

firefly **Episode Guide**

Episodes 001-014

Last episode aired Friday December 13, 2002





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Season One

Serenity

Season 1

Episode Number: 1

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired:	Friday December 20, 2002
Writer:	Joss Whedon
Director:	Joss Whedon
Show Stars:	Nathan Fillion (Captain Malcolm "Mal" Reynolds), Sean Maher (Dr. Simon Tam), Ron Glass (The Shepherd Book), Gina Torres (Zoe), Jewel Staite (Kaywinnit Lee 'Kaylee' Frye), Alan Tudyk (Wash), Adam Baldwin (Jayne Cobb), Summer Glau (River Tam), Morena Baccarin (Inara Serra)
Guest Stars:	Eddie Adams (Bendis), Philip Sternberg (Inara's Client), Carlos Jacott (Lawrence Dobson), Mark Sheppard (Badger), Andy Umberger (Dortmunder Captain), Colin Patrick Lynch (Radio Operator), Domingo Vara (Ensign), Stephen O'Mahoney (Man (Dortmunder)), Jamie McShane (Man), John F. Kearney (Old Man), Gabrielle Wagner (Slave #1)
Production Code:	LAGE79
Summary:	After a flashback to Zoe's and Mal's days in the wars six years previous, we cut to the modern day where the Serenity crew is running a salvage operation on a deserted ship and are forced to flee with the cargo when the Alliance show up. Their buddy Badger refuses to buy the cargo so they head off to the rim worlds after picking up three passengers: Book, Simon, and Dobson. En route someone sends a signal to the Alliance and it turns out to be Dobson, an undercover Federal agent, who arrests Simon but is glad to take the whole crew in. He shoots Kaylee before being captured, and Simon forces Mal to flee in return for his doctoring services. When Mal investigates Simon's cargo he finds a naked woman. . .



War! Men in brown coats are being attacked from above by spaceships. Sergeant Malcolm Reynolds meets with his fellow comrades and is told that air support is on hold; basically, they're not coming to help them yet. After being told that air support won't move until approved by a lieutenant through a code, the sergeant tears an encoded badge off of a dead body and congratulates Green on his promotion, then orders him to call for air support. The Sergeant tells Zoe to go the high ground and he volunteers an-

other man to follow him. Just then, another explosion kills the man next to Sergeant. After a short soapbox speech about them giving the Alliance a hard time taking over Serenity Valley, the Sergeant yells at them to hold. As they are about to go, the Sergeant kisses the cross hanging around his neck and goes his direction while Zoe covers for him with a terrified Bendis. The Sergeant, with Zoe, is able to get to one of the bigger guns and shoots down an Alliance fighter ship from the sky. Sergeant and Zoe get back to their bunker where they find Green dead and Bendis still sitting there. Sergeant tells Bendis that they're not going to die because they're just too pretty for God to let them die. Expecting victory over Serenity Valley, he hears air ships fly by

and Zoe tells him air support is not coming because it's "too hot" and they're pulling out, leaving them in Serenity Valley and telling them to lay down arms... Sergeant and Bendis look down the valley as they see Alliance spacecraft land, and Bendis gets shot dead while Sergeant looks in disbelief...

6 years later, we find the Sergeant is now Captain Malcolm Reynolds and he's with Zoe and Jayne Cobb out on a job to salvage cargo from an adrift vessel. Wash, the ship's pilot, is in the cockpit, playing with his plastic toy dinosaurs as he waits for them to finish their work. Wash then gets a signal and alerts the Capt. that an Alliance cruiser is coming. Capt. "Mal" tells Kaylee, the ship's engineer, to shut down power so as not to be detected. They're able to get away with the cargo with the use of a "crybaby", a barrel carrying a fake distress signal. However, they have been flagged with possible stolen goods on board.

They open the cargo and Mal turns one of the blocks over to see an insignia. He quickly turns it back to hide it from the rest of the crew and they close up the cargo. He needs to get rid of the cargo fast, and encourages Wash to try to get to Persephone faster. Zoe asks if there's anything wrong with the cargo, but he tells her that it's fine and just wants to get paid. As Mal, Kaylee and Jayne are stowing the cargo, he lets them know they're going to take on passengers on Persephone, stating they need some respectability on their way to Boros, and more importantly, money. Kaylee is thrilled with the idea of meeting new people and hearing their stories, but Jayne just finds it burdensome. Jayne wants her to stop being so cheerful, but Mal says there's "nothing in the 'verse" to stop that. Kaylee gives Mal a peck on the cheek, and says she loves her captain.

Zoe confides in Wash, her husband, as they're walking towards the cockpit, saying that there's something wrong with Mal, that he's tense. Wash says they all just need some R&R and he gives her a suggestion as to where they should go when they get to Boros. She will only do it if Mal says it's okay, and Wash shows some of his jealousy in that they always have to run everything by Mal, and remarks to call him "sir" because Mal likes that. At that moment, Mal walks in and asks about the "Ambassador", Inara, and to let her know they may have to leave Persephone fast. Wash suggests that he can contact her to cut things short, but Mal tells them not to rush Inara as she's the only one on the crew making an honest living.

We see Inara in bed with a man, obviously after a session of some heavy lovemaking. She imagines they're conversing and he's listening intently and that he's asking her to stay, however, in reality, he is finished and ready to leave. She thanks him for the wonderful time they've had, but he negates her graciousness and instead blatantly hints that she has rigged the clock to go faster to cheat him out of his time. She is apparently hurt and insulted by his accusation, but says nothing as he leaves. She opens the drapes to reveal she is on a shuttle, which is part of Mal's ship, Serenity, and contacts Wash to rendezvous with them.

Upon arriving on Persephone, Mal tells Kaylee to get some passengers that can pay and tells Wash to get whatever supplies they need as Mal, Zoe, and Jayne go deliver the cargo to Badger, the man who hired them.

An older looking man with grey haired put up in a ponytail walks about the area with his luggage. He's offered passage on one ship, but declines.

Mal, Zoe, and Jayne arrive at Badger's place of meeting. Mal already realizes that Badger is tense and that Badger had gotten the bulletin about Mal's ship with the illegal goods. Badger doesn't want to go through with the deal anymore. Guns are drawn, words are exchanged, but Mal eventually backs off, knowing that Badger's not going to back down and pay up. Badger suggests he go to the border planets.

The old man comes across Kaylee sitting on the platform of Serenity, and Kaylee suggests he goes on their ship, knowing that he's interested in the ship more than the destination. She finds out he's more interested in the journey anyway. He introduces himself as a Shepherd from the Southdown Abbey, and his name is Book.

As they're walking back to the ship, Mal decides that they go to Whitefall, a border planet. But Zoe doesn't think that's a good idea since Patience, the person in charge at Whitefall, shot him once. Mal states they have no choice given their limited resources and not even the passengers' money are going to be enough.

They get to the ship just as a big cargo is being loaded up, accompanied by a young and well-dressed man, maybe a little too well-dressed to be on Mal's ship. Kaylee introduces the man to Mal as Simon, and Mal welcomes him aboard, staring him down a bit as he does.

Zoe understates that they have a boat full of passengers along with their stolen cargo. Mal just says to shoot them politely if it looks like they're trying to find it, and Inara joins up, locking in her shuttle to the ship.

Mal shows the passengers around and Kaylee states that Shepard is going to help with dinner, which at this point is when Mal finds out they have a Shepard on board, which seems a little less comforting to Mal, but Kaylee reassures them both that it's not a problem. Mal tells the three passengers that they cannot go into the cargo bay area, but Simon seems reluctant about this and states that some of his belongings are in there. Mal assures them they can go in there to get whatever they need, but they're going to be accompanied by one of the crew. Mal also lets them know they were ordered by the Alliance to stop by Whitefall to drop off medical supplies. Zoe takes the passengers to the cargo bay and Mal asks Wash if he sent word to Patience, but Wash did not hear back yet.

As Simon loads up one of his bags to take to his room, he looks intently on his large cargo. Zoe looks intently on all them. Shep gives Kaylee a box, and Inara walks into the cargo bay area, being greeted as Ambassador by Mal. Mal introduces Inara to Shepherd Book and Inara states that it is the first time a preacher's been on the ship, but Shep mistakes her for a real Ambassador. Mal chuckles at the misunderstanding. As Inara is telling him what her profession is, Mal interrupts rudely with a blatant statement that Inara is a whore, a profession that is recognized as respectable and labeled as "companion" (and as close to an Ambassador as the ship is going to get), although noticeably disagreeable to both Mal and Shepard. Mal asks Shep if it's going to be a problem, but Inara reassures him that she keeps to herself. There is noticeable tension between Inara and Mal, something that has probably been there since the day they met.

Kaylee enters the kitchen and opens the box that Shepherd gave her, revealing a strawberry in her hand.

They show them all at the table about to eat dinner, and Shep asks if he can say grace, but Mal protests on him saying it aloud, so the rest of them say grace along with Shep quietly as Mal continues eating. Once they stop, they start talking about the border planets, and Zoe and Mal explain that some of the border planets have not been as carefully looked after as the core planets. Simon says it's good they're helping and Mal just looks at him. Then Kaylee asks if Simon is a doctor, and he concurs stating he was a trauma surgeon on one of the core planets. She states he looks young to be a doctor and he does likewise in regards to her being the ship's engineer. Jayne puts in his two cents and states not-too-kindly that Kaylee has a crush on Simon. Mal tells him to leave the table since Jayne can't be civil, and Jayne does so begrudgingly. Mal tells Simon sarcastically that Jayne's job is Public Relations.

Inara is in her shuttle/room, taking a sponge bath when Shepherd comes in to bring her food, although he's uncomfortable entering during an inappropriate time, which she's unconcerned about. Shepherd tells Inara that Mal seems to have true concern for his crew, although he doesn't seem to care much for making friends. He states that he finds Mal fascinating because he's "somewhat of a mystery." Inara states that she finds Mal fascinating because few men are like that.

Wash calls Mal to the cockpit and tells him that a mole signaled an Alliance cruiser to them. He thinks the fed is Simon, and catches Simon in the cargo bay alone; Mal punches him and then pulls a gun on him. Shep shows up telling the Captain that he might have the wrong guy. At that point, Simon and Mal turn their heads the opposite direction to where Shep is looking and see another gun pointing at them – the third passenger. The third passenger then calls out Simon Tam to arrest him as a fugitive. The tension rises as Shep tries to calm them all down and words are exchanged, but it becomes a yelling match. Kaylee unknowingly walks in on it and gets shot in the stomach by the Fed. The crew comes in, Shep hits the Fed in the throat, then the face and knocks him out. Simon, Inara, and Mal come to Kaylee's side, while Jayne wants to kill the Fed, but Shep doesn't allow it. Zoe comes in and orders Jayne to tie the Fed up. Wash then speaks through the com and says they've been hailed by an Alliance cruiser to stand down. Simon then tells them to turn the ship around and run or he won't help save Kaylee. At first Mal says no, but Kaylee yelps in pain, and he tells Zoe to change course.

Simon, Mal, and Inara bring Kaylee to the infirmary and Simon performs surgery on Kaylee while Mal and Inara watch, with Jayne watching outside of the infirmary. After Simon finishes up the surgery and Kaylee lies sleeping, Mal goes back to the cargo bay to find out what Simon is hiding, with Simon, Inara, and Jayne in tow. He opens the large cargo and finds a naked, young

girl sleeping in the fetal position.

Captain Malcolm Reynolds has just uncovered a girl in hiding in Simon's cargo. He starts accusing Simon of bringing aboard somewhat of a slave bride. At that moment, the girl awakes with a scream, causing Mal to jump. She is quite literally freaked out and crawls out of the cargo before Simon can get to her. Once he does, he comforts her and reveals that her name is River, and she is his sister.

In the dining room, Simon starts by telling them he is incredibly smart; however, his little sister makes him look like an "idiot child". Intermixed with scenes of Simon caring for her in the infirmary, he goes on further to tell them that River went to a government sponsored "school" that used her as some kind of guinea pig for their science experiments. After months of not hearing from her, Simon receives a letter from River that doesn't make sense, and devised that she was writing in code. "They're hurting us, get me out" is what he stated the code to be. After two years of trying to get to her, an underground group told Simon the government was "playing with her brain" and they would help get her out if he paid them. He doesn't know what they did to her, but he wants to keep her safe. The crew and Shep are very understanding of Simon's situation, except for Mal. Mal is annoyed that Simon would bring such a problem like that onboard his ship and endanger his crew. They don't know how much info was sent over the signal, although Wash states that he killed it soon after it was detected. But Mal has his own cargo to worry about, so he decides to finish the job first and go to Whitefall to make the exchange on the Alliance cargo they still have. Simon then asks the Captain what the fate is for him and his sister. Mal tells Simon that if Kaylee makes it alive, then they'll leave Simon and River at Whitefall; Mal hints at killing Simon if Kaylee doesn't survive. The crew starts arguing about the thought of Mal killing Simon, but Mal shuts them up. Inara tells Mal that if he leaves Simon and River at Whitefall, she will leave with them since she knows they'll be in danger there, but Mal tells her that it might be the best thing for her to do.

As Mal walks out of the dining room, Simon confronts him as to what his business is anyway. Simon rambles on, asking Mal what it is that scares him about the Alliance. Mal warns him to stop, but Simon persists, and for that gets a right hook in the jaw that knocks Simon to the floor. Jayne just looks on, smirking, stating that he "saw that comin'."

Mal and Jayne go talk to the tied up Fed to find out how much info got to the Alliance before Wash killed the signal. Mal leaves Jayne to interrogate the Fed, armed with a big knife. The Fed, whose name is Lawrence Dobson, lies and tells Jayne the Alliance knows everything about them, but Jayne sees right through Dobson's lie and is disappointed that he didn't get a chance to cut an ear off. Dobson gives him an offer.

Wash calls Mal up to the cockpit to let him know that a ship is passing by, but not the Alliance, and it's not operating with core containment. With that knowledge, they realize it's a Reaver ship. Mal sends out word over the intercom about the Reaver ship and tells everyone to stay calm. He tells them they're holding course in the hopes that the Reavers will just pass by; if they run, they will be chased after. Simon tells Zoe he doesn't understand, and she explains to him that the scary tales and campfire stories about Reavers are actually all true. "If they take the ship, they'll rape us to death, eat our flesh and sew our skins into their clothing." She continues, "And if we're very, very lucky, they'll do it in that order."

Simon goes to the infirmary to look after River as she's sleeping. Shep is already there, praying and standing by Kaylee. Inara is in her room as she opens a small box to reveal a hypodermic needle and a bottle of fluid. Jayne is loading up his weapons. And Zoe goes to the cockpit, to be with her husband and Mal. They breathe a sigh of relief when the Reavers hold their course and continue to pass.

Mal goes to the infirmary to check on Kaylee and observe the sleeping River. Kaylee wakes up to greet Mal with a smile. She knows Mal is concerned and she tells him the doctor fixed her up good. She tells him that it's no one's fault and that he has to have faith in people, then she drifts off to sleep.

