

# Close encounters

I ALWAYS believed that former model Joanna Lumley, the super fit "Avengers" girl, spent her life repelling rampant males, refusing their marriage proposals — 53 at the last count — stunning villains with a swift karate chop or climbing out of danger up a rope ladder suspended from a helicopter.

How wrong can you be? Purdey, it seems, would rather be tucked up in bed with a good book. She is not fussy about her literature.

"I like anything," she says. "I read lots and lots of books. My sister is a great one for passing some on to me and so is my mother. I usually have five novels on the go at once."

Tomorrow night the bookish Miss Lumley appears on the paperback programme "Read All About It" on B.B.C.1 at 10.50 p.m. to tell us about the book she has chosen for the show.

## CARTOONS

"It's a lovely book called 'Animations of Mortality' with silly cartoons by Terry Gilliam of Monty Python fame," she explains.

But from Monday, Joanna's prescribed reading will be the script of the new 13-part ATV television series "Sapphire and Steel," in which she stars with David McCallum. "The Man from UNCLE" whom she has not yet met.

It's a weird and exciting story — more of a mystery than science fiction. Written by P. J. Hammond it centres on a rupture in the universe which Sapphire and Steel have been assigned to come to earth and seal.

The two of them try to

# ... of the Purdey kind



Rosalie Horner on the new chapter in the life of space-age Joanna Lumley

● Out of space and into our TV lives... Joanna will be the star of a new ATV series "Sapphire and Steel."

impose themselves on a family. The parents mysteriously disappear and their children, a boy of 13, played by Milo O'Shea's son Stephen and Tamsin Bridge, eight, try to find them.

Explained producer-director Shaun O'Riordan: "The boy is doing his homework when he hears a slight throbbing noise in the house and runs upstairs to discover what it is. His parents have gone and the clocks have stopped. He rings the police and almost immediately there is a knock on the front door."

So begins their close encounter with extraterrestrial Sapphire and Steel. Why Sapphire and Steel? They represent the elements of the same name.

## ELEMENTS

As Shaun O'Riordan explains: "The middle weights of the atomic table, which include sapphire and steel, are listed as being possible to use when damages to the Universe occur. They are the safe elements. Radioactive substances could



David McCallum... he co-stars as Steel

not be used because there is life on Earth."

"I was so excited when both David and Joanna said 'Yes' as they were my first choices," says O'Riordan.

But however high-powered this may sound, Joanna believes it will be infinitely more leisurely than making "The New Avengers."

She told me: "At times I would find myself filming parts of four programmes in one day.

I longed to know how the stories would end but I was terribly pressurised and just looked at the lines I had to learn. In some episodes I never did find out what happened."

Joanna, whose preferred off-screen clothes are jeans or Jean-Muir's simple and elegantly cut dresses, will wear what her producer calls "timeless" garments.

## DATELESS

Says O'Riordan: "I imagine something quite smooth and tight-fitting on top with a loose, flowing skirt. Certainly not shiny zippered space-suits which would alarm people on earth."

"It's not space fiction or science fiction," says O'Riordan, "but a kind of mystery story. You get closer to understanding it if you take incidents like the Marie Celeste or the disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle. We try to find an explanation which is rational but we cannot. Something is happening which we don't comprehend because there is no rational explanation."



## COSIJAMAS



Comfiest nightwear ever!

- ★ NO CORD TO LOSE
- ★ NO BUTTONS TO BREAK
- ★ NO RIDING-UP OF SLEEVES OR LEGS
- ★ ONLY SOLD DIRECT... LESS COST, BETTER VALUE

The most comfortable pyjamas ever. Slip-over jacket, elastic waisted trousers. Ribbed at wrists and ankles for extra comfort. Made from 100% Fully Combed Cotton, fast dyed. Easy to wash. Satisfaction guaranteed.

**£6.80 FOR LADIES**  
34", 38", 42", bust  
Colours: Primrose, Ice Blue, Lavender or Peach Blossom, trimmed White.

**£6.95 FOR MEN**  
36", 40", 44" chest  
Colours: Grey trimmed Wine, Sage Blue trimmed Navy, or Biscuit trimmed Dark Brown.

**£4.80 FOR GIRLS**  
Age: 6-7, 8-9, 10-12.  
Chest: 27", 30", 33".  
Colours: Primrose, Ice Blue, Lavender or Peach Blossom, trimmed White.

**£4.95 FOR BOYS**  
Age: 6-7, 8-9, 10-12.  
Chest: 27", 30", 33".  
Colours: Grey trimmed Wine or Sage Blue trimmed Navy or Biscuit trimmed Dark Brown.

All Post Free, Prompt Despatch

Cash with order please (C.O.D. 60p extra)  
BIRKETT & PHILLIPS LTD (Dept. DE)  
UNION ROAD, NOTTINGHAM NG3 1EJ

★ FREE  
Send for booklet of Famous "B.P." Pure Wool Underwear. Combinations, Vests, Knickers, Nightdresses & Spencers for Ladies, Vests, Pants & Combinations for Men. A usual wear for Men & Women.

SEND NO MONEY - FREE GIFTS.  
SEND FOR OUR FREE 48 PAGE CATALOGUE!  
(HOUSEHOLD • GARDENING • D.I.Y. DOUBLE GLAZING • DEEP FREEZING • MEDICAL AIDS • POLYTHENE BAGS & SHEETING ETC.)  
AND RECEIVE FREE 10 GARDEN POTS (TRANSPLANTS) & 5 SELF SEAL POLYTHENE BAGS  
SEND AWAY TODAY FOR YOUR 10 Free Transplants  
\* 48 self seal bags & 48 page catalogue too!  
**TRANSATLANTIC PLASTICS LTD**  
DE 19 GARDEN ESTATE, VENTNOR, I.O.W.

