

= 3 (The X @-@ Files) =

" 3 " is the seventh episode of the second season of the American science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . First broadcast on the Fox network on November 4 , 1994 , the episode was written by Glen Morgan , James Wong and Chris Ruppenthal , directed by David Nutter , and featured guest appearances by Perrey Reeves and Malcolm Stewart . The episode is a " Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " story , unconnected to the series ' wider mythology . Following on from the abduction of Dana Scully in the previous episode , " Ascension " , " 3 " was the first episode of The X @-@ Files not to feature series star Gillian Anderson . The episode earned 9 million households during its first broadcast , and received mixed reviews from both critics and the show 's cast and crew .

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 . In the episode , Mulder is brought in to investigate a series of ritualistic murders in Los Angeles , which he first believes were the work of a cult . However , it turns out that the perpetrators are a group of vampires .

= = Plot = =

In Los Angeles , Garrett Lorre , a middle @-@ aged businessman , embarks on a one night stand with an anonymous woman he has met at a corporate party . However , as they are having sex in his hot tub , the woman bites Lorre to drink his blood . Two other men join the woman , helping her kill Lorre by repeatedly stabbing him using hypodermic needles .

The following day , before departing for Los Angeles , Fox Mulder stores the missing Dana Scully 's FBI badge in an X @-@ File and files it under her name . At the crime scene , Mulder meets with the LAPD detectives investigating the case , explaining that Lorre 's murder is the latest in a series of seemingly vampiric serial killings that have spanned two other states . Because the killers write biblical passages in the victims ' blood , Mulder believes that they view themselves as an " Unholy Trinity " .

Mulder visits a local blood bank where a night watchman has been recently hired . Mulder has him arrested after he is caught drinking blood in the facility 's storeroom . During his interrogation , the suspect tells Mulder that he belongs to a trio of vampires who desire immortality ; he is known as " The Son " while the other two , a man and a woman , are called " The Father " and " The Unholy Spirit " . Mulder does not believe The Son 's claims . However , at sunrise , The Son is burned to death when sunlight from the window touches his flesh . Mulder is taken aback , having previously assumed vampires to be purely mythological .

During an examination of The Son 's body , Mulder discovers a tattoo for Club Tepes , a local vampire club . There , he comes across a young woman named Kristen Kilar who partakes in the consumption of blood . Mulder , having his suspicion aroused , follows Kristen after she and another club patron , David Yung , leave for an erotic liaison ; he initially fears that Kristen is targeting Yung , but is beaten by Yung when he catches the agent spying on them . After Mulder leaves , Yung is murdered by the three killