

= Revelations (The X @-@ Files) =

" Revelations " is the eleventh episode of the third season of the science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . It premiered on the Fox network on December 15 , 1995 . It was written by Kim Newton and directed by David Nutter . The episode is a " Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " story , unconnected to the series ' wider mythology . " Revelations " earned a Nielsen household rating of 10 , being watched by 15 @.@ 25 million people in its initial broadcast . The episode received mixed to positive reviews .

The show centers on FBI special agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files . Mulder is a believer in the paranormal , while the skeptical Scully has been assigned to debunk his work . In this episode , Mulder and Scully investigate a case where fake stigmatics are being murdered . When a boy shows signs of being a real stigmatic , Mulder and Scully attempt to protect him , fearing that he will be the latest victim .

" Revelations " became a minor storyline milestone for the series with the exploration of Scully 's faith as a devout Roman Catholic . Throughout the remainder of the series , her Catholic faith served as a cornerstone , although at times a contradiction to her otherwise rigid skepticism of the paranormal . Furthermore , while Mulder is usually the believer and Scully is usually the skeptic , " Revelations " features a role reversal with Scully becoming the believer and Mulder becoming the skeptic , a move that Duchovny called " a refreshing change of pace . "

= = Plot = =

A minister fakes stigmatic injuries to his hands during a sermon . Afterwards , he is visited by a white @-@ haired man named Simon Gates , who strangles him ? his hands smoking while he does so . Agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) investigate the case . Mulder says that the priest was the eleventh fake stigmatic who has been killed over the past three years in a series of international murders . Meanwhile , at an elementary school in Loveland , Ohio , a boy , Kevin Kryder starts bleeding from the palms of his hands . The agents arrive and meet with a social worker , who claims that Kevin has suffered injuries before and that his father was institutionalized , adding that Kevin was in danger from evil forces . The agents visit Kevin 's father , who claims that his son is the chosen one and that evil forces will come to kill him as part of a great war between good and evil .

Kevin is abducted by a strange @-@ looking bald man . Kevin 's mother recognizes the man 's description as that of Owen Jarvis , who had done yard work for the family in the past . Owen claims to be Kevin 's guardian angel . By the time the agents arrive , Kevin is gone . Owen claims he was asked by God to protect Kevin and criticizes Scully for her faith not being as strong as his . Owen jumps out the window and escapes . Kevin arrives at his home and is pursued by Gates , who kills Owen when he arrives to protect him . Scully performs an autopsy and finds that Owen 's corpse is not decaying , reminding her of " incorruptibles " that she learned about in Catechism . Mulder tells Scully to not let her faith cloud her judgment . Scully finds that handprints on Owen 's neck belong to Simon Gates , a rich and powerful executive .

Kevin travels with his mother in a car which breaks down . Gates arrives offering to help fix the car , and Kevin , who appears in two places at once , is able to distract him and help them escape . However , Kevin 's mother , hurt by Gates , runs the car into a ditch , dying as a result . Scully tells Kevin she 'll protect him . They bring him to a hotel where Scully finds an additional wound on Kevin 's side . Scully becomes upset at Mulder for his unwillingness to accept the possibility of a miracle . As they talk , Gates breaks into the bathroom , kidnapping Kevin by prying an opening in the barred window . Scully returns to see Kevin 's father but finds him heavily drugged .

Scully theorizes that Gates has brought Kevin to a recycling plant he owns in Jerusalem , Ohio . Mulder thinks that he has headed to the airport , as a man matching Gates ' description was reported headed there . Mulder thinks Scully believes that she 's been chosen to protect Kevin . Scully arrives at the recycling plant where Gates tells Kevin that he must die for the ' New Age ' to

come . Gates attempts to jump into a paper shredding machine with Kevin , but Kevin grabs onto the side as Gates falls into the shredder . Scully is able to pull Kevin to safety . Two days later , Scully and Kevin say goodbye . Kevin tells Scully he 'll see her again . Scully goes to the confessional for the first time in years , wondering if God is speaking , but no one is listening .

= = Production = =

" Revelations " was written by Kim Newton , who would go on to write one further episode of The X @-@ Files : the third season 's " Quagmire " . The episode was directed by David Nutter and would be his final episode of The X @-@ Files . Nutter decided that , after the episode , he wished to pursue different things and that the series was in excellent hands with fellow directors Rob Bowman and Kim Manners . Actor Kenneth Welsh appears in the episode as the demonic Simon Gates . Welsh had previously appeared with Duchovny in the critically acclaimed 1990 serial drama Twin Peaks .