In Inara's shuttle, Inara gives Simon her immunization medical kit. Simon apologizes for his part in Kaylee's shooting. As Inara and Simon are talking about the captain, in he comes, and Simon leaves while Mal and Inara exchange words again. When asked if she's leaving, she tells him it's dependent on him. Mal leaves to catch up to Simon to give him some words and explains that Simon could ruin all of their lives because of the Fed, who was there because of them. Mal tells Simon that he doesn't have time anymore. At first Simon doesn't know what Mal means by

that, until he tells him that Kaylee is dead.

Simon rushes to the infirmary... and finds Shep talking to a wide awake and chipper Kaylee. Mal, Wash, Jayne and Zoe are laughing it up in the cockpit.

They get word from Patience, and she agrees to see the stolen goods, but Mal knows she's planning on shooting him, again. Zoe suggests maybe trying their luck on other planets, but Mal quickly rebuffs, since their luck hasn't been all that great lately. In Dobson's room, Dobson is slowly cutting through the tape.

Mal, Zoe, and Jayne figure out what to do and hide the cargo so they can get away safely while Patience gets the goods. Jayne goes to find a place to hide. At this time on the ship, Shep goes to speak to Dobson to warn him of the danger he's in, but Dobson is free from his binds and knocks Shep unconscious. At first, he tries his com device, but it's not working, and then takes out his gun.

Mal and Zoe greet Patience and her group. She agrees to the exchange.

On *Serenity*, River wakes up calling for Simon. Kaylee is there, but not Simon, and River seems concerned. Suddenly, Dobson grabs her from behind and puts his gun to her head with Kaylee watching helplessly.

Patience tosses Mal the money, but once he tells her where the cargo is, they don't leave, and Patience wants her money back. Mal tosses back the money, but she wants Mal dead now and before Patience or any of her men get in a shot, Jayne shoots her best shooter in the head. Gunfight ensues.

Back on the ship, Simon and Wash are talking when Kaylee states over the intercom that River's been taken. Simon rushes back, and Wash gets an alert signal. While the gunfight continues, Dobson tries to escape with River through the cargo bay doors, but Simon jumps him from above, dazing them both. The gunfight is over, and Mal has taken his money back, but their bad luck is getting worse and Jayne runs to them telling them the Reavers followed them and are on their way.

Dobson and Simon struggle for the gun while River hides in fright. Wash warns them of the Reavers, but Dobson tries to reason with Simon since Simon has the gun. Mal, Zoe and Jayne ride in on horses and the cargo bay doors open, distracting Simon enough for Dobson to get the other gun and shoot. Fortunately for Simon, Dobson misses. But he has River again. As Mal walks in, he shoots Dobson square in the head. River is traumatized, but safe. Mal and Jayne throw Dobson's body out and take off, but the Reavers are right behind them. Mal has Jayne carry Kaylee to the engine room and then tells Inara to get the civilians on the shuttle with her so if the ship gets caught, she and the others can get away. At first she protests, but Mal puts his hand on her shoulder, a move they seem to both find a little too intimate and uncomfortable, and he again tells her to go. Shep follows Kaylee and Jayne to the engine room to help Kaylee as Inara brings Simon and River to her shuttle. Mal tells Wash that he needs an "Ivan." Kaylee, with the help of Jayne and Shep, get the ship ready for the maneuver. After some evasive flying, Wash does a 180 turn flying right under and past the Reaver ship, and as they're flying away, a flood of fire is blown from the back of their ship, basically causing a blind flash that gets them far enough away from the Reavers that they can't catch up with them. Kaylee touches the wall of the ship, saying "That's my girl."

Inara is wiping the blood off of Shep's head. They are in her shuttle, and he questions his place on this ship and his recent actions. He wonders if he's on the wrong ship, but Inara thinks that maybe he's where he should be.

Simon is tucking his sister in bed. She touches his face and tells him that she didn't think he'd come for her, so he tells her she's a "dummy." They hug affectionately.

In the cockpit, Jayne tells Mal that River is a problem because they will keep looking for her. Mal seems reluctant in agreeing with him, and wonders how Dobson was able to get out of his binds so easily, but Jayne gets defensive. Mal knows that Jayne was offered a deal and asks why he didn't take it. Jayne tells him that it wasn't good enough, and wonders what would happen when it is enough, to which Jayne says "Well, that'll be an interesting day."

As Jayne leaves, Simon walks in, and asks Mal where he plans on dropping him and his sister. Mal gives Simon a surprising offer: to stay on the ship. Mal says they could use a doctor on board. Simon's not sure of this offer since he thinks Mal might kill him in his sleep, but Mal assures Simon he won't kill him unless he's awake, facing him, and armed. Simon, still unsure, summarizes the situation to Mal – Alliance, criminals, and savages on them, half of the crew

shot or wounded one time or another and two fugitives on board. Mal can only say that at least they're still flying, although to Simon it's not much.

Mal counters, "It's enough."

The Train Job

Season 1

Episode Number: 2

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired:	Friday September 20, 2002
Writer:	Tim Minear, Joss Whedon
Director:	Joss Whedon
Show Stars:	Nathan Fillion (Captain Malcolm "Mal" Reynolds), Sean Maher (Dr. Simon Tam), Ron Glass (The Shepherd Book), Gina Torres (Zoe), Jewel Staite (Kaywinnit Lee 'Kaylee' Frye), Alan Tudyk (Wash), Adam Baldwin (Jayne Cobb), Summer Glau (River Tam), Morena Baccarin (Inara Serra)
Guest Stars:	David Reynolds (Henchman), Gregg Henry (Bourne), Tom Towles (Lund), Andrew Bryniarski (Crow), Michael Fairman (Niska), Jeff Ricketts (Blue-Hand Man #1), Valerie Red-Horse (Deputy), Kevin Will (Officer), Lina Patel (Ensign), Dennis Cockrum (Blue-Hand Man #2), Eric Lange (Fed), Tawny Rene Hamilton (Immigrant Woman #1), Michelle Ferrara (Immigrant Woman #2), Drew Goddard (Guy on planet)
Production Code:	1AGE01
Summary:	Serenity continues to travel through space conducting illegal runs across the star system, which is under the control of The Alliance. A powerful and fearsome mobster named Adelei Niska demands that the crew of Serenity pull a train robbery. The train is carrying medical supplies for a community, and Reynolds and Zoe get held on suspicion. They get free with Inara's help but realize they were tricked and try to return Niska's money. His henchman isn't too happy, but Mal "persuades" the next guy to take the money back. Meanwhile, two blue-handed, black-suited operatives close in on River.



Unification Day. Six years have passed since the Universal Alliance declared victory over the Independents. On this day, Mal, Zoë and Jayne find themselves in an Alliance friendly bar, where a lout named Lund makes an offensive toast to the Unification of the planets. When Mal refuses to raise his glass and Zoë eventually smacks Lund, a miniature re-enactment of the war breaks out with the three from Serenity assuming the role of the outnumbered Independents. Fortunately, the fight is brought to an end

when Wash arrives with Serenity and threatens to fire upon Lund and the offended Alliance sympathizers. The fact that Serenity has no weapons escapes their notice.

Back on Serenity, in the infirmary, River wakes up screaming after having had a very disturbing nightmare about her time in the Academy and she jumps off the infirmary table and immediately going into hysterics. Simon quickly goes to her and tries his best to comfort his terribly frightened sister. Once River has calmed down Simon gently asks her if she was dreaming and if it so were any about the Academy. River divulges nothing about her nightmare saying "It's not relevant." Reluctantly Simon presses the issue saying that he needs to know everything River remembers about the Academy in order to help her. River dismisses her brother's questions completely. She then starts to slowly walk around the infirmary and seems to finally acknowledge

the fact that she isn't at home anymore. River asks Simon confused "This isn't home?" Simon sadly answers her question saying that they can't go home because if they do she will just be sent back to the Academy. River is saddened by this news but quickly accepts it. Then to Simon's utter surprise River correctly identifies Serenity just by looking around the infirmary. She says logically "Midbulk transport, standard radion accelerator core. Class code 03-k64... Firefly." Mal then comes in and quips, impressed by River's brilliant recall, "Well ain't that something, I can't even remember all of that." He then goes over to the sink and tends to his bruised and bloodied hand. Simon offers his help and asks him how he got hurt. Mal quickly tells Simon that he is fine and informs him about the bar fight. Simon worries about what type of attention the fight caused, however, Mal reassures the young doctor and says "No feds just an honest brawl between folks."

Serenity takes off and heads for a skyplex on a tip received at the bar. The skyplex is run by a man named Adelai Niska, a man notorious for his cruelty. The crew needs work though, and so they risk taking on a job from him. He sends them to Regina, in the Georgia system, where he wants them to rob a train of unspecified cargo.

The train runs from Hancock to Paradiso. The plan is to have Mal and Zoë board the train and get into position in the luggage car. Serenity will hover above the train, lowering Jayne down with the equipment to secure the cargo. The three and their stolen goods will then be hauled back aboard ship, and make off for the rendezvous with Niska's men.

The plan goes south when Mal and Zoë find an entire squad of Alliance troops aboard the train with them. At first this poses no problem, as the troops are there only to travel, not to guard the cargo. However, as the goods are being loaded onto Serenity, one of the men stumbles upon them mid-caper. Jayne makes off with the cargo, but Mal and Zoë are left behind.

They arrive in Paradiso under the aliases of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond, come to this world to find work. The Sherriff, Bourne, finds some details of their story a bit suspicious, and holds them while the theft of the cargo is investigated. There, Mal and Zoë find out what it is they've stolen: a shipment of Pescaline D, medicine needed to treat the degenerative disease that afflicts the town. On a cruiser in deep space, an Alliance colonel receives a report from his ensign about the incident, but rejects the request of Sheriff Bourne for any assistance from the regiment of federal marshals.

Making use of her respectability as a Companion, Inara takes her shuttle to Paradiso and gets Mal and Zoë out of questioning, telling the Sherriff they belong to her as indentured servants. Her story passes scrutiny, and the three return to the ship. Having seen the conditions the people of Paradiso live under, Mal decides to return the goods, knowing full well what Niska will do when he finds out. They don't have to wait long to tell him: Niska's men have found Serenity, tracking down the ship when the crew became late for the rendezvous. Mal explains his position to Niska's towering lieutenant Crow, offering to return the money paid in advance, but the man refuses to deal. Negotiations devolve into outright combat, but Serenity's crew is able to overcome Niska's men. The medicine is returned to the Paradiso local authorities, where Sheriff Bourne greatly appreciates Mal's change of heart. Back outside the ship, Mal attempts to reason with Crow, but the man continues to spout threats of Niska's vengeance. Mal, at wits end with Crow, kicks him a nearby engine intake valve. Zoë next grabs another henchman, who nervously complies in an instant, and the surviving pair of Niska's men are sent off with the money and the promise that Serenity's crew will do what they can to stay out of Niska's business.

Meanwhile, due to the failure of Federal Agent Dobson, blue-gloved agents of Blue Sun interview the Alliance colonel and become personally involved in the search for River Tam.

Bushwhacked

Season 1

Episode Number: 3

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired:	Friday September 27, 2002
Writer:	Tim Minear
Director:	Tim Minear
Show Stars:	Nathan Fillion (Captain Malcolm "Mal" Reynolds), Sean Maher (Dr. Simon Tam), Ron Glass (The Shepherd Book), Gina Torres (Zoe), Jewel Staite (Kaywinnit Lee 'Kaylee' Frye), Alan Tudyk (Wash), Adam Baldwin (Jayne Cobb), Summer Glau (River Tam), Morena Baccarin (Inara Serra)
Guest Stars:	Lancer Dean Shull (Radio Operator), Branden Morgan (The Survivor), Doug Savant (Alliance Captain Harken), Doug Wax (Escobar), Jared Poe (Ensign)
Production Code:	IAGE02
Summary:	On a salvage mission aboard a drifting colony ship, the Serenity crew find signs that the crew were killed by the cannibalistic Reavers. They find one survivor, but things take a turn for the worse when an Alliance ship looking for an unspecified Firefly-class ship with brother-and-sister stowaways shows up and takes them in.



The Serenity crew is having some fun, playing a spirited game of Calvinball. The fun is interrupted, however, when the ship's proximity alarm goes off. Wash goes to check it out and is stunned to see a body hit the window of the ship. The others arrive on the scene and see a darkened transport ship, spinning slowly in the distance. They decide to board the ship to investigate further.

Mal and Zoe go in first and discover the ship is completely deserted, no sign of the passengers or what happened to

them. There is a decent amount to be salvaged so Jayne and Kaylee come over to assist as does Simon, thanks to Jayne's idea of a practical joke.

River's having a strange reaction to the discovery of this ghost ship. She sneaks off Serenity and onto the other vessel. She meets up with Mal and Zoe who have stumbled across some very valuable supplies. Zoe remarks that she can't understand why the families on board didn't take any of it with them when they escaped. Mal sees River staring up at the rafters and, realizing, tells Zoe that no one escaped. They both shine their flashlights upwards where mutilated corpses hang from the ceiling.

Mal orders Zoe to get River off the ship. He calls Jayne on the radio and tells him to get Kaylee and Simon out as well. Before Jayne can reply, someone attacks him from behind.

The others find Jayne, who didn't see his attacker. It appears that Jayne managed to hit him, however, and Mal follows the trail of fresh blood. He finds a terrified young man hiding in the walls. Mal knocks him unconscious and brings him to Serenity's infirmary.

As Simon examines him, the boy comes to and begins ranting about 'cattle to the slaughter' and 'no mercy.' Mal orders Simon to drug the boy and locks the infirmary. He tells his crew that he believes reavers were responsible for what happened on that ship. Their reactions vary from

horror to disbelief. Mal sends Jayne, Simon and Book back to the ghost ship to lay the dead to rest and salvage what there is while he, Zoe, Wash and Kaylee deal with the booby trap that the reavers left behind.

Just when it seems things are getting back on track, the proximity alarm goes off again. This time, it's an Alliance ship and they want to board Serenity.

Mal has the crew prepare to be boarded. They place the salvaged goods in plain sight and Mal tells Simon to get his sister. Simon protests and accuses Mal of planning to use River as a bargaining chip with the Alliance. Book convinces Simon to calm down and trust the captain.

The Alliance commander and his troops board Serenity. He reminds Mal of the penalty for illegal salvage and asks him about River and Simon. Mal plays dumb and the commander has the entire crew brought onto the Alliance ship for questioning while his men search Serenity for Simon and River, who are hiding outside the ship, clad in spacesuits.

The commander's questioning goes nowhere, as does his men's search. The commander announces his intention to arrest the entire crew for the deaths of those families. Mal asks the commander why he would kill everyone and then bring the sole survivor on board Serenity. The commander reveals that the boy's tongue was cut out and implies that Mal was responsible for that as well.

Mal figures out that the boy is turning himself into a Reaver as some twisted self-protective measure. The commander won't listen to him but it's too late to matter anyway. The boy has slashed his way out of the Alliance vessel's infirmary and escaped.

