

# SARAH JANE SMITH: MIRROR, SIGNAL, MANOEUVRE

By Peter Anghelides

Scene breakdown

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## 1. No location.

We can hear messages on Sarah's answer phone. One's from Josh, saying that he's got the info they wanted from the Public Records Office, and also that someone from Sarah's former satellite TV company has been asking after her, so he needs to speak with Sarah about a woman called Wendy Jennings. [Apologetic--didn't mean to fall out with her... etc. etc. Since office blew up... etc.]

## 2. Ext. Street.

Sarah gets a taxi to the airport, which screeches ahead of another taxi--brief argument between taxi drivers [*one of them off-mike if you need to save on cast members or doubling*].

## 3. Int. Taxi.

Sarah says he's mistaken--gives him a business card. Jane Bowman, writer. No, you're kidding. Are you undercover? There's no address, where are you living? The Indian taxi driver is an admirer--"I'm your biggest fan!"--so it's a pleasure to offer her a lift. No need to pretend with me, Sarah. Jane. Whatever. They set off.

<crossfade>

Sarah realises that the taxi driver is nattering away to her about her previous journalistic triumphs, but he's also asking her what part of the town she lives in. She complains, and he confesses that he just wants to chat to her a bit longer. She winds the car window down, and tells him to get straight to the airport or she'll start throwing her hand luggage out of the rear window and on to the M25--and she'll set off her rape alarm in the car while she's at it. He's very apologetic, and agrees.

## 4. Ext. Airport.

Sarah's taxi arrives at the airport. She tells him that it's people like him who have made her life a misery, having to move from place to place. So won't take a business card for the return trip then? Rip! He's very apologetic again, and asks: "so, no tip then?" She tells him: "Hah! My tip is: mirror, signal, manoeuvre. Now push off."

## 5. Ext. Airport.

Plane takes off sound.

#### 6. No location.

Another message is from Natalie, phoning in from a crackly mobile, telling her she has info about Cynaro. A third is a fax. A fourth is Natalie again, wondering where Sarah is, and won't she please get in contact with her. Worried-but you're probably off enjoying yourself?

[I don't know what the satellite TV company is but for the sake of this outline let's call it "Planet Three" and Sarah's programme was called "Satellite".]

#### 7. Ext. Boat.

Sarah's apparently on holiday on an Indian island in Lakshadweep. She's going on a fishing trip with a group, in a boat off Agatti, asking the local fisherman guide what his parents did in the 1940s, and odd goings-on offshore. One of the other women on board: no point, he's just a simple malmi. A what? A sailor, he doesn't speak English—only Malayalam, or Mahl if you're really unlucky. The woman reveals that she knows Sarah. Not another one. I seem to have met any number of dubious fans recently. No, not a fan, a colleague. Well, I'm a fan as well, of course. Well, a admirer. Er... I'm a reporter on "Satellite"—Wendy Jennings! Wendy joined Planet Three just after Sarah left. "Fancy meeting you here," says Wendy, "I've heard a lot about you". "All bad, no doubt" says Sarah. "No, you still have friends there," says Wendy. "I hope I can be one, too." But they are being observed by another passenger, "Spying Guy"[*non-speaking*], so they arrange to meet later. (Great, as if I haven't got enough business cards.)

#### 8. Int. Restaurant.

Sarah and Wendy meet up and talk in a restaurant after the boat trip. They chat about inconsequentialities to start with—Wendy talks about how she carries too much luggage about with her on holiday, Sarah talks about how she carts junk between houses. "Odd," says Wendy, "have you moved a lot recently?" "I just can't seem to settle in the right place, I'm very particular. But there's a pile of broken equipment in a box that I just can't let go. I can't repair it because they don't make the parts for it yet." "Yet?" "I mean, any more." She quizzes Wendy about what she's been doing since they met briefly at Planet Three. Wendy explains she's out here in the islands, also doing some research (in her own vacation time) about some genetic engineering done for the Indian government by a private company called Scalar. It is hush-hush work to prevent fish diseases, because they're trying to eliminate a parasitic infection in factory-farmed salmon in Scotland that could spread to wild fish stocks in the North Sea. (I hope I'm not putting you off your Red Snapper. Mm? The fish. No, it's lovely. But tell me more about...) The suspicion is because a UK company has with a research facility somewhere in India (not clear where). Cheap labour costs? Exploiting the incentives for hi-tech companies and low tax burden in India. Wendy shares her research with Sarah, who continues to pump Wendy for info without sharing any of her own! Wendy is surprised that Sarah wasn't more surprised to see her here. Sarah seems to be on the verge of explaining when Wendy stops her—she's spotted Spying Guy from the boat again, snooping on them from nearby. "Thursday, at sunset, Bangaram Island Resort. What is this a treasure hunt?."

#### 9. No Location.

We hear more answer phone messages, skip through the old ones, get to the new ones: Natalie asking "where are you, get in touch, I'm going to get my mate Duggie to help me drive by the Records Office" (she emphasises "drive by"); Josh saying that he still needs to talk to her about Wendy Jennings; a silent call swiftly clicked off from an unlisted number.

#### 10. Int. car.

Natalie is driving past the Public Records Office with her pal Duggie. They use a wireless laptop computer to break the standard wireless encryption within ten minutes, and download a lot of stuff relating to Operation Halter. *[If we need to avoid casting Duggie, he can be entirely off-mike and Nat can discuss things entirely with Josh on a mobile phone in this and their next scene.]*

Natalie speaks to Josh on the phone—he's gone to Sarah's last lodgings (she has swapped around a lot to avoid suspicion, and they discuss how she's becoming a bit more paranoid, a bit more obsessive). The info that Natalie has got about "Operation Halter" is interesting, but will be made public in about a month's time. Any of it restricted, asks Josh. No, all available says Natalie. And where are you, by the way? Josh doesn't have time to tell her—someone's at the door of the flat. He hides. They break in (all over the phone). Burglars! Aaagh!

Josh? Josh!!

#### 11. Ext. Beach.

Wendy and Sarah can meet up again later, on a secluded beach. Lovely evening, still very humid. Prefer it to Monsoon season! Some come to these Lakshadweep islands for the reefs, a more secluded spot than the Maldives. Further South? Yes, and beyond them of course there are the Chagos Islands, including Diego Garcia. The US military base? Yes. But I'm here for the beaches. Get a tan at Brighton. No, this continuous halo of creamy sand around the island. You should be in ravel journalism, it would be safer. Look over there at the marks in the sand... where the turtles are nesting. Getting chilly—could have sat in hire car. Too nice tonight, though, says Wendy. Wendy asks Sarah wasn't more surprised to see her on the boat trip. Sarah explains that she'd got a message on her answer phone just before going on the boat trip, which mentioned it. She is reluctant to say more to Wendy. What's that? It's a saddleback dolphin. No, that sound! Churning up your creamy sand, he's going to hit the turtles. No, heading for them!! At this point, Wendy sees Spying Guy churning across the beach towards them in a jeep, and he tries to run them down. They narrowly escape. Wendy says that the guy has been following her since she arrived in the Bahamas—and now he's trying to kill her! She must go to the local police. Sarah stops her—they're not after Wendy, they're after Sarah.

They'll be safer in her hire car.

#### 12. Int. Hire car.

So Sarah explains to Wendy that she's probably being pursued because of the story she's researching. She explains about the answer phone—it's actually a phone number at Planet Three, which Sarah dials in to remotely (with a code number) even though she doesn't work there any longer, and only people who know the direct-dial number bother to leave messages on it. She's using a GSM phone, one of these new disposable ones I picked up at the airport at

Bangalore. Me too, says Wendy. Except the batteries in mine are dead so it's useless. She doesn't want to say more about her story, but feels she must when Wendy says they have to go to the local authorities. Sarah points out that the local authorities may also want her to leave the islands—including Wendy now, by association.

Watch their backs—mirror, signal, manoeuvre. I'm starting to think that I've been signalling all my movements too obviously.

Drive off. Conversation continues.

