

= Chuck Versus Agent X =

" Chuck Versus Agent X " is the 22nd episode of the fourth season of the American action @-@ comedy television series Chuck , and the 76th overall episode of the series . The episode was written by Phil Klemmer and Craig DiGregorio and directed by Robert Duncan McNeill . It originally aired on May 2 , 2011 .

In the episode , Chuck Bartowski 's (Zachary Levi) bachelor party turns up some uninvited guests . Meanwhile , Ellie Bartowski @-@ Woodcomb (Sarah Lancaster) discovers the true identity of Agent X while investigating her father Stephen 's computer .

" Chuck Versus Agent X " received generally positive reviews from critics . According to the Nielsen ratings system , it drew 4 @.@ 097 million viewers , the second @-@ lowest number in Chuck 's history , after " Chuck Versus the Family Volkoff " . It had a 2 @.@ 5 / 4 share among all households and 1 @.@ 4 / 4 share among those aged 18 ? 49 .

= = Plot = =

As Chuck Bartowski (Zachary Levi) contemplates confronting his sister Ellie (Sarah Lancaster) about her secret research into their late father Stephen 's laptop , Chuck and his fiancée Sarah Walker (Yvonne Strahovski) prepare for their bachelor and bachelorette parties .

At her bachelorette party , hosted by Ellie , Sarah is notified by General Diane Beckman that Stephen 's laptop is being tracked by Volkoff Industries agents Riley (Ray Wise) and Jasmine (India de Beaufort) , who , due to the imprisonment of international arms dealer Alexei Volkoff , are now under the leadership of Volkoff 's daughter Vivian . Thinking that Riley and Jasmine are going to arrive at Ellie 's apartment , Sarah tells Ellie that Chuck knows Ellie lied to him and still has the laptop . However , Ellie and Sarah then realize that the laptop has been mistakenly taken by Ellie 's husband Devon Woodcomb (Ryan McPartlin) to Chuck 's bachelor party .

Meanwhile , despite Chuck and his guests ' belief that Devon was hosting Chuck 's bachelor party in Las Vegas , Nevada , they are taken to Las Vegas National Park . As some of the guests attempt to escape the camping trip , they are ambushed by Riley 's mercenaries , who are tracking the laptop Devon unknowingly brought with him . Chuck and his friends escape , but the laptop is stabbed by Jasmine in the process .

When Chuck returns , he and Ellie tell each other the truth , with Ellie revealing that she is still investigating her father 's research , and Chuck revealing that he is still a CIA agent . Chuck then brings Ellie to Castle and demonstrates martial arts skills from the Intersect . When Chuck claims to be Agent X , the first human Intersect , Ellie informs him that , according to the laptop , someone had originally uploaded the Intersect to their brain before Chuck 's birth . After Chuck repairs the computer , they find a redacted file on British scientist Hartley Winterbottom .

Chuck , Sarah , and John Casey (Adam Baldwin) travel to Winterbottom 's home in Somerset , UK , and confront Winterbottom 's mother (Millicent Martin) , who blames the CIA for corrupting her son . However , Chuck is revealed to be Stephen Bartowski 's son , earning her trust , as Hartley and Stephen were once colleagues and close friends . When Riley and Jasmine arrive with an assault team , Mrs. Winterbottom sends Chuck and Sarah to retrieve Hartley 's " spy will " while she and Casey fight back the assault team . When they run out of ammunition , Mrs. Winterbottom sets a trap that explodes and kills Jasmine and the assault team . When Ellie , Chuck , Sarah , Casey , and Morgan Grimes (Joshua Gomez) return to the Castle , open Hartley 's spy will , they discover a photograph of Volkoff , realizing that Volkoff is actually Agent X - Hartley .

Startled , The team reads the files on his last mission ; which was to assist on a complicated cover @-@ up black operation posing as an international arms dealer ; Alexei Volkoff . Stephen Bartowski created the original Intersect prototype and first used it on Hartley , which was updated with the personality , knowledge and identity of Volkoff , a manufactured identity . However , the Intersect was so unstable that it plagued Hartley 's mind and deleting his personality as Hartley Winterbottom , instead he started to believe that he was Alexei Volkoff , an international arms dealer , and as such he established the Volkoff Industries and became an international terrorist and gun manufacturer .

