

TORCHWOOD

ASYLUM

By Anita Sullivan

* A note about Freda's voice. She is from 2059 and UK language has evolved. Her grammar is generally 'multiethnic youth vernacular'. Her vocabulary incorporates a few Scandinavian derived words. But her accent should be Cardiff.

1. **ARRIVAL**

The Weir footbridge, Maindy, Cardiff around 7.00 am. A man walks his dog along the bank. The dog starts whining.

1. DOG OWNER Samson? What's up with you? Come here.
Here!

[The sky rips open and a body falls, screaming, into the river. It is Freda. The dog starts barking.]

2. DOG OWNER Blimey!

[Splashing, gasping she fights her way to the riverbank.]

3. DOG OWNER This way! That's it! Give us your hand.

[Freda takes his hand, and is hauled onto the bank, coughing and retching.]

4. DOG OWNER Are you OK?

[The dog is going bonkers, barking and snarling.]

5. FREDA The dog!

6. DOG OWNER He won't hurt you.

7. FREDA Call him off!

[Freda is staggering off as fast as she can.]

8. DOG OWNER You nearly drowned. You can't just...

[The dog is still whining anxiously.]

9. DOG OWNER ...Run off. Hey... Hey!

[Freda's gone. Samson howls.]

10. DOG OWNER It's all right Samson. All gone. All gone.

2. OPENING ANNOS/ TORCHWOOD MUSIC AND BRANDING

At the end of opening annos a shop alarm cross fades into the background of the following scene.

3. **SHOPLIFTER**

Cardiff town centre, just after 9am. Freda is pinned to the ground by a security guard outside BHS. Freda is screaming and fighting.

11. GUARD This is shop property!

12. FREDA Is mine, krackskull [idiot].

[Police car pulls up, doors open.]

13. GUARD I saw you lift it!

14. FREDA Get off me!

[Andy arrives at a run.]

15. FREDA Let me go!

16. GUARD Ow! You little skank!

17. ANDY Stop there, both of you.

18. GUARD She bit me!

19. ANDY And you're crushing her. Let her sit up. I'll take it from here.

[The guard gets off Freda.]

20. ANDY [To Freda] You: keep your backside on the pavement and your hands where I can see them.

[To guard.] And you: tell me what happened?

21. GUARD Caught her shop-lifting. Picked out a coat, put it on, walked out. Bold as brass. When I confronted her, she pulled a gun. I disarmed her and...

22. ANDY Where's the weapon?

23. GUARD Here.

24. ANDY This isn't a firearm. Looks more like a radar gun.

[To Freda.] Where'd you get this? Eh?

[Freda doesn't answer]

25. ANDY What's your name?

[Freda doesn't answer]

26. ANDY Did you steal that coat?

[Freda doesn't answer]

27. ANDY OK. Play it that way if you like.

I'm arresting you on suspicion of robbery. You don't have to say anything, but it may harm your defence if you don't mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence.

In other words, it helps if you tell me your side of the story... if you have one.

[Freda doesn't say anything.]

28. ANDY I'm noting that the suspect said nothing.

[To Freda.] Come on, trouble. On your feet. We're going for a little ride in a police car.

4. **THE HUB**

The Hub, a quiet morning. Gwen is working on the computer. Jack is throwing knives. There is a whistle and a thud as Jack throws a knife.

29. JACK Triple 20.

[Whistle and thud.]

30. JACK Triple 20 twice!

31. GWEN Jack, that's very distracting.

32. JACK Going for 180!

33. GWEN Jack!

[Whistle and a clatter.]

34. GWEN Oops.

35. JACK See, that's the thing about knife throwing. You need a live subject to sharpen your concentration.

36. GWEN I'm busy.

37. JACK With what?

38. GWEN Rift databases.

[Computer beep.]

39. GWEN [To computer] Oh, you stupid, stupid machine!

40. JACK Leave that. Come and be my beautiful assistant.

[In the background the main door opens. Ianto arrives.]

41. IANTO Morning all.

42. JACK Ianto!

43. IANTO Quiet night?

44. GWEN [To computer] Argghhh!

45. JACK The only monster here is Gwen. Save me, Ianto. Come Weevil hunting.

46. IANTO Well. See, the thing is...

47. JACK You know you want to...

48. IANTO ...our accounts are due at the end of the month and...

49. JACK I thought Torchwood was unaccountable?

[Gwen's mobile rings.]

50. IANTO Not to the Inland Revenue.

[Gwen answers it. We hear her side of the call only.]

51. GWEN Gwen Cooper... Oh, hello. And a very good morning to you too. What's up...? OK...? A laser? OK. I'm on my way.

[She hangs up.]

52. JACK On your way where?

53. GWEN The station, interview room three. Andy's got someone in custody he thinks we should meet.

5. **THE PLAYGROUND**

Freda is in the police interview room being questioned.

54. WPC So how old are you? If you're seventeen or under we need to get you an appropriate adult. Mum, big sister, teacher...? Do you want to make a phone call?

[WPC's voice fades down. We hear Freda's thoughts. Memory sound: kids' voices in a locker room.]

55. FREDA **[Internal voice.]** School. I remember... A girl hostiling me.

56. GIRL **[Memory space.]** Who's your mam, ghostie?

57. FREDA **[Internal voice.]** I says nothing.

58. GIRL **[Memory space.]** Hey, gore guzzler: cat ate yer tongue? Or you ate the cat?'

59. GIRL & FREDA Cry, ghostie! Cry! Cry!'

[WPC's voice and interview room atmos fades back up, into Freda's thoughts.]

60. WPC Oi. Are you listening to me, girl?

61. FREDA **[Internal voice.]** But I don't cry. I watch.

62. WPC May as well be talking to the chair.

63. FREDA **[Internal voice.]** Hate and fear all mixed up.

6. **RUNAWAY**

[Gwen, Jack and Andy are standing outside police interview room three looking in at Freda.]

64. GWEN Poor kid. Looks scared to death.

65. ANDY Probably her first time in a cell: she doesn't have a record on Livescan.

66. JACK What **do** you know about her?

67. ANDY Nothing. She won't talk.

68. JACK What did she shoplift?

69. ANDY Essentials. Sandwich. Street map. Coat.

70. GWEN A runaway, then.

71. ANDY Been through some kind of trauma. She's soaking wet, covered in mud and she's got this burn on her hand.

72. GWEN Where are Social Services?

73. ANDY On their way, apparently... Do you want to see the gun?

[The gun is in an evidence bag.]

74. ANDY I think it's a radar device...

75. JACK Or infra-red. Maybe both.

76. ANDY It's like nothing I've seen before.

77. JACK And probably won't for years...

78. ANDY You what?

79. JACK ...I wonder where she got it.

[Beat.]

80. JACK OK, Andy. We'll take her.

81. ANDY Take **her**? I called you because of the gun...

82. JACK The gun and the girl are connected.

83. ANDY But she's in our custody. And she's a minor. If you're not CRB checked you can't touch her.
End of story.

84. GWEN Jack... why don't I talk to her first? See what we're dealing with? Then we can liaise with Andy about the next steps.

85. JACK Liaise? Fine. Do the good-cop routine, if you must. I'll deal with the gun. I embrace the stereotype.

86. GWEN Good.

87. JACK [Cross fading over top of next scene]
But if she won't talk, take blood. And watch her body reactions for anything unusual.

7. **WHITE PAINT**

[Freda is in the interview room. Murmur of Jack's voice]

88. FREDA

[Internal voice.]

**Other side of the glass. I know they's
talking about me, but I don't hear no
words.**

[Memory sound: window cleaning.]

89. FREDA

[Internal voice.]

**I remembers... a different window. White
paint spucked all over. An accident?
[Realises.] No! The neighbours done it. I
sees... white hands. Someone outside,
trying to clean it. Cloth smears the glass.
Her face, making crying shapes. I
remembers. She's me mam.**

[The interview room door opens, interrupting her thoughts.]

8. **INTERVIEW ROOM**

Gwen enters the interview room and approaches Freda.]

90. GWEN Hello. I'm Gwen. Mind if I sit down?

[Freda doesn't answer.]

91. GWEN Can I get you a drink? I'd give the coffee a miss, but the chocolate's all right.

[Freda doesn't answer. Gwen sits.]

92. GWEN So. What's your name?

[Freda doesn't answer.]

93. GWEN Where are you from?

[Freda doesn't respond.]

94. GWEN You do speak English, right?

[Freda doesn't respond.]

95. GWEN If you don't want to talk, that's fine. But give us a nod if you understand.

[Freda nods.]

96. GWEN Good. Not talking to myself then, eh? See, I'm not interested in the shoplifting. We know what happened: it's all on camera. What I am interested in though, is the gun. Where you got it.

[Freda doesn't respond.]

97. GWEN Did you buy it? Find it?

[Freda doesn't respond.]

98. GWEN Did someone give it to you?

[Freda doesn't respond.]

99. GWEN OK. Too many questions. You've had a rough morning. A rough journey. Right?

[Freda doesn't respond.]

100. GWEN This is Cardiff, Wales, The Earth. The year is 2009.

[Freda very quietly starts to cry.]

101. GWEN It's all right. You're not in trouble. We get quite a lot of this round here. It's my job to... help people who are lost. So. Where shall we start?

102. FREDA [Very quiet.] Freda.

[Pause.]

103. FREDA My name's Freda.

104. GWEN OK Freda. Let's see about getting you out of here, shall we?

[The POV shifts to inside Freda's head. Gwen's voice is in the background, coming in and out of focus.]

105. FREDA **[Internal voice.]**
Out there... Out there is over-loud, over-bright.

106. GWEN We're going to take you somewhere safe and comfortable.

107. FREDA **[Internal voice.] Autos everywhere. Not like home.**

108. GWEN But I'd like to take a blood sample for health screening, first.

109. FREDA **[Internal voice.]**
Blood. Summink in the blood.

110. GWEN Is that all right with you?

111. FREDA **[Internal voice.]**
Wanna remember, but is all skilaboo
[messed up] in me head.

112. GWEN I can do it if you like, or we can get you a nurse?

113. FREDA **[Internal voice.]**
Don't show the fear.

114. GWEN Good girl.

115. FREDA **[Internal voice.]**
Fear gets you noticed.

116. GWEN Relax your arm.

117. FREDA **[Internal voice.]**
Fear of what?

118. GWEN Sharp scratch.

119. FREDA **[Internal voice.]**
Summink bad! Over-bad...! Them.

120. GWEN There. All done.

121. FREDA **[Internal voice.]**
The others.

122. GWEN You OK? You've gone a bit pale?

123. FREDA **[Internal voice.]**
Ghostie.

9. RED BUTTON

The SUV. Ianto driving. Jack front seat passenger.

125. IANTO So what's she like?

126. JACK About sixteen. Skinny. Pale. And packing a laser gun.

127. IANTO Probably from Newport, then.

[Jack gets the gun out of the evidence bag.]

128. JACK This is it. No sights. Big red button.

129. IANTO Not while I'm driving!

130. JACK It's a toy, Ianto.

131. IANTO We should do proper tests...

132. JACK How bad can it be?

133. IANTO Jack!

[Jack pushes the button. A brief very high pitched whine. Buzz as all the electric windows wind down.]

134. IANTO Did **you** open all the windows?

135. JACK I think this did.

136. IANTO Interesting toy.

137. JACK Let's try Setting Two.

[Jack pushes the button. A brief very high pitched whine. Radio switches itself on: it's a local radio advert.]

138. RADIO ACTOR ...no win, no fee: it worked for me...

[Radio continues with a tacky jingle under the following dialogue.]

139. JINGLE "If you've had a bash
In an accident
And you need some cash
Call Fox and Brent
Fox and Brent."
Call 02920 181 181 to start your claim.

140. IANTO It's tuned itself to Swansea Sound.

[Jack turns off the radio.]

141. JACK This 'gun' is a remote control.

142. IANTO What would a teenage girl be doing with
something like this?

143. JACK I dread to think. Setting Three?

144. IANTO If you point it out the window.

[Jack fires the gun: louder blast. Computer beeps. An alarm sounds.]