Mal is certain the boy is headed back to the ghost ship and convinces the commander to let him help. The commander agrees and let's Mal lead the way but keeps him handcuffed. As they search, the boy springs out of his hiding spot and attacks. Just as he is about to pounce on the commander, Mal steps forward and wraps his handcuffed wrists around the boy's neck, killing him.

As a show of gratitude for saving his life, the commander releases Mal and the others. They watch as the Alliance blows the ghost ship up and then Serenity flies to safety.

Shindig

Season 1
Episode Number: 4
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Friday November 1, 2002
Writer: Jane Espenson
Director: Vern Gillum
Show Stars: Nathan Fillion (Captain Malcolm "Mal" Reynolds), Sean Maher (Dr. Simon Tam), Ron Glass (The Shepherd Book), Gina Torres (Zoe), Jewel Staite (Kaywinnit Lee 'Kaylee' Frye), Alan Tudyk (Wash), Adam Baldwin (Jayne Cobb), Summer Glau (River Tam), Morena Baccarin (Inara Serra)
Guest Stars: Mark Sheppard (Badger), Edward Atterton (Atherton Wing), Larry Drake (Sir Warrick Harrow), Carl Bresk (Wright), Larry Pennell (Murphy), Michael McMillian (Younger Hopeful), Joshua Grenrock (Porter), Kim Onasch (Banning), Janora McDuffie (Cabott), Casey Piotrowski (Older Farmer), Hunter Cochran (Younger Farmer), Roy Werner (Gentleman)
Production Code: LAGE03
Summary: On the planet Persephone the crew are contacted by their old "friend" Badger the ruthless crimelord to transport some goods on behalf of a local lord. While at a ball to arrange a transport job with the lord, Mal defends Inara's honor when her current customer insults her. By local custom he unintentionally challenges her date, Atherton Wing, to a duel.



The crew is about to land on Persephone. Zoe seems pleased at the idea of a nice stay on the familiar planet. Mal brusquely rids her of that concept. They're not staying. They're here to get supplies, find work and then get the hell out of Dodge.

On her shuttle, Inara is reviewing offers from young men hoping to hire her while she's in town. One in particular, Atherton, has hired her to spend several days with him, including attending the social event of the season. Atherton mentions an offer he's made her and that he's

still waiting for an answer. Inara assures him that she's considering it.

Mal pops his head in and he and Inara have some testy words. Once on the planet, Mal seems a bit touchy whenever Inara's name is mentioned. He makes an unfortunately cutting remark to Kaylee that hurts her feelings. Zoe, Wash and Kaylee take off to do their errand, leaving Jayne and Mal behind.

Following the others' departure, Jayne and Mal are confronted by a number of men with guns. They work for Badger, who would like to have a few words with Mal.

Badger wants Mal to do a job for him. There's a local, Warrick Harrow, who has some property he'd like smuggled off-planet. But Harrow won't deal with Badger. He might, however, deal with Mal. Badger informs Mal that Harrow will be at some big ball that evening. He has some invitations and can get Mal in.

The ball is very elegant and rather Jane Austen-esque. Inara arrives on the arm of Atherton Wing and flits about the room, working her social wiles. As they dance, Atherton plies Inara with

compliments and mentions his offer again. He wants Inara to stay on Persephone and be his personal companion.

Before Inara can respond, she is distracted by the arrival of Kaylee, in a huge pink ruffled ballgown, and her escort, Mal. Mal immediately gets to work, searching the room for Harrow. Kaylee decides to do some investigating of her own at the buffet table.

Back on Serenity, Book, Simon and Jayne are playing a card game. The prize is household chores. River sneaks into the kitchen and interrupts their game, having some kind of fit that involves the labels on canned goods. Meanwhile, Zoe and Wash enjoy some time alone in bed.

Kaylee is trying to fit in at the ball but to no avail. A pack of snobby society girls mock her openly for her dress. She shrinks back, embarrassed, until an older gentleman comes to her rescue and insults the snooty bullies' ringleader.

Mal finds Harrow and offers his services. Harrow is wary as Mal tries to sell him on the deal. Their conversation is interrupted by Atherton and Inara. There's a great deal of tension in the air and Mal asks Atherton for permission to dance with Inara. Atherton concedes and Mal leads her out onto the floor. The two dance, sniping at each other in between steps, while Atherton eyes them carefully.

On the other side of the room, Kaylee is having a great time. She's surrounded by a group of men who want to hear her expert opinions on ships and engines. A young man tries to ask her dance but her admirers don't want to let go of her for that long.

Atherton decides that they've danced enough and cuts in, grabbing Inara roughly. He makes some unfortunate remarks to Mal about Inara being "his" because he paid for her and Mal decks him. Atherton accepts Mal's "challenge" and Harrow agrees to be Mal's second. Turns out that when Mal punched Atherton, he actually challenged him to a duel. With swords.

Badger shows up on Serenity to let the crew know about Mal's duel at dawn. The others immediately begin planning a rescue mission but Badger's brought along some armed men to ensure that doesn't happen. It wouldn't be good for business if people connected him to Mal right now.

Later that night, Inara sneaks in to Mal's chambers and offers to sneak him out. He refuses. Instead, he wants Inara to teach him how to use a sword. She tries but they end up arguing and she returns to Atherton's room.

In the morning, Mal meets Atherton for their duel. Atherton toys with Mal for a while and then gets serious. He wounds Mal easily, twice, and then breaks his sword.

Just as he's about to go in for the kill, Inara steps forward offering to stay with Atherton on Persephone if he'll spare Mal. Mal uses the diversion to his advantage, leaping to his feet, punching Atherton and taking his sword.

Mal stands over Atherton, sword in hand, and Harrow encourages him to finish it. Mal decides not to kill Atherton. He'd rather leave him humiliated, knowing that he was bested by Mal. Mal does, however, poke him a few times with the sword. For the fun of it.

Atherton makes some useless threats but Inara turns the tables on him. Harrow, impressed, offers Mal the job of smuggling his cargo.

They return to the ship where the crew assures Mal that they were just about to go rescue him.

Later that night, Inara thanks Mal for his misguided attempt to defend her. Mal confesses that he might have been wrong to interfere and Inara reveals that she wasn't going to say yes to Atherton's offer. She couldn't imagine why she'd ever want to leave Serenity.

The two sit in companionable silence, staring out at the cargo hold. Which is filled with cattle.

Safe

Season 1

Episode Number: 5

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Friday November 8, 2002
Writer: Drew Z. Greenberg
Director: Michael Grossman
Show Stars: Nathan Fillion (Captain Malcolm "Mal" Reynolds), Sean Maher (Dr. Simon Tam), Ron Glass (The Shepherd Book), Gina Torres (Zoe), Jewel Staite (Kaywinnit Lee 'Kaylee' Frye), Alan Tudyk (Wash), Adam Baldwin (Jayne Cobb), Summer Glau (River Tam), Morena Baccarin (Inara Serra)
Guest Stars: Scott Terra (Young Scott Tam), Andrew A. Rolfes (Older Grange), Matthew C. Ferreira (Younger Grange), Joel Steingold (Head Cop), Erica Tazel (Doralee), Ron Ostrow (Commander), Morina Pierce (Ruby), Skylar Roberge (Young River), Zac Efron (Young Simon), Isabella Hofmann (Megan Tam), William Converse-Roberts (Gabriel Tam), John Thaddeus (Stark), Gary Werntz (Patron), Bryan Friday (Shabby Man #2)
Production Code: LAGE04
Summary: Mal must choose which crew members to save when one is gravely wounded and two others are kidnapped. Simon finds an uneasy haven in a remote village, but River's uncanny perceptions jeopardize the Tams' temporary safety.



The episode opens on the Tam estate, 11 years before the present day, where young Simon addresses his homework. River, however, is more engaged in an imaginary battle against the Independents. Simon tries to steer River back to her dance practice, but she's not only completed this work, but also points out a flaw in Simon's own textbook. Their father, Gabriel, enters, and the children assail him about obtaining a dedicated "sourcebox." Tam Senior expects his son to become a "brilliant doctor" in return for

this. The scene then cuts to the present-day doctor as he tries to perform tests on his adult sister, who is loudly and violently refusing. Mal enters to complain about River's outbursts disturbing the cattle taken on board in the previous episode, making it clear that they are to stay out of the way of the impending deal.

On arrival at the backwater colony of Jiangyin, Shepherd Book aids Mal and Jayne in unloading and penning the cattle, while Zoë and Wash contemplate the practical advantages of smaller live cargo, like "black-market beagles". When River communes with the animals, Mal decides to send her and Simon off to town to stay out of the way of their "clandestine dealings", at which Simon wryly apologizes for tipping anyone off about Mal's 'cunningly concealed herd of cows'. They join Inara and Kaylee as the women are shopping. Although Kaylee contemplates buying something nice for Simon, the doctor manages to insult her and her beloved Serenity with his complaints about his predicament, and the Tams are left to their own devices. Simon quickly discovers River has wandered off.

Back at the impromptu cattle pen, Mal meets with his disreputable clients. Just as they come to an agreement on price, the local law enforcement arrives to arrest the clients, and in the ensuing gunfight, Book is grievously wounded. Meanwhile, River wanders into a country dance, where she quickly picks up the movements, and Simon watches his sister enjoy herself for a change. River's ecstatic dancing suddenly falters when Book is shot, but before Simon can react to his sister's distress, he is kidnapped by a group of men. While he is dragged off, a flashback shows an adult Simon arguing with his parents that River is in trouble at the institute. Her letters, he insists, talk about events that never occurred as a code to ask for help, but being more concerned for the effect Simon's paranoia may have on his rising career, his parents shrug his worries off as being overprotective of his little sister. Back in the present time, River follows Simon and his kidnapers, she is quickly seized as well.

Mal and Zoë manage to get Book back to Serenity to perform some field surgery to stabilize him. When Wash is unable to find the doctor to help Book, Mal realizes that Simon and River have probably been taken by hill folk who kidnap unwary people, especially skilled workers. He makes the unpopular decision to abandon the Tams in order to get Book off-planet and to proper medical treatment. Even as Simon consoles River about their imminent rescue, they see Serenity take off without them.

The doctor-less mountain people welcome Simon and his sister, although he is less pleased with the situation. But when he sees the many ill villagers, he uneasily settles into his vocation. As he works, he tries to argue the inconsistency of this devoutly religious community kidnapping strangers to meet its needs, but Doralee, a village teacher, merely suggests that Simon may well be in the place he is fated to be.

On Serenity, Inara interrupts Mal and Wash's attempts to locate medical help to suggest an unpleasant alternative asking an Alliance cruiser. When Alliance personnel board their ship, Mal explains their urgent need, but the captain of the I.A.V. Magellan callously dismisses Book's situation. When Book weakly asks the captain to check his identification card, however, the officer suddenly reverses himself and orders urgent care. Mal and the crew wonder what kind of connection with the Alliance Book must have, and upon departure, a recovering Book dodges Mal's questions but acknowledges that "It's good to be home."

Back in the village on Jiangyin, Simon and River share a memory of their childhood. River soon despairs of how her plight has taken everything Simon had away from him.

She says sadly "You gave up everything you had to find me. You found me broken. It's hard for you. You gave up everything you had."

Simon quickly reassures her by saying "Méi-mei, everything I have is right here."

River tells him that they won't be with the border people forever saying "We won't be here long. Daddy will come and take us home and I'll get better I'll get better."

Simon finds hardly any comfort in his sister's strange statement.

River then tells Doralee about the cause of a young mute girl's silence, Doralee realizes that she has an unusual power, but for this superstitious woman there is only one explanation that River is a witch.

Another flashback shows an embarrassed and furious Gabriel Tam retrieving his son from Alliance custody after an attempt to help River by meeting with someone in a "blackout zone." The elder Gabriel tells Simon that he will not protect his son from any further improprieties.

Back in the present time, River's current impropriety has Doralee summoning the townspeople about the witch among them. The patron, or village elder, arrives to investigate. Unfortunately, River only seals her fate by reading him, revealing how he attained his position through the murder of his ailing predecessor. The patron quickly cuts her off with a slap, adding his own voice to the call for a witch-burning.

Simon appeals to the patron, fighting the torchbearers and chiding the villagers for their ignorance. When these efforts fail, he finally takes his place next to his sister, prepared to be burned with her. River announces that it's "time to go," and at that moment Serenity swoops over the village. As Jayne holds the villagers at gunpoint from Serenity's cargo bay. Mal and Zoë secure the Tams' release, commenting that their last-second rescue made them "big damn heroes."

The village patron unthwarted by Jayne's show of force says "The girl is a witch."

Mal quickly raises his own gun to the village patron and says threatenly "Yeah but she's our witch. So cut her the hell down."

As *Serenity* leaves Jiangyin, Jayne hastily returns the valuables he had stolen from Simon during his brief absence. Simon asks Mal why he came back for them, and Mal explains off-handedly that it was because Simon was part of his crew. The Tams join the rest of the crew for a cheerful dinner, having found a home.

Our Mrs. Reynolds

Season 1
Episode Number: 6
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Friday October 4, 2002
Writer: Joss Whedon
Director: Vondie Curtis-Hall
Show Stars: Nathan Fillion (Captain Malcolm "Mal" Reynolds), Sean Maher (Dr. Simon Tam), Ron Glass (The Shepherd Book), Gina Torres (Zoe), Jewel Staite (Kaywinnit Lee 'Kaylee' Frye), Alan Tudyk (Wash), Adam Baldwin (Jayne Cobb), Summer Glau (River Tam), Morena Baccarin (Inara Serra)
Guest Stars: Jason Gray (Holder), Christina Hendricks (Saffron), Benito Martinez (Boss), Erik Passoja (Bree), Bob Fimiani (Elder Gommen), Alex Stemkovsky (Bandit #1), Zachary Woodlee (Guest Star)
Production Code: LAGE05
Summary: While completing a job on a backwater world, Mal is married to a village girl without his knowledge. The girl, Saffron, gets onboard and the crew does not find her until they're already in the air. Mal is not sure what to do with her, but let her come along.



As a Conestoga wagon with a hunched-over couple makes its way through a shallow river, a band of men on horseback stops it to demand its cargo. The lead bandit even insists on "a little one-on-one time with the missus". The driver, Jayne, suggests they reconsider, insulting the frumpily dressed woman sitting next to him. As "she" raises her head, it turns out to be Mal, who continues the banter with Jayne until they suddenly pull their weapons on the bandits. The subsequent exchange of gunfire, aided by

Zoë in the wagon, quickly defeats the bandits. At a celebration party that night, an inebriated Jayne and Mal accept gifts from the poor townspeople. Jayne's is a rain stick. Mal's is a wreath, a bowl of wine, and a dance from a lovely young woman.

