was wearing a Ghostbusters proton pack right now.

CLYDE

Yeah. Know what you mean. And they even made boilersuits look cool... Talking of which, is it getting cold in here?

RANI

Thought that was just me.

CLYDE

Sarah Jane would say it's psychological.

RANI

I suppose she is right, isn't she? About ghosts? But if Darkening's an alien - I mean, he looks just like us.

CLYDE

I guess some aliens are like us. The Doctor looked human.

And BANG!! Like thunder - like a wrecking ball hits the side of the house!

RANI

What was that?!

BANG!! LOUDER!

CLYDE

I don't know. Noisy neighbours?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

BANG!! Louder still!

RANI

It's getting closer!

Clyde grabs her hand -

CLYDE

Come on!

And they race back down the stairs.

CUT TO:

9 **INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS**

9

RANI and CLYDE run down a corridor.

BANG! - And this time a picture falls from the wall, crashes to the floor.

BANG!!

More things leap from the walls, crash to the floor behind them.

RANI

I think it's following us!

Ahead of them - the open door to the billiard room.

BANG!!

Clyde heads for the door, Rani behind him.

They throw themselves through the door.

CUT TO:

10 **INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. BILLIARD ROOM -- CONTINUOUS**

10

CLYDE slams the billiard room door shut behind them, rams a chair under the handle - he and RANI back off and wait...

The silence is unbearable...

BANG!!

The door shudders on its hinges.

Rani and Clyde wait, breathless.

A billiard ball rolls gently across the baize and scatters a couple more balls ... Clyde and Rani turn to look, see them moving.

(CONTINUED)

10

CONTINUED:

10

CLYDE

Something tells me we're not on our own  
in here.

And then the cues begin to rattle in their rack - quickly  
building in urgency, the billiard balls on the table  
start to hurtle across the table, smashing into each  
other.

Cupboard doors start to slam...

RANI

I think Darkening has got us right  
where he wanted us.

There's a suit of armour holding a mace - which suddenly  
crashes down.

CLYDE

Yeah, we're snookered, all right!

And drawers start to slam out and back again with force.

CLYDE (CONT'D)

Get down!

As various objects fly out of one of the cupboards across  
the room.

\*  
\*

And they hunker down on the floor. The whole place is  
going crazy.

RANI

We've got to get out of here.

She makes for the door they came in through -

CLYDE

Not that way! Whatever chased us in  
here is still there! Come on.

There's a garden door, and Clyde is pulling it open -

RANI

Clyde! Look out!

FX SHOT: As the billiard triangle rises and then flies at  
them...

\*

And hits the door as they shut it behind them!

CUT TO:

11

EXT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. -- CONTINUOUS

11

RANI and CLYDE outside the billiard room. In the night.

(CONTINUED)

11

CONTINUED:

11

RANI

I am never playing pool again!

But Clyde has other things on his mind...

CLYDE

What was it Sarah Jane said we  
shouldn't do? Whatever happened?

And Rani realizes, taking in the darkness around them...

RANI

Don't go outside.

As one, they run for it - around the house, to the front.

CUT TO:

11A

**EXT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. FRONT DOOR -- CONTINUOUS**

11A

RANI and CLYDE run up the steps and try the front door.

CLYDE

It's locked!

He hammers on the door.

CLYDE (CONT'D)

Hey! Let us in!

And something is watching them from the bushes.

RANI

Sarah Jane's in the tunnels, she can't  
hear you!

Clyde glances about him. Hears something - a snapped  
branch.

CLYDE

What was that?

RANI

Could be just a fox.

CLYDE

Or whatever Sarah Jane said was out  
here. Come on! There's got to be  
another way in!

And Rani follows him as he takes off into the darkness...

(CONTINUED)

11A CONTINUED:

11A

And among the shadows THE CREATURE's POV - watching them, growling, inhuman.

CUT TO:

12 **INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. SECRET CHAMBER -- NIGHT**

12

SARAH JANE pushes open the door to the dark, empty chamber. TOBY follows her in. Sarah Jane takes the room in by the light of Clyde's torch.

SARAH JANE

Nobody's home. That's a good start.

TOBY

It's freezing.

SARAH JANE

We're underground.

And Sarah Jane opens the cupboard - finds the strange ancient technology. She beams.

TOBY

What is that?

SARAH JANE

Exactly what I expected. Alien technology.

Toby is fascinated, blows dust off the old technology. Wipes away spiderwebs.

TOBY

It's like a computer built from brass and iron.