145. IANTO The SUV computer's gone down.

146. JACK And comms.

147. IANTO Can you reverse it?

148. JACK Maybe the R button means 'Reset'.

[Jack fires the gun: even louder blast.]

149. IANTO Or 'Red'...

[Car horns. Ianto breaks hard.]

150. IANTO ...which is now the colour of all the traffic-lights.

151. JACK Oops.

[They open SUV doors. Street chaos. Angry voices. They get out of the SUV.]

152. IANTO Uh, Jack? Look. All the CCTV cameras are pointing at the sky.

153. JACK You know what this means?

154. IANTO We should swerve Setting Four?

155. JACK This device disrupts transport, communications and security. In the wrong hands, this is a weapon.

156. IANTO It's gridlocked. We'll need a helicopter to get back to the hub now.

157. JACK Or a motorbike. Like this F-Z-6? Perfect for city driving.

[Metalic tinkering noises.]

158. IANTO It's locked.

159. JACK Not for long.

[Clunk as bike lock falls off.]

160. IANTO Isn't that stealing?

[Jack mounts the bike, tinkers about with the ignition.]

161. JACK 'Commandeering'. I'll give it back.

162. IANTO In one piece?

[Jack revs up the bike.]

163. JACK Hello pussycat!

164. IANTO Meow!

165. JACK Hop on, then!

166. IANTO Yes, sir!

[Ianto gets on. Jack pulls away with a roar.]

10. **SAFE HOUSE**

We're in the safe house. The flat door unlocks and Freda, Andy and Gwen enter.

167. GWEN Well. This is it.

[Gwen locks front door, crosses to kitchen/ diner.]

168. FREDA Wow. Retro or what!

169. GWEN Take a look round. Pick a room.

[Freda exits smartly up a short corridor. We stay with Gwen and Andy in the kitchen.]

170. GWEN What's that face for?

171. ANDY Nothing. I just thought Torchwood would be more... high tech.

[Gwen fills a kettle, turns it on.]

172. GWEN This is a refuge, you dope. It's supposed to be homely...

[We hear Freda exploring distantly. Gwen opens kitchen cupboards.]

173. ANDY What's all that stuff?

174. GWEN Ianto's been shopping.

175. ANDY He's stocked up for World War Three!

176. FREDA [Off.] I'll take the green room.

177. GWEN [Calling.] Righto!

178. ANDY This is just temporary, right? Until we've ID'd the weapon and located Freda's family.

179. GWEN Until the Torchwood investigation is completed. Yes.

[Beat.]

180. GWEN Andy. Let's get something straight. You're here as a police observer...

181. ANDY Observer?

182. GWEN There are things...

183. ANDY I'm not just a baby-sitter...

184. GWEN ...we can't discuss.

185. ANDY ...this is my case!

186. GWEN We will share any information /that is relevant...

[Freda comes back in, interrupts.]

187. FREDA The windows is all locked.

188. GWEN This is a safe-house. Safe flat.

189. FREDA I'm a prisoner.

190. GWEN For your protection.

[Beat]

191. GWEN Freda, show me your hand.

[Freda doesn't say anything.]

192. GWEN I won't touch, just look.

[Freda lets Gwen look at her hand.]

193. GWEN That's a nasty burn. If you don't get it cleaned up you'll get sick.

[The kettle boils.]

194. GWEN There's some swabs and a dressing on the table.

[Freda sits down at the table. Rips open a packet.]

195. ANDY I'll make the tea then, shall I?

196. GWEN Coffee, thanks.

[Andy makes drinks. Freda starts to clean her wound.]

197. GWEN ...Careful, Freda. That's going to...

198. FREDA [Winces.]

199. GWEN ...sting.

200. FREDA Ow-ow-ow!

201. GWEN Shall I do it?

202. FREDA OK.

[GWEN takes over the wound cleaning.]

203. ANDY Milk and sugar?

204. GWEN No thanks.

205. FREDA Me nunk [neither].

206. ANDY 'Nunk'? You talk funny, you do.

207. FREDA So do you, manno!

208. FREDA [Winces.]

209. GWEN Sorry. I'm being as gentle as I can.

[Andy sets biscuits and drinks to the table.]

210. ANDY How'd you get burned like that anyway?

211. FREDA [End of conversation.]

I don't know.

[Beat.]

212. FREDA Is... like trying to remember a dream?
Somethings comes right at you, full... but if
you over-think... is gone. I remember when I
were at school, but can't remember
yesterday. Is all skillaboo [messed up].

213. GWEN What do you remember?

214. FREDA Bits. A rap from a song. A sight from a
window. A manno. Yelling. Reaching down.
Hole in a roof with smoke rushing out. Bang:
canister-meals explode. Crash: stairs
collapse.

215. ANDY And that was how you got burned?

216. FREDA It don't feel like my memory. More like
summink I seed in a DV.

217. GWEN Anything else?

218. FREDA An address. 51 Lundy Street.

219. ANDY That's here. In Cardiff.

220. FREDA For vrai?

221. ANDY What's there?

222. FREDA Dunno. All I sees is a tree.

223. GWEN What kind of tree?

224. FREDA Big one with yellow flowers. I remember a name too. Moira Evans. But I don't know if it's part of the same thing.

[Beat.]

225. FREDA Can I go there? It might help me remember.

226. ANDY I don't see why not. With an escort.

227. GWEN Andy... I'll have to get clearance, once the blood work's come through.

228. ANDY Blood work?

229. FREDA Yah-fair! [Yeah, right] I knew you'd say 'no'.

230. GWEN I haven't said 'no'.

231. FREDA As good as. Yous acting like yous my friends. But for vrai yous my gaolers.

232. GWEN Hey, hey. We're stuck here too, Freda. I'd love to go home but until we all get the all clear, I can't.

233. FREDA I telled you, I ent sick.

234. ANDY Let's hope not, eh?

[Pause. Gwen's finished the cleaning.]

