

= Somehow , Satan Got Behind Me =

" ' Somehow , Satan Got Behind Me " is the twenty @-@ first episode of the second season of the American crime @-@ thriller television series Millennium . It premiered on the Fox network on May 1 , 1998 . The episode was written and directed by Darin Morgan , and featured guest appearances by Bill Macy , Dick Bakalyan and Alex Diakun .

In this episode , a group of demons convene in a doughnut shop to share stories of tempting and damning humans . However , their stories all seem to include one mysterious figure who can see them for who they really are ? Frank Black ( Lance Henriksen ) .

" Somehow , Satan Got Behind Me " marks Morgan 's second and last script for the series , and parodies his earlier difficulties writing for The X @-@ Files . The episode has received mixed to positive reviews , and earned Morgan a Bram Stoker Award for Best Screenplay nomination in 1999 .

= = Plot = =

Four elderly men meet for coffee late at night . The fourth to arrive is hostile to the waiter , who secretly urinates in the man 's coffee . The man , Abum ( Dick Bakalyan ) , realizes this , and the group share a laugh over it , during which they are revealed to actually be demons . One of them , Blurk ( Bill Macy ) , complains that there are no strong personalities in this century . He tells a story of Perry , a man he met hitch @-@ hiking , who he molded into a serial killer over encouraging conversations . Perry sought to emulate Johnny Mack Potter , the country 's most prolific killer , and to break his record number of murders . As Perry drew level with Potter 's figure , Blurk grew bored accompanying him on the " mundane " murders of prostitutes and vagrants . Blurk gave an anonymous tip to the police that leads to Perry 's arrest ; one of the men present at the arrest ? offender profiler Frank Black ( Lance Henriksen ) ? seems to see through Blurk 's human disguise . In prison , Perry is murdered by his cellmate Johnny Mack Potter , reclaiming his record .

Abum tells another story , which he believes shows that mankind no longer needs demonic temptation to be damned . Abum followed an everyman figure called Brock , watching his grindingly repetitive life . Brock visited a strip club often but without joy , which led Abum to believe he no longer took pleasure from sinning . One day , Abum added an additional irritation to Brock 's life , posing as a traffic warden and giving him a ticket . This was enough to drive Brock to suicide . However , during this time , Abum also encountered Black , who again saw his demonic nature .

Greb ( Alex Diakun ) shares his tale , of a television censor called Waylon Figgieif . Figgieif 's overzealous approach to censorship leads Greb to try pushing his limits . Greb assumed the form of a small demonic baby and reveals himself to Figgieif , who breaks down and starts attempting to censor everyday life . Greb repeats this trick , and encourages Figgieif to go on a killing spree ? Figgieif takes a gun , bursts onto the taping of a science @-@ fiction show about alien abduction , and kills several actors . Greb 's methods and effectiveness are dismissed until he reveals the story 's epigram . Figgieif 's spree was caught on camera , and broadcast by another network as a found footage special . However , Greb also notes that he too was spotted by Black during this .

The fourth devil , Toby ( Wally Dalton ) , is convinced that Black really does know that they are demons . Toby also recounts his story , in which he begins to feel ennui at his failure to damn humans for some time . He meets and courts an aging stripper , Sally , who falls in love with him . Their relationship blossomed , despite her having seen his true demonic form . One day Toby leads her to believe he is about to propose to her , before instead curtly insulting and breaking up with her . He later visited her home to find police investigating her suicide ? a successful damnation . However , he also encounters Black , who sees his true nature . Instead of recoiling or reacting , Black simply tells Toby that he sees how lonely he must be . Toby 's story affects all the gathered demons , who realize how lonely they really are . As they get up to leave , Abum praises the shop 's coffee and briefly reveals his true form to the waiter .

= = Production = =

" Somehow , Satan Got Behind Me " is the second , and last , episode of Millennium to have been written by Darin Morgan , who also directed the episode . Morgan had previously written and directed " Jose Chung 's Doomsday Defense " earlier in the season . Morgan also served as a consulting producer for the season , and is the younger brother of Glen Morgan , an executive producer for the series .

Morgan 's script contains several references to his time as a writer for Millennium 's sister show , The X @-@ Files . One of Morgan 's episodes for that series , " War of the Coprophages " , had come under heavy criticism by the standards and practices department at parent network Fox , who took exception to the initial script 's heavy use of words such as " crap " to refer to the excrement that episode 's cockroaches fed upon . Morgan attacked and parodied this approach with one of the tales in " Somehow , Satan Got Behind Me " , with a network censor again targeting the use of the word " crap " and storming onto the set of a show resembling The X @-@ Files being taped , featuring lookalikes of Fox Mulder and Dana Scully with theme music very similar to that series ' playing in the background . The episode also contains a version of the dancing baby animation that was popular at the time , parodying its use on the series Ally McBeal .

Guest star Alex Diakun had previously appeared in the first season episode " Lamentation " in an unrelated role ; while Dan Zukovic , who played network censor Waylon Figgelf , had also appeared in a small role in " Jose Chung 's Doomsday Defense " .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Somehow , Satan Got Behind Me " was first broadcast on the Fox network on May 1 , 1998 . The episode earned a Nielsen rating of 5 @.@ 7 during its original broadcast , meaning that 5 @.@ 7 percent of households in the United States viewed the episode . This represented approximately 5 @.@ 59 million households , and left the episode the eightieth most @-@ viewed broadcast that week .

Morgan 's script for the episode earned him a Bram Stoker Award nomination in 1999 , for Best Screenplay ; the award was won jointly by Bill Condon for Gods and Monsters and Alex Proyas , David S. Goyer and Lem Dobbs for Dark City .

The episode received mixed to positive reviews from critics . The A.V. Club 's Zack Handlen rated the episode an A , calling it " maybe the best hour of television Millennium ever produced " . Handlen felt that the episode 's " disarmingly simple " premise belied its depth , and praised Morgan 's script as perhaps the writer 's best work . Bill Gibron , writing for DVD Talk , rated the episode 3 @.@ 5 out of 5 , calling it " a very fun , very irreverent respite for the series " . Gibron felt positively about the episode 's dialogue and humor , and praised it for its self @-@ parodying elements . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @-@ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen , rated " Somehow , Satan Got Behind Me " two stars out of five , finding that it fitted poorly with the tone of the series . Shearman felt that the episode was " self @-@ indulgent and irrelevant at worst , and at best only sporadically funny " .