

= Series 8 , Episode 8 ( Spooks ) =

The series eight finale of the British espionage television series Spooks was originally broadcast on BBC One on 23 December 2009 , and is the 72nd episode in the overall series . The episode was written by Ben Richards and directed by Alrick Riley . The episode continues the " Nightingale " story @-@ arc , a shadow organisation bent on changing the geopolitical map . In the finale , Nightingale attempt to provoke a nuclear war between India and Pakistan , and Section D have a week to prevent it .

The episode was based on actual reports of conflict between the two nations . Hermione Norris made her final appearance as Ros Myers ; the producers intended to leave her fate open in order for the audience to debate whether or not she survived the hotel explosion at the end of the episode . It was viewed by under six million viewers after its original broadcast , and received overwhelmingly positive reviews , particularly due to the reveal of Nightingale 's plot and the cliffhanger , questioning whether or not Ros survived the hotel explosion .

= = Background = =

The finale continues the story @-@ arc involving a multinational shadow organisation bent on changing the geopolitical map . Referred to as " Nightingale " , actor Richard Armitage has said that " India , Pakistan and China feature heavily . But everyone , including Russia , America and Britain have a finger in the pie . " In the sixth episode it is revealed that CIA liaison and Lucas North 's ( Armitage ) lover Sarah Caufield ( Genevieve O 'Reilly ) is part of the organisation , and flees when Lucas confronts her . In the previous episode , Section D discover that Nightingale is manipulating Hindus and Muslims to attack each other in an attempt to further tarnish relations between India and Pakistan ; Section D is able to prevent the attacks in the UK , but it is later revealed that Nightingale succeeded in setting up similar attacks throughout the rest of Europe and the United States .

= = Plot = =

An Indian submarine is forced into port at Karachi by the Pakistan Navy . Knowing it is a Nightingale plot ? Pakistani General Azim Ali is a member ? Section D learn they have a week to stop a nuclear war between India and Pakistan . News of this shocks the team , particularly Tariq Masood ( Shazad Latif ) , who has family in Lahore . Ruth Evershed ( Nicola Walker ) discovers the name of a prominent Nightingale operative , Hans Lindemann . While Lucas North and Ros Myers work to bug Lindemann 's office , Sarah Caufield returns , having been ordered by CIA Head of European Operations Russell Price ( Mark Aiken ) , also a Nightingale member , to kill Lucas . Instead , Sarah warns him to leave the country before escaping .

Ruth meets a Chinese contact , Heng ( Roger Yuan ) , who tells her that both countries will fail the negotiations and that war is inevitable . He is shot dead by an assassin in front of her . Tariq finds Sarah staying at a hotel under an assumed name . Lucas and Ros apprehend her after Lucas distracts her and Ros shoots her in the leg . At a hospital , Sarah reveals to Lucas that Nightingale wants India and Pakistan to go to war in order to " contain " the future , where Nightingale believes the Taliban will take over Pakistan and gain control of nuclear weapons , though the war will kill several million innocent lives in the process . As Lucas leaves the room momentarily to call Ros , an assassin kills Sarah ; Lucas captures him and learns that Price arranged the hit .

To prevent negotiations from succeeding , Price rigs the Summit hotel with explosives . To prevent Pakistani President Mudasser ( Nicholas Khan ) and Home Secretary Andrew Lawrence ( Tobias Menzies ) from escaping , he paralyses both of them . Learning Price is in the hotel , Lucas and Ros arrive and capture him . Since disarming the bomb is impossible , Ros threatens to leave Price behind when the bomb explodes unless he divulges the room both politicians are held . Although Price eventually discloses the room number , Ros leaves him in the room where the bomb is anyway . Lucas is able to carry Mudasser safely out of the hotel , where he recovers and orders the release of the Indian submarine , preventing the war . However , Ros is still in the hotel , struggling to pull

Lawrence to safety . As Lucas runs back to aid her , the hotel explodes , killing Lawrence , Price and Ros .

= = Production = =

= = = Writing and pre @-@ production = = =

Before the episode aired there was speculation that Hermione Norris will leave the series following the " explosive finale explosive cliffhanger . " When questioned whether she will leave the series , Norris would not comment . In June 2010 , co @-@ star Richard Armitage confirmed that Norris has left the series , meaning the series eight finale was her final episode as Ros . The producers left the episode end with a cliffhanger to have the audience debate whether or not Ros and Lawrence survived the hotel explosion . Casting an actor as Russell Price was initially a problem for the producers , but they decided to cast Mark Aiken for the role following his work in American television . An actual news reporter was cast to record a news story . The reporter runs the dialogue with the producers at 4 : 30 in the morning , and then record the story before 6am , the time reporters start their work on actual news stories .

