

WE FIX SPACE JUNK

SEASON THREE

EPISODE 5: THE TANK

By Beth Crane

CAST

SAMANTHA:	Rebecca Evans
KILNER:	Beth Crane
DAX:	Jack Carmichael
O'NEILL:	James Carney
SANFORD:	Michael J Rigg
CARDENAS:	Graham Rowat
MS LAMB:	Vicki Baron
PENELOPE WORTHING:	Mama BangBang
HUMPHREY MERTDINGER:	Sean Howard

SFX:

THEME TUNE STING

ANNOUNCER: We Fix Space Junk Season 3, by Beth Crane. Episode Five: The Tank

SFX:

THEME TUNE CONTINUES

SCENE 1: INT. YELLOW SUBMARINE

SFX:

KILNER AND SAMANTHA ARE COMPILING A SHOPPING LIST.

KILNER: So we need to get... Breakfast paste.

SAMANTHA: Ugh.

KILNER: Rehydratable protein.

SAMANTHA: Ugh.

KILNER: Freeze-dried greens.

SAMANTHA: Eh.

KILNER: Dairy powder.

SAMANTHA: Yay, I -- think?

KILNER: Party rings.

SAMANTHA: Yay!

KILNER: Anything else?

SFX: **BEEP BOOP, IT'S AUTOMNICON.**

KILNER: Oh great, I didn't get a chance to save the list.

AUTOMNIVOICE: Hello, valued employees! Here are the details for your next exciting mission. You will be TRANSPORTING LIVE SPECIMEN in or at the HIGH SECURITY SPECIMEN LAB, LARCAX 3 TO NEUTRAL INDUSTRIES INC LABORATORIES, KANTRAX 5. We hope you enjoy your mission. Additional Notes: EXTREME CAUTION REQUIRED WITH SAMPLE [MESSAGE ENDS]

KILNER: Oh Bruce. That's all we need.

SAMANTHA: Where are we... headed?

KILNER: Larcax 3 has no hypermarkets at all.

SAMANTHA: I mean... also the extreme caution bit means we could die?

KILNER: Oh right. Yeah. That too.

DAX: So should I power up?

KILNER: Yep, we better get going.

SFX: **THE YELLOW SUB FLIES AWAY.**

SCENE 2: EXT. LAB, LARCAX 3

SFX: **THE YELLOW SUB LANDS OUTSIDE THE LAB. THE RAMP COMES DOWN.**

KILNER: Hello?

SANFORD: Oh. Hello. You're -- uh. Not quite what we expected.

SAMANTHA: We're here to collect the sample for transport?

SANFORD: The Carpite Exterminatore. Load her up, boys.

O'NEILL: For Bruce's sake don't tip the tank.

SAMANTHA: The, uh --

KILNER: Okay. I'll get it loaded.

SANFORD: We will load the tank. My -- apologies, it's just -- we need it to be loaded perfectly.

KILNER: Sure. Less work for me.

SAMANTHA: That's a lot of -- security. For a tank.

O'NEILL: Yes. Two layers of glass, a layer of lead and another layer of glass. The contents are incredibly important, and -- well. I'm sure you know how dangerous it can be.

SFX: **SANFORD AND O'NEILL CARRY THE TANK INTO THE SUB**

SANFORD: Careful --

O'NEILL: There --

SANFORD: Slightly lower --

O'NEILL: Is this floor even level?

KILNER: It's level -- ish?

SANFORD: I'm -- sorry, I think we're going to have to put this into the main section of the ship. This space is too -- large and chaotic. Who knows what could happen?

SAMANTHA: The main section of the ship is -- kind of where we live?

SANFORD: It'll only be there for a couple of hours. And you'll be able to keep a far better eye on it in there.

KILNER: It needs keeping an eye on?

SFX: **THE SCIENTISTS CARRY IT UPSTAIRS. KILNER AND SAMANTHA SIT IN SILENCE FOR A MOMENT. THE SCIENTISTS COME BACK DOWNSTAIRS.**

O'NEILL: We've installed it in the most level place we could find. It's on the table in your eating quarters.

SANFORD: We did have to -- move several dessicated plates.

SAMANTHA: We didn't know we were -- having visitors!

KILNER: So are we ready to go now?

SANFORD: Yes. Remember. Be careful. Really, really careful. Any -- breach could be catastrophic.

KILNER: Sure.