The story that she is researching, Sarah explains, is this: biological warfare experiments in the 1940s. In the later stages of WWII, British scientists bungled some germ warfare trials in the Indian Ocean during "Operation Halter". Thousands of animals died, for little scientific benefit, from the brucella bacteria. It was a rehearsal for possible biological attacks in the UK. The calm waters of these islands were thought to be ideal for the tests. Now she has to pursue a scientist, Joseph Brandt, who is currently vacationing in these islands. Wendy helps her find him at his hotel suite—because he's also the person she came to talk to about the fish-stocks story that she was researching in mainland India, as he's advising Scalar, that private company working in India.

### 13. Int. Hotel corridor.

Brandt doesn't want to talk to them, but Wendy persuades him to let them in (on Sarah's "disposable" mobile phone, which she has borrowed to make the call—her own has got dead batteries. Dial carefully, there's a scratch on the display that distorts the numbers a bit). They find out from Brandt that animals were put in containers on dinghies around the islands, and had biological bombs dropped on them, or were sprayed with bacteria. But the sheep and guinea pigs chosen for the experiments proved unsuitable. Of the 600 sheep shipped from Texas for the experiment, 500 had to be shot—or just "discarded" in the sea. A consignment of 200 rhesus monkeys could only be used after being treated for pneumonia. What's more, the sea turned out to be rougher than anticipated, and the two converted tank landing vessels used for the operation were unable to pick up the dinghies in open water. So the tests happened just offshore from one of the islands, despite the threat to dozens of local fishing boats working there. Even one of the researchers became infected by the germs they were testing. The results of the tests, in the end, were judged to be meaningless because the conditions at sea made it impossible to assess the levels of bacteria.

Wendy goes out of the room to get better reception on Sarah's mobile, and get them early flights back to the UK—they have to pursue this story back there, with contemporary evidence from the Public Records Office. Sarah can't run the story herself—but she can do the research and get Wendy to run it as a story on Planet Three's "Satellite" programme.

Still in the hotel suite, Sarah's interested to know why Brandt is telling them his research now. He says he was on vacation here, trying to decide how to go public on this and also then tell Scalar that he doesn't want to work on their project—which is more than destroying fish viruses, it's reviving and extending the Cynaro research which was part of "Operation Halter" in the 1940s. And now it's going to be used in the Parambikulam-Aliyar Project. The what? "I think you've said quite enough, Dr Brandt." He gets no further—Wendy comes in, escorted by a policeman who have spotted her in the corridor and brought her in to arrest them all. Wendy recognises him as Spying Guy [note—could he be Harris from "Test of Nerve"]. Hang on, a white policeman?? At this point the policeman produces a handgun and start firing. Brandt is killed, and

Sarah and Wendy flee in separate directions. Sarah's recovers her mobile phone.

#### 14. Airport.

Sarah gets to the airport, and gets the first flight out of the country (to the mainland, and then wants to go on London).

#### 15. Int. Hospital.

In the hospital, Natalie is visiting Josh. Josh is pretty badly battered. They're going to have to concoct a story for the police about how he got beaten up. (Won't press charges on his brother etc. etc.) He can't tell her what really happened, or how they found the place (even he wasn't sure where the flat was—Sarah's been very cagey recently), but he's sure he wasn't followed. They ransacked the place while he was semi-conscious, he couldn't stop them taking a load of cardboard boxes. Research? No, it looked like electrical equipment and something that was the size of an old-fashioned video recorder with little aerials on top.

We have to let Sarah know about the break-in—they could be on to her, wherever she is. Sarah has been picking up her messages at Planet Three. Nat can detect the call-in number next time she tries to pick up messages. Need to stay connected. Can't do that here in hospital, so I have to get to the Planet Three phone system.

#### 16. Airport.

Sarah dialling in her number.

Message one is from Wendy: dialled in to Sarah's office number! Got a different flight out. Need to see her—don't fly back to the UK, she's located the Scalar offices in a city in the middle of Tamil Nadu State! If she meets at the Bangalore railway station, she'll explain—and they can travel there together.

Second message: Nat, they have to talk. Your house has been raided, and Josh seriously injured. We must talk. Dial me on this mobile number.

End of messages. Sarah hangs up. Almost immediately, her mobile phone rings—it's Nat!