After *Serenity* is underway again, while Mal is putting away some cargo, he is surprised by the young woman, who announces that she is his wife. Mal asks Zoë to call Wash down, presumably to have him return to the planet, but Zoë calls the entire crew down to the cargo bay to enjoy the show. While Mal sputters his insensitive attempts to disavow "Mrs. Reynolds", Shepherd Book quickly reads up on the local customs and finds that the wreath, wine, and dance were a marriage ritual. The captain is indeed married to this mystery girl.

Mal has a heart-to-heart talk with the woman, whose name he eventually learns is Saffron. He tries to convince the frightened, submissive woman that she should stand up for herself. At a loss for what to do, he suggests that she start a life for herself on their destination world, Beaumonde. She promises to be a good wife, but Mal claims "I'd be a terrible husband. You have five whole days to figure that out." She runs off excitedly to cook him a meal. Mal encounters Book, who tells him about possible divorce procedures, but makes clear how he feels about Mal's position: "If you take sexual advantage of her, you're going to burn in a very special level of Hell. One they reserve for child molesters and people who talk at the theater."

Saffron turns out to be every bit as good a cook as she claimed. As Wash's mouth waters over Mal's boon, Zoë expresses her contempt for the situation both Mal's "nubile little slave girl" and Wash's implied desire for a wife who cooks. Escaping an offer to have his feet washed, Mal runs off to Inara's shuttle to engage in a more comfortable conflict. In the process of complaining about Mal's irregular schedule and its impact on her work, Inara gets around to expressing her contempt for his making a commitment to this woman and then breaking it. She finally chases him out of the shuttle, where he immediately encounters an armed and menacing Jayne.

Cocking his favorite rifle, Vera, Jayne advances on Mal, demanding respect and explaining how he acquired the gun in a battle against six men. Suddenly, Jayne hands the rifle to Mal. "You offering me a trade?", wonders Mal. After dismissing Jayne's rude attempt at barter, Mal again encounters Saffron, who concedes that she would find work on Beaumonde an acceptable alternative to wedded life. Mal surprises himself by sharing some personal history with her, which he apparently hasn't done with anyone else in the crew.

Meanwhile, Serenity passes a camera mounted on an asteroid, which tracks them and takes images. On the other craft, two men discuss the potential for salvaging the Firefly-class ship. One, named Bree, complains that the ship they are spying on is worthless. His boss disagrees, however, and is eager to take the vessel "if she comes our way".

Zoë continues to argue with Wash about the problem Saffron represents, which to Wash seems more like a problem with Zoë. Meanwhile, Mal enters his quarters to find Saffron, wrapped only in a sheet, warming his bed. She insists that, since they are married, she wants to consummate their marriage, even if she is to stay behind on Beaumonde. Mal works hard not only to resist her alluring arguments, but also to insist that she not feel beholden to him just because she was treated as an offering of payment. Saffron convincingly demands that he give her "my wedding night" using a quote from her bible, and contemplating the "special Hell", Mal finally succumbs to a kiss. He quickly succumbs to unconsciousness as well, ("Son of a...") from a potent narcotic contained in her lipstick and the formerly charming ingenue now scornfully observes his senseless form.

Saffron then goes to the bridge to seduce Wash, but Wash more successfully resists her charms, especially given that he's married to "a beautiful woman who can kill me with her pinkie". As he yammers on about Zoë, Saffron rolls her eyes and suddenly kicks him unconscious and off the bridge, locking the door and going to work on the controls. She then welds the bridge doors shut and heads for a shuttle, but is intercepted by Inara. The con artist turns her charms on Inara, who appears to warm to her vulnerability. When the ship alarm sounds, however, both women abruptly drop their pretenses, exchanging ironic compliments before Inara asks "Who are you?" to which Saffron replies "Malcom Reynolds' widow". A brief fight ensues that allows Saffron to escape in the unoccupied shuttle. Thinking that Mal has been killed, Inara rushes to his room, where he groggily responds to her panicked exclamations. She kisses him and goes to call for help, but soon gets dizzy. Touching her hand to her lips, she realizes how Saffron disabled Mal ("Oh, you stupid son of a...") before collapsing herself.

Mal finally awakens to find most of the crew in his quarters. Simon describes the "good night kiss" that took him out, Wash bemoans having been kicked instead, and Inara comically (and repeatedly) explains that she hit her head falling. Jayne and Kaylee break into the bridge, and Kaylee and Wash get to work on the "masterful job of muck-up" that Saffron made of their ship. Inara suggests that Saffron is exceptionally talented, possibly even Companion Academy-trained.

On their own spacecraft, the scrapper boss and Bree observe Serenity approaching, complimenting Saffron for her excellent work.

Serenity's crew finally gets a reading on their heading right into an electronic disassembly net called a carrion house. While Kaylee struggles to get navigational ability, Jayne uses "Vera" to shoot up one of the net's six breakers, shorting the structure just as Serenity passes through, unharmed. Jayne also returns the scavengers' threat of depressurization by blowing out a port of their spacecraft, killing the two unsuited men.

On a snowy world, Saffron is packing when Mal bursts into her cabin. After a brief struggle, accompanied by Mal's mockery of their supposed wedding nuptials, he asks her why she would go through so much trouble for her con game. "You're assuming the payoff is the point," she replies. After exchanging dubious compliments, and having failed to satisfy his curiosity about her real name, Mal simply knocks her unconscious and leaves with his shuttle.

Back on Serenity, Mal presses Inara for an explanation of how she, a "graceful woman",

managed to hit her head while calling for help. When Inara acknowledges that she didn't trip, Mal jumps to wrong conclusion: "I knew you let her kiss you!" Though her professional reputation has taken a minor hit, Inara's emotional indiscretion with the groggy captain remains her secret.

Jaynestown

Season 1
Episode Number: 7
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Friday October 18, 2002
Writer: Ben Edlund
Director: Marita Grabiak
Show Stars: Nathan Fillion (Captain Malcolm "Mal" Reynolds), Sean Maher (Dr. Simon Tam), Ron Glass (The Shepherd Book), Gina Torres (Zoe), Jewel Staite (Kaywinnit Lee 'Kaylee' Frye), Alan Tudyk (Wash), Adam Baldwin (Jayne Cobb), Summer Glau (River Tam), Morena Baccarin (Inara Serra)
Guest Stars: Josef Cannon (Prod #2), Gregory Itzin (Magistrate Higgins), Daniel Bess (Mudder), Kevin Gage (Stitch Hessian), Zachary Kranzler (Fess Higgins), Jordan Lund (Foreman), Bob McCracken (Well-Dressed Man), Ronald Craig Williams (Busker), John Jabaley (Bartender), Laura Niemi (Woman), Simon Brooke (Prod), Clement E. Blake (Mudder Elder)
Production Code: IAGE06
Summary: Serenity sets down at the mudder colony of Canton where it turns out Jayne is a hero for having dropped a bunch of money there years ago that he and his partner Stitch stole from the local magistrate. The drop was unintentional but Jayne doesn't turn down the attentions. Meanwhile, Kaylee and Simon dance, River rewrites Book's bible, and Inara beds the magistrate's son, a virgin.



The show opens with Kaylee expressing disbelief that the always-proper Simon never uses swear words, despite his protestations that he does whenever they're "appropriate". Inara departs for an overnight meeting with a client. A noise in the infirmary brings Kaylee and Simon to find Jayne trashing the room in a search for bandages to tape concealed weapons to his body, which Mal quickly vetoes. It seems that Jayne is concerned about enemies he made in Canton years ago.

As they arrive at the Canton factory settlement, the population of which are known as mudders, Kaylee suggests to Mal that Simon join them on their expedition to recover some hidden loot. Mal considers that having the well-dressed Simon pose as an upper-class buyer of Canton's special ceramic-making mud is a useful strategy. Shepherd Book reassures the dismayed doctor that he will watch over his sister, claiming to have struck up a good rapport with her. Simon ineptly plays his role before the unconcerned foreman, then the crew wanders off to locate their contact. Mal comments on Jayne's absurd attire a heavy coat with a hood and goggles during an apparently hot day. When Wash remarks that he doubts anyone will remember Jayne, Mal suddenly begs to differ, as they come upon a life-sized mud statue of Jayne. Simon utters an "appropriate" expletive.

While an alarmed Jayne fails to break his compatriots away from their admiration of the statue, Inara is meeting with the local magistrate, Higgins the man Jayne crossed years ago. The officious slaveowner has hired Inara to bed his timid son Fess, who is 26 and is not yet "a man".

Higgins reveals a penchant for dominating his son's life by attempting to rush the ceremony, but Inara intends to give Fess a proper Companion union and politely but forcefully shoos the father out of her shuttle. She reassures the naïve Fess that he need not be like his father, only to be himself, which will make him stronger.

Book enters Serenity's common area to find River "fixing" his Bible by cutting, pasting, and marking up the pages. Her erratic patter alternates between logical analysis of its contradictions with oddly connected streams of thought. Book tries to explain that "you don't fix the Bible", but she complains that "it's broken." Then Book explains to her that even if the Bible didn't make sense to her, everything was a matter of having Faith. River is surprised, apparently never considering this before, then refuses to let go of the pages of the Bible she had torn out previously. Book lets her have them.

In a bar, the crew "enjoys" the local beer, "Mudder's Milk". Simon explains that it's similar to the beer that ancient Egyptian rulers fed their slaves to keep them healthy enough to work and sleepy enough at night to prevent unrest. A well-dressed gentleman arrives to tell the smugglers of complications to their jobnamely, the brutal death of their middleman. The contact suggests lying low until they come up with a way to move the loot past the foreman, but a troubadour suddenly strikes a chord and sings "Jayne / The man they called Jayne". Their jaws dropping, Serenity's crew listens to the entire bar singing "The Ballad of Jayne Cobb". When the song mentions money falling from the sky, a stunned Jayne realizes what happened to the missing cash he and a partner had stolen from the magistrate, and had been forced to jettison in order to escape from anti-aircraft fire.

Back on Serenity, River brings the wrecked Bible back to Book, but when he rises from his sink with his white hair untied and sprouting from his head in a wild mop, she shrieks and runs off. Zoë chuckles as Book vainly tries to coax the frightened girl to come out of hiding. To quickly resolve the matter, Zoë promises River that Book will put "the hair away now."

As the crew leaves the bar, they find a huge crowd cheering for the "hero of Canton" outside, having been gathered by a blond-haired boy whom Jayne tried to scare off. Trying to escape the crowd, Jayne runs back inside, only to find himself offered the best whiskey and accolades from all. The smuggling contact is horrified by Mal's supposed idea of "lying low", but Mal soon develops a plan around this considerable distraction. While Jayne carouses with the admiring locals, Mal goes to fetch an inebriated Kaylee, but when she pointedly observes how well she and a drunk Simon are getting along, he leaves her to her own mission. Mal heads back to Serenity with Wash and tells Zoë how this unexpected celebration of Jayne is exactly the cover they need to sneak the stolen merchandise past the foreman and his "prods". Unfortunately, the foreman has learned of Jayne's return, and reports this to the magistrate. The official then releases a man from a cramped prison box and gives him a loaded weapon. The freed prisoner's surprise is increased when he learns about Jayne's return, because he happens to be Stitch Hessian, the partner Jayne abandoned four years ago during his flight from Canton.

When Mal returns to fetch Kaylee and Simon, the befuddled doctor, who finds the engineer draped over him on a couch, tries to explain how "nothing happened" and once again manages to insult the frustrated woman. Collecting a tipsy Jayne, they head off, but Kaylee stops Simon in his tracks with her scorn. As the doctor eats breakfast alone, Stitch arrives, beats him around a bit, and drags him off as a hostage to confront Jayne.

Back in Inara's shuttle, Fess expresses disappointment in not feeling different after losing his virginity. Fess's self-discovery, however, is interrupted when he finds himself summoned to a criminal hearing for a villain whom the magistrate plans to capture. As Fess describes the folk hero who stole from his father and gave to the poor, Inara mistakenly thinks Fess is describing Mal, and waxes warmly about this noble man. She receives her own shock when Fess expresses surprise that she knows the amazing Jayne Cobb.

Mal, Zoë, and Wash haul the cargo on their buggy and load it onto Serenity, while Jayne, warming to the idea of being heroic, gives a moving if not particularly literate speech before the adoring crowd. Suddenly a shot rings out and Stitch appears, dragging the doctor along. After tossing Simon aside, Stitch addresses the crowd, telling them what really happened, and how Jayne's Robin Hood-like act was just a mistake. When Stitch moves to shoot Jayne, however, a young mudder leaps in front of the "hero", blocking the shot. After Jayne kills his former partner, he runs to the mudder boy and yells at the lifeless body, unable to accept his sacrifice. He shouts to the crowd how he is no hero, that there aren't any heroes, just "people like me". When an even

younger lad offers him his knife, apparently ignoring his tirade, Jayne snatches it back and finally knocks down the statue in disgust.

When the crew reboards *Serenity*, Wash attempts to take off, but he finds the ship "land-locked" per the magistrate's order. It is quickly released, however, because Fess has decided to prove himself a man by defying his father's attempt to capture the "hero of Canton". Shepherd Book comes near a very calm River, who is now drawing, to get a book that's near her, but she still clearly remembers Book's hair, with her telling him, "Just keep walking, preacher man." Kaylee has a heart-to-heart talk with Simon and briefly makes him worry about his propriety after the previous night's party. Jayne broods about the mudder's selflessness and how it eats at him, but Mal oddly reassures him by pointing out that it "ain't about you, Jayne; it's about what they need".

Out of Gas

Season 1

Episode Number: 8

Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Friday October 25, 2002
Writer: Tim Minear
Director: David Solomon
Show Stars: Nathan Fillion (Captain Malcolm "Mal" Reynolds), Sean Maher (Dr. Simon Tam), Ron Glass (The Shepherd Book), Gina Torres (Zoe), Jewel Staite (Kaywinnit Lee 'Kaylee' Frye), Alan Tudyk (Wash), Adam Baldwin (Jayne Cobb), Summer Glau (River Tam), Morena Baccarin (Inara Serra)
Guest Stars: Lyle Kanouse (Salesman), Dax Griffin (Bester), Roderick McCarthy (Lacey #1), Steven Flynn (Captain), Ilia Volok (Marco)
Production Code: 1AGE07
Summary: In a delirious state after Serenity's engine explodes, draining the ship of its oxygen supply, Mal has a series of flashbacks about how he came to own Serenity and form his crew.



The episode opens in the present time with a mournful tune, showing Serenity apparently dead in space. The camera moves from darkened room to darkened room, showing no sign of any inhabitants. Mal falls into frame, collapsing onto the cargo bay grate floor. He hears voices coming from outside the cargo bay doors. A salesman is saying: "You buy this ship, treat her proper, she'll be with you the rest of your life"... Light falls across Mal's face as the bay doors open and we realize we're being taken to that

moment in Mal's memory when he first enters the ship with Zoë.

Mal is excited about his new ship, but Zoë is taken aback by the "death trap". Mal waxes eloquent about freedom from the Alliance and the ship's possibilities once they find a small crew.