SARAH JANE

I don't think it's a computer, Toby. I've seen something like it before. I think it's some sort of trans-dimensional accelerator.

TOBY

Can we try that once more?

SARAH JANE

This entire house has been turned into a portal to another galaxy.

CUT TO:

13

EXT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. TERRACE -- NIGHT

13

CLYDE tries the doors to the music room. RANI looks about her, anxious.

CLYDE

Locked! We're locked out!

RANI

With whatever attacked Sarah Jane. This is not good, Clyde.

And they hear the growl of the CREATURE.

CLYDE

No. That is not good. Quickly, come on! The pavilion!

And they run into the darkness.

CUT TO:

14

INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. SECRET CHAMBER -- NIGHT

14

SARAH JANE and TOBY - as they were.

SARAH JANE

It all makes sense. Erasmus Darkening is an alien. And over three hundred years ago, he was trapped here on Earth.

TOBY

So he Pretended to be an alchemist, finding the secret of turning lead into gold?

SARAH JANE

But all the time he was really building this - a way to get home. Using the properties of the granite beneath it.

Toby is trying to catch up

TOBY

The electro-magnetic charge that lit up my EMF meter? But how could something like that work?

SARAH JANE

I'm no scientist, Toby. But I have a very old friend who is... It works by bending one dimension over another, and opening a doorway through. A portal.

(CONTINUED)

14

CONTINUED:

14

TOBY

And Professor Rivers has - what - gone through it?

SARAH JANE

I think something went wrong three hundred years ago - it's been malfunctioning ever since - and Darkening is somehow manipulating the accelerator's power, channeling it.

TOBY

You're saying all these ghosts - they're living people.

SARAH JANE

Trapped between dimensions.

TOBY

What happens if we turn it off?

SARAH JANE

The disappearances will stop. But those people will be lost forever. Including Celeste Rivers.

CUT TO:

15

**EXT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. PAVILION-- NIGHT**

15

RANI and CLYDE reach the pavilion. Rani casts a last, nervous look about as she goes in.

FX SHOT: We see glowing eyes in the bushes, unseen by Rani and Clyde though.

RANI

Quickly, Clyde!

And they go through the pavilion door.

CUT TO:

16

**INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. PAVILION -- NIGHT**

16

CLYDE pushes an old chair against the door.

CLYDE

Not exactly the Alamo...

RANI

I hope not. They got into the Alamo, Clyde.

CLYDE

Yeah. Well, it'll have to do.

(CONTINUED)

16

CONTINUED:

16

RANI

There was something in the bushes. I'm sure of it.

But Clyde is taking in the pavilion, anxious.

CLYDE

The trouble with tonight is it doesn't matter what you shut out -you never know what you're locking yourself in with.

Rani glances around the dark interior...

RANI

Great. Thanks for that thought.

CLYDE

Sorry. I just hope we gave Sarah Jane a chance to fix whatever's going on here.

CUT TO:

17

**INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. SECRET CHAMBER -- NIGHT**

17

SARAH JANE and TOBY are examining the accelerator.

TOBY

Is there some way of reversing it?

SARAH JANE

Possibly. I've seen trans-dimensional accelerators before - I travelled in something that used the same principle for years...

TOBY

You did what?

SARAH JANE

Oh, there are so many things out there more exciting than ghost hunting, Toby.

TOBY

Who exactly are you?

SARAH JANE

Nobody special. But there are amazing things in this world - this universe - things that your father would never believe. But if you look in the right places, you'll find them.

Toby regards the accelerator.

(CONTINUED)

17

CONTINUED:

17

TOBY

Well, this is pretty amazing. I think I'm beginning to see what you mean.

Sarah Jane smiles. Senses Toby starting to see her point of view.

SARAH JANE

Whatever he is now, Erasmus Darkening must once have been a very clever scientist.

DARKENING appears.

DARKENING

My mind is a colossus, Miss Smith. Time is meaningless to me. I have contemplated the physics of the universe, of time, and of life itself.

Darkening walks towards the accelerator, regards it fondly. Sarah Jane and Toby back away.

DARKENING (CONT'D)

Every being that has become part of my dominion sustains my existence.

SARAH JANE

You mean the accelerator is powered by the lives of the people it takes.

DARKENING

No-one dies here. I thought you understood that. The accelerator's malfunction transformed this house into a gateway to Eternity.

SARAH JANE

It's not a gateway, it's a trap. You're using the accelerator to steal life energy, to give you immortality.

DARKENING

And soon you too will be taken. No-one can escape the house. And it's a better fate than that faced by your young friends ...

SARAH JANE

Clyde and Rani? Where are they?

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

DARKENING

The accelerator was not entirely successful, but it did open a gateway - for something...

Sarah Jane is horrified.

SARAH JANE

The creature in the grounds! Oh no!  
They're outside!

Sarah Jane pushes past Darkening, followed by Toby. He doesn't try to stop either of them. Just laughs.

CUT TO:

18 **INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. PAVILION -- NIGHT**

18

CLYDE and RANI remain on edge. Clyde is looking out through a crack in the door.

CLYDE

If there was anything out there, I think it's gone.

RANI

Maybe we should make a break for it?  
Sarah Jane might need us.

And then - there's something on the roof.

CLYDE

What's that?

RANI

There's something up there.

And there's scratching. Like something trying to tear its way through the roof.

A hideous shadow crosses the skylight...

CLYDE

That's it! We're getting out of here!

They turn towards the boathouse door.

The thing outside is tapping at the door.

Clyde and Rani cry out together.

(CONTINUED)

18

CONTINUED:

18

RANI

(whispers)

You think that's what Sarah Jane was talking about?

The thing continues to tap on the door, monotonously

CLYDE

Well, at least it's polite.

The thing's claw scratches down the door..

Rani and Clyde are instinctively backing away.

RANI

What is it?

CLYDE

I don't know. But I'm pretty sure it's not from round here.

RANI

Clyde, it's going to get in. Any minute. We need a plan.

CLYDE

No. Not a plan. What we need are a couple of oars.

He reaches past her and takes two old wooden oars from the wrecked boat. Passes one to her. Takes hold of the other, determined.

And Rani's determined, too.

RANI

Right. Whatever's out there, it's not exactly bright is it? I mean, look at it. It could come through those windows, no problem.

CLYDE

You're right. We can take it.

RANI

Whatever "it" is.

CLYDE

Wherever "it's" from.

(then...)

It's him oar us.

Rani gives him a look -

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

And they brace themselves.

RANI

You ready?

Clyde hefts his oar.

CLYDE

Bring it on.

And Rani reaches for the door handle.

PRAC: Suddenly, outside - a single burst of blindingly bright light. Rani and Clyde, shrink back, covering their eyes.

RANI

What's going on?

CUT TO:

19

**EXT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. PAVILION -- MOMENTS LATER**

19

The pavilion door opens. CLYDE and RANI step out, their oars raised ready...

And find LORD MARCHWOOD sliding his sword back into its sheath.

LORD MARCHWOOD

Time runs short.

CUT TO:

19A

**INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. PANELLED ROOM -- NIGHT**

19A

RANI, CLYDE and LORD MARCHWOOD rush into the room as SARAH JANE and TOBY emerge from the secret passageway. She throws her arms around them.

SARAH JANE

Rani! Clyde! Thank goodness you're all right.

RANI

Lord Marchwood saved us, and got us back into the house.

Toby's eyes almost pop out of his head -

TOBY

You are Lord Marchwood?

(CONTINUED)

19A CONTINUED:

19A

As he pulls the hand-held EMF meter out, scans Lord Marchwood...

LORD MARCHWOOD

Nothing dies in Darkening's dominion.  
And nothing lives. I have done what I  
could to save people from this cursed  
house, and Darkening's power.

RANI

You've tried to save people? You mean  
you've tried to scare people away?

TOBY

The poltergeist activity. It was you?  
And - wow - look at these EMF readings.  
Your lordship, you are smoking! If  
this was a seismometer and you were a  
volcano, we'd be running away with our  
hair on fire.

Sarah Jane is thinking...

SARAH JANE

Let me look at that. That's  
extraordinary.

LORD MARCHWOOD

What is this sorcerer's box?

TOBY

This isn't sorcery, it's science.

Sarah Jane smiles at Toby -

SARAH JANE

That's right. And I think it's given me  
an idea how we can defeat Darkening.  
But, Lord Marchwood, we're going to need  
your help.

LORD MARCHWOOD

I brought this curse on my house, and my  
children. I would do anything to lift  
it.

SARAH JANE

Toby, how much electrical cabling do you  
have?

CUT TO:

20

INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. ENTRANCE HALL -- NIGHT

20

Four EMF meters are set up on tripods facing each other on the gallery-side of the family crest, much electrical cabling snaking off from them.

LORD MARCHWOOD throws open the front door, steps onto the family crest and bellows...

