

# The Paragon

## Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

### *FireFly*

No. [27]	Title [27]	Directed by	Written by [28]	Original air date [27]	Prod. code [28]	U.S. viewers (millions)
1	"Serenity"	Joss Whedon	Joss Whedon	December 20, 2002	1AGE79	4.16 <sup>[29]</sup>
<p>Captain <a href="#">Malcolm "Mal" Reynolds</a> and his crew aboard <a href="#">Serenity</a> illegally salvage goods from a <a href="#">derelict</a> ship. Because the Alliance marked the goods, and an Alliance ship spotted an obsolete <i>Firefly</i>-class freighter leaving the scene, Mal's fence Badger refuses to handle the goods and Mal has to sell elsewhere. To make extra money, the crew picks up passengers: <a href="#">Shepherd Book</a>, <a href="#">Simon Tam</a> and Lawrence Dobson. En route to the new buyer, Patience, Dobson turns out to be an undercover Alliance agent tracking Simon. Dobson attempts to arrest Simon, but he is taken prisoner. Simon reveals that his genius sister <a href="#">River Tam</a>, hidden in his luggage, was experimented on by the Alliance and that he is trying to smuggle her to safety. Patience tries to rob Mal, but he takes the payment after a shootout. Lawrence escapes and holds River hostage, but Mal shoots him and offers Simon and River haven aboard <i>Serenity</i>.</p>						
2	"The Train Job"	Joss Whedon	Joss Whedon & <a href="#">Tim Minear</a>	September 20, 2002	1AGE01	6.20 <sup>[30]</sup>
<p>Crime lord Adelai Niska hires the crew to rob a train of unspecified goods. The crew can transfer the goods to <i>Serenity</i> flying above, but Mal and <a href="#">Zoe Washburne</a> are forced to stay behind on the train. They learn that they have stolen medicine desperately needed by the locals. The crew argues whether they should deliver the goods to Niska. Ultimately, they decide to rescue Mal and Zoe first through subterfuge. Mal decides to return the medicine. However, Niska's thugs track them down. After killing some of them and capturing the rest, Mal and Zoe take medicine to those in need of it and refund Niska's money.</p>						

3	" <a href="#">Bushwhacked</a> "	<a href="#">Tim Minear</a>	<a href="#">Tim Minear</a>	September 27, 2002	1AGE02	5.47 <sup>[31]</sup>
<p>The crew discovers a derelict ship that was attacked by <a href="#">Reavers</a> and take aboard the sole survivor. Shortly after, an Alliance cruiser orders <i>Serenity</i> to dock to it. Simon and River hide to avoid capture. The rest of the crew are interrogated. Refusing to believe in the existence of Reavers, the Alliance's Commander Harken decides that the crew will be charged with attacking the ship and murdering its settler passengers. However, the survivor kills some of the Alliance crew and escapes back to <i>Serenity</i>. Mal convinces Harken to let him help find the survivor. Mal kills the survivor, saving Harken's life in the process, and the crew is released.</p>						
4	" <a href="#">Shindig</a> "	<a href="#">Vern Gillum</a>	<a href="#">Jane Espenson</a>	November 1, 2002	1AGE03	4.28 <sup>[32]</sup>
<p><a href="#">Inara Serra</a> is hired by Atherton Wing, one of her regular clients, and accompanies him to a formal dance. Badger hires Mal to meet a contact at the same dance and try to set up a smuggling job. When Mal hits Atherton for the way he treats Inara, Mal finds he has unknowingly challenged Atherton to a duel with swords. Atherton is a skilled swordsman and duelist. Inara tries to teach Mal how to use a sword overnight. Despite all expectations, Mal wins the duel. The contact, who personally dislikes Atherton, agrees to hire the crew to smuggle cattle to the Rim.</p>						
5	" <a href="#">Safe</a> "	<a href="#">Michael Grossman</a>	<a href="#">Drew Z. Greenberg</a>	November 8, 2002	1AGE04	4.68 <sup>[33]</sup>
<p>The crew delivers cattle to the Rim, but Book is gravely injured when they are stuck in the middle of a shootout. At the same time, Simon and River Tam are kidnapped by locals while sightseeing in town. Mal chooses to leave the Tams behind to seek help for Book. Desperate, they turn to an Alliance ship. At first hostile, the Alliance officer they speak to provides medical aid after seeing Book's ID. Meanwhile, the kidnappers belong to a community in desperate need of an actual doctor, and Simon tentatively hopes he has found a haven for himself and River. However, the religious residents believe River is a witch and attempt to <a href="#">burn her at the stake</a>. <i>Serenity</i> returns just in time to rescue the siblings. When Simon asks Mal why he came back, the captain tells Simon that he and River are part of the crew.</p>						