The flashback pans back to Mal in the present time, bleeding. Clutching his stomach, he laboriously drags a machine part along the catwalk. The camera pans up into the dining room a deck above, to a near-present flashback of the crew enjoying a meal and telling amusing anecdotes from their pasts. This important scene shows what a family the crew have become: sitting around a large dining table, eating, talking and laughing. It sets up the rest of the episode for the revelations of how they all met.

Ship's mechanic Kaylee arrives with a birthday cake for Simon. Before the doctor can blow out the candles, a power failure, accompanied by an odd sound, causes Kaylee to start toward the engine room. Just as River quietly announces "fire", a fireball shoots through the passageway. Zoë leaps up to push Kaylee out of the way and gets hit by the leading pressure wave, which also throws everyone to the ground. Mal quickly shuts the rear entrance of the common area. The engine room is engulfed in flames. Simon can't get to his medical supplies because the ship is sealed up. Mal remotely opens the cargo bay doors to blow the atmosphere, sucking the fire out with it.

Back in the present time, Mal continues his journey with the machine part. A door opening leads to another near-present flashback to Simon treating a gravely injured Zoë, while Wash

desperately tries to rouse her. A stunned Kaylee tells Mal that Serenity "ain't moving", but Mal prods her to check out the damage. When Wash refuses to leave Zoë's side and man the bridge, Mal drags him away from her and forces him grudgingly to his post. Flashback to the past, where a younger, mustachioed Wash evaluates the condition of Mal's new ship and considers taking the job the new captain is offering him. As Mal and Zoë head off into the depths of the ship, the first mate expresses her general misgivings of the potential pilot "he bothers me" but Mal is enthusiastic about Wash's reputation. Mal mentions their new "genius mechanic," an unfamiliar, unkempt man who overhears their discussion and is entertained by Mal's praise.

Back in the near-present, Simon jabs a flatlined Zoë with a shot of "pure adrenaline", and another jump cut takes us to the present, where a lone Mal does the same thing to himself in order to continue his struggle. Jumping back to the near-present, Kaylee despondently tells Mal that their life support is completely disabled, giving them only a few hours of oxygen left.

While Simon muses about suffocation, Inara reflects on her love of the ship. In his quarters, Shepherd Book is anxiously reading his Bible. River stops by to reassure him that they won't suffocate they'll die from the cold first. On the bridge, an angry Wash snarks about Mal's refusal to accept their doom, pointing out that he deliberately chose a travel path that kept them away from any possible contacts. As they argue, Mal slips in a suggestion to get the attention of passersby that turns out to have a remote possibility of working. When Jayne enters to complain about their wasting air, another cut takes us back to the present, where Mal hauls the machine part toward the engine room as the P.A. system needlessly sounds an alarm about the failed life support and low oxygen levels.

Another jump into the past shows Mal hollering at Bester, the unkempt mechanic, for failing to get the ship underway. He catches the man in flagrante delicto with an engineering groupie who, as she is getting dressed, interrupts Bester's excuses to correct his inaccurate diagnosis. As she emerges from behind the engine, we see that it is Kaylee. When the "genius mechanic" sputters incomprehension, she quickly fixes the problem. Impressed, Mal asks her if she'd like to work on Serenity. She happily runs off to wind up her affairs at home. Bester questions why Serenity would need two mechanics, and Mal ominously agrees. Another jump back to the near-present shows Mal encountering Kaylee, who apologizes for being unable to fix the ship. She tells Mal about the broken catalyzer, which cannot be repaired, only replaced. Back in the present time, Mal finally reaches the engine room and tries to install the part a replacement catalyzer but only drops it into the bowels of the engine.

In the near-present, Mal assembles the crew to order them to split into two groups and take each shuttle in opposite directions to try to find some help, however unlikely the possibility of success. With four per shuttle, he decides to stay behind in case someone is caught by Wash's beacon. Wash rigs a big red recall switch on the bridge so Mal can call them back. Inara objects to Mal's apparent desire to "go down with your ship", but Mal is simply refusing to accept defeat. A flashback to the past shows Inara's introduction to her future quarters and "office", one of Serenity's shuttles. In response to Mal's bargaining tactics, Inara confidently announces that he'll rent her the shuttle, at a discount, in order to gain some respectability, helping him in his own, less licit business. The two also have their first fight, when Inara tells Mal that she supported Unification and he responds by calling her a whore. Back in the near-present, when Inara pleads that "you don't have to die alone", Mal responds, "Everybody dies alone." Wash also appears to want to say something about their departing without the captain, but Mal deftly turns his attention back to his injured wife. As Mal seals off the ship compartments, the crew silently departs in opposite directions on their desperate missions.

Sometime later, Mal is awakened by a salvage ship attracted by Wash's beacon. When Mal opens the door to get the catalyzer, the skeptical captain holds a gun on him while his crew makes sure there is no ambush awaiting them. Cut to a flashback in the past, where Mal and Zoë are held at gunpoint by three bandits, one of whom is Jayne. Mal and Zoë engage in clever banter with the bandits, with Jayne providing the first example (within the storyline chronology) of his own limited wit. When Mal realizes how effective Jayne was at tracking them, he and Zoë encourage the gunman to switch sides and join their crew. Jayne casually shoots one of his former partners Marco in the leg and holds the other at gunpoint while he negotiates for his new job. Back in the near-present, after the salvage crew gives the signal that they're alone, the captain likewise casually shoots Mal in the gut so he can steal Serenity itself. While the captain insouciantly chats with his crew, however, Mal finds a hidden gun and pulls it on the captain,

ordering him to leave the catalyzer (as originally agreed) and to get off his ship. As soon as his ship is secure again, he collapses onto the cargo bay grate floor, as shown in the opening scene.

Back in the present time, weakened and injured, Mal manages to drag the new catalyzer out of the engine bowels and install it, starting the engine again. He slowly makes his way to the bridge, but collapses again, short of the recall switch.

As he hears the voices from the various flashbacks, he gradually comes to in the infirmary, where the crew is bustling about. A supine but conscious Zoë welcomes him back to awareness. She takes responsibility for ignoring his orders and returning to Serenity fortunately, since he never sent the recall but she promises not to do it again. Mal drowsily asks if he went someplace, Book replies wryly "Very nearly."

Inara says with understated relief "We thought we'd lost you."

Simon who is tending to Mal administering more pain medication reiterates Zoë's statements saying that "The decision saved your life." Shortly after this exchange Simon firmly tells everyone that Mal needs to rest. The rest of crew starts to leave.

When Mal starts to drift off again, he asks them "Y'all gonna be here when I wake up?" He reaches for Book's hand Book takes it and gently assures him so. Reassured Mal drifts off to sleep once again.

The episode closes on a return to the first flashback to the past, this time viewed from outside the cargo bay. We see the salesman repeating those words to Mal: "Yes sir, right smart purchase this vessel. Tell you what. You buy this ship, treat her proper, she'll be with you the rest of your life"... The irony being he's looking up at a large yellow rocketlike vehicle. The salesman realizes Mal is no longer by his side and calls across to him: "Son, hey son, you hear a word I been saying?"

Mal has his back to the salesman and the rocket ship. He is instead staring across all the other ships at a broken down Firefly-class transport, abandoned at the edge of the lot. He looks young, fresh-faced and obviously in love.

Ariel

Season 1

Episode Number: 9

Season Episode: 9

Originally aired:	Friday November 15, 2002
Writer:	Jose Molina
Director:	Allan Kroeker
Show Stars:	Nathan Fillion (Captain Malcolm "Mal" Reynolds), Sean Maher (Dr. Simon Tam), Ron Glass (The Shepherd Book), Gina Torres (Zoe), Jewel Staite (Kaywinnit Lee 'Kaylee' Frye), Alan Tudyk (Wash), Adam Baldwin (Jayne Cobb), Summer Glau (River Tam), Morena Baccarin (Inara Serra)
Guest Stars:	Blake Robbins (Agent McGinnis), Jeff Ricketts (Blue-Hand Man #1), Dennis Cockrum (Blue-Hand Man #2), Tom Virtue (Doctor), Roma Chugani (Receiving Doctor), Ira Steck (Young Intern), Michael Nagy (Particularly Dressed Man), Alex Connie (Patient), Cate Cohen (Cash Team Nurse)
Production Code:	LAGE08
Summary:	When the crew stops at Ariel to drop Inara off for a medical exam, Simon hires them for a job – smuggle Simon and River into a hospital so that Simon can find out what the Alliance did to River. The plan goes off without a hitch - that is, until the Alliance catches wind of the Tam siblings' presence on the planet.



The episode opens as Serenity heads to Ariel, a central world of the Union of Allied Planets. Inara is due for her annual Companion physical exam and license renewal. The crew chats in the common room about what they might do while there, but Mal enters to announce that no one is leaving the ship, in order to minimize their visibility in this highly monitored bastion of the Alliance. When Jayne makes some less-than-polite remarks about Simon, River suddenly slashes Jayne in the chest (It is

notable that the shirt Jayne was wearing at the time sported the Blue Sun logo, and Joss Whedon has confirmed in an interview that she was indeed attacking the Blue Sun logo and not Jayne himself) with a kitchen carving knife, and Jayne responds by backhanding her. She casually defends her attack, saying Jayne looks "better in red."

As Simon stitches Jayne in the infirmary and attempts to apologize for River's actions, the mercenary refuses to listen and demands that she and the doctor be left on Ariel, suggesting that they might receive a reward for turning in the fugitive siblings. Mal quashes any talk of leaving people behind, but after Jayne leaves, Mal tells Simon to keep River confined to her room at all times, only allowed out with Mal's personal permission, and warns him that he'll have to revisit their arrangement if she isn't kept under control. Simon acknowledges that his sister is getting worse.

While the crew kills time playing horseshoes in the cargo hold, Wash and Jayne bemoan the lack of work they've had in recent stops. Simon approaches them with a proposal: if they would help him break into Ariel City's hospital to use its sophisticated equipment to analyze River's

condition, then he would show them how to raid the medical stores of the hospital for supplies that will not be missed, but will net Serenity considerable wealth on the black market. Simon's plan has two phases:

1. Breach the perimeter using an "official" medical shuttle and fake EMT IDs, smuggling in the Tams as deceased patients for the hospital morgue, and
2. Split up, with Jayne guarding while Simon diagnoses River, and Mal and Zoë stuffing the Tams' then-empty "coffins" with the most valuable drugs they can lay their hands on.

As Simon presents the plan details in voiceover, Jayne is shown securing the identification, Kaylee and Wash raid a local junkyard and find an ambulance shuttle in repairable condition, and Mal, Zoë, and Jayne struggling ineptly to recite prepared medical assessments for their rushed entrance into the emergency ward. By the time the faux medical technicians have their lines down, Wash and Kaylee have finished their work on the medical shuttle.

Although River is terrified of another comatose trip, her brother calms her with the promise of a diagnosis that will help him dispel her nightmares, and then injects her and then himself with a drug designed to send the user into a death-like state.

In the shuttle on the way to the hospital, Mal voices concern about Jayne might handle himself with Simon after what occurred with River. Jayne begrudgingly admits that Simon's plan is good (though he makes it clear that he still dislikes him) and shrugs off revenge with a joke about giving the comatose Simon a tattoo. Once landed, the "EMTs" rush into Emergency with their "victims", but as they start their prepared spiel, the admitting nurse absently directs them to the morgue. Mal and Zoë recover quickly from the surprising ease of this hurdle, but Jayne, unable to adapt as quickly, nearly ruins their smooth entry by spouting his now-irrelevant line anyway.

In the morgue, Mal starts the revival process for Simon and River, then departs with Zoë for the medical vault. Unsupervised, Jayne wanders off to make a surreptitious call to an Alliance officer, who agrees to pay a previously arranged reward for the fugitives. When Jayne returns to the unconscious Tams, River startles him by rising silently and cheerily announcing, "Copper for a kiss!" Simon revives in a violent coughing fit, which Jayne finds puzzling until River is heard vomiting off-screen.

Dressed as a doctor, Simon pushes River in a wheelchair toward the diagnostic ward with "EMT" Jayne accompanying them. As they pass through the post-op ward, River insists her brother help a man who she believes is being "killed" by his doctor. When a Code Blue sounds, Simon dashes over to the patient, quickly assesses the problem, revives the man with a defibrillator, and stabilizes him. Simon berates the doctor for the improper treatment before returning to the task at hand; River beams at her brother, and Jayne is quite impressed himself.

Meanwhile, Mal and Zoë, on their way to the supplies room, are intercepted by a doctor who questions Mal. When he starts into a tirade over Mal's insubordination, Zoë incapacitates him with a defibrillator. One of the transport coffins is used to conceal the unconscious doctor en route to the medical vault, where they dump him. Mal and Zoë rapidly collect everything they can find from Simon's prepared list, storing it in the coffins.

In the diagnostic ward, Simon puts River under the 3-D neuro-imager. During the scan to his utter horror he discovers that her brain has been surgically operated on several times.

According to Simon, her amygdala had been "stripped", disabling her ability to suppress her emotions. "She feels everything. She can't not." He paraphrases still shell shocked by the new information.

Jayne claiming a sudden change of plans, leads them away from the diagnostic ward to a rear entrance. While he and Simon argue, River shrieks and starts to babble in fear.

The three are then stopped by Federal marshals, who arrest and handcuff Jayne. Jayne first thinks it's for show, but quickly learns that the Alliance officer plans to reward him not with cash but with an arrest for aiding and abetting the fugitive siblings, keeping the reward money for himself.

Mal and Zoë return to the shuttle with the pharmacological loot, but soon realize that Jayne and the Tams are late. Kaylee discovers unusual Alliance radio chatter which Zoë recognizes as code, suggesting the second team has been captured. The two war veterans head back into the

hospital to rescue their people, directed by Kaylee's analysis of the hospital floor plan, but then Wash announces arriving reinforcements.

As they are held in a security substation, Simon thanks Jayne for his struggle with the Feds, unaware that he was sold out by his shipmate. River's babbling piques the Feds, who soon move the captives to a holding area awaiting transfer to an unknown party. Handcuffed, Jayne and Simon attack their escorts, managing respectively to kill one and knock the other unconscious. As they argue which way to go, River announces that "It doesn't matter. They're here." Back in the substation, the two blue-gloved men arrive to take custody of the Tams. When the Alliance officer reveals that he and his men spoke with the fugitives, the agents take out a mysterious sonic device. Within seconds, the Feds are bleeding from every orifice and quickly collapse, dead. Unaffected by the device, the agents go to retrieve River themselves.

Several rooms away, Jayne and the Tams hear screaming, and a terrified River runs in the direction opposite the security station. Not far behind them, the Blue Gloves encounter the two marshals Jayne attacked, using the sonic device on the living one. With the sounds of screaming still approaching them, Jayne and Simon follow River's flight until they reach a locked door. As Jayne fruitlessly tries to open it, the lock is blasted from the other side by Mal and Zoë. By the time the Blue Gloves arrive, the group has already left.