How did you get this number? Could be traced! Rubbish, it's a mobile—how can I know where you are. Get a grip, Sarah. Safe as houses.

Tracked it through the Planet Three phone system. I've no idea where you are Sarah. Yes, and that's the way it's going to say, since we're on an open line via satellite! Well, I'm sitting in the car outside the offices now. I came straight here from the hospital. Is Josh OK? Yes, no thanks to you. Josh could have suffered—I could have got help to him sooner if Sarah wasn't so overcautious about contacting the two of us, or about moving house so often to avoid imaginary pursuers, or changing your mobile so frequently and forbidding them to call you directly. Nat had to track down the phone number of Sarah's flat from Josh's call to her, reverse trace the address from the BT residential directory database, and then get an ambulance to him.

Anyway, while you're worried about your calls being traced, someone is really trying to trace you—a woman called Wendy Jennings. Yes, I know all about her

(irritated by the accusation). Well, did you know she was "let go" by Planet Three two weeks ago, took a redundancy payment, and is on paid vacation to work out her notice. Sarah says "no wonder she's desperate for a scoop," and explains about "Operation Halter". (Where have I heard of that?) Now Sarah is going to meet up with Wendy and use this information to investigate Cynaro and the Scalar company in India. And something about a secret project called Parambikulam-Aliyar. Parum... Well, I didn't get chance to have him write it down before he got shot through the head!! (Nat hunts out Scalar info. on laptop.) But this Operation Halter is horrifying...

Yes, I know about it, Josh was looking at some stuff on the internet yesterday. It's no great discovery, it's about to be made public.

Thanks a lot, Nat. I've been chased by jeeps on beaches and shot at by bogus policemen. Looking in my rearview mirror for tails. That's just it, and now you're jumping at shadows, seeing things in the mirror that aren't there. Making a lot out of nothing, seeing a conspiracy where there isn't one, and allowing Wendy to use her for the story. They argue. Sarah complains that she's been pursued by killers, her home was burgled. Base it on facts, not fiction, Sarah. Doesn't your passport say "Journalist". Or is that as fake as your business cards? Maybe it should say "novelist", if you're moving into fiction like this. Wait a minute, business card... that Indian weirdo in a taxi on the way to the airport. He could have been tracking her, getting his colleagues to scour the area for her flat... and she'd been so careful!! Nat: have a word with yerself, sarah! There you go again! Paranoia.

All right, search results on Scalar and their involvement with research into fish viruses or brucella is. As well as their UK registered office, they have a research facility in a town in the mountains of India in the city of Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu state, and that they have Dr Joseph Brandt on their small staff. ("Then they have a vacancy," says Sarah.) It's all above board, and quite open—no secrets there, just like Josh has told her about "Operation Halter". Sarah's more irritated by Natalie's dismissal of her suspicions, and the conversation gets awkward. Some unfortunate misunderstandings in this conversation—Sarah talking about how she's being criticised for getting off her backside and doing something about her predicament, Natalie misinterpreting this as a slight about her wheelchair, etc. It gets heated.

She sends Natalie to the hospital to see Josh and sets off for India on her own. If Natalie's not going to help, then Sarah will go to meet Wendy—another journalist will understand. She'll get to the root of this story, no matter what it takes!

### 17. Int. Train.

Cut to the train to Coimbatore. Maybe cross-fade a number of moments in the journey's conversation. Sarah is talking with Wendy.

They meet in the train, and are now travelling north together. Wendy wasn't sure if Sarah would come. Sarah said they can work on the story together.

Wendy is cross with herself, because she left some key information about the Cynaro patent (the Scalar development which will cure the salmon parasites) back in her office at Planet Three, and of course isn't allowed back in to get it. So she can't answer all of Sarah's questions about it.

Wendy got into journalism quite late, when some of her contemporaries were thinking about early retirement. She spent much of her early career running events, scientific research, and then gave it all up and came back as a journalist through doing some specialist research for Planet Three.

#### 18. Hospital

Nat and Josh in hospital. Nat's being allowed to visit out of normal hours, and stay longer, because she's made a fuss about wheelchair access. While talking to Josh, Nat's also connecting in via his nearby phone line to show him stuff off the internet. (When nurses walk by, she switches to a game.)