6	"Our Mrs. Reynolds"	<a href="#">Vondie Curtis Hall</a>	Joss Whedon	October 4, 2002	1AGE05	4.87 <sup>[34]</sup>
<p>After completing a job for a small settlement, during the ensuing celebration, Mal learns that he inadvertently married a young woman called <a href="#">Saffron</a>, part of the payment. Although Mal insists they are not married, Saffron is determined to fulfill a subservient wife's role. Saffron is not what she appears to be. She later knocks Mal out, locks the ship into a course for murderous ship scrappers, and flees in a shuttle. The crew barely escapes.</p>						
7	"Jaynestown"	<a href="#">Marita Grabiak</a>	<a href="#">Ben Edlund</a>	October 18, 2002	1AGE06	4.30 <sup>[35]</sup>
<p>The crew lands on a planet to meet a contact. Although Jayne Cobb insists he is wanted there, they are dumbfounded to learn that the locals revere him as a folk hero. Mal attempts to use Jayne's status as a distraction to move smuggled goods across town. However, Magistrate Higgins releases Jayne's former accomplice Stitch Hessian, whom Jayne abandoned years ago during a botched robbery and now seeks revenge. Stitch publicly confronts Jayne, revealing what the townspeople believe happened to be false. Stitch shoots, but a villager jumps in front of Jayne and dies. Jayne kills Stitch and urges the townspeople to stop viewing him as a hero. <i>Serenity</i> is "land-locked" by Higgins' order to try to capture Jayne. Higgins' 26-year-old son Fess, encouraged by Inara to stand up for himself after losing his virginity to her, as paid for by Magistrate Higgins, orders the unlocking of the ship, and <i>Serenity</i> departs.</p>						
8	"Out of Gas"	<a href="#">David Solomon</a>	Tim Minear	October 25, 2002	1AGE07	4.38 <sup>[36]</sup>
<p>An explosion in the engine room leaves <i>Serenity</i> with the engine and the life support system and its backup all out of commission. With only a few hours of oxygen left, Mal has the crew leave in the two shuttles while he remains aboard and hopes to contact a passing ship. In a series of flashbacks, Mal convinces Zoe, Jayne, Inara, <a href="#">Hoban Washburne</a>, and <a href="#">Kaylee Frye</a> to join his crew. In the present, Mal can hail a ship and secure the part needed to fix the engine, though he is shot by another crew when they prove to have less than pure motives. Mal's crew returns to <i>Serenity</i> in time to save his life.</p>						

9	"Ariel"	Allan Kroeker	Jose Molina	November 15, 2002	1AGE08	4.49 <sup>[37]</sup>
<p>While waiting on the Core planet Ariel, Simon hires the crew to help him smuggle River into a local hospital for a thorough diagnostic. In return, he will tell them how to loot the hospital for valuable medicine. Once inside, Jayne attempts to turn in Simon and River for the reward. However, the Alliance officer arrests Jayne as well to keep the bounty for himself. The crew escapes, but Mal realizes that Jayne betrayed Simon and River. Mal arranges for Jayne to suffocate when <i>Serenity</i> leaves the planet's atmosphere, but then lets him live when he shows remorse.</p>						
10	"War Stories"	James Contner	Cheryl Cain	December 6, 2002	1AGE09	3.85 <sup>[38]</sup>
<p>Angry that Zoe and Mal have an unshakeable bond as war veterans, her husband Wash demands to take her place on a seemingly routine mission. Mal begrudgingly allows Wash to go along. They are captured by Niska, out to restore his reputation after they failed to complete the robbery he commissioned in "The Train Job". Zoe has only enough money to ransom one of them. She unhesitatingly chooses Wash. The crew band together to rescue Mal.</p>						
11	"Trash"	Vern Gillum	Ben Edlund & Jose Molina	July 21, 2003 (UK) <sup>[39]</sup>	1AGE12	N/A
<p>When Saffron crosses paths with Mal again, she asks him to help her rob a precious antique weapon from a wealthy man. Once Mal and Saffron are inside, they are discovered, and it is revealed that the man is married to Saffron. Although the man seems initially oblivious, he is aware of Saffron's true nature and called the authorities. Mal and Saffron escape, but Saffron betrays Mal, stranding him naked in the desert, and tries to pick up the weapon. However, Inara gets there first. She leaves Saffron locked up in a storage container for the authorities, and the crew escapes with the weapon.</p>						
12	"The Message"	Tim Minear	Joss Whedon & Tim Minear	July 28, 2003 (UK) <sup>[39]</sup>	1AGE13	N/A
<p>Mal and Zoe receive in the mail the body of Tracey, a comrade-in-arms who fought with them at the Battle of Du-Khang, and they attempt to honor his recorded wish to be returned home. However, a corrupt Alliance officer demands they turn over the body and the goods the soldier was smuggling. While searching the body for clues, they learn that Tracey is still alive and is smuggling organs. Tracey had double-crossed his employers, but they killed his new buyer. Mal is ultimately forced to kill him to protect the crew, and Book blackmails the officer into leaving. Mal and Zoe take Tracey's body home to his family.</p>						