SFX: **SAMANTHA AND KILNER WALK UPSTAIRS AS THE SCIENTISTS LEAVE. THE HATCH CLOSES.**

SFX: **THE YELLOW SUB TAKES OFF.**

SCENE 3: INT. YELLOW SUB -- LATER

SFX: **KILNER IS STEERING THE SHIP. SAMANTHA IS CHILLING OUT. A SOFT WOODEN CREAK IN THE BACKGROUND.**

SAMANTHA: So what's the deal with Kantrax 5?

KILNER: Honestly, I've never been there before.

SAMANTHA: Really? I thought you'd been everywhere!

KILNER: It's a very big universe.

SFX: **A CREAK. ONE OF THE LEGS ON THE KITCHEN TABLE**
GIVES WAY AND THE TANK FALLS ONTO THE FLOOR
WITH A CRASH OF BREAKING GLASS. A SCUFFLE;
SOMETHING IS MOVING!

SAMANTHA: Oh Bruce --

KILNER: What was that?

SAMANTHA: Do you want the bad news or the -- well, it's just bad news.

KILNER: What's happened?

SAMANTHA: One of the legs fell off of the table.

KILNER: Right --

SAMANTHA: And the tanks -- broken. There's a hole in the side that's...
Whatever's inside...

KILNER: It's escaped?

SAMANTHA: I -- think so. Yeah. Do you hear that?

SFX: **A CHITTERING, DISTANTLY. SOMETHING SCUFFLES.**

SFX: **KILNER AND SAMANTHA GET UP, WALK TOWARDS
THE TANK. CRUNCH OF STEPPING ON BROKEN
GLASS.**

SAMANTHA: Oh Bruce --

KILNER: Okay. Stay calm. Stay calm stay calm stay calm... DAX, can you
run a search on -- on --

SAMANTHA: Carpite Exterminatore?

KILNER: Yeah. That.

SFX: **DAX SEARCHES. A BUNCH OF 'DUD' NOISES.**

KILNER: That -- doesn't sound great, DAX...

SAMANTHA: Tell me that's a success noise?

DAX: I mean I haven't found... nothing at all...

KILNER: Right?

DAX: It's just that what I've found is... very heavily censored.

KILNER: Right.

DAX: Pretty much all I can read is... "strangulation"... "rapidly
multiplying"... "destruction"... do you want me to go on?

SAMANTHA: ...No. Not really.

DAX: Oh, and "traumatic cell softening"

KILNER: Great. Good. Uh-huh.

SAMANTHA: So there's a -- creature loose on our ship that could kill us.

KILNER: Wouldn't be the first time.

SAMANTHA: Seriously?

KILNER: I mean -- not in the last -- fifty years or so, but --

SAMANTHA: I guess there was RINGO...

KILNER: And Automnicon are always... I guess, trying to kill us.

SAMANTHA: We don't exactly do a lot of safe jobs.

KILNER: You really don't want to be stuck on the safe jobs. Seriously.

SAMANTHA: Why?

KILNER: Paperwork. Paperwork as far as the eye can see.

SAMANTHA: Ugh.

KILNER: At least out here... You know, we might get some, uh, traumatic cell softening, but at we won't die of eyestrain. Or... Well, lets say the penpushers aren't entirely safe either.

SAMANTHA: Fair point.

DAX: Kilner --

KILNER: Sorry, Dax. We should probably come up with a plan...

SAMANTHA: So how do we -- get it?

SAMANTHA: Is there stuff we can use in the workbench?

KILNER: Yeah, I think so --

DAX: KILNER!

KILNER: What?

DAX: It's inside my wiring!

KILNER: Oh Bruce --

SFX: **RUSTLING**

DAX: The thing knows exactly what it's doing. It's gone straight for my autopilot controls! It's -- it's gnawing through them -- KILNER GET BACK IN THE DRIVING SEAT NOW!

SFX: **THE SHIP LURCHES AND KILNER RUNS BACK TO THE DRIVING SEAT, LEAPS IN AND GRABS THE CONTROLS.**

SAMANTHA: Kilner!

KILNER: Grab onto something, we're going into a bit of a tailspin...

SFX: **THEY BOTH GET HIT BY A WAVE OF GFORCE, WHICH GRADUALLY SLOWS**

KILNER: Okay! Okay! I've got it under control.

SAMANTHA: So I'm -- going to have to -- hunt this thing on my own?

DAX: I can help!

KILNER: I think we just -- I'll fly the ship, you go -- down to the workshop and grab -- whatever you can, DAX keep an eye on it. We'll get to Kantrax 5 and -- if we can, we'll get help there. We're not -- too far away. I'll see if I can send a hailing --

DAX: It's gotten to my comms too.

KILNER: Oh for Brucesake --

DAX: I'm sorry!

KILNER: I'm not -- sorry. I'm not shouting at you.

SAMANTHA: I'm going to -- go and grab some gear from downstairs. I'll -- get things for you too! And -- you just stay -- unstrangled, alright?

KILNER: Sure. Be -- quick.

SFX: **SAMANTHA LEAVES. KILNER KEEPS DRIVING.**

DAX: I think -- I think it might be making a nest...

KILNER: Bruce, it better not be. If this thing lays eggs --

DAX: Yeah.

KILNER: What if they just -- immolate the ship? Do you think they'd do that?

DAX: I -- don't know.

KILNER: If it's that dangerous and they can't -- get rid of it --

DAX: I'm sure they wouldn't.

KILNER: I'm -- sure they probably wouldn't.

SFX: SAMANTHA SLOWLY CLANKS UP THE STAIRS IN FULL
OUTER SPACE EXPLORATION GEAR. SHE SPEAKS
THROUGH A SPEAKER IN HER HELMET.

SAMANTHA: Kilner! I didn't know if this was overkill, but I went for the full space suit!

KILNER: It might be -- I actually don't know!

SAMANTHA: I brought yours up, but -- I don't know if you'll be able to fly the sub in it.

KILNER: I... don't think I can.

SFX: SHE CLICKS WHAT SOUNDS LIKE A SHOTGUN

SAMANTHA: Well. Guess I'm just going to have to catch the thing, then.

KILNER: What -- what's that? Is that -- my harpoon gun?

SAMANTHA: It has a net setting...

KILNER: Oh.

SAMANTHA: I thought maybe if we... lure whatever it is out of DAX's brain and then net it...

KILNER: That's -- yeah. That works. DAX?

DAX: I don't -- know how I'm going to get it out...

SAMANTHA: I also brought up a couple of things from the food stores... I know we don't have much left, but --

KILNER: Samantha, is that my peanut butter?

SAMANTHA: ...Yeah.

KILNER: I guess it's life or death...

SAMANTHA: Okay. So I'm going to scrape some out and -- put it in the middle of the floor, then back off. DAX, if you -- could maybe shock it, just a little bit, that might -- help scare it out? And then when it gets to the peanut butter -- I shoot it with the net.

KILNER: Right.

SAMANTHA: One -- Two --

SFX: **SPARKS, A CHIRP FROM THE CREATURE, A THUD AS IT LANDS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FLOOR, A MUNCH AS IT GOES FOR THE PEANUT BUTTER AND A THUD AS SAMANTHA GETS IT IN THE NET.**

SAMANTHA: Got you, you little --

KILNER: What even is that?

SAMANTHA: Well. You better take us down. I'll keep a close eye on it.

SFX: **THE CREATURE CHITTERS IRRITABLY AS SHE HOLDS IT UP IN THE NET. KILNER LANDS THE SHIP.**

KILNER: We should... probably tell them about the nest.

SAMANTHA: What nest?

KILNER: We think it might have built a nest.

DAX: In my brain.

KILNER: So they might need to -- isolate the ship.

SAMANTHA: Oh Bruce.

SFX: **A KNOCK ON THE HATCH. KILNER GETS UP AND GOES OVER, SHOUTS THROUGH A LOCAL COMMS SYSTEM.**

KILNER: Hi!

CARDENAS: Are you alright, there? You're -- uh, not opening your hatch.

KILNER: We're -- afraid we might have been -- compromised. We think the -- uh --

DAX: Carpite Exterminatore.

KILNER: Carpite Exterminatore might have -- built a nest.

CARDENAS: What?

SAMANTHA: There was an accident with its tank, and it -- broke. It got out.

CARDENAS: And you -- think it made a nest?

KILNER: Yeah.

SAMANTHA: I caught it, but it could have -- laid eggs, or something?

CARDENAS: What does it... look like?

SAMANTHA: It's -- kind of small. Green. Two arms, four legs. Quite a lot of eyes and -- a big mouth.

CARDENAS: And you've caught it?

SAMANTHA: Yeah.

CARDENAS: Is it okay?

SAMANTHA: Uh -- yeah, I think so.

CARDENAS: Great. You can open the door now.

SAMANTHA: What?

CARDENAS: Come on. We don't have all day!

SAMANTHA: Oh. Uh.

SFX: **THEY OPEN THE DOOR AND HE COMES IN. THE
CREATURE BEGINS CHITTERING AND CHIRPING.**

SAMANTHA: I wouldn't get too close, it's -- pretty bitey.

SFX: CARDENAS CHIRPS TO IT, REACHES OUT HIS ARMS.

CARDENAS: There we go, boy. Little bit scared, aren't we?

KILNER: Uh. What.

CARDENAS: This -- this is Chichester. I just got a message from Sanford asking if I could check for him. He, uh -- sometimes likes to stow away.

SAMANTHA: So...

SFX: CARDENAS NOTICES THE TANK, GOES OVER. HE
PICKS IT UP.

CARDENAS: I see. Well, the tank doesn't seem too bad.

SAMANTHA: What?

CARDENAS: I mean it's broken, but the Carpite Exterminatore seems to be okay.

SFX: HE LIFTS UP THE TANK.

CARDENAS: There we go. No. Not for you, Chichi. This is a very important scientific sample, isn't it? Yes it is! Yes it is!

SFX: CHICHESTER CHIRPS AND HE RUBS IT UNDER THE CHIN.

KILNER: Right.

CARDENAS: All safe and sound, see? It's just a little plant.

SFX: **HE TAPS THE POT.**

KILNER: What?

CARDENAS: Well. Technically it's a little plant that caused some extremely expensive crop failures last year. This thing grows like crazy! Strangles any other plant out there.

SAMANTHA: Seriously.

CARDENAS: We're also not entirely sure how it responds to space travel, which is why we -- took all of those precautions. But never mind, it seems to have survived.

KILNER: Right. Uh -- Chichester did cause some -- wiring damage, while he was here.

CARDENAS: Ah, that's alright. I'll send someone in to fix that right up. We can grab some lunch while they're working on it, if you like?

SAMANTHA: I would definitely like.

CARDENAS: Lovely. I'll treat you. I just need to drop this bad boy off in the warfare lab --

KILNER: The what?

CARDENAS: Sorry. We've been, uh -- told not to call it that. The -- uh. Tactical genetic manipulation lab.

SAMANTHA: The -- uh --what?

CARDENAS: I think it's pizza day today! Come on!

SFX: **THEME MUSIC SLOWLY RISES**

ANNOUNCER: In that episode of We Fix Space Junk, Samantha Trapp was played by Rebecca Evans, Kilner was played by Beth Crane, DAX was played by Jack Carmichael, O'Neill was played by James Carney, Berry was played by Hedley Knights, Sanford was played by Michael J Rigg and Cardenas was played by Graham Rowat. This episode also featured the voice of Vicki Baron, Mama BangBang and Sean Howard. The programme was written by Beth Crane and produced by Hedley Knights for Battle Bird Productions.

This series is dedicated to Steve Crane.

We'd like to thank our patrons for their support, and especially say thank you to Becky A and Caroline M. We use the money from our Patreon to pay our actors and run the show, so we are eternally grateful for all that you do for us!

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POST CREDITS.

SFX:

MS LAMB'S PHONE RINGS

PENELOPE: Hello, Ms Lamb.

MS LAMB: Penelope.

HUMPHREY: We're both here -- we're on speakerphone.

MS LAMB: Are you -- all there?

HUMPHREY: Mr King is -- emphatically -- not here.

MS LAMB: Right.

PENELOPE: So my first question is why are you bothering? Can't you just -- get another wife?

MS LAMB: We're -- very different people, Penelope. I'd... well. I'd -- rather not. It's a lot of -- hassle, finding someone who -- understands me.

HUMPHREY: Surely it can't be that difficult, there must be some kind of -- robotic dating system.

MS LAMB: She's not a robot, she's just -- got a lot of metalwork.

PENELOPE: Right. All that aside, Mr King is a really odious little man and whatever he's doing with this -- hive mind project is just making him more smug by the day.

MS LAMB: So it's -- expanding?

HUMPHREY: Depressingly quickly.

PENELOPE: We'll have to do something about it.

MS LAMB: The real question is... what?

SFX:

FINAL STING.

AUTOMNIVOICE: Have questions about the Hive Mind process? Wondering where your body will go after we incorporate you into the hive? As a successful applicant, your commitment is now final and you will be collected within the hour.

Here are your next steps. We start by painlessly removing your mind from your body, using a technique we've refined over the course of more than two million mind extractions.

you will then be introduced to your new community working group; a group of minds matched to gel most efficiently with yours. this introduction is final. your body, meanwhile, will be implanted with an artificial mind, allowing it to become the perfect, productive member of society that you never were.

Prepare your documents now. We are coming for you.