She tells him that she's found some interesting things about Scalar—she checked their staff portfolio, and it seems only to have four full-time members. She shows him photos of the staff: here's the woman who is the CEO, here's their chief scientific advisor, here's their business manager Willem Dehaan, and here's their finance guy Bandaru Chakravarti. They note that the scientific advisor is Dr Joseph Brandt, who Sarah saw shot dead in the Bahamas. Josh recognises the finance guy, Chakravarti, as the guy who attacked him at Sarah's apartment. He had an Indian accent. Now they start to get worried. Natalie tries to use an internet phone to contact Sarah ("Are you crazy? She'll go mental.")

But there's no reply. They have to get out and get to her. Josh, you're too ill! Too bad. Try her phone again. "She'll kill us for using an open line again!" "They'll kill her if we don't. She and this Wendy are being set up")

#### 19. Int. Train.

Back on the train, Sarah checks her mobile phone to see if there is voice mail, but Wendy points out that they're in a valley, and there's no satellite signal.

Sarah asks Wendy about why she left Planet Three. Wendy says they had to rescue the company share price after bidding too high to retain their licence at renewal time, and so Planet Three laid off the older and more expensive staff. She's using her accreditation to get them an interview with the CEO of Scalar. Wendy doesn't officially leave Planet Three for another two weeks, and they haven't remember to reclaim her ID card. Sarah looks at the ID card—"You remind me of someone, but I can't remember who. An old school friend maybe?"

Sarah confesses that she shouldn't have been so rough on some of her own friends recently (she doesn't name Natalie or Josh). She told them "I'll get to the bottom of this story, no matter what it takes." Now she's a bit embarrassed. Wendy is interested, talks to her about whether she can get close to people if she's going to be an investigative journalist. Doesn't Sarah remember the people she does stories about, does she keep in contact, ever wonder what happened to them? "What, do follow-up pieces on them?" asks Sarah.

#### 20. Internet café.

Natalie talking to Josh on her mobile. (We're with Natalie but can hear Josh down the line. As an aside, you can hear him doing a transaction saying things like "3,000 quid, are you kidding? I could buy a boat and get there for that much.") Natalie has found out more about the Scalar staff. They were all members of a scientific research society in the 1980s. Some society members even went to prison for some undisclosed breach of the Official Secrets Act, which would surely disqualify them for working on any government contracts.

#### 21. Ext. Scalar offices, India.

Sarah and Wendy arrive. They get a taxi out towards the Scalar headquarters, past the huge lake which drowned hundreds of villages and supplies ten million people downstream with drinking water. Scalar have offices in an old British Colonial building, where other companies also have offices.

#### 22. Int. Scalar offices.

Scenes in the echoing halls of the Castle and its various corridors and rooms etc. One they're in the building, Sarah sends Wendy on ahead of her, sneaking off while Wendy makes her own way to the CEO's office for the interview.

#### 23. Int. Research area.

Sarah finds a research area, where she rifles through some paperwork or accesses a computer and finds out more about the fish stocks virus, the brucella virus, and the patented cure called Cynaro. She gets a call on her mobile—it's Natalie phoning from the hospital with news about what she's found on the internet. Sarah is very surprised and cross, but accepts that Natalie has called her in an emergency. You and Wendy are being set up. Never mind, says Sarah, I've found what we're looking for... we can get out of here now and alert the authorities. She is able to relate to Natalie what she's found—detailed diagrams for the Parambikulam-Aliyar Project. What sort of project. It's a large volume embankment dam, used for irrigatio and power generation. In fact, it's a series of dams interconnected by tunnels and canals, and it's harnessing the waters of seven rivers... Parambikulam, Aliyar, Nirar, Sholiyar, Thunakadavu, Thekkadi, and Palar. And Scalar have built machinery into the turbines to filter for viruses and to pump Cynaro into the water.

Natalie says that her internet search has cast up some debate on a secure internet discussion group that she's hacked relates how Cynaro is a more controversial solution than fluoridisation. She tells Sarah about the Scalar staff, and that she's worked out that they were all in the same scientific research society together. Sarah asks Natalie to do a drive-by hacking of the Planet Three offices, to get the information that Wendy left behind there.