235. GWEN Right. All done. Shall I put a dressing on that, or are you going to have a bath?

236. FREDA A bath? We's permissioned to use the bath?

237. GWEN I'd actively encourage it.

238. FREDA What gives with the water ration?

239. GWEN We don't have that here. There's lots of water in Cardiff. Hot water, if you fancy a soak.

240. FREDA Does I? Is too much, this! Too much!

[Freda exits to the bathroom.]

241. ANDY [Softly.] You're telling me.

11. **RIFT SPIKE**

Jack is in his office at the hub, tapping away at the computer. Office door open.

242. JACK Aye, aye. Got you.

[Calling]. Ianto! Take a look at this!

243. IANTO [Slightly off]. Yes, boss.

[Ianto enters the office.]

244. JACK Today's rift stats. Look.

245. IANTO Nothing. No activity.

246. JACK Ah... But if I increase the sample rate...
there: 7.03 am by the weir.

247. IANTO That's tiny. Too small to even trip the alarm.

248. JACK But just big enough to let someone through.

[Beat.]

249. IANTO We should update Gwen.

[IANTO speed-dials her number.]

250. JACK Put it on speaker.

[Gwen picks up. Feedback. Then her voice echoes over the speaker phone.]

She is in the safe-house kitchen with Andy]

251. GWEN [Through speaker phone.] Hello?

252. JACK: Gwen. There was a rift spike this morning, above the river at Maindy.

253. GWEN [Through speaker phone.] You think she came through? She was soaking. It fits.

254. JACK The spike was very localised. Like someone opened a window.

255. GWEN [Through speaker phone.] What are you saying? She can control the rift?

256. JACK Someone can. And she was carrying a potentially dangerous piece of kit.

257. GWEN [Through speaker phone.] So she's come here for a reason.

258. JACK It's possible.

259. GWEN [Through speaker phone.] She's remembered a contact: Moira Evans, 51 Lundy Street. And something about a house fire. That's all I've got so far.

260. ANDY [Through speaker phone, in background.] I'll call the station, get occupancy data.

261. GWEN [Through speaker phone, off, to Andy.]

It's OK, Andy. We'll handle it.

262. IANTO We tested the gun. It's future tech, not off-world. A remote control. Powerful enough to short security cameras.

263. GWEN [Through speaker phone.]
And what about the blood test?

264. IANTO Should be finished in... twenty minutes.

265. ANDY [Through speaker phone. Slightly off.]
Tell them about the water ration!

266. GWEN [Through speaker phone. Calling off.]
OK.

267. GWEN [Through speaker phone. Close, whispered.]
I better go.

268. JACK Keep that pet bobby of yours on a leash.
Don't make me ret-con him.

269. GWEN [Through speaker phone.]
I'll do my best...

270. JACK And Gwen. She may well be an innocent traveller. But until we know that for sure... stay focused. Objective.

[Gwen hangs up].

12. GOOD TIMES

Safe house, shortly after Gwen has hung up the phone.

271. ANDY She has a Cardiff accent but uses odd words.
She talks about canister meals and carries a
radar gun. You're talking about some rift
thing...

272. GWEN Whatever you're thinking. Stop.

273. ANDY You've quarantined me and that's all you're
going to say?

274. GWEN Andy, I can't tell you. I'm sorry. You've heard
too much /already.

275. ANDY This rift... it's like a... like a parallel universe,
right?

276. GWEN No!

277. ANDY What then?

[Beat]

278. GWEN You're here to protect Freda. Yes?

279. ANDY Yes.

280. GWEN Then please. Just try and... go with it, if you
can? You may see or hear things that don't
make sense. But if you panic, she'll panic and
who knows...

[Freda enters.]

281. FREDA Smells good.

282. GWEN It's just a pizza, bit of salad. That all right for you?

283. FREDA Top borze! [Excellent.] Is it veggivore?

284. ANDY Uh... No. Ham and mushroom.

285. FREDA Don't matter. I's too hungry!

286. GWEN You drew the short straw, Freda. Ianto's the cook. He makes pizza from scratch, dough and everything...

[Gwen's voice and the live atmos fade down during the speech above and we hear Freda's thoughts.]

287. FREDA **[Internal voice.]**
Hungry. "Watch out for your pets." Who says that? "Don't let 'em out, there's a ghostie about." In the press. That word again: 'ghostie'.

[Andy, Gwen and live atmos fades back up.]

288. ANDY Grub's up. Grab a plate.

289. FREDA **[Internal voice.]**
Gagging for gore.

290. GWEN You OK?

291. FREDA Uh. Yeah. Are these... fresh tomatoes?

292. ANDY Yeah. 'Top borze'? Right?

293. FREDA Right. You is picking up the Scandy, squad-man!

[Gwen's laughing.]

294. FREDA What? What!

295. GWEN The amazing powers of junk food. You're almost human again.

[Pause. Eating.]

296. GWEN We need to get you some proper clothes, Freda. Help you blend in.

297. FREDA Should do summink about my hair an' all. I's got all these burnt bits? See?

298. GWEN Well, now that you mention it.

299. FREDA But I ent got no money for attiring.

300. GWEN We'll pay.

301. ANDY Hear that? No more shop-lifting.

302. FREDA I didn't shop-lift on purpose. It were a mistake. My Urk malfunctioned.

303. GWEN Urk?

304. FREDA Universal Remote Control.

305. ANDY The gun?

306. FREDA Right! You wanna buy something you run the Urk over the zed code and it debits your ration. But it don't work 'ere.

307. GWEN No, it wouldn't.

308. ANDY Hang on.

309. FREDA [To Gwen.] You eating that?

310. ANDY Am I hearing this right?

311. GWEN [To Freda.] Have it.

[Freda eats Gwen's tomato.]

312. ANDY Where she's from they've got personal debit machines?

313. GWEN Andy...

314. ANDY But no tomatoes? No water? It's like she's from here, but a **different** here.

315. GWEN Please, just leave it...

316. ANDY She's from the future!

317. FREDA The future.

318. ANDY That's it, isn't it?

319. GWEN Right. Come on, Freda. Girl time. I'm going to
 give you that haircut.

13. **TEST RESULTS**

Ianto is in the hub. He is tapping away at the computer. Jack walks in from his office.

