

= Bloodline (Fringe) =

" Bloodline " is the eighteenth episode of the third season of the American science fiction drama television series Fringe , and the 61st episode overall . The storyline follows the pregnant Olivia Dunham of the parallel universe (" Fauxlivia ") as she experiences a kidnapping and acceleration of her pregnancy ; meanwhile , her fellow Fringe agents Lincoln Lee and Charlie Francis attempt to locate her .

The episode 's script was written by co @-@ executive producers Alison Schapker and Monica Owusu @-@ Breen , while Dennis Smith directed . " Bloodline " featured the return of guest actors Seth Gabel , Kirk Acevedo , Ryan McDonald , Andre Royo , and Amy Madigan . The Fox network released a " movie @-@ style trailer " in the days leading up to the episode 's broadcast as a special promotion .

It first aired in the United States on March 25 , 2011 to an estimated 3 @.@ 9 million viewers . Broadcasting in the wake of a fourth season renewal , the episode 's 1 @.@ 5 / 5 ratings share was a fifteen percent increase from the previous week . " Bloodline " received mixed to positive reviews from critics , with several commentators characterizing the kidnapping mystery as predictable while also praising the depth of the parallel universe and its characters . Lead actress Anna Torv submitted the episode for consideration at the 63rd Primetime Emmy Awards , but failed to receive a nomination .

= = Plot = =

In the parallel universe , Fauxlivia (Anna Torv) is returned home by her mother Marilyn (Amy Madigan) after undergoing a pre @-@ natal test to see if she has viral propagated eclampsia , a virus that killed her sister and sister 's baby during childbirth . She believes she is being followed , and contacts Lincoln Lee (Seth Gabel) at the Fringe division , who sends over a security detail . By the time they arrive , Fauxlivia has been kidnapped ; though they try to follow a secret tracker each agent carries , her abductors have extracted it to throw Fringe off their tracks . Walternate (John Noble) and Lincoln believe the abduction to be an inside job due to this . Astrid Farnsworth (Jasika Nicole) identifies a vehicle that has passed by Fauxlivia 's home at a high frequency , that being the taxi that belongs to Henry (Andre Royo) . Lincoln and Charlie (Kirk Acevedo) track down Henry , who explains he has been keeping an eye on Fauxlivia , surprised to have seen her return and seeming like a different person than his previous encounters with her ; Henry is unaware that he had actually helped the prime universe 's Olivia to escape (" Olivia " and " The Abducted ") . Lincoln , suspicious of these events , forces Walternate to admit that Fauxlivia was switched with Olivia , and that the child Fauxlivia carries is his grandchild . Meanwhile , Marilyn learns that Fauxlivia 's test for the virus is positive and warns Charlie that Fauxlivia will die if she has the child .

During the Fringe team 's search , Fauxlivia finds herself being put under a treatment to accelerate her pregnancy , bringing her child near term . She is able to escape from her captors and contact Fringe division to identify her location , but struggles from labor pains as the child is about to be born . Henry drives Lincoln to her location , and they are able to help Fauxlivia to deliver her child , a son , before medical help arrives . Fauxlivia and her child recover under tight security ordered by Walternate , fearing for their safety . The doctors determine the accelerated pregnancy outpaced the virus , thus allowing both Fauxlivia and her child to survive .

In the epilogue , as September (Michael Cerveris) the Observer , watches , a blood sample from the child is drawn discreetly by one of Fauxlivia 's captors posing as an orderly , who transfers it to Brandon (Ryan McDonald) , who is revealed to have developed the accelerated pregnancy procedure under Walternate 's orders . Meanwhile , Lincoln and Charlie become somewhat distrustful of Walternate after learning what he hid from them . They consider that Colonel Broyles (Lance Reddick) disappeared around the same time that Fauxlivia returned , and wonder what else Walternate is hiding from them .

= = Production = =

" Bloodline " was co -@-@ written by co @-@ executive producers Monica Owusu @-@ Breen and Alison Schapker , while The Practice veteran , Dennis Smith , directed the installment . Editor Timothy A. Good has called " Bloodline " the second of two parts ? the first half was the season 's third episode " The Plateau " , which Owusu @-@ Breen and Schapker also co @-@ wrote . Executive producers Jeff Pinkner and J.H. Wyman had planned Fauxlivia 's pregnancy since they conceived her character , but noted that " this isn 't going to be a normal pregnancy that you see , either . And the pregnancy is [going to evolve] in a Fringe way that you don 't comprehend yet . It 's not going to be your traditional love triangle , ' I 'm pregnant and having a baby ' story . It ? s going to be Fringe @-@ ified . "

In late January 2011 , TVline 's Michael Ausiello reported actor Andre Royo was returning for one episode later in the third season . Royo made his third guest appearance of the season in " Bloodline " , as cab driver Henry Higgins from the parallel universe . It is his final credit on the series to date . Amy Madigan , who plays Olivia 's mother Marilyn , also returned in a guest appearance . Previous guest stars Seth Gabel , Kirk Acevedo , Ryan McDonald , and Michael Cerveris returned as Lincoln Lee , Charlie Francis , Brandon Fayette , and September the Observer , respectively . The episode also featured one @-@ time guest actors Kendall Cross as Nurse Joyce and Françoise Yip as Dr. Rosa Oporto .