Sarah starts to make her way out of the building, determined to go and find out what's happening in the turbines at the dam.

#### 24. Int. Corridor.

On the way through, Sarah gets stopped by someone in the corridor—and asks him for his help in finding her way out, saying she got lost when visiting DEFRA. He shows her the way. She realises she's being led up stairs instead of down stairs. When she points this out, he says "I'm sorry, Miss Smith." "How do you know my name?" she asks. "Oh it's you." "How could you forget me?" he say, "Even though you didn't keep my business card, I'm sure you remember your biggest fan."

#### 25. Int. Car.

Natalie is talking to Josh. He's complaining that these seatback phones cost a packet, and can she fiddle him a higher limit this credit card. It would be smarter to fiddle you a payment. Great! But that's too difficult, and raising the limit too much will set off their software alerts. So how does a new limit of £10,000 sound? That'll do nicely. I can't get through to Sarah's mobile. Try again now. I tried earlier to hack the Planet Three systems, but they must

have wiped all Wendy's personal files already, realises Natalie, there's nothing there—not even a byline on an archived news report. Why would a company destroy her personnel files? What if they're asked for a reference? No personal files not... ah, brilliant! I can check for personnel files. OK, I need this line now to do my drive-by hack. Talk to you later, bye.

26. Int. Little office.

He says he is Bandaru Chakravarty. He locks her in a small office, high up in the castle. "I may be some time. You won't starve." "Feed me? You can't keep me here forever." "You'll be here some time. But don't worry, I won't forget you." "You forgot to confiscate my mobile, you moron." She checks her mobile—even by the window, it won't work. She opens the window—still nothing. How can she contact Natalie?

26a. Int. Car.

Nat's hacked the system. Wendy's personnel file is still in the system, though it has a create date of only a month ago... Oh no, now that's too much of a coincidence. No, it's not even a coincidence. They're the same person." Call Josh—before he lands.

27. Int. Little office.

Chakravarti comes back to see Sarah. Two days. You didn't come in here alone, he tells her. Sarah denies being accompanied. Never mind, he says, we know that Wendy Jennings came with you. She's in our CEO's office at this moment. She's a very informed lady. I think we should go and join her.

28. Int. CEO's office.

Sarah is taken to the CEO's office. She's glad to see Wendy there, but worried when she recognises one of the policemen from the island (who introduces himself as Willem Dehaan—you look better in uniform). She warns Wendy that they're in danger. "I'm not in danger," says Wendy. "You don't remember me, do you? I may have lost a bit of weight, got a lot older. You, Sarah, just meet and discard people in your journalistic profession. You profess to care about them, but all you care about is the story." Sarah finally recognises that Wendy is Helena Cartwright, the business executive of Bio-Guard who she exposed and ruined years ago. "So, is it time for a follow-up story on me, Sarah?"

Sarah's mobile rings unexpectedly "That'll be your colleagues, calling you to warn you. Answer it, but be aware that Mr Dehaan is trigger-happy." She swapped the SIM card out of Sarah's mobile phone on the island and replaced it in a Scalar-adjusted handset. They can when it will or will not receive a signal, and record all her conversations on it. (Safe as houses, thinks Sarah.) Sarah has a brief conversation with Josh, who warns her what he's heard from Natalie—that Wendy and the CEO of Scalar are the same person. Sarah carries on a conversation with him, but Josh gets cagey towards the end of the call. Then it cuts off.

Miss Cartwright explains that Josh is smarter than she thought—he suspects something, but can't have guessed that Scalar were able to modify the phone call "live" as it was being made. They have enough samples of Sarah's voice from the Planet Three voicemail system, and recordings that "Wendy" took

during their recent train journey, to synthesise Sarah's speech and reply to Josh plausibly enough for a cursory hearing by him over a mobile phone. (In fact, Josh is still talking to "Sarah" now—"the call hasn't ended, and my colleague behind you is typing in your responses.")