LORD MARCHWOOD

Darkening! Hear me, magician! The curse you have cast on this house ends tonight. For over three hundred years I have sought my children and watched you take soul after soul. But no more!

DARKENING (O.S.)

And you would stop me?

Marchwood whirls around - Darkening has appeared behind him.

DARKENING (CONT'D)

Was it not you, Marchwood, that brought all this upon your house?

LORD MARCHWOOD

It was your hand that took innocent people from the village, Darkening, and cast them into whatever infernal place they went. That took Elizabeth and Joseph.

CUT TO:

21

INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. ENTRANCE HALL -- FLASHBACK

21

SCENE 4, PREVIOUS EPISODE - LORD MARCHWOOD falls to his knees on the family crest (where he stands in Sc 20.)

MARCHWOOD

My children!

CUT TO:

21A

INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. SECRET CHAMBER -- NIGHT

21A

MARCHWOOD crashes into the chamber, murder in his eyes as he advances on horror-struck DARKENING, drawing his sword

DARKENING (V.O.)

It was your hand that drew against me and sought to take my life.

(CONTINUED)

21A CONTINUED:

21A

Darkening throws himself against the accelerator.  
Hitting a switch. The panel comes to life.

DARKENING (CONT'D)  
And founded my dominion.

The screen bleaches out in white light.

CUT TO:

22 **OMITTED**

22

23 **EXT. ASHEN HILL MANOR -- NIGHT**

23

FX SHOT: Brilliant white light bursts from every window.

CUT TO:

24 **INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. ENTRANCE HALL -- NIGHT**

24

LORD MARCHWOOD's hand is on the hilt of his sword as he glares at DARKENING.

LORD MARCHWOOD  
You took my children!

DARKENING  
I wanted only to return home. But you stopped my experiments.

CUT TO:

25 **INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. PANELLED ROOM -- NIGHT**

25

A TV monitor carries the picture from the entrance hall. SARAH JANE, RANI, CLYDE and TOBY gathered around the monitor, holding their breath.

SARAH JANE  
Lord Marchwood has to get Darkening to step into the electro-magnetic field.

CUT TO:

26 **INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. ENTRANCE HALL -- NIGHT**

26

LORD MARCHWOOD and DARKENING as they were.

LORD MARCHWOOD  
Experiments? You took innocent people and despatched their living souls to the Netherworld.

(CONTINUED)

26

CONTINUED:

26

Marchwood turns; draws his sword - stepping through and beyond the four EMF meters. Brandishes the sword.

LORD MARCHWOOD (CONT'D)  
But tonight I end this curse.

CUT TO:

27

INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. PANELLED ROOM -- NIGHT

27

SARAH JANE, CLYDE, RANI, TOBY, as they were watching the monitor...

SARAH JANE  
Energy can neither be created nor destroyed. Only changed. Every time Lord Marchwood attacked that creature outside he absorbed its energy.

CLYDE  
That's why the EMF meter spiked.

TOBY  
Electricity creates its own magnetic field.

SARAH JANE  
It will trap Darkening. And absorb him.

RANI  
Just turn him into electricity?

CLYDE  
But he has to step into our trap.

RANI  
And Lord Marchwood?

SARAH JANE  
If he's in it, he'll be destroyed.

And beyond Rani - Sarah Jane suddenly sees ELIZABETH and JOSEPH, holding hands - watching them.

CUT TO:

28

INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. ENTRANCE HALL -- NIGHT

28

And LORD MARCHWOOD, steps back between the EMF meters.

LORD MARCHWOOD  
Meet me, Darkening.

(CONTINUED)

DARKENING

You cannot harm me, Marchwood.

LORD MARCHWOOD

Then meet me. I know that you are not a man. But perhaps you can act like one, just this once.

And Darkening steps onto the family crest and throws back his head, laughing...

DARKENING

You think that I am so easily vanquished, Miss Smith? I told you, my intellect is a colossus. Did you think I would not see through such a transparent stratagem?

And SARAH JANE enters.

Darkening takes another step. Now he is directly on top of the family crest.

DARKENING (CONT'D)

You disappoint me, Sarah Jane Smith.

Sarah Jane smiles at him.

SARAH JANE

I never like to disappoint.

And Lord Marchwood thrusts his sword into the edge of the metal-laced family crest. \*

And from behind her back she reveals a rubber-gloved hand and an electric cable - \*

FX SHOT: She clips it to the sword and it crackles with electricity. \*

FX SHOT: Electricity runs down the sword, and bursts around the crest.