Leading up to the episode 's broadcast , Fox released a " movie @-@ style trailer " as a promotion , something they had previously done with " Entrada " and " Marionette " , two episodes from earlier in the season . The video recapped the Peter / Olivia / Fauxlivia love triangle from Fauxlivia 's perspective and then previewed scenes in " Bloodline " . As with other Fringe episodes , Fox released a science lesson plan in collaboration with Science Olympiad for grade school children , focusing on the science seen in " Bloodline " , with the intention of having " students learn about gestation and how it is different from species to species . "

= = Cultural references = =

Accelerated growth of yet @-@ unborn children was a major plot element of " The Same Old Story " , the second episode of the first season . While eclampsia is a real medical condition that can interfere with childbirth , the " viral @-@ propagated eclampsia " presented in this episode is fictional . When Henry is located by the Fringe division , he is seen reading an " Opus the Peahen " comic , the parallel universe 's counterpart to the " Opus " comic strip drawn by Berkeley Breathed . Also within the parallel universe , the movie Taxi Driver is shown to have been directed by Francis Ford Coppola rather than Martin Scorsese (though Robert De Niro was still able to improvise the " You talkin ' to me ? " scene) , while the television series , The West Wing , is shown to be entering its twelfth season .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Bloodline " aired the day after Fringe 's fourth season renewal was announced by Fox Entertainment , which came in the wake of various actors communicating directly with fans to watch the series . Actor Lance Reddick noted of the renewal , " I know so often fans think that they need us ... but I would be digging ditches or something else if it wasn 't for you . So ? thank you . Really . " SFScope columnist Sarah Stegall was surprised but delighted by the network 's decision , stating " That any network , let alone Fox , had the patience and the faith to renew this show is , for me , little short of a miracle . It was a week , it seems , for wonders . "

" Bloodline " first aired in the United States on March 25 , 2011 . It was watched by an estimated 3 @.@ 9 million viewers , earning a 1 @.@ 5 / 5 ratings share among the 18 ? 49 demographic , up from the previous episode 's 1 @.@ 3 ? 1 @.@ 4 rating . This was a 15 percent increase . Fringe

helped Fox place in second for the night among adult viewers behind NBC , but the network fell into third place among total viewers behind NBC and ABC .

= = = Reviews = = =

" Bloodline " has received generally mixed to positive reviews from television critics . Sarah Stegall enjoyed it , commenting that " This was one of the more quietly brilliant episodes of Fringe to date . Reaching all the way back to the first season for its genesis , it was still firmly rooted in the most up @-@ to @-@ date events , tied together several characters in a cabal of resistance , paved the way for major drama down the way , and gave us some emotional highlights we cannot expect to see from Our Side characters . " Entertainment Weekly staff writer Ken Tucker called the episode " a beautifully modulated hour , written by Alison Schapker and Monica Owusu @-@ Breen , that took care to establish the anxiety felt by Alivia and her mother , Marilyn (Amy Madigan) about the pregnancy . "

On a slightly less positive note , Noel Murray of The A.V. Club graded the episode with a B + . He remarked that it " starts out intense and crazy " but " becomes fairly predictable in its second half , " as he correctly predicted Walternate 's involvement in the abduction . Murray concluded , " Ultimately , ' Bloodline ' is more of a plot @-@ mover than most episodes of Fringe . There ? s no additional case to solve , and no profound theme to explore . If anything , it ? s like the writers decided to inject a serum into the belly of show and accelerate the story , to get Fauxlivia ? s baby out and to get on to the next phase . " IGN 's Ramsey Isler also didn 't find the birth storyline all that shocking " since the number of people that had the power and knowledge to do this kind of thing was low . " Rating the episode 7 @. @ 5 / 10 , Isler added that " the story could have used a bit more misdirection and a red herring or two to really keep us guessing , but that 's a minor critique . Overall , Walternate 's Machiavellian role in this story works , and the most important takeaway from this story is that it moved the overarching plot forward in one huge leap . Instead of waiting nine ' story ' months for Fauxlivia 's baby to pop out , we 've already got the kid ready to fit into whatever plot twist the show runners have planned . "

Some television critics have praised the parallel universe 's characterization , with one noting that the " writers have made us care about the other side of this war , forced us to see the opposite numbers of our heroes as real and human and sympathetic ; it 's a brilliant move . " The alternate performances of the actors in particular have been highlighted , especially those of Torv and Noble , but also those of Gabel , Acevedo , and Nicole .

= = = Awards and nominations = = =

Anna Torv submitted " Bloodline " , along with the season three episodes " Olivia " , " Entrada " , " Marionette " , and " The Day We Died " , for consideration in the Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series category at the 63rd Primetime Emmy Awards . She failed to receive a nomination .