Inara returns to Serenity to find everyone but Kaylee absent. The engineer gives her a whimsically shocking summary of events just as the shuttle returns with all hands aboard. Simon raves about Jayne's heroism during the escape, but once everyone else has left the cargo area, Mal suddenly bashes Jayne unconscious with a wrench.

Jayne awakens to find himself in the cargo bay airlock with the door open to the quickly thinning atmosphere as the ship leaves Ariel. Jayne fails to convince Mal of his innocence, and finally confesses that he betrayed Simon and River. Mal tells him that doing so was the same as betraying Mal, and as such Jayne had no place with them. Seeing that Jayne cannot seem to comprehend that, Mal turns to leave. When Jayne plaintively asks Mal not to tell his shipmates the truth about his betrayal, Mal finally relents and remotely closes the outer door, leaving Jayne stuck in the airlock.

In closing, Simon approaches River with a syringe. She asks sadly "Is it time to go to sleep again?" Through as he prepares the injection, Simon takes her hand gently and responds hopefully "No méi-mei it's time to wake up."

War Stories

Season 1

Episode Number: 10

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired:	Friday December 6, 2002
Writer:	Cheryl Cain
Director:	James A. Contner
Show Stars:	Nathan Fillion (Captain Malcolm "Mal" Reynolds), Sean Maher (Dr. Simon Tam), Ron Glass (The Shepherd Book), Gina Torres (Zoe), Jewel Staite (Kaywinnit Lee 'Kaylee' Frye), Alan Tudyk (Wash), Adam Baldwin (Jayne Cobb), Summer Glau (River Tam), Morena Baccarin (Inara Serra)
Guest Stars:	Katherine Kendall (Councilor), Rolando Molina (Black Market Buyer), John Dunn (Torturer), Michael Bentt (Viktor), Adam Pilver (Vanilla Husband), Jason Van (Man), Johnny Shakespeare (Torture Victim), Michael Fairman (Niska)
Production Code:	1AGE09
Summary:	Jealous of Zoe's relationship with Mal, Wash insists that he go with Mal to try to sell some of the medical supplies the crew stole from the Alliance. In the middle of the deal, Mal and Wash are kidnapped by men working for Niska the crime lord, who wants revenge against Mal for the botched train heist. Meanwhile, Inara extends her services to a council member. To the crew's surprise, it's a woman. And Simon continues to treat River with some of the medicine he stole, but she suffers the occasional relapse.



On *Serenity*, as Simon reviews the data he collected on River from the 3-D neuro-scanner in "Ariel", Shepherd Book looks over his shoulder, musing about a "warrior-poet" Shan Yu (who Simon refers to as a "psychotic dictator"). Book cites a Shan Yu quote that suggests that the way to truly learn about someone is to torture them, and wonders if this was the purpose behind the brain surgery done on River. Simon disagrees, believing there was a specific goal the unknown surgeons were hoping to achieve. Elsewhere,

crime lord Adelai Niska (last seen in "The Train Job") is having another traitor tortured, also alluding to Shan Yu. His assistant, Viktor, interrupts him to announce a nearby Firefly-class ship that might belong to Malcolm Reynolds, the man who abrogated a business arrangement with Niska, and whose reputation is "not so solid" anymore. A delighted Niska orders his man to fetch the culprit, then goes back to his learning experience.

Back on *Serenity*, Kaylee playfully chases River around the cargo bay, after the girl "took my apple", despite Jayne having contributed a crate's worth to the ship's stores. Amid the noise, Inara urges Mal to respect the privacy of her imminently arriving client, a councilor of some political importance. Mal reassures her that he won't cause a scene like the earlier one ("Shindig") that nearly got him killed. Inara is also concerned about the other crew "ogling" her client.

Later, Zoë and Wash puzzle over Jayne's generosity as they munch on the apples. Kaylee asks why Zoë and Mal always cut up their apples, and Zoë (and Mal, who joins them) tell a war story

about "griswalds", tiny pressure-sensitive grenades that were embedded explosives in apples by Alliance troops. Wash sardonically embellishes on the story, annoyed at the frequent references to his wife's long history with the captain. Mal vetoes Wash's idea to improve their profit from the medicine sales by bypassing the local middlemen. Wash is surprised by this, because Zoë had told him that she hadn't run it by the captain.

On the bridge later, Zoë admits to Wash that she had mentioned it, he disagreed, she accepted it without arguing, and then she lied to Wash so as not to upset him. This makes Wash all the more upset because of her casual deference to Mal and dishonesty with him.

In the Tams' quarters, River fondly reminisces about her fun with Kaylee, but her chaotic thoughts intrude on her, despite Simon's treatments. Elsewhere, Book chides Kaylee and Jayne for trying to steal a peek at Inara's arriving client (while peeking himself), who turns out to be a woman, against the crew's expectations. While Kaylee babbles her admiration of Inara's female client, Jayne quickly departs, announcing, "I'll be in my bunk".

Preparing the unused shuttle for their business rendezvous, Zoë and Mal discover that it's been sabotaged by Wash, who demands that he go with Mal to the meeting. He explains that he wants to take Zoë's place at Mal's side, so they don't bring back yet another tale of adventure-laden bonding. An annoyed Zoë leaves them to their mission, and Mal reluctantly agrees, more concerned about getting underway than participating in a domestic dispute.

In her quarters, Inara massages the councilor, while remarking that when she chooses her rare female clients, she does so because they are extraordinary in some way, and hints that the councilor's gift is allowing Inara herself to relax and serve her own needs as well as the councilor's.

Meanwhile, Wash defends his assumption of Zoë's role to Mal, and winds up hauling the merchandise to the meeting. As the "milk run" deal goes down, however, the middlemen are killed by men who suddenly arise from the sand and capture Mal and Wash.

Later, as Inara bids goodbye to her client, Zoë becomes concerned about what happened to their missing crew mates. Book volunteers to accompany them, and at the deserted meeting site determines the weaponry used to take their people. Zoë notices the abandoned supplies and a burn trail left on the ground by a short-range craft "not commonly part of a spaceship," but of a space station. Adding up the evidence determines that Niska is behind the kidnapping.

On Niska's skylplex, the kidnappees bicker, with Wash becoming increasingly incensed about both the danger that Mal regularly exposes Zoë to, and that she obeys Mal. Wash questions Mal's assertion that his first mate doesn't blindly obey him, but Mal backs it up by claiming he told her not to marry Wash. Niska appears and soon his torturer begins with the Shan Yu-inspired torture, but Wash and Mal spend the entire time continuing their bickering, all the while refusing to acknowledge the torture. Mal notices that Wash's anger keeps him from collapsing, so he hints about a sexual history with Zoë. Wash, however, is sure this never happened, and claims that Mal should sleep with her, just so his wife could get past what Wash feels is a fixation on her captain. Mal accepts to keep Wash from breaking.

Meanwhile, Zoë collects all the funds remaining from the Ariel job in order to pay off Niska to release her shipmates, counting on his perverse code to treat this as a business transaction. She turns out to be partly correct, because the sadistic criminal whimsically offers to release only one of the two men for the price she offers. Expecting to be entertained to see Zoë's dilemma, Niska is disappointed when she chooses her husband before he even finishes his taunt. Instead, Niska has his torturer sever Mal's ear and gives it to Zoë as a "refund".

By the time Zoë gets Wash back to the shuttle, he immediately prepares a rescue mission, despite briefly collapsing on the way. The rest of the crew, including an initially reluctant Jayne, choose to assist Wash and Zoë, while Inara tries to gain assistance from the councilor. Wash takes the unpowered *Serenity* in for a precision stealth breaching, allowing the crew to board the station before the defenders can respond.

After Mal has endured further torture without breaking down, Niska has a device affixed to Mal's chest which forces thin tendrils underneath his skin, causing extreme pain. The next scene in the torture chamber reveals that Mal has died. His tormentors revive him, leaving the weakened captain lying unrestrained on a table as they slice at him with wire cutters.

As Zoë leads Jayne and Wash toward the torture room, Book, Simon, and Kaylee stay behind to prevent the station personnel from taking the shuttle. Simon's aim is poor, but Book expertly shoots the men's legs (the Bible being against killing, but "somewhat fuzzier on the subject of

kneecaps”) and easily dodges return fire. Kaylee is unable to return fire at all, and retreats when pressed by enemy gunfire. River, who has stayed out of the gunfight up until this point, then appears and takes Kaylee’s pistol. After a quick glimpse at their attackers, River then emerges and kills all of the enemy troops with single gunshots while her eyes are closed, leaving a visibly shaken Kaylee.

Deep inside the skyplex, the intrusion alarm distracts Niska. Mal uses the distraction to take out the torturer with the same tendril-producing device used on him earlier. As Mal starts to beat on the retreating Niska, the torturer recovers, giving his boss a chance to escape. The rescuers arrive to find Mal being throttled by the torturer over a huge, automated factory pit at the center of the skyplex. Though Zoë initially suggests Mal must face his torturer alone, he protests, and his crew quickly gun down the torturer.

Later, Mal joins the crew in Serenity’s cargo hold, where he fiddles with his reattached ear, courtesy of equipment supplied by the councilor. Simon expresses discomfort at killing people, but Book reassures him that it’s unlikely he actually did kill anyone in the gunfight. In the dining room, in a Saffron-like display of marital devotion, Zoë serves her recuperating husband some soup. Mal enters to remind Wash of the agreement they made during the torture. To Wash’s objections, he explains to Zoë about their mutual “burning sexual tension”. Zoë plays along, and the war veterans awkwardly move as if to embrace each other. Just as Zoë, all-business, says, “Take me sir. Take me hard,” Jayne walks in and comments that something about that was “downright unsettling.” An irate Wash finally gets up, drags his wife off, and announces that “we’ll be in our bunk.” The episode ends with Jayne immediately descending upon the abandoned soup.

Trash

Season 1

Episode Number: 11

Season Episode: 11

Originally aired: Monday July 21, 2003
Writer: Jose Molina, Ben Edlund
Director: Vern Gillum
Show Stars: Nathan Fillion (Captain Malcolm "Mal" Reynolds), Sean Maher (Dr. Simon Tam), Ron Glass (The Shepherd Book), Gina Torres (Zoe), Jewel Staite (Kaywinnit Lee 'Kaylee' Frye), Alan Tudyk (Wash), Adam Baldwin (Jayne Cobb), Summer Glau (River Tam), Morena Baccarin (Inara Serra)
Guest Stars: Franc Ross (Monty), Christina Hendricks (Saffron), John Eric Bentley (Police Sergeant), Dwier Brown (Durran Haymer), Blake Robbins (Agent McGinnis)
Production Code: 1AGE12
Summary: Saffron returns – after Mal breaks up her current gig, she convinces him and the crew to help out with a "perfect crime" that isn't. The crime: go to Bellerophon and steal a criminal's prototype laser gun from his collection. The plan: Saffron and Mal sneak in and dump the gun down the trash, bypassing security, and the Serenity crew grab it from the disposal system. Of course, this is Saffron, and things don't quite turn out as planned. . . Meanwhile, Simon figures out Jayne betrayed them and the two have words.



The show opens in a desert, where a naked Mal sits on a rock, staring into the distance, and says to himself, "Yeah... That went well." Flashback to 72 hours earlier, where Mal meets fellow Independence soldier-turned-smuggler Monty. Monty's crew is engaged in unloading his own ship as the two captains chat. Monty announces that he's gotten married, and introduces his lovely new bride Bridget. As soon as they spot each other, Mal and "Bridget" pull guns on each other. "Bridget" turns out to be none other than Mal's

nemesis Saffron. The two adversaries disarm each other and struggle until a bewildered Monty separates them. Mal tells Monty that "Saffron" is his wife, and Monty reluctantly believes him, leaving her stranded when he departs. When Mal orders Saffron to start walking away from his "scrap o' nowhere", Saffron unsuccessfully works her wiles on him, then switches to teasing him with a profitable planned theft in order to avoid being stranded on "this lifeless piece-of-crap moon".

Later, Serenity arrives to pick up Mal and the unloaded cargo. The crew is puzzled over Mal's injuries, which he refuses to discuss. When Inara invites him into her shuttle for tea, he rants about her use of "feminine wiles" to manipulate him. Inara gets to her point she wants to be able to conduct her business, and implies he is deliberately making it hard for her to find clients. As their argument devolves into personal attacks, Inara calls him a "petty thief" and suggests that he hasn't been serious about his own work lately. The scene cuts to Mal in the cargo bay, opening one of the loaded crates, getting Saffron out for more details on her "million-square job".

In the common room, Saffron stands before the crew describing her plan to rob an antique laser pistol, the Lassiter, from Durran Haymer, a wealthy collector of Earth-That-Was artifacts. She claims a remarkable awareness of Haymer's security arrangements, but insists that she needs help to get the weapon off the estate. However, the crew expresses outrage that they're even considering working with her, given her previous attempt to get them all killed and steal their ship. Mal discusses his reasons for his leniency, pointedly quoting some of Inara's words in their earlier argument to imply that she's partly responsible for his "descent into lunacy". Zoë is skeptical, but decides to go with the plan immediately after delivering a flooring punch to the con artist's chin.

While Jayne watches over Simon and River, keeping them out of Saffron's sight, River delivers warnings about not trusting Saffron. She tells Simon in private that Jayne has been afraid since their visit to Ariel, "afraid we'll know". Meanwhile, Wash and Kaylee describe their detailed plans of how to get Mal and Saffron in and the antique weapon out, interspersed with a montage of scenes of the activities as they take place. The key to the plan is to dump the collectible pistol into an automated trash disposal unit, which Kaylee will reprogram to take the trash to a remote location where they can pick it up.

Mal and Saffron enter the estate without difficulty, proving correct Saffron's claims about her inside knowledge. They quickly find the room that features the well-protected collectible, but are surprised when Durran himself enters. Mal is further surprised when Durran rushes to Saffron and embraces her, thanking him for bringing back his wife Yolanda. Apparently, Yolanda/Saffron disappeared six years earlier, at the same time an estate worker was killed. Mal comically tries to disappear into the background, but Saffron insists that Durran provide some compensation for Mal's "rescue". As Durran leaves to get the money, the uneasy partners finish retrieving the pistol while Mal wonders aloud about whether Saffron is actually in love with Durran, and if he might be her real husband. She responds by pulling her weapon on him and insulting him. When Durran arrives to observe this disconnect with her story, she tries to backpedal, but Mal tells him the truth about their robbery attempt. While Saffron expresses contempt for Durran, Mal surreptitiously drops the antique in the trash chute. Durran, however, informs his beloved "wife" that he had notified the authorities the moment he found them in his trophy room. Saffron again demonstrates her erratic nature by switching back to her feminine wiles, but finally ends up knocking this husband unconscious. As the *Feds* descend on the estate, the two thieves barrel through them and leave in *Serenity's* shuttle.

Meanwhile, Wash has been holding *Serenity* directly under Haymer's estate's trash unit while Jayne retrieved the control unit and Kaylee reprogrammed it, clinging to the ship's hull. During the windy EVA, Jayne is shocked unconscious. Book drags the mercenary back into *Serenity* to be treated by Simon. Zoë goes outside to help Kaylee, who barely manages to get the control board plugged in before the automated pickup vehicle comes up behind them and attaches itself to the trash unit. Off it goes with the priceless weapon.