**SIMPLE AS SWEEPING**  
PAINT CEILING & WALLS IN A DAY  
So light and easy to use. No ladders or scaffolding needed. Self-contained portable, easy to take apart and clean. Place paint in enclosed splashproof container, control, exactly the amount of paint.  
CEILING AND WALLMASTER **£5.75** plus 50p P.P.  
**HOPES** Dept. EE, 27 Blenheim Gardens, London, SW2.

**SHOE TIDY**  
HANDS UP TO 12 PAIRS  
No searching for "lost" shoes. Neat & compact, containing up to 18 pairs, your shoe tidy can be tucked away behind a door, inside a cupboard or on wall. Your shoes — always there, always tidy. Made in see-thru heavy vinyl.  
Order now: £1.95 + 30p P.P. BEESIDE MAIL HOUSE E1/42, 1, Well Street, Holywell, Clwyd.

**WONDERFUL VALUE**  
FULLY FLARED PLEATED SKIRT  
DIRECT FROM MAKERS - ONLY **£3.95** plus 45p P.P.  
GET INTO THIS BARGAIN!  
A VERY POPULAR DESIGN  
67% POLYESTER 33% VISCOSE  
Hand/machine wash. Side zip, button fastening. Length 27". Black, Cameo, Grey. Quote No. 7815. Access Barclaycard, U.K. only.  
J. Wiltshire (DE), 56-58 Green St., London, E.7.

This fabulous Three quarter Coat in  
**MAGNIFICENT LUXURIOUS SIMULATED SEALSKIN**  
ONLY **£19.95** 2 for **£38**  
Elegantly styled from a beautiful simulate for this handsome coat is very much in the mode and mood of the moment. Its silky sheen, its luxuriously soft texture and fine dense pile make it hardly distinguishable in feel and appearance from natural seal. Double-breasted style with 2 snap pockets, marvelously warm, excellently finished and lined throughout. You could expect to pay as much as double elsewhere.  
Bargain of the Year. In Dark SEAL BROWN. Bust sizes 33, 34, 36, 38 or 40. Also 42, 44, £20-5. 2 for £40. Post 14p.  
Or any order sent C.O.D. (pay postman) 50p extra.  
**Jacatex**  
Dept. E775, 69-71 Westow Hill, Crystal Palace, London, S.E.19

**WIGS in FABULOUS KANEKALON CAPLESS - NOT MESH BASE**  
BOUFFANT CASUAL WAVE CLASSIC  
All in finest "KANEKALON" wonder fibre. Capless (not mesh base) for light cool comfort. Adjustable fit, prestyled, washable without reset.  
All guaranteed perfect-as sold by leading stores.  
**SAVE £££s**  
**MANNING WIGS** Dept. DE (PO BOX 10) 77 White Lion St, London N1 9PJ

**SHAPED CAR COVERS**  
£5.50 plus 50p P.P.  
**DE-LUXE SILVER QUALITY**  
Give your car excellent weather protection with a good quality cover in strong welded P.V.C. Self-gripping. Wonderful bargain. 100% Water & Heat proof.  
For Minicars up to 11ft. **£5.50**  
Up to 12ft. **£6.40** Up to 14ft. **£7.75**  
Up to 13ft. **£7.00** Up to 15ft. **£8.50**  
Up to 16ft. **£9.00**  
**MOTORCYCLE COVERS**  
same material £3.90 plus 50p P.P.  
**MONTROSE PRODUCTS (DES)**  
28-34 Fortess Road, London, NW5 2JH

**NIGHT LIGHT**  
No Extra Cost. Safe, Simple and Inexpensive **NEW HOUSEHOLD MIRACLE**. Fantastic diffused neon of 1 watt consumption. Fits any 13 amp. standard socket, could last over 15 years. Emits soft radiant glow illuminating passages, landings, staircases, nurseries, sick-room, etc. Comforting for children. Absolutely safe and cold in use. Tough, fully sealed translucent polycarbonate. 1 for £2.00, 2 for £3.00, 4 for £5.00  
**POST FREE. CONVERTERS** available for 15 amp socket **£1.50 POST FREE**. 12 month guarantee. Immediate despatch.  
**MIDLAND SALES** (Dept. AD21), Earlywood Rise, Coronation Road, South Ascot, Berks.

**Do you own a G-Plan chair or settee?**  
LYN-PLAN superbly Tailored Covers are now available for most models.  
Not stretch-but individually tailored zip-on covers in real Tapestries, Weaves, Linens and washable Cords, complete with exclusive matching covered buttons to retain the deep buttoned effect of the original. Send for actual fabric samples and BROCHURE to: LYNWOOD (Dept. 330) 43 Imperial Way, Croydon, Surrey CR9 4LP. Tel. 01-881 1831. Showrooms: Park Street, Croydon, Surrey (closed Weds.) NEW WEST END SHOWROOM 28 Berners Street (Oxford St) W1. (Closed Sat.)  
LYNWOOD makers of LYN-PLAN COVERS for PARKER KNOLL, CINTIQUE and ERCOL chairs and settees.  
**Lyn-Plan**