320. JACK OK. Moira Evans pays single-occupancy council tax at Lundy Street. But she doesn't have a bank account, passport or National Insurance number.

[Beat.]

321. IANTO [Puzzled] Hmm...

322. JACK What's up?

323. IANTO I got the results.

324. JACK And?

325. IANTO Freda doesn't have any T-cells.

326. JACK No immune system?

327. IANTO Her monocyte count is healthy.

328. JACK Has she got a virus or not?

329. IANTO All scans negative.

330. JACK Run them again.

331. IANTO

I am. I also checked haemoglobin and look...
Her blood chemistry is just bazaar. I'm no
expert Jack but... surely, that can't be human.

14. **HAIRCUT**

15.

Gwen and Freda are in the bathroom of the safe house. Gwen is cutting Freda's hair.

332. FREDA Oi! Don't cut no more off!

333. GWEN Keep your hair on! I just need to even up the sides...

[Scissors snipping. Beat.]

334. GWEN There. What do you think?

335. FREDA Is all right. Schlemp it up with some product, hit the runway. You say that now?

336. GWEN No. But I catch your drift.

[Beat.]

337. GWEN The words you use. There's some German in there, isn't there?

338. FREDA Dunno. Is just how people talk. Lots of Icelander incomers in my time.

339. GWEN You're remembering aren't you?

340. FREDA Bits.

341. GWEN What's your date of birth?

342. FREDA 30-05-53. Citizen UK818945 slash CF209B. Yeah, is coming back full!

343. GWEN So you're now... sixteen?

344. FREDA Seventeen.

345. GWEN So you came from 2069? What's it like?

346. FREDA Dark. Grid-power unpermissioned in the daytime, see. Gotta conserve resources.

347. GWEN You said something about rationing?

348. FREDA For vrai. Fair, we have what we need, most of the time. But there ent all the choice you has.

349. GWEN Sounds like you lived in difficult times.

350. FREDA Is what you're used to?

[Beat.]

351. GWEN You OK?

352. FREDA I just... feel homesick for something, real bad, but I can't remember what.

353. GWEN Can you remember how you got here?

354. FREDA I were in the river. That's it.

355. GWEN Nothing before that?

356. FREDA No.

357. GWEN Really? Nothing?

[Beat.]

358. FREDA It don't make no sense!

359. GWEN Maybe it will to me.

360. FREDA It won't.

361. GWEN Try me.

362. FREDA I...

363. GWEN Go on.

364. FREDA I fell out the sky.

[Beat.]

365. FREDA I were in the fire. I were on the roof. I were in this.... Light storm. For so long! Then I fell out the sky into the river. That ent possible is it? Ent possible!

366. GWEN Actually, it is. Cardiff has a big secret. There's a kind of... door in the sky that goes to other places, other times. Now I don't know if you opened that door, or just fell through it somehow. But here you are. You came through the rift.

367. FREDA Rift. OK.

368. GWEN That's probably why your memory is all messed up.

369. FREDA Will it come back?

370. GWEN It's starting to. So that's good, eh?

371. FREDA Can I go home?

372. GWEN We're working on that. But at the moment, we can't control the rift. I'm sorry.

[Beat.]

373. GWEN You OK?

374. FREDA I ent... got much to go back to, that I remember. I miss me mam, but... Where I's from... People is over-stressed, angry. Gotta take it out on someone. The ghosties get it worst, but anyone a bit different is...

[A phone rings in the next room.]

375. GWEN What are ghosties?

[Andy picks up the phone.]

376. ANDY [Off.] P.C. Davidson, here... Oh, hello Jack.

377. GWEN Hold that thought. This might be our all-clear.

16. **THE BIG REVEAL**

The safe-house dining-room, following directly from previous scene. Andy is on the phone as Gwen enters from the bathroom.]

378. ANDY She's in the bathroom. Can I take a message...?

[Gwen grabs the phone.]

379. GWEN Hi, I'm here. You got the results...?

[We hear a whisper of Jack's voice on the other end.]

380. GWEN No virus?

381. ANDY Thank god!

[Jack speaks.]

382. GWEN What kind of problem?

383. ANDY What? What's the matter?

[Jack speaks.]

384. GWEN [Whispered]. What?

[Jack speaks.]

385. GWEN OK. So what do we do now?

[Jack speaks.]

386. GWEN I'll bring her in.

[Gwen hangs up.]

387. ANDY What's going on?

388. GWEN Lockdown. I'm taking her to The Hub.

389. ANDY OK. I'll call the station.

390. GWEN No.

391. ANDY No?

392. GWEN I'm sorry Andy, but your case is closed.

393. ANDY What?

394. GWEN We're taking it from here.

395. ANDY No way! Wherever she goes, I go.

396. GWEN She has to be isolated.

397. ANDY Why? What's wrong with her?

398. GWEN She's different. OK. And that's....

399. ANDY ...that's all you're going to say? Right. Gwen, I've trusted you with this- Torchwood thing-

because I kept telling myself 'She's a good person, she's doing the right thing'. But this: locking up a vulnerable kid, isolating her? That's basic human rights, Gwen. I can't just trust you on this one. You have to tell me.

[Beat.]

400. GWEN OK. She's not human.

401. ANDY What?! What are you saying? She's an animal...?

402. GWEN Andy...

403. ANDY A monster...?

404. GWEN No!

405. ANDY ...An alien?

406. GWEN [Hisses] Keep your voice down.

[Beat]

407. ANDY Freda's an alien!

[Smash of glass from the bathroom.]

408. GWEN Oh my God...! Freda?

[Another glass smash. Gwen and Andy run.]

409. GWEN Freda!

[They reach the bathroom, crunch of feet on glass.]

410. GWEN She's jumped straight through the glass!

411. ANDY That's over twenty feet... She's up. She's running!

412. GWEN She's got away!

413. ANDY Oh no she hasn't.

17. **FREDA FLEES**

[Freda is physically running but her thoughts are elsewhere.]