As Mal's shuttle flies toward the rendezvous in Isis Canyon, he continues to explore his theory that Durran was Saffron's true love and original husband, and the con artist seems to break down in contemplation of what she's lost. As Mal regretfully expresses his belief that she'll just go back to being her conniving self, she proves him correct by pulling his own gun on him. She forces him to disrobe and strands him in the desert, where he utters his observation seen at the show's beginning.

At the trashyard, Saffron searches through the garbage for the antique laser pistol. To her surprise, Inara emerges above her to taunt her with the weapon. She explains that *Serenity's* crew had been playing Saffron all along, "although some of the crew's performances weren't quite as nuanced as they could have been" (especially Kaylee and Jayne couldn't keep a straight face at their first meeting with Saffron, for example). The Companion also claims to have been part of the plan all along, knowing that Saffron would get the drop on them somehow and arranging to beat the clever thief at her own game of deception. She remotely closes the garbage container to trap Saffron for the authorities to pick up later.

On *Serenity*, the crew finds that Saffron again sabotaged their ship, forcing them down before reaching the rendezvous. In the infirmary, Jayne awakens to find himself medically paralyzed to rest a spinal injury. When Jayne asks if he's going to be okay, the doctor calmly asks him how much he was offered to hand over to the Alliance. Jayne calls, "Anybody there?", and River appears. Jayne then says, "Anybody else?" With Jayne paralyzed and in the company of

the people he sold out, Simon ominously points out that in Jayne's "dangerous line of work", he will require the services of ship's doctor again. But he surprises the mercenary by promising, "I want you to understand one thing very clearly. No matter what you do or say or plot... no matter how you come down on us... I will never, ever harm you" because he's a doctor and Jayne is part of the ship's crew. After the good-hearted doctor leaves, River peeks in to tell the wounded man, "Also... I can kill you with my brain."

Later, Serenity makes it to Mal's location, where Inara and Mal trade some quips about Mal's "plan". Wash and Zoë look on, stunned, as Mal cheerfully reenters Serenity, still sans clothing, and muses unselfconsciously about the success of their heist.

The Message

Season 1
Episode Number: 12
Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Tuesday July 15, 2003
Writer: Tim Minear, Joss Whedon
Director: Tim Minear
Show Stars: Nathan Fillion (Captain Malcolm "Mal" Reynolds), Sean Maher (Dr. Simon Tam), Ron Glass (The Shepherd Book), Gina Torres (Zoe), Jewel Staite (Kaywinnit Lee 'Kaylee' Frye), Alan Tudyk (Wash), Adam Baldwin (Jayne Cobb), Summer Glau (River Tam), Morena Baccarin (Inara Serra)
Guest Stars: Craig Vincent (Skunk), Tod Nakamura (Fendris), Jonathan M. Woodward (Tracey), Richard Burgi (Lt. Womack), Al Pugliese (Amnon), Morgan Rusler (Barker), Joss Whedon (Man at Funeral)
Production Code: 1AGE13
Summary: A former Independence soldier who had served with Mal and Zoe returns in a dramatic manner, with a vicious Alliance officer chasing after him for some unusual smuggled goods.



The show opens on a space station, inside of which there are people wandering about in a kind of carnival. A barker extols an exhibit featuring "proof of alien life". Inside the exhibit, Simon and Kaylee stare at a tall, illuminated cylinder that holds a strange and apparently dead creature. The doctor declares that it is a mutated cow fetus, not an alien. Simon uses this moment alone with the engineer to attempt to get closer to her, but once again puts his foot in his mouth when he mentions that the other women he knows

are either married (Zoë), professional (Inara), or related to him (River), and Kaylee leaves in a huff. As Kaylee departs, Zoë and Wash enter, the latter declaring that "it's grotesque" before noticing "something in a jar". Wash mockingly tries to communicate with the "alien", Zoë manages to both console and insult Simon. Back in the concourse, Inara tries to convince Mal to let her help fence the Lassiter they stole in "Trash", but Mal insists on keeping her out of that side of the business. Mal checks in with the station postmaster, who passes along two packages along with Serenity's mail.

Jayne arrives to find that his mother has sent him a home-knitted cap, and he proudly dons it. The others observe the hideous headgear with a mixture of amusement and sarcasm. ("A man walks down the street in that hat, people know he's not afraid of anything.") The other shipped item is a huge crate addressed to Mal and Zoë. They open it to discover a dead body.

Flashback to seven years earlier at the Battle of Du-Khang. As a young Independence soldier, Private Tracey Smith, calmly prepares a meal behind cover, an Alliance soldier sneaks up on him. Just as the latter is about to shoot, Zoë appears behind him and cuts his throat. While she lectures the boy about stealth, Sergeant Reynolds comes screaming (literally) over some obstacles and crashes into their position. Tracey is injured when the Alliance zeros in on them. Mal and Zoë grab Tracey and their shell-shocked lieutenant and bug out.

Back in the present, the two ex-soldiers puzzle over the "decently preserved" corpse of their former comrade. Hauling the box aboard Serenity, they find a recorded message from Tracey. He

apparently anticipated trouble from some unsavory associates, and has asked them to ship his body home to St. Albans.

Back on the station, an ominous Alliance law officer, Lieutenant Womack, enters with two goons (Skunk and Fendris). He threatens first to imprison, then to incinerate the postmaster Amnon, who quickly tells the man and his aides who left with the "coffin size package."

On *Serenity*, Jayne waxes surprisingly philosophical about death to Shepherd Book, who contemplates a modest ceremony for the dead man; Jayne notes that he always gets the urge to 'do stuff' when he sees a corpse he didn't kill, prompting Book to speculate that Jayne likes to prove to himself that he's alive after witnessing death. River arrives to make herself comfortable by lying on the casket. Meanwhile, Mal and Zoë entertain Inara with a hilarious tale about Tracey's antics during the war, such as when he 'stole' an officer's moustache and stuck it on his face. Suddenly, the ship is shaken by a near miss from an Alliance craft. Lt. Womack hails them and demands to board *Serenity*. The crew mistakenly think that Womack is after the Lassiter. When Womack mentions "that crate", however, Mal realizes he's after Tracey's coffin, and stalls for time while they take apart the crate to discover what secrets it might contain. Finding nothing, they decide to have Simon Tam autopsy the hapless soldier, but the doctors' first incision causes the "dead" man to leap up and struggle with the gathered crew.

After he calms down, Tracey confesses that he is smuggling illegal internal organs. He was supposed to deliver the implanted organs on Ariel, but he got a higher bid. Unfortunately for him, the original buyers killed the new customer and are now after their stolen "merchandise". Two more shots from Womack reminds them of their immediate peril. Wash takes *Serenity* down to St. Albans, where they try unsuccessfully to elude their pursuer in a narrow snowbound valley. They finally come to rest inside a hidden cave, but the Alliance ship drops explosive charges into the valley to flush them out.

Kaylee gets to know and even flirt with the young soldier whose words mesmerized her earlier. Book does some checking on their Alliance pursuers and discovers some anomalous behavior. He ultimately recommends to Mal that they allow the Feds to board the ship. Tracey overhears some of this conversation and pulls a gun on the crew. Mal expresses disgust at his former subordinate's attempt to force them to get him out of his own mess, and orders Wash to call the Feds. As Tracey fires at Wash, wounding him, Zoë shoots the ungrateful man in the chest. Wounded but not slowed down, Tracey grabs Kaylee for cover and heads for the cargo bay. When Mal confronts him about his treacherous behavior, Tracey lays into his former superiors about being "saps". Jayne comes up behind him, and as Tracey turns to shoot him, Mal fires instead, knocking the young man to the ground.

Lt. Womack enters the cargo bay with Skunk and Fendris. He tries to cow the smugglers with his Alliance authority, but the unarmed Book arrives to explain why he won't be using that authority, given the pains he's taken to keep his extracurricular organ-dealing activity from the local federal agents about eight sectors from his jurisdiction. Faced with a surprisingly direct threat of death from the preacher, Womack decides to depart, dismissing the "damaged goods" in Tracey's gravely-wounded chest. Before walking down the boarding ramp, he looks to Jayne and tells him that wearing his mother's hat makes him look like an idiot.

Tracey belatedly realizes that Book's confrontation was part of a plan, one that he screwed up by threatening the crew and getting himself shot for his efforts. He asks Malcolm Reynolds and Zoë to deliver him home once more, and dies, speaking a phrase they shared in the war. Accompanied by a gloomy music and voiced-over excerpts from Tracey's message, the crew of *Serenity* solemnly returns the fallen soldier to his grieving family.

Heart of Gold

Season 1

Episode Number: 13

Season Episode: 13

Originally aired:	Tuesday August 19, 2003
Writer:	Brett Matthews
Director:	Thomas J. Wright
Show Stars:	Nathan Fillion (Captain Malcolm "Mal" Reynolds), Sean Maher (Dr. Simon Tam), Ron Glass (The Shepherd Book), Gina Torres (Zoe), Jewel Staite (Kaywinnit Lee 'Kaylee' Frye), Alan Tudyk (Wash), Adam Baldwin (Jayne Cobb), Summer Glau (River Tam), Morena Baccarin (Inara Serra)
Guest Stars:	Melinda Clarke (Nandi), Fredric Lehne (Rance Burgess), Kimberly McCullough (Chari), Sandy Mulvihill (Belinda), Tracy Leah Ryan (Petaline), Jim Lau (Puppet Theater Narrator), Heather Black (Helen), Angie Hart (Lucy), Doan Ly (Emma)
Production Code:	1AGE10
Summary:	The crew of the Serenity are in for a gunfight when one of Inara's former colleagues asks for their help. The Serenity crew defends a bordello from a gunslinger who got a prostitute pregnant and now intends to collect the child; Mal falls for the bordello's madam.



At a ranch-like whorehouse in the middle of a barren land, a man in a hover craft, Rance Burgess, accompanied by thugs on horseback, approaches the madam, Nandi, looking for "the girl." Despite Nandi's protest that "the girl" had left, the thugs drag Petaline, a nine-month-pregnant young woman, out to face him. He forcefully extracts a DNA sample from her to verify if the child is his, threatening to cut it out of her if need be. When the men leave, a group of women crowd around Petaline and Nandi, wondering

who can protect the distraught mother-to-be from the ruthless tyrant.

Cut to Mal Reynolds, practicing his gun draw. Inara enters the dining area behind him and startles him with her greeting. He then claims that she didn't startle him and that "Bwaahh!" is a warrior's cry. As she leaves, he aims his gun and quietly growls "Bwah." Wash shortly arrives to announce a distress call, specifically asking for Inara. She talks to Nandi, an old friend, on vidscreen, and offers to ask the Serenity crew to help. Overhearing the conversation, Mal muses about "a whole house full of Companions", but Inara corrects him, reluctantly calling them "whores". Mal seems bemused that they, unlike Inara, are "independent", and uncharacteristically dismisses Inara's offer to pay for the assistance. Inara, however, insists on keeping this "strictly a business arrangement". Zoë assembles the crew to explain the voluntary nature of this mission. Jayne predictably objects to such a risky humanitarian endeavor. Book tries to appeal to his seemingly non-existent altruistic side, but Mal quickly gains his support instead by pointing out the women's trade. ("They're whores." "I'm in.")

Arriving at Nandi's ranch, the crew is warmly greeted by the proprietor and her employees. Jayne eagerly takes advantage of their hospitality, Shepherd Book shares an awkward moment with two women in need of spiritual counseling who note that the last preacher who came by only

read one prayer and then took 'payment' from both of them. Simon goes to examine the soon-due Petaline (with River in tow), and Kaylee bemoans her own lack of attention from the doctor. Mal and Zoë discuss the situation with Nandi, who describes the poverty Burgess enforces on the locals "so he can play cowboy".

That evening, Mal and Inara take a trip into town to allow Mal to size up their opponent. The odious Burgess only confirms Nandi's assessment. He also takes a second to show Mal his laser pistol, with an auto targeting scope. Shortly after the Serenity couple departs, Burgess gets his own confirmation he is the father of Petaline's baby.

Returning to Nandi's ranch, Mal announces that Serenity will depart forthwith, rather than face "a monster who thinks he's right with God" and who won't back down after only a single thrashing from some temporary help. Nandi diplomatically acknowledges his need to protect his own people, but Mal clarifies that he expects to evacuate Nandi's people as well. Nandi, however, refuses to leave her hard-earned property and way of life, and Mal reluctantly accepts the challenge, admiring the streak of stubborn independence they share; even Jayne optimistically notes that they may be able to catch Burgess off-guard given that he won't be expecting a fight.

The Serenity crew gamely spends the next day and night building up the brothel's defenses and preparing some surprises for the villains. Zoë and Wash have a tense conversation (clearly not a new one) about having a baby themselves in the near future, and Zoë puts her foot down on the subject they will have this child soon. Nandi shows off a prized collection of guns to Mal, slipping in some subtle queries about Mal and Inara's relationship, and observing that the two shipmates share a dislike of "complications". She talks about the Companion training she shared with Inara on the latter's home world, Sihnon. She says that Inara was in the running to become "house priestess" of House Madrassa when she suddenly left, without explanation, to travel among the Alliance worlds. Nandi had left before then, however, straining at the restrictions of Companion life. She moved to this border world and assumed control of the whorehouse (implying a hostile takeover), cleaning it up and making it a better workplace for "the girls". Mal and Nandi gradually move toward sex, pausing only when Nandi says "I ain't her", which Mal deflects without directly acknowledging her implication of his feelings for Inara.

Meanwhile, Petaline approaches delivery with Simon and a nervous Inara attending, both of whom reveal that they've never delivered a baby before (River unhelpfully contributes some of her typical odd pronouncements and behavior, such as asking who is "in there"). That evening, back in town, one of Nandi's girls, Chari, reports to Rance Burgess on Mal's preparations. After making an angry speech to his men implying women's ordained place as submissive servants to men, he makes Chari kneel before him to perform "a few more chores".

The next morning, Mal arises from Nandi's bed and stumbles into Inara in the hallway. As he tries to make excuses, Inara calmly acknowledges his sleeping with Nandi, even thanking him for comforting her friend, and suggests that Companions don't feel embarrassed about sex because of the lack of puritanism that Mal exhibits on the subject. But later, she sobs deeply in private.

Mal reviews the state of their defenses with his people and gives some last-minute advice to the worried women. Nandi looks in on Petaline, whom Inara is coaching while Simon prepares for the delivery. The two Companions share a look, and Nandi realizes that Inara is much more attached to Mal than she let on. When Nandi starts to discuss this with Mal, they are interrupted by "imminent violence" from Burgess's approaching forces. Burgess's men have gained prior access to Serenity and ambush Wash and Kaylee as they board. Wash and Kaylee have their hands full avoiding fire and are unable to answer Mal's call for air cover assistance.