With the realization , Casey closes the spy will and orders everyone to keep quiet about this , since the information about CIA creating its " own worst enemy " was simply hidden and buried to ensure secrecy , and that they will be most likely eliminated if anything is told . However , Ellie objects and dedicates herself to help Volkoff restore his identity , to which Chuck agrees . Casey grudgingly and reluctantly supports them , before sealing the will in a secret safe deep in the Castle .

= = Production = =

" Chuck Versus Agent X " was one of many episodes to be directed by producer Robert Duncan McNeill , and was written by Phil Klemmer and Craig DiGregorio . It originally aired in the United States on May 2 , 2011 , on NBC as the 22nd episode of Chuck 's fourth season and the 76th episode overall .

Chuck cast members revealed at the 2011 Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo that the season would include a " funny , camping @-@ themed " bachelor party episode featuring Casey , Big Mike , and the fictional band Jeffster ! . The cast also confirmed that Ray Wise would reprise his role of Alexei Volkoff 's lawyer , Riley . India de Beaufort guest starred as Jasmine , and Millicent Martin as Hartley Winterbottom 's mother . Sarah Lancaster revealed to IGN that the Snakes of Toluca Lake , the strippers which Ellie hires for Sarah , were played by the real @-@ life Hollywood Men . Lancaster enjoyed filming the scene , which took hours to perform , solely due to Yvonne Strahovski 's discomfort . Strahovski stated that the men became " bolder " with each take , gradually moving closer to her . Principal photography for " Chuck Versus Agent X " ended on April 10 .

Series co @-@ creator Chris Fedak stated in a later interview that the inspiration for Volkoff 's true identity being a gun @-@ shy British scientist was Timothy Dalton 's portrayal of Gregory Tuttle , Volkoff 's guise as Mary Elizabeth Bartowski 's MI6 handler , in his first appearance on the series . A photograph of Dalton before his portrayal of James Bond is used to represent a young Hartley Winterbottom .

= = Cultural references = =

Osama bin Laden 's image is featured on a target for Casey 's shooting range . Coincidentally , bin Laden was killed in a raid on May 1 , 2011 , around 16 : 00 Eastern Daylight Time , one day before the episode was aired .

In the Somerset home of Agent X , Casey briefly wields an M60 machine gun during the shoot @-@ out . In the film Full Metal Jacket , Adam Baldwin 's character Animal Mother wields an identical weapon during the Vietnam War .

The scene of Winterbottom 's mother wielding the machine gun is an homage to the machine gun @-@ toting senior citizen in Goldfinger .

= = Reception = =

" Chuck Versus Agent X " drew 4 @.@ 097 million viewers , the second @-@ lowest number in Chuck 's history , after " Chuck Versus the Family Volkoff " . According to the Nielsen ratings system , it had a 2 @.@ 5 / 4 share among all households and 1 @.@ 4 / 4 share among those aged 18 ? 49 .

The episode received positive reviews from critics . Ryan McGee of The A.V. Club gave the episode an A- on an A + to F scale . He found the episode 's " reconfiguration of previous mythology " successful , and , though he found it obvious that Volkoff was Agent X , McGee wrote that " seeing a pre @-@ Bond Dalton inside that spy will was great payoff all the same . " However , McGee continued , " Much less successful was anything involving Chuck 's bachelor party and Big Mike / Jeffster 's subsequent desire to save their manly weekend . " Eric Goldman of IGN gave this episode a score of 8 @.@ 5 out of 10 , writing that " the best element in all of this was the introduction of Volkoff , or make that Hartley Winterbottom 's , mother and the bonding that occurred between her and John Casey . " HitFix Senior Editor Alan Sepinwall , however , wrote that the episode " was kind

of a hodge podge . It 's a transitional episode setting up the end game with Volkoff that the season 's final two episodes will focus on , but it also felt like an hour comprised of two or three different ideas that nobody could quite flesh out to fill up an entire episode , and so were compressed together . "

Like McGee , Sepinwall enjoyed Wise 's return , though he felt that the actor was given little to do .