414. FREDA 'Don't run', says mam. 'If you run they'll hostile you'. But is her wants to run: can't hardly stop herself. Fear goes down her arm into my hand as we casual towards the round-up squad. The dogs. 'Yes, officer. Here's our papers'. Smile as my guts turn over. Why is us so scared? [Realising.] Because it's us they's after!

415. CYCLIST Oi!

[Freda has crossed a road without looking. A cyclist almost knocks her over, bell ringing.]

416. CYCLIST Look where you're going!

417. FREDA Sorry.

18. **POLICE CAR**

Andy is driving at high speed with the blues on.

418. ANDY I can't believe it! She looks so human.

419. GWEN Her physiology is totally different.

420. ANDY She yawns like a human, cries like a human...

421. GWEN Keep your eye on the road.

422. ANDY But I just can't believe it.

423. GWEN Slow down...!

424. ANDY This can't be real.

425. GWEN ...And turn off the blues. This is supposed to be a covert operation, Andy!

426. ANDY But we have to stop her!

427. GWEN What? Taking over the world?

[Beat.]

428. GWEN She's on foot, unarmed, heading for Lundy Street. Jack's on his way too. We just pick her up and take her to The Hub. Calmly. OK?

[Andy turns off the blues and slows down.]

429. GWEN Thank you.

430. ANDY So this is what you do. Fight monsters.

431. GWEN We deal with whatever comes through the rift.
Sometimes it's aliens.

432. ANDY I knew it!

433. GWEN Once it was a light aircraft from 1953.

434. ANDY Why didn't you tell me?

435. GWEN Because I knew how you'd react.

436. ANDY What do you mean, 'react'?

[He blares his horn, yells out the window.]

437. ANDY Oi! This is a one-way street, pal! What is this:
National Outpatient's Day?

19. **LUNDY STREET**

Freda is running up Lundy Street. We hear her thoughts, counting street numbers. Externally, we hear her panting.

438. FREDA **[Internal voice] 55... 53... 51. 51 Lundy Street.**

[Her feet pause.]

439. FREDA **[Internal voice] There's the Acacia. Tree from the other side of the world. Shouldn't live in Cardiff, but it do. Did. Til they have to cut it down to grow veg.**

[Her feet continue, through a gate then echoing as they go through a narrow sideway.]

440. FREDA **[Internal voice] Round the back, by the trash-crush... Ent there. They has bins now. No dog bark... 'Cos he don't exist yet neither. The garden...**

[She is now walking on the lawn.]

441. FREDA **[Internal voice] I remembers this place so well. Shed. Pond.**

[She shifts a flower pot.]

442. FREDA **[Internal voice]** Key still under the pot.
Feels wrong without Buster, mind.
Important to have a dog, Mam said. Dogs
don't like ghosties. Mam. Mam...

[Freda breathes hard, falls to her knees.]

443. FREDA **[Internal voice]** Can't breathe. Summink
bad. Over-bad. Summink my body
remembers. Don't wanna remember...

444. GWEN Freda?

[Pause.]

445. FREDA You.

[Freda pulls herself together.]

445. FREDA Why's **you** here?

446. GWEN I'm here to take you to safety.

447. FREDA Prison?

448. GWEN We're trying to help you.

449. FREDA Help? You lock us up, tell us I's got a disease,
call us a monster! I ent coming. I's staying
here.

550. ANDY I suggest you co-operate.

551. FREDA Or what?

552. GWEN Andy I'm handling this.

[Beat. Andy backs down.]

553. GWEN So you want to stay here. Well, let's talk about that. Why this house?

554. FREDA I dunno.

555. GWEN What do you remember about it?

556. FREDA Nothing.

557. ANDY Who's Moira Evans...? Is she one of you? Is she your leader?

558. GWEN Andy...

559. FREDA Leader?! She's my grandma! [Realising.]
Yeah! Grandma Evans. I remember! This were our house! I growed up here. We all lived here: me, Mam, gran...

560. ANDY It's an invasion!

561. GWEN ...Andy, please!

562. FREDA I don't know what you's talking about!

[Beat.]

563. GWEN Freda... you do know you're not human?

564. FREDA What?

565. GWEN We looked at your blood.

566. FREDA No.

567. GWEN It's there in black and white.

568. FREDA Is a lie!

569. ANDY Freda, we know! You just jumped out a second floor window, slashed your arms but you're not bleeding. Why?

570. FREDA Because I'm, what? Alien? Ghostie? Is that what you think?

[She remembers.]

571. FREDA That **is** it, ent it? What I am.

572. GWEN We think so. Yes.

[Beat.]

573. FREDA So what? What's it to you? What does it matter what's in my blood? My family live here fifty year without causing no trouble to no one. Why is yous all hostiling me? I en't done nothing wrong.

574. ANDY You were carrying a weapon.

575. FREDA An Urk!

576. ANDY You came through the rift.

577. FREDA By accident.

578. ANDY You're an alien.

579. GWEN Andy. You are NOT helping.

580. FREDA Half alien. My dad were human.

581. ANDY Oh, that's OK then!

582. FREDA So what you gonna do about it, squad man?
Shoot us?

583. GWEN No one is going to get shot, Freda.
Torchwood is going to help you.

584. FREDA Torchwood?

585. GWEN But you have to come with us.

586. FREDA Torch. Wood. What's that smell, that horrible smell?

587. GWEN Freda?

588. FREDA The fire! The fire were here. I remember...

[She is having trouble breathing.]

589. FREDA Flames. Over hot to breathe. Smoke hostiling.
Burning. Burning hair.

[She's choking.]

590. FREDA They tried to kill us!

591. GWEN Who did?

592. FREDA You! People! Killed my mam! Just like she always said you would!

593. GWEN Freda, it's OK.

594. FREDA GET AWAY FROM ME! LEAVE ME ALONE!

[Freda makes a break for it. We hear sounds of a motorbike arriving]

595. GWEN Freda! Wait!

[Jack arrives with his service revolver.]

596. JACK Freeze!

[Everything stops.]

597. JACK Get on the floor and put your hands where I can see them.

[She doesn't move.]

