

= The Man from the Other Side =

" The Man from the Other Side " is the 19th episode of the second season of the American science fiction drama television series Fringe . The episode follows the attempts of Thomas Jerome Newton , with the help of shapeshifters , to create a pathway between the two parallel universes , while the Fringe team 's Olivia Dunham , Peter Bishop , and Walter Bishop try to stop him .

The episode was written by co @-@ executive producer Josh Singer and series story editor Ethan Gross , and directed by Jeffrey Hunt . It first aired on April 22 , 2010 in the United States to an estimated 5 @.@ 84 million viewers , helping Fox place second for the night . Television critics praised the episode for good pacing and a " heartbreaking " conclusion ; one writer noted it was " full of just about everything I look for from the show " .

= = Plot = =

Walter (John Noble) has prepared himself to reveal to Peter (Joshua Jackson) the truth ? that he is from the parallel universe ? when they are called to a case . Two teenagers were found dead , evidently killed by shapeshifter agents from the parallel universe . Exploring the nearby area , they find a third unformed shapeshifter which Walter takes to the lab to study . At the same time of the teenagers ' death , they find a carrier signal in the local television . With biotechnology corporation Massive Dynamic 's help , they determine that the signal emanated from the parallel universe during a brief moment that the two universes were in sync , and that the next point of synchronization would occur the next afternoon . Recalling Thomas Jerome Newton 's (Sebastian Roché) previous attempt to bring a building from the parallel universe into the prime , the Fringe team believes they must stop this next attempt .

From the unformed shapeshifter , they learn of a name of its potential target , a doctor at a local hospital . They take the man into custody but find that he has yet to be harmed . Based on the need for three shapeshifters , Walter surmises that Newton is trying to use the same technology that he and William Bell had pioneered for crossing the universes , by placing three vibrational sources triangulated around the target . Walter begins to collect equipment to create interference with the vibrations to prevent the crossing . Another corpse is found , that of a bank manager that appears to have been killed by a shapeshifter . Realizing both men would have access to secured areas in their workplaces , they use these locations as two points on Newton 's triangle . From this , they are able to identify two locations where the transfer will occur . Olivia (Anna Torv) , using the information Walter has told her in private about his own crossing , identifies a collapsed derelict bridge over the Charles River , where the water would absorb the energy of crossing over .

The Fringe team converges on the bridge , where Newton has already started the process as the time of synchronization nears . As Olivia and the other FBI agent engage the two other shapeshifters in combat , Walter and Peter set up the interference device . Peter warns everyone , including Walter , back as he completes the interference device and the bridge , which still exists in the parallel universe , starts to appear with a man crossing it . The shockwave of its appearance disintegrates an FBI agent on the bridge with Peter but sends Peter flying back and knocks him out .

Peter wakes in the hospital , learning from Olivia that they saw a man safely cross the bridge and taken by Newton . When Walter arrives to see Peter , Peter tells him he has realized the truth : because he , like the man on the bridge , was not affected by the same shockwave that killed the FBI agent , he must be from the parallel universe . Walter is unable to deny Peter 's accusations . The next day , Walter is devastated to learn that Peter has discharged himself and has disappeared .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by story editor Ethan Gross and co @-@ executive producer Josh Singer . It was Gross ' first full episode writing credit for the series . Singer had last co @-@ written the

season 's sixteenth episode , " Peter " . Jeffrey Hunt served as the episode director , his first such credit for the series . Actors Ryan McDonald , Peter Bryant , Shawn MacDonald , and James Pizzinato guest starred in the episode .

The episode 's opening scene featured the song " Tom Sawyer " by the Canadian rock band Rush . As with other Fringe episodes , Fox released a science lesson plan for grade school children focusing on the science seen in " The Man from the Other Side " , with the intention of having " students learn about bioelectricity , the study of how electromagnetic fields interact with tissues , with a focus on how the muscular system requires the use of electric potentials . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

On its initial American broadcast on April 22 , 2010 , the episode was watched by an estimated 5 @. @ 84 million viewers . It earned a 3 @. @ 6 / 6 ratings share among all households and a 2 @. @ 1 / 6 ratings share among adults aged 18 ? 49 . While " The Man from the Other Side " had a 15 percent decrease from the previous week 's episode , Fringe and its lead @- @ in , Bones , helped Fox place second for the night despite competition from the other networks ' original programming .

= = = Reviews = = =

MTV 's Josh Wigler praised Jackson and Noble 's performances , and appreciated the show 's ability to " gross you out in progressively unique ways " . Noel Murray from The A.V. Club graded the episode with an A- , explaining it was " full of just about everything I look for from the show , " as it had a sequence focused on weird science , a great performance by Noble , and a " heartbreaking " ending . Ramsey Isler from IGN rated the episode 8 @. @ 6 / 10 , as he thought it " delivered action , suspense , mystery , and the final climax " to Peter discovering his origins , and it was " a great achievement that marks a big turning point for the series " . Like other critics , Isler also praised Jackson and Noble 's acting . Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly lauded Noble and Jackson 's performances , calling Peter 's change back to " the secretive , bitter , scurrilous character he was before the series started " a " wrenching daring move on the part of the show " . Tim Grierson of the magazine New York was worried that the hype surrounding Peter 's secret would not pay off , but believed " Happily , last night 's episode perfectly handled that anticipated plot point ... [it] turned out to be much better than could have been hoped " .

Hitfix 's Ryan McGee found the possibility of Walternate being the aforementioned Secretary a " compelling idea , " and loved the shapeshifting embryos . McGee concluded his review with a focus on the main cast 's performances , " Joshua Jackson 's understated nature during his final scene with John Noble really paid off . Had he blown into straight histrionics , the scene wouldn 't have worked nearly as well . But playing it with controlled , eloquent , understated fury , he conveyed betrayal more than anger , which cut Walter even deeper than rage ever could . " UGO Networks critic Alex Zalben was unhappy the promotions for the episode revealed Peter discovering his secret , " By showing Peter 's revelation in the ' Next Week on Fringe ' and subsequent commercials advertising this week 's episode , [the network] totally , one hundred percent blew it . " Otherwise , Zalben believed it to be an " awesome episode " , and praised the shapeshifter visual effects . Jane Boursaw of AOL TV wrote , " This episode of Fringe had everything - a slimy embryo , a thrilling gunfight , nefarious shapeshifters , some alternate universe action , and yes , that heartbreaking drama we 've been waiting for all season . " Boursaw was slightly critical of Peter 's discovery , explaining the relationship was built up so much that she wished Peter 's subsequent estrangement had " turned [ed] out better " and had him stay with Walter .