

= Invasion of the Bane =

" Invasion of the Bane " is the first episode of the British science fiction television series The Sarah Jane Adventures . It was originally broadcast on 1 January 2007 . Since the series was commissioned before the script for the episode was written , it is not a pilot , but a bank holiday special , and serves the introductory functions of a pilot .

The episode focuses upon a thirteen @-@ year @-@ old girl , Maria Jackson , discovering the existence of aliens . After discovering that the Bane , creators of a soft drink called Bubble Shock ! , harbour a destructive secret , she teams up with investigative journalist Sarah Jane Smith to prevent their plans .

= = Plot = =

A thirteen @-@ year @-@ old girl , Maria Jackson (Yasmin Paige) , and her recently divorced father Alan (Joseph Millson) move into a house opposite journalist and former time @-@ traveller Sarah Jane Smith (Elisabeth Sladen) . The night after they have moved in , Maria is woken by an ethereal light emanating from Sarah Jane 's house , which she discovers , to her horrified fascination , to be Sarah Jane conversing with a star poet , or arcateenian .

The next morning , a neighbour Kelsey Hooper (Porsha Lawrence Mavour) visits and welcomes Maria before inviting her into town , using the free " Bubble Shock ! " bus to travel there and tour the factory . Once they arrive at the factory , they are led to a security scanner , which surreptitiously collects their DNA to transfer to an " Archetype " (Thomas Knight) under the supervision of the factory 's owner , Mrs Wormwood (Samantha Bond) .

Sarah Jane , having overheard the girls making plans , follows them to the factory and interviews Mrs Wormwood , and how she was able to get approval for the drink so fast , and why the Bane , an ingredient unique to the drink , was " resisting " analysis , to which she is told that all that Bubble Shock ! is doing is satisfying the needs of the Western world . On Sarah Jane 's way out , she is almost killed by Wormwood 's secretary .

Kelsey wanders from the tour and attempts to phone Maria , but disturbs an unknown beast , the Bane Mother , to the annoyance of the staff , to which Wormwood orders the alarms switched off and Sarah Jane killed . Maria attempts to phone Kelsey , but sets off the alarms again , causing the Archetype to escape , transferring the focus upon him . Maria , while escaping , encounters him , who just mimics her , and they escape into a women 's bathroom . Sarah Jane then enters , and although they are surprised to see each other , they manage to escape the factory , albeit without Kelsey . When they arrive back on Bannerman Road , Sarah warns Maria not to get involved as her life is too dangerous .

Meanwhile , Kelsey is accosted by the factory guards , which causes her to rant about the treatment she has received . Wormwood subdues her by revealing her true form , and having discovered Kelsey and Sarah Jane live on the same street , uses her PR representative Davey (Jamie Davis) to escort her home . Once there , Maria realises upon sight of Kelsey that Davey had discovered Sarah and tries to run into Sarah Jane 's house . Eventually realising their intent , Sarah Jane brings them inside , with Davey , now as a Bane , giving chase . Sarah Jane is able to repel Davey and then , upon discovery of the attic by Kelsey , tells the teenagers about aliens : years ago , she met the Doctor , a man like no other , who took her through time and space . The adventures suddenly ended , but when they met by chance (in " School Reunion ") not long ago , they realised they were still fond of each other . Sarah Jane has a brief reunion with K9 , who is in her safe , sealing off a black hole .

Once Sarah Jane has analysed that the Bane ingredient was sentient , she activates her computer , Mr Smith - after some shouting by Kelsey - and contacts Wormwood and politely requests that she leaves Earth . Wormwood refuses , and in retaliation takes control of the majority of the human race . Sarah Jane races to the factory , but cannot enter until she drives the bus into a wall . Wormwood reveals the Bane Mother , and explains the Archetype is a conglomerate of human DNA designed to be investigated so that Bubble Shock could be improved . The Archetype uses an alien

communicator Sarah Jane had been given , realising that the signal would be strong enough to kill the Bane Mother , and Sarah Jane , Maria , and the Archetype escape as the factory explodes .

The following evening , Sarah Jane agrees to adopt the Archetype and agrees with Maria to call him " Luke " , since that was what she wanted to name her child if she ever had one . The episode closes with a monologue by Sarah Jane that while space may be strange , adventures may be had on Earth , if one knows where to look .

= = = Continuity = = =

Mrs Wormwood reappears in the series 2 serial Enemy of the Bane .

When trying to find a name for Luke , Sarah Jane mentions Harry , referring to Harry Sullivan and Alastair , which is the first name of Brigadier Lethbridge @-@ Stewart before deciding on Luke .

= = Outside Reference = =

The plot is similar to that of Futurama 's " Fry and the Slurm Factory " with an alien 's bodily fluid being used in a soft drink to take control of humans and the world .

= = Production = =

= = = Sladen and Doctor Who = = =

Elisabeth Sladen previously played Sarah Jane between 1973 and 1976 . In 1981 , she was offered the role again to ease the transition between the Fourth and Fifth Doctors , which she declined , but agreed to star in the pilot (and only episode) for the spin @-@ off series K @-@ 9 and Company , which brought her together with K @-@ 9 , another popular character . After her appearance in The Five Doctors in 1983 , she temporarily stopped acting in order to raise her family , but lent her voice to several Big Finish audio productions . She returned to Doctor Who in the aptly titled Tenth Doctor episode , " School Reunion " . Sladen and Tommy Knight have also appeared as Sarah Jane and Luke Smith in the series 4 finale , " The Stolen Earth " / " Journey 's End " , and in the second and final part of David Tennant 's swan song as the Tenth Doctor , The End of Time .

= = = Concept and writing = = =

In 2005 , Russell T Davies had envisioned using a previous companion to explore the role and eventual fate of the Doctor 's companions . Sladen was convinced to appear in the second series episode " School Reunion " . Meanwhile , CBBC proposed a spin @-@ off to Davies about a teenage Doctor , which he denied in favour of a spin @-@ off revolving around Sarah Jane . While surprised , Sladen agreed to sign on the project . However , the rights for K @-@ 9 to appear in the series were not secured . To explain the non @-@ appearance of K @-@ 9 , the production team gave him a cameo fixing a black hole inadvertently created in Switzerland .

The episode was written by Davies and Gareth Roberts . Roberts drew from several outside sources several parts of the plot , for example the allusion to the star of Wormwood from the Book of Revelation . Roberts also used the name of a beverage called " Bubblesshake " in his novel The Highest Science for inspiration for Bubble Shock ! .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

The first scene of " Invasion of the Bane " to be shown was on 8 December 2006 , during a BBC Breakfast interview with Sladen , and was released a day later on the interactive advent calendar on the Doctor Who microsite . The clip , lasting one minute in length , was of Sarah Jane 's interview with Mrs Wormwood .

The episode 's airing on BBC1 gathered 2 @.@ 9 million viewers , 15 % of the audience share , of which 20 % were under 16 . While the film Chitty Chitty Bang Bang , which aired against " Invasion of the Bane " on ITV1 , had a higher overall reach , " Invasion of the Bane " had a slightly higher number of viewers head @-@ to @-@ head . The episode 's audience Appreciation Index was 77 , the average score for an episode of a drama programme .

= = Novelisation = =

This was the first of eleven Sarah Jane Adventures serials to be adapted as a novel . Written by Terrance Dicks , the book was first published in Paperback on 1 November 2007 .