598. JACK On the floor! Now!

599. FREDA Or what? You'll shoot me? Do it. I ent got nothing to lose. Do it! Do it!

[Beat. Jack can't shoot.]

600. FREDA Can't, can you? I looks too human.

[She runs. Gwen runs after her, round to the front of the house. We are with Gwen.]

601. GWEN Freda, come back here!

[Freda's on the bike. She revs up. Jack & Andy catch up.]

602. JACK Stop!

603. GWEN FREDA!

[Freda speeds away.]

We've lost her.

606. ANDY She wants to go home.

607. JACK Well she can't!

608. GWEN But she might try.

609. JACK Right! She's heading for the river.

610. ANDY I'll drive.

20. **POLICE CAR 2**

Andy is driving. Gwen and Jack are in the back.

611. GWEN So what do we do when we find her?

[Jack rummages through his pockets.]

612. JACK I've got a concussion grenade.

613. GWEN Not local enough.

614. JACK Weevil spray?

615. GWEN Too windy.

616. JACK There's always the stun gun.

617. GWEN Make sure it is set to stun. Remember the
Hystrix at Wolf Bar?

618. JACK How could I forget? There are still spines in
the ceiling.

[Andy brings the car to a screeching halt.]

619. GWEN What is it? Why have we stopped?

620. ANDY I'm not happy.

621. JACK You're not happy?

622. ANDY You say she's not dangerous, but you're
getting out grenades and stun guns. Freda's

not a some freak with spines, she's a teenage girl.

623. JACK Half alien.

624. ANDY Half human. So you don't just shoot her!

625. JACK She's on the run!

626. ANDY Of course she's running! Her mum burned to death in front of her and you shove a gun in her face. What would you do?

[Beat.]

627. ANDY Let me talk to her.

628. GWEN We tried that.

629. ANDY I didn't.

[Beat.]

630. ANDY Give me five minutes with her. If I can't bring her in, all right: stun her. But give me a chance. Give her a chance. Please.

631. JACK OK. OK!

632. ANDY Aye, Captain!

[Andy pulls away at alarming speed in U turn.]

633. GWEN WOAH!

634. JACK Where are you going?

635. ANDY Short cut.

[The car bumps and bounces violently]

636. JACK Through the park?

637. ANDY Nice thing about 'overt' operations: you don't have to be subtle.

638. JACK I like your style.

639. ANDY I've a cousin in Machynlleth was abducted by aliens.

640. JACK Really?

641. ANDY Don't believe it myself. Whole world to choose from, why pick a tosspot like him?

642. JACK Cut the chat and keep your foot on the gas.

643. ANDY You guys should get yourselves a teleporter. Like in Star Trek. Save a lot of bother.

644. JACK I'll bear that in mind.

[Under his breath.]

645. JACK I wonder. If I ret-coned him now would he still be able to drive?

21. **MAINDY**

Freda is on the Maindy footbridge. We hear her thoughts.

646. FREDA **[Internal voice.]** Is a long way down. Can't see my reflection. Just a shadow, all broke up in the water. What is I? Ghostie. Grey skin. Don't belong on this earth. Don't belong nowhere. The fire didn't take me, sky spucked me out. Maybe the river'll have me. Just step over the railing...

[She steps over the railing]

647. FREDA **[Internal voice.]** ...and let go. They says drowning's like going to sleep.

[Andy arrives, at a distance.]

648. ANDY Nice evening for it.

649. FREDA Go away.

650. ANDY I'm here to help.

651. FREDA Help me die? Is what you all want.

652. ANDY Want some advice? This isn't the best place to jump. The weir makes a lot of noise but it isn't that dangerous, really. If you're serious, I recommend the barrage bridge. Bigger drop. Nasty undertow. And if you're lucky you'll knock yourself out on a buttress on the way down. Seen that happen. Not a bad way to go, that.

[Beat.]

653. ANDY Freda. I'm sorry about your mum. She must have been very strong to keep you safe all those years. A brave woman.

654. FREDA She was.

655. ANDY And now you're alone in a world that doesn't make sense. And there's no one you can trust.

[Freda is crying. Andy moves along the bridge, closer to her.]

656. ANDY It's OK. A lot of people feel like that.

657. FREDA I don't think so!

658. ANDY They do. Doesn't matter where they're from, what they've been through. That's just how they feel. It's how I feel, sometimes.

659. FREDA For vrai? [Really?]

660. ANDY Yeah. That feeling's even got a name: 'alienation'.

661. FREDA Nice.

662. ANDY But it means that deep down, everyone's the same, right? In fact, if you didn't feel alien sometimes, you wouldn't be human.

663. FREDA Fair.

[Andy is beside her now, almost near enough to touch.]

664. ANDY As long as you can remember that... you can kind of, get on with life. You mum would want you to get on with life.

[Beat.]

665. ANDY You cold?

666. FREDA Froze. Can't feel me fingers no more.

667. ANDY [Firmly] Give me your hand.

[She gives him his hand.]

668. ANDY [Firmly] Now, step over to this side.

[Freda steps over the railing to the bridge side.]

669. ANDY That's it. You made it.

22. **FALLING ASLEEP**

Freda is in her bedroom at the safe house, dreamy. Gwen is looking after her.
A clock ticks quietly.

670. FREDA She were different, my mam. Not 'cos of being alien, but 'cos of who she were. Funny. Tough. Like you. You got kids?

671. GWEN Uh. No.

672. FREDA You should.

673. GWEN I'm not sure about bringing a child into this.

674. FREDA You takes the life you're given, don't you?

675. GWEN Freda, are you OK?

676. FREDA Spakked-out. These sleeping tabs are brave! My body's all heavy, like it's not mine. My brain can be any place, any time. Can be proper human.

677. GWEN Tell me about your grandmother.

678. FREDA [Whispering a big naughty secret.]
 My Grandma Evans were an alien. For vrai! The solar flares was killing their planet, see. So they sent all these little lifecraft off into space. [Blows.] Dandelion clock. One lands here. Thirteen aliens among all your billions. Getting along. Having jobs and Urks. Having ghostie kids, grandkids... like me.