The pile of junk that they stole from Sarah's apartment, along with Sarah's research papers, proved a useful source of futuristic parts when they cannibalised it. *[And how typical of Sarah to have anthropomorphised the equipment. "It even had a pet name, like your car does, I imagine.]* Miss Cartwright has been close to Sarah for a long time. *[References here to previous adventures in the series.]* Watching her, steering her. Mr Chakravarti returned your research notes, suitably modified, to your apartment shortly before he left for India. It's shocking what you've done to create this fictional story, Sarah. What was it your friend said: "novelist not journalist in your passport". I imagine that's what the newspapers will say when they hear all lies you were going to tell to the world about Scalar, just to resurrect your career. "No-one will believe you," says Sarah, "others know that Dr Brandt died in the Bahamas, you'll have to explain." "No they won't," says Dr Brandt, coming in through the door in a surprise vocal ending to the scene (or perhaps he's the typist at the terminal behind her). "And now, what will your few remaining friends think when they learn that, in the process of framing Scalar, you've poisoned the drinking water for tens of millions of innocent Indians?"

#### 29. Int. car

Chakravarti drives Sarah and Dehaan to the dam, just following the road along the river. Cartwright and Brandt follow in a different car. They're going to flood the turbines with a mutated brucella virus instead of Cynaro. In the car on the way there, Chakravarti plays a tape of Sarah's phone call with Josh. (This is a chance to hear Josh's exact words again, but the "dialogue" for Sarah is changed.) She is saying that Scalar have realised that they've been rumbled, and are on their way to the turbines to destroy the evidence—but she is going to go ahead and contaminate the water anyway, because that's what they were planning and Scalar will be caught and blamed as a result. Josh is getting more and more suspicious as the call goes on.

On the journey, Sarah wraps her handbag strap around Dehaan's neck ("stop this car or I'll strangle him", etc., choking noises, Chakravarti: Give me the gun, you idiot! Don't let her grab it! Dehaan: (gurgling) Keep your eyes on the road!) Sarah sets off her rape alarm, and in the ensuing confusion the car crashes into the river. ("The water, aaagh!" SPLOSH!) As they panic, Sarah talks herself calmly through smashing the window with the gun, getting out on to the bank, etc.

#### 30. Ext. River bank

The car goes under. "Mirror, signal, manoeuvre," says Sarah breathlessly. Then Chakravarti splashes out of the water, snarling at her. Gunshot. Splosh.

At which point, Josh appears in his hire car. ("With this and the plane fare, I think I'm just about at my new limit on this Visa card. I hope Natalie can hack me some more.") He didn't believe it when Sarah said she was going to poison the reservoir, recognising some unlikely phrase of Sarah's (a code phrase that she's talking rubbish, or some grammatical mistake she once said sarcastically she would never use unless held at gunpoint). But, Sarah points out, someone else is going to poison the reservoir, and blame her for it. They can even fake her voice. And here they come! Cartwright and Brandt's car charges them down ("Look out! Steering straight for us!" etc.), smacks into

the side of the hire car and then, when Sarah takes a pot shot at them (much to Josh's consternation "I'll get charged for that, and I signed the Collision Damage Waiver.") swerves off and away.

They won't get to the dam, says Josh. He and Natalie have anonymously passed on a warning, with a known terrorist code word, that the dam is a target for a bomb attack. And they have also passed on information about Miss Cartwright's SRS history and non-security clearance to the government, so Scalar will have to be closed down in the UK and in India. Sarah points out that she may still be implicated along with Josh and Natalie, because of the paper trail that Cartwright has left. And Cartwright and Brandt have enough technology still at their disposal, outside of Scalar, to carry on their vendetta.

Off to the airport. Time to go home.

Where's home now, Sarah? The office is gone. Your apartment's been trashed.

Home is where my friends are. So let's go home and find Nat. And be careful how you drive, Josh.

I know, I know, I heard you tell that creep earlier... mirror, signal, manoeuvre.

No, forget the signal. We know who were facing now. And I don't want them to know when we're ready to make our move.

#### **THE END**

#### Cast (seven):

Sarah Jane Smith

Josh

Natalie

Wendy Jennings

Joseph Brandt

Spying Guy

Taxi Driver