FX SHOT: Darkening is caught in the magnetic field, screaming.

DARKENING

Eternity! I have lost eternity!

Then a blinding white PRAC flash, as Sarah Jane turns away.

CUT TO:

29

INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. PANELLED ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

29

CLYDE, RANI and TOBY shield their eyes as the monitor screens flash with white light. Sparks and smoke.

CUT TO:

30

INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. ENTRANCE HALL -- NIGHT

30

SARAH JANE turns back but Darkening has gone.

RANI and CLYDE join her.

RANI

Are you alright?

SARAH JANE

I'm fine, thank you.

CLYDE

Darkening - has he gone?

SARAH JANE

I think so. The magnetic field blew his fuse. That's the trouble with having a colossus intellect - you think you're so much cleverer than everyone else, you never consider what other people might be hiding up their sleeves.

RANI

Lord Marchwood's gone, too. And his children.

CLYDE

What about Professor Rivers?

And from the great hall...

PROFESSOR RIVERS (O.S.)

What have you done to my equipment!

CUT TO:

31

INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. PANELLED ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

31

SARAH JANE, RANI and CLYDE gather in the doorway watching as PROFESSOR RIVERS gives TOBY a dressing-down amid the smoking monitoring gear.

PROFESSOR RIVERS

Do you have any idea how much this equipment is worth?!

(CONTINUED)

31

CONTINUED:

31

TOBY

I know, Professor. I'm sorry.

PROFESSOR RIVERS

We have just witnessed the most amazing phenomena in this house and do we have any record of it?

TOBY

Err... No. But, on the other hand, Professor, it wasn't paranormal - it was alien.

PROFESSOR RIVERS

I give up. I give up.

Sarah Jane, Clyde and Rani laugh.

CUT TO:

32

**INT. ASHEN HILL MANOR. SECRET CHAMBER -- DAY**

32

SARAH JANE is with CLYDE and RANI, regarding the accelerator.

SARAH JANE

The accelerator was synchronized with Darkening's energies, when the magnetic field destroyed him it must have overloaded, sending Professor Rivers back.

CLYDE

But what about all the others?

Sarah Jane shakes her head, sadly.

SARAH JANE

They wanted to be released. At least their nightmare is over.

Sarah Jane aims the sonic lipstick at the accelerator.

SARAH JANE (CONT'D)

But we can't leave Darkening's device as it is. I have to take care of it. Permanently.

PRAC sparks! The accelerator is deactivated.

RANI

And Lord Marchwood and his children? Do you think they found each other.

(CONTINUED)

32

CONTINUED:

32

SARAH JANE

I don't know.

CUT TO:

33

OMITTED

33

34

EXT. ASHEN HILL MANOR -- DAY

34

SARAH JANE, RANI and CLYDE are making their way to the car as PROFESSOR RIVERS, and TOBY pack away their gear.

PROFESSOR RIVERS

Well, I'm not sure that exercise proved or disproved anything as regards the paranormal. But it was certainly interesting.

Sarah Jane shakes her hand.

SARAH JANE

I'll look forward to the next time.

As Professor Rivers gets in the van. And Toby's there.

TOBY

I just wanted to thank you, Miss Smith.

SARAH JANE

I don't understand. For what?

TOBY

Let's say you've broadened my horizons. Maybe I shouldn't be looking for ghosts - I should be looking at the stars, instead.

SARAH JANE

It's a wonderful universe, Toby. And no matter how much you think you know, it will always have one more surprise for us. Don't ever forget that.

TOBY

I won't.

Toby gets into the van. Rani, Clyde and Sarah Jane watch them go.

RANI

So that's it, then. No more haunted house.

CLYDE

Weren't you paying attention? There never was a haunted house.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

34

CONTINUED:

34

CLYDE (CONT'D)

Just an alien with a trans-dimensional  
accelerator on the blink. No such thing  
as ghosts, eh, Sarah Jane?

Clyde and Rani get into the car. Sarah Jane looks back  
at the house. Something catches her eye. She smiles.

SARAH JANE

(almost ironic)

That's right. No such thing as ghosts.

She gets into the car and it pulls away.

FX SHOT: The CAMERA looks back up at Ashen Hill Manor -  
and we see what Sarah Jane just saw... There in one of  
the windows: LORD MARCHWOOD with his children, ELIZABETH  
and JOSEPH. Looking happy.

Reunited.

FADE OUT:

**EPISODE ENDS**