The episode features a role reversal with Dana Scully the believer and Fox Mulder the skeptic , which David Duchovny called " a refreshing change of pace . " Nutter said that dealing with faith permitted the show 's creators to further delve into Scully 's character . The episode was the first to discuss Scully 's faith in @-@ depth . Series creator Chris Carter later emphasized that the theme of the episode was more on personal belief rather than organized religion , noting , " [The episode] deals with faith , not religion with a capital ' R ' or Catholicism with a capital ' C ' " . The producers for the series were cautious about presenting an overtly religious episode of the series for fear of " pissing certain people off " , but , according to Carter , the show " handled it in such a way as to make it about miracle belief , or lack of belief . "

According to co @-@ producer Paul Rabwin the episode had script problems and went through several rewrites while the episode was still in production . The producers felt it was difficult to sell the concept of religious magic and having Kevin appear in two places at once . The episode went through a detailed editing process , which including additional tweaks to the script . These changes required actor Kevin Zegers to be flown back to Vancouver to film additional scenes . The producers claimed to be in awe by the way the episode turned out after all the additional work had been done . Several of the scenes were altered or cut during post @-@ production . The producers were unhappy with the voice of the priest in the final scene , resulting in them using a new vocal track in post @-@ production . A scene with Kevin 's father speaking in tongues ? as well as quoting the famous " Klaatu barada nikto " line from The Day the Earth Stood Still ? was cut in the final edit of the episode .

= = Reception = =

" Revelations " premiered on the Fox network on December 15 , 1995 . This episode earned a Nielsen rating of 10 , with a 17 share , meaning that roughly 10 percent of all television @-@ equipped households , and 17 percent of households watching television , were tuned in to the episode . This totaled 15 @.@ 25 million viewers .

Critical reception to the episode was moderately positive . Zack Handlen from The A.V. Club gave the episode a B + and wrote positively of Scully 's portrayal , noting " Really , this works best as a Scully episode . I prefer Darin Morgan 's version of the character [...] , but I doubt that version could support a full episode about God in the same way that this more searching , and lost , Scully does . " However , Handlen was critical of some of the religious aspects of the episode , noting that " If there 's a Christian God in the X @-@ Files universe , doesn 't that trump just about everything else that Mulder and Scully have spent their time on ? ... There are too many implications here for the show to support , and while it doesn 't destroy the episode , it does make it difficult for me to back it as fully as I 'd like to . " John Keegan from Critical Myth gave the episode a 7 out of 10 rating , noting " Overall , this episode highlights Scully and her faith , and in the process , manages to presage many of the future plot developments for the series and her character . The spiritual war at the foundation of the series mythology is reflected in a situation that speaks directly to Scully and her upbringing ,

and though some of the religious metaphors are heavy @-@ handed , it works well enough . " Entertainment Weekly gave the episode a B + and wrote positively of the episode 's " inventiveness , " which " derives from its choice of the most mainstream paranormality of all ? Christianity . " The review also wrote positively of the Mulder @-@ Scully role reversal , calling the change " always welcome " . Paula Vitaris from Cinefantastique gave the episode a moderately positive review and awarded it two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of four . She noted that " Scully 's search to reconcile her religious beliefs and her scientific training makes for powerful drama , and Gillian Anderson is up to the challenge . " Vitaris , however , criticized elements of the plot , most notably the " un @-@ saintly " quality of Kevin and Kevin 's lack of emotion after his mother is killed . Furthermore , she called the ending " a real mess " . Not all reviews were positive . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @-@ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen , rated the episode two stars out of five , and called it a " peculiarly bloodless episode " . The two wrote that many of the traits possessed by Kevin were only helpful in certain isolated scenes , such as the ability to bilocate . Shearman and Pearson concluded that the show should " take a serious subject by all means , but then take the subject seriously . "

Director David Nutter was pleased with the finished product . He was most notably happy with Anderson 's acting , saying that she delivered a sparkling performance , particularly in the final scene . He also stated " I really love working with Gillian . She 's got such an ability to emote and give from the inside . "

Actor Michael Berryman has said that this was his favorite role in his career and credits it for reversing typecasting that always put him in the role of the monster .