13	"Heart of Gold"	Thomas J. Wright	Brett Matthews	August 4, 2003 (UK) <sup>[39]</sup>	1AGE10	N/A
<p>Nandi, an old friend of Inara's and a former Companion, runs an unlicensed <a href="#">bordello</a> on a barren planet. The bordello is frequently patronized by Rance Burgess, a tyrannical ruler who keeps the community excessively poor so that he can govern it as a <a href="#">cowboy</a>. Burgess, whose wife is <a href="#">infertile</a>, believes a pregnant prostitute named Petaline is carrying his child. With Burgess promising to take the child once it is born, Nandi contacts Inara and asks her if the <i>Serenity</i> crew can help defend her establishment. Mal agrees, but upon arrival realizes that Burgess' <a href="#">cavalry</a> is too powerful to fight and advises Nandi and her working girls to leave the planet immediately. Nandi refuses to lose her establishment to Burgess, and her resolve impresses Mal enough to encourage the crew to stay and fight Burgess. Nandi and Mal sleep together, and Petaline's child is born. Although Inara is outwardly pleased that Mal has put his intimacy issues aside, secretly she is heartbroken that her attraction is unrequited. With the help from the crew, Burgess's forces are defeated, and Petaline kills Burgess, but Nandi is killed in battle. Later, Inara confesses to Mal that she wants to leave <i>Serenity</i>.</p>						
14	"Objects in Space"	Joss Whedon	Joss Whedon	December 13, 2002	1AGE11	4.08 <sup>[40]</sup>
<p>River telepathically hears the crewmembers' innermost feelings. When she picks up a gun in <i>Serenity</i>'s cargo bay (which she perceives as a tree branch), the others discuss if she's too dangerous to be kept aboard. <a href="#">Bounty hunter</a> Jubal Early sneaks aboard the ship, intent on claiming the bounty set for River and Simon. Early incapacitates the crew and forces Simon to help him locate River, who has seemingly vanished. While searching the ship, Early recites <a href="#">existential philosophy</a>, claiming to not be evil, simply incentivized to do what is necessary. River's voice appears on the <a href="#">PA system</a>, claiming that River melted and fused with <i>Serenity</i>. Early is disbelieving, but the voice is omniscient, knowing extensive details of Early's delinquent behaviour. The voice muses that Early enjoys violence and is not merely incentivized to be violent. Secretly, the voice individually mobilizes the crew in a plot to force Early off the ship. Early realizes River has snuck aboard his own spacecraft. River tells him she will go willingly. Heading back to his craft to join her, Early is ambushed by Mal, who pushes him away into space – carrying out River's plan. River is embraced by the crew. Early floats alone in space.</p>						

# Music

Greg Edmonson composed the musical score for the series. He stated that he wrote for the emotion of the moment. A reviewer stated that he also wrote for the characters: "Edmonson has developed a specialized collection of musical symbolism for the series." To help illustrate the collection, the reviewer gave leitmotifs, or "signatures", various names, noting that "Serenity" recalls the theme of the show and is used when they return to the ship, or when they were meeting in secret; it was "the sound of their home". The slide guitar and fiddle used in this piece are portable instruments that fit the lifestyle of the crew: "the music they make calls up tunes played out in the open, by people who were hundreds of miles away yesterday. 'Serenity' conjures the nomadic lifestyle the crew leads and underlines the western aspect of the show." Another emotional signature was "Sad Violin" used at the end of the Battle of Serenity Valley but also to set up the joke when Mal tells Simon that Kaylee is dead in the episode "Serenity". The most memorable use of "Sad Violin" is at the end of "The Message", when the crew mourned the death of Tracey. This was also the last scene of the last episode the actors shot, and so this was seen by them and Edmonson, as Firefly's farewell. To denote danger, "Peril" was used, which is "a low pulse, like a heartbeat, with deep chimes and low strings". The reviewer also noted character signatures. The criminal Niska has a signature: Eastern European or Middle Eastern melodies over a low drone. Simon and River's signature was a piano played sparsely with a violin in the background. This contrasts with the portable instruments of "Serenity": the piano is an instrument that cannot be easily moved and evokes the image of "the distant house and family they both long for." The signatures were mostly established in the first pilot, "Serenity", and helped enhance the narrative.