[Beat.]

679. FREDA [Giggles.]
Some of them don't even know. Top panic
when people finds out!

680. GWEN I can imagine.

681. FREDA Gwen... They's already here. Out there, in
your time. Waiting to gobble you up!

[Darker.] Our neighbours threw paint on our
windows. Torched up our house. Mam
drowned in the smoke. Can you drown in
smoke?

[Beat.]

682. FREDA This manno. Made a hole in the roof and held
out his hand. Opened up the sky. She was
lying there and the flames were coming and...
I left her...

[Beat. Freda is suddenly completely alert.]

683. FREDA No! I don't want to remember no more! Can't
stop remembering!

684. GWEN It's all right.

685. FREDA I can't do it, Gwen! I can't live here without
her! I can't I can't.

686. GWEN I can help you.

687. FREDA No one can!

688. GWEN I can. Listen. We have a medicine called Retcon. We give it to people who have experienced something they need to forget.

689. FREDA It safe?

690. GWEN I've had it.

691. FREDA For vrai? So you've forgot stuff?

692. GWEN Other memories flow in to fill the missing time. The human brain is a clever thing.

693. FREDA So I wouldn't even know I'd forgotten?

694. GWEN No. You could start again. New life. New memories.

695. FREDA I don't want that.

696. GWEN Think it over.

697. FREDA Don't need to. I don't wanna forget her. She's part of me. Gotta know what I is, right?

698. GWEN You're a very brave young woman. That's what you are.

[Freda yawns hugely.]

699. GWEN Freda. Who was he, the man who saved you?

700. FREDA Dunno. 'Driftwood', he says. Summink like that... Or maybe it was Torchwood?

701. GWEN Torchwood? Are you sure? Freda? Freda

[Freda is asleep.]

23. **SAFE HOUSE KITCHEN**

Jack, Andy and Ianto are in the safe house kitchen. Gwen enters.

702. JACK How's the patient?

703. GWEN Sleeping.

704. IANTO Good.

705. ANDY I'll sit with her a bit.

706. GWEN Good idea, Andy. You do that.

[Andy exits to the bedroom. Gwen quickly pulls up a chair and sits down. They speak in low voices, at first.]

707. GWEN Listen. Freda just said something very odd.
She thinks Torchwood rescued her from the
house fire and 'opened up the sky'. What do
you make of that?

708. JACK So Torchwood future can control the rift?

709. IANTO And they sent her here, now? Why?

710. GWEN Big questions.

711. IANTO Maybe Freda knows the answers?

712. GWEN I don't think she had time to stop and ask.

[Beat.]

713. GWEN She's refused Retcon.

714. JACK Then she has to be isolated. Her future knowledge is too dangerous.

715. IANTO That's a bit hypocritical, Jack. You're pretty gung-ho with the timeline yourself...

716. JACK I'm much more responsible these days.

717. IANTO ...And I quote: "Time is like a river: you can throw in the odd shopping-trolley, it'll still make it to the sea."

718. JACK Did I really say that?

719. GWEN I think what really bothers you is she's part alien.

720. JACK [Reasonably.] And so it should. Her DNA could have a major impact on human evolution.

721. GWEN But she's not the only one out there. What you going to do, hunt them all down?

722. IANTO [Sadly.] Then Freda would never exist.

[Beat.]

723. GWEN Her people are peaceful. Refugees. Their planet became uninhabitable.

724. IANTO So she can't go home. Can't go back to the future.

725. JACK But she shouldn't be here. If we don't isolate her, we have to Retcon her. Whether she likes it or not.

726. GWEN Her memories are all she has!

727. JACK And they nearly pushed her off a bridge!

728. IANTO Keep your voices down, guys.

[Pause.]

729. GWEN So what **do** we do?

[Pause. Ianto chuckles.]

730. JACK What's funny?

731. IANTO Maybe the future Torchwood didn't send Freda here for her benefit... but ours.

[Beat.]

732. IANTO Maybe what we're doing now creates this whole situation in the future.

733. GWEN What, like Torchwood's legacy: the anti-alien backlash?

734. IANTO Doesn't have to be.

735. JACK So, what? We open our doors to the universe and spread the love? Come on! You've seen what's out there!

736. GWEN Not everything that comes through the rift is bad. OK: shoot the monsters... but the others? Someone has to take responsibility.

[Beat.]

737. IANTO Well. Couldn't social services help Freda?

738. GWEN Ha!

739. IANTO No, I'm serious. Why not?

740. GWEN No case-history.

741. IANTO Andy could help us put something together. If we don't Ret-con him.

742. GWEN We'd have to give Freda continued support too.

743. IANTO We could set you up as her key-worker, Gwen. You have the police experience.

744. GWEN Teamwork!

745. IANTO I like it.

746. JACK Hold on! Hold on! Torchwood isn't run by committee, you know.

747. IANTO Sorry, Jack.

748. JACK This is my decision. OK?

749. GWEN OK.

[Pause. Jack sighs.]

750. JACK But one way or another, it looks like
Torchwood's getting an Asylum policy.

24. **SWEET DREAMS**

Freda's room. Freda in bed, Andy dozing in a chair. Freda wakes, sits up.

751. FREDA Mam? Mam!

752. ANDY No. Uh. It's me. Andy. You're at the safe house.

753. FREDA Andy?

754. ANDY Squad-man. It's all right. Go back to sleep.

755. FREDA I had a dream...

756. ANDY I know. Don't worry, I'll stay with you.

[She lies back down.]

757. FREDA Andy? I's gonna to be OK, ent I?

758. ANDY Yeah. I know it's all a bit skillaboo, right now but... you're a tough one, Freda. You're going to be fine. I promise.

[Freda sighs, settles. We hear her dreamlike thoughts.]

759. FREDA

[Internal voice]. Safe house. Friends talking. I
ent alone. Someone near us breathing, soft
like waves.

I imagines I's walking by a stream. I steps in
the water. It goes round my feet, makes
space for me. The sound of the water
changes, just for a moment. Then it flows on
like before.

THE END