The episode was written by Ben Richards . The general plot of India and Pakistan on the verge of nuclear war is based on actual reports of conflict between the two nations . The beginning was not originally in the script ; Richards wanted to feature a submarine crisis , but the producers were not sure what the crisis would be . They eventually decided to have an Indian submarine " taken hostage " by the Pakistanis . They wanted to add a personal stake towards Tariq , by revealing that members of his family live in Pakistan . The intent was to include and develop a potential relationship between Ros and Lawrence to the point where they bond during their final scenes before the hotel explosion . They also wanted to touch up on the Harry / Ruth relationship , which was not in the original script ; so Ben Richards added the scenes as additional dialogue .

Despite the seriousness of the episode , Richards included some wit and humour . For instance , the scene where Lucas bugs Lindemann 's office and " small talks " Ros ; the producers wanted the scene to be different from similar scenes from movies involving secret agents planting bugs in offices and homes . The producers also wanted to have Ruth return her confidence in her work , back to how she was before her departure . The finale also includes Lucas being confused over Sarah . The writing team wanted him to despise her as a villain , but at the same time , still maintain feelings for her . Following her death , they did not want Lucas to be calm and calculating when confronting the assassin , but instead make him " lose it " and then have him broken afterward .

= = = Filming = = =

A scene in the pre @-@ title sequence was filmed during the same block as episodes three and four , which were directed by Sam Miller . The rest of the finale was filmed several weeks later . The inside of a surveillance van used in a few scenes were shot at a set right next to the Grid set ; using a set would be more manageable for the filming crew . A military school in Belgravia was used to film two separate locations ; the Home Office and Lindemann 's office . Other scenes at the Home Office were filmed in a separate building in Roehampton .

The hospital Sarah was held was filmed at a new private hospital in Hammersmith that was closed down at the time . A Radisson Edwardian Hotel in the London Docklands served as the filming location for the Summit Hotel ; the management of the hotel were cooperative and allowed the filming crew access to several rooms and facilities . The scene where Ruth meets Heng was filmed at Dollis Hill ; it was the last scene of the episode to be shot , and was completed in one afternoon . In the fight scene between Ros and Sarah at Lindemann 's office , Hermione Norris played herself , and a stunt double stood in for Genevieve O 'Reilly , because her character was getting " thrown about a lot " . The fight scene between Lucas and Sarah 's assassin were performed by Armitage and stunt coordinator Crispin Layfield respectively .

The scene where the Pakistanis take control of the Indian submarine were archival footage taken from the BBC Motion Gallery . Split screen sequences were placed towards the end more than the rest of the episode to show the audience there is a bomb at the hotel with several police officers outside the building and Lucas and Ros looking around the hotel for Lawrence and Mudasser . The sequence where the hotel exploded was made through the medium of visual effects , produced by Darkside Animation .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

The episode originally aired on BBC One at 9pm on 23 December 2009 , and later repeated on BBC Three at 12 : 45am on 24 December . After its original broadcast , the series finale drew 5 @. @ 5 million viewers , earning the series a 23 % audience share during its time slot . It won the time slot against BBC Two 's Grumpy Guide to Christmas , ITV1 's Bridget Jones : The Edge of Reason , and Channel 4 's The Family . According to the Broadcasters ' Audience Research Board , the episode received final viewing figures of 5 @. @ 91 million , placing Spooks the 25th most seen programme on BBC One , and the 36th most seen programme overall during the week it aired .

Reviews of the episode were very positive . In a preview for the episode , Vicky Power of The Daily Telegraph said that " as usual there 's a large body count and fist @-@ fights , but these are tempered by scenes of high emotion " , and if the episode were Ros ' last , " it is a fitting send @-@ off " . David Chater of The Times was positive towards the episode , stating " just in case you think you 're having an exhausting time in the run @-@ up to Christmas , spare a thought for Lucas North [ who found out ] his lover is a liar , a murderer and a traitor " , and also noted that " the great thing about Spooks is that they will always stop and explain how serious things are " .

The Guardian published two separate reviews for the episode . Sam Wollaston started by saying " they never listen " , noting the " prisoner either disappears or is killed " and that Section D " need to rethink the whole prisoner thing , or hire less rubbish guards " ; however , Wollaston also noted that since it was Sarah who was killed , " no one 's really going to miss snaky Sarah much " . Plot @-@ wise , Wollaston liked the phrase " getting pretty Finding Nemo about it " , and said that Ros " better had " survived the cliffhanger , claiming " Spooks without Ros would be like Christmas without presents " . Vicky Frost called the episode a " cracking finale " , stating that after " weeks of build @-@ up , it feels almost a relief to have the Nightingale plot finally revealed " . In regards to the cliffhanger , Frost commented that Spooks has " passed its peak but not sunk so low as to be embarrassing , it still goes out on something of a high , and it 's remembered as a decent example of its type " . She was also receptive of Norris ' portrayal as Ros in her likely final appearance , but felt the Harry and Ruth relationship was " wolly " .