In every episode, the musical score intensified my experience of this intelligent, remarkable show. Using and combining all these signatures, Greg Edmonson brought out aspects of Firefly's story and characters that were never explicitly revealed in the other elements of the series.

Whedon's use of music in his television shows has been regarded as "filmic", as during pivotal moments the music reminds viewers of earlier events, resulting in a tighter continuity throughout the season.

The musical score expressed the social fusion depicted in the show. Cowboy guitar blended with Asian influence produced the atmospheric background for the series. As one reviewer stated:

Old music from the future—the music of roaring campfires and raucous [sic] cowboys mixed with the warm, pensive sounds of Asian culture and, occasionally, a cold imperial trumpet, heralding the ominous structural presence of a domineering government. Completely thrilling.

—Steve Townsley

The show's theme song, "The Ballad of Serenity", was written by Joss Whedon and performed by Sonny Rhodes. Whedon wrote the song before the series was greenlit, and a preliminary recording performed by Whedon can be found on the DVD release. The soundtrack to the series was released on CD on November 8, 2005, by Varèse Sarabande. Fox Music released a 40-minute soundtrack in September 2005 as a digital EP. "The Ballad of Serenity" was used by NASA as the wake-up song for astronaut Robert L. Behnken and the other crewmembers of STS-130 on February 12, 2010.

**Track listing (tracks 1–17 appear in both the digital and CD releases)**

No.	Title	Length
1.	"Firefly — Main Title"	0:52
2.	"Big Bar Fight" (from "The Train Job")	1:56
3.	"Heart of Gold Montage" (from "Heart of Gold")	2:10
4.	"Whitefall/Book" (from "Serenity", "The Message")	2:20
5.	"Early Takes Serenity" (from "Objects in Space")	2:36
6.	"The Funeral" (from "The Message")	2:36
7.	"River's Perception/Saffron" (from "Objects in Space", "Our Mrs. Reynolds")	2:14
8.	"Mal Fights Niska/Back Home" (from "War Stories", "Shindig")	1:54
9.	"River Tricks Early" (from "Objects in Space")	3:30
10.	"River Understands Simon" (from "Safe")	2:04
11.	"Leaving/Caper/Spaceball" (from "Trash", "Objects in Space", "Bushwhacked")	2:39
12.	"River's Afraid/Niska/Torture" (from "Ariel", "The Train Job", "War Stories")	3:21
13.	"In My Bunk/Jayne's Statue/Boom" (from "War Stories", "Jaynestown", "Bushwhacked")	2:28
14.	"Inara's Suite" (from "The Train Job", "Serenity", "War Stories")	3:29
15.	"Out of Gas/Empty Derelict" (from "Out of Gas", "Bushwhacked")	1:50
16.	"Book's Hair/Ready for Battle" (from "Jaynestown", "Heart of Gold")	1:59
17.	"Tears/River's Eyes" (from "Serenity", "Objects in Space")	1:59
18.	"Cows/New Dress/My Crew" (from "Safe", "Shindig")	2:11
19.	"Boarding the Serenity/Derelict" (from "War Stories", "Bushwhacked")	2:02
20.	"Burgess Kills/Captain & Ship" (from "Heart of Gold", "Out of Gas")	3:26
21.	"Saved/Isn't Home?/Reavers" (from "Out of Gas", "The Train Job", "Serenity")	2:55

22. "Reavers Chase Serenity" (from "Serenity") 3:22
23. "River's Dance" (from "Safe") 1:50
24. "Inside the Tam House" (from "Safe") 2:22
25. "Dying Ship/Naked Mal" (from "Out of Gas", "Trash") 2:10









## The Cast of Firefly:



Adam Baldwin

Jewel Staite

Alan Tudyk

Gina Torres

Nathan Fillion

Sean Maher

Summer Glau