The battle begins, with the villains using automatic and laser weapons on the ranch house and its occupants. Jayne deftly takes out the machine gunner, and Book works a Kaylee-rigged fire hose to put out fires caused by the laser gun.

Back on Serenity, Wash lures the invaders into the rear hallway, and Kaylee locks them inside. The two shipmates belatedly realize, however, that they've locked themselves into their opposite's rooms: pilot Wash in the engine room, and engineer Kaylee pointlessly able to reach the bridge.

As Petaline gives birth, the traitorous Chari lets Burgess inside. He quickly storms into the delivery room, taking the newborn boy. Nandi overhears Petaline's cry of despair and heads off the departing Burgess. Inara sneaks up behind him and puts a knife to his throat, allowing one of Nandi's girls to recover the child. Burgess gets the drop on Inara, however, shoots Nandi, and escapes. Mal arrives too late to save Nandi. He and Inara grieve for a moment over the fallen woman, then have a silent conversation of looks that impel the rage-filled ship captain to

pursue the kidnapper and murderer. He ultimately captures the man and drags him back to the ranch, setting the unrepentant and unbowed man on his knees before Petaline and their baby. She cheerfully introduces baby Jonah to his father, then shoots him in the head, execution-style. Petaline tells the remaining thugs to "go on home", and orders the treacherous Chari to accompany them. The girls and the crew have a funeral for Nandi, during which one of the girls, Lucy, (played by Australian singer, Angie Hart) sings "Amazing Grace." Serenity then departs.

Back on the ship, Inara reiterates her gratitude that Mal was able to comfort Nandi on what turned out to be her last night, but Mal can only regret his failure to save her. As Mal tries to broach the subject of his and Inara's unacknowledged feelings toward each other, Inara muses about how Nandi created a family, and how that kind of shared strength and love makes people never want to break away. She then shocks Mal by announcing that she will be leaving Serenity.

Objects in Space

Season 1

Episode Number: 14

Season Episode: 14

Originally aired: Friday December 13, 2002
Writer: Joss Whedon
Director: Joss Whedon
Show Stars: Nathan Fillion (Captain Malcolm "Mal" Reynolds), Sean Maher (Dr. Simon Tam), Ron Glass (The Shepherd Book), Gina Torres (Zoe), Jewel Staite (Kaywinnit Lee 'Kaylee' Frye), Alan Tudyk (Wash), Adam Baldwin (Jayne Cobb), Summer Glau (River Tam), Morena Baccarin (Inara Serra)
Guest Stars: Richard Brooks (Jubal Early)
Production Code: LAGE11
Summary: Serenity encounters a ruthlessly professional bounty hunter, Jubal Early, who will stop at nothing to retrieve River. But River, feeling unwelcome on the ship, takes a novel approach to escaping from the long arm of the Alliance.



The show opens with a shot of Serenity flying by a planet, and then zooms into the ship and through its passages to end on River, who lies in bed listening to not-quite-audible voices. She arises and takes a walk through the ship's rooms and corridors, encountering her shipmates in varied conversations with each other. Simon and Kaylee are relaxing in the common room, the doctor telling the mechanic an amusing anecdote about medical school. River suddenly "sees" them looking at her, with Si-

mon telling her that he'd "be there right now", apparently implying she is responsible for taking him away from his successful medical career. Finding Jayne and Shepherd Book in the kitchen, she "hears" Jayne guiltily repeat his confession to Mal about selling out the Tams on Ariel, and Book mutters an angry but cryptic statement hinting at a sadistic past. River continues to wander the ship, and is moved by the sound of ocean waves as Zoë and Wash passionately kiss on the nearby bridge. Above the cargo bay, as Mal and Inara discuss her impending departure, River sees their unspoken frustrations over their unrequited relationship. Fleeing the intense emotions, River runs down to the unoccupied cargo bay, where she spots a tree branch. Picking it up, she sees herself on leaf-strewn ground, and picks up the branch, telling herself "It's just an object. Doesn't mean what you think." Suddenly, the real world returns, and she finds that she is holding one of Jayne's pistols while the crew surrounds her in a panic, trying to get her to drop the weapon. Mal takes the gun from her and discovers it is loaded and ready to fire. When Mal admonishes her for handling loaded weapons, River runs off, shouting "It's getting very crowded."

The image cuts to a small vessel closing with Serenity, aboard which is a man reviewing wanted bulletins for Simon and River. Meanwhile, the crew discuss the dangers of River's presence on the ship. When Zoë muses whether River has ever handled a gun, Kaylee reluctantly tells everyone about her experience during their assault on Adelai Niska's SkyPlex, when she was unable to return fire, and how River easily killed her attackers with single shots. The crew begin to

speculate that River may be a "reader", having psychic powers, and though Simon objects, they begin to question whether she is a danger to them. While talking, the crew are being listened to: above the room, on the hull of *Serenity*, the mysterious bounty hunter is tapping into the hull, and below the room, in the cargo bay, River is listening through the floor plating.

Mal decides to sleep on the matter, and the crew breaks for the "night". Kaylee follows Simon out as he goes to "check on my assassin", and she apologizes for having to point out the danger River presents. Simon, however, is more sad than angry, believing his sister feels that *Serenity* is "more home to her than any place she's been". He openly admits his regret at not practicing medicine (using the exact words that River "heard" earlier) and tries not to blame it on River herself, but on her unknown experimenters.

Once the crew goes to sleep, the bounty hunter boards *Serenity*. He runs across Mal and quickly knocks him unconscious, dropping him into his cabin, and then locks the rest of the sleeping crew in their cabins. He surprises Kaylee in the engine room, and uses a combination of philosophy and terrorspecifically threatening to rape Kaylee to force the frightened girl to surrender. Next, the intruder drops in on Book, disabling him instantly with a brutal kick to the head. Simon hears a noise and arises to check on his sister, only to be attacked by the stranger, who addresses him by name. The two men engage in verbal sparring; the bounty hunter, Jubal Early, waxes imaginative on the nature of things while he demands to know where River is. Though Simon refuses to help Early at first, the bounty hunter threatens to kill him and rape Kaylee if he refuses, and the doctor reluctantly agrees.

With Simon "helping" in the search, Early checks out the cargo bay and shuttles, commenting on the nature of "objects in space" while doing so. When Inara tries to appeal to Early's emotional side, he smacks her across the face, and then locks her in her shuttle. The two men finally arrive on the bridge, where Early settles on a direct threat, announcing loudly to the ship that he will kill Simon if she doesn't reveal herself. River then responds over the ship's intercom, telling Early (and incidentally her friends as well) about how she was unwanted on the ship but couldn't bring herself to leave, so she simply "melted away," becoming part of *Serenity*.

In the engine room, River's voice comes over the intercom, reassuring the bound Kaylee and asking for her help in a task. Meanwhile on the bridge, Early is openly skeptical about River's claim, but her voice returns to reveal uncanny knowledge of the bounty hunter's own weaknesses. River's verbal probing, aided by Simon's wry humor, gradually convince Early and the others that she has joined with the vessel. She sends Kaylee, now free, off on a mission to unlock the cabins. Zoë prepares an assault, but River insists that they do not use guns, and instead tells Mal of an alternate plan.

On the bridge, River continues her banter with Jubal, relentlessly hinting at his own insanity. Finally, Early realizes that River isn't part of *Serenity*, but has managed to sneak onto his ship. However, River reassures the frantic bounty hunter that she will go with him. She compares her own dangerousness and instability with his, and she weighs the hearts of her shipmates with her words about not belonging with them, and that her departure will allow them to get on with their lives. Simon refuses to let Early escape with River, and tries to stop him, but in the process is shot in the leg. Leaving Simon in the cockpit, the bounty hunter starts his EVA back to his ship, but finds Mal outside, waiting in ambush, and the captain shoves Early off into space, before welcoming River back aboard *Serenity*. Later, in the infirmary, Simon directs Zoë as she patches him up. Just outside, Mal and Inara start and fail again to deal with their implicit affection. In the cargo bay, Jayne mocks Book's failure to defeat Early, despite "all them years of priest trainin'", when Book expresses regret at not being able to do anything to help. Kaylee and River play jacks while Kaylee relates a sexual anecdote from her past. River picks up and examines the bouncing ball, with its swirling, multicolored surface, which recalls the multicolored planet *Serenity* flies by in the opening shot. The camera pans down through and out of the ship to show *Serenity* sailing off into space.

The show ends on Jubal Early, tumbling through space: "Well... Here I am."

Actor Appearances

A

Eddie Adams	1
0101 (Bendis)	
Edward Atterton	1
0104 (Atherton Wing)	

B

John Eric Bentley	1
0111 (Police Sergeant)	
Michael Bentt	1
0110 (Viktor)	
Daniel Bess	1
0107 (Mudder)	
Heather Black	1
0113 (Helen)	
Clement E. Blake	1
0107 (Mudder Elder)	
Carl Bresk	1
0104 (Wright)	
Simon Brooke	1
0107 (Prod)	
Richard Brooks	1
0114 (Jubal Early)	
Dwier Brown	1
0111 (Durrant Haymer)	
Andrew Bryniarski	1
0102 (Crow)	
Richard Burgi	1
0112 (Lt. Womack)	

C

Josef Cannon	1
0107 (Prod #2)	
Roma Chugani	1
0109 (Receiving Doctor)	
Melinda Clarke	1
0113 (Nandi)	
Hunter Cochran	1
0104 (Younger Farmer)	
Dennis Cockrum	2
0102 (Blue-Hand Man #2); 0109 (Blue-Hand Man #2)	
Cate Cohen	1
0109 (Cash Team Nurse)	
Alex Connie	1
0109 (Patient)	
William Converse-Roberts	1
0105 (Gabriel Tam)	

D

Larry Drake	1
0104 (Sir Warrick Harrow)	

John Dunn	1
0110 (Torturer)	

E

Zac Efron	1
0105 (Young Simon)	

F

Michael Fairman	2
0102 (Niska); 0110 (Niska)	
Michelle Ferrara	1
0102 (Immigrant Woman #2)	
Matthew C. Ferreira	1
0105 (Younger Grange)	
Bob Fimiani	1
0106 (Elder Gommen)	
Steven Flynn	1
0108 (Captain)	
Bryan Friday	1
0105 (Shabby Man #2)	

G

Kevin Gage	1
0107 (Stitch Hessian)	
Drew Goddard	1
0102 (Guy on planet)	
Jason Gray	1
0106 (Holder)	
Joshua Grenrock	1
0104 (Porter)	
Dax Griffin	1
0108 (Bester)	

H

Tawny Rene Hamilton	1
0102 (Immigrant Woman #1)	
Angie Hart	1
0113 (Lucy)	
Christina Hendricks	2
0106 (Saffron); 0111 (Saffron)	
Gregg Henry	1
0102 (Bourne)	
Isabella Hofmann	1
0105 (Megan Tam)	

I

Gregory Itzin	1
0107 (Magistrate Higgins)	

J

Firefly Episode Guide

John Jabaley 1
0107 (Bartender)
Carlos Jacott 1
0101 (Lawrence Dobson)

K

Lyle Kanouse 1
0108 (Salesman)
John F. Kearney 1
0101 (Old Man)
Katherine Kendall 1
0110 (Councilor)
Zachary Kranzler 1
0107 (Fess Higgins)

L

Eric Lange 1
0102 (Fed)
Jim Lau 1
0113 (Puppet Theater Narrator)
Fredric Lehne 1
0113 (Ranse Burgess)
Jordan Lund 1
0107 (Foreman)
Doan Ly 1
0113 (Emma)
Colin Patrick Lynch 1
0101 (Radio Operator)

M

Benito Martinez 1
0106 (Boss)
Roderick McCarthy 1
0108 (Lacey #1)
Bob McCracken 1
0107 (Well-Dressed Man)
Kimberly McCullough 1
0113 (Chari)
Janora McDuffie 1
0104 (Cabott)
Michael McMillian 1
0104 (Younger Hopeful)
Jamie McShane 1
0101 (Man)
Rolando Molina 1
0110 (Black Market Buyer)
Branden Morgan 1
0103 (The Survivor)
Sandy Mulvihill 1
0113 (Belinda)

N

Michael Nagy 1
0109 (Particularly Dressed Man)
Tod Nakamura 1
0112 (Fendris)
Laura Niemi 1
0107 (Woman)

O

Stephen O'Mahoney 1
0101 (Man (Dortmunder))
Kim Onasch 1
0104 (Banning)

Ron Ostrow 1
0105 (Commander)

P

Erik Passoja 1
0106 (Bree)
Lina Patel 1
0102 (Ensign)
Larry Pennell 1
0104 (Murphy)
Morina Pierce 1
0105 (Ruby)
Adam Pilver 1
0110 (Vanilla Husband)
Casey Piotrowski 1
0104 (Older Farmer)
Jared Poe 1
0103 (Ensign)
Al Pugliese 1
0112 (Amnon)

R

Valerie Red-Horse 1
0102 (Deputy)
David Reynolds 1
0102 (Henchman)
Jeff Ricketts 2
0102 (Blue-Hand Man #1); 0109 (Blue-Hand Man #1)
Blake Robbins 2
0109 (Agent McGinnis); 0111 (Agent McGinnis)
Skylar Roberge 1
0105 (Young River)
Andrew A. Rolfes 1
0105 (Older Grange)
Franc Ross 1
0111 (Monty)
Morgan Rusler 1
0112 (Barker)
Tracy Leah Ryan 1
0113 (Petaline)

S

Doug Savant 1
0103 (Alliance Captain Harken)
Johnny Shakespeare 1
0110 (Torture Victim)
Mark Sheppard 2
0101 (Badger); 0104 (Badger)
Lancer Dean Shull 1
0103 (Radio Operator)
Ira Steck 1
0109 (Young Intern)
Joel Steingold 1
0105 (Head Cop)
Alex Stemkovsky 1
0106 (Bandit #1)
Philip Sternberg 1
0101 (Inara's Client)

T

Erica Tazel 1
0105 (Doralee)
Scott Terra 1
0105 (Young Scott Tam)

John Thaddeus.....1
0105 (Stark)
Tom Towles.....1
0102 (Lund)

————— U —————

Andy Umberger.....1
0101 (Dortmunder Captain)

————— V —————

Jason Van1
0110 (Man)
Domingo Vara1
0101 (Ensign)
Craig Vincent.....1
0112 (Skunk)
Tom Virtue1
0109 (Doctor)
Ilia Vokok.....1
0108 (Marco)

————— W —————

Gabrielle Wagner.....1
0101 (Slave #1)
Doug Wax.....1
0103 (Escobar)
Roy Werner.....1
0104 (Gentleman)
Gary Werntz.....1
0105 (Patron)
Joss Whedon.....1
0112 (Man at Funeral)
Kevin Will.....1
0102 (Officer)
Ronald Craig Williams.....1
0107 (Busker)
Zachary Woodlee.....1
0106 (Guest Star)
Jonathan M. Woodward.....1
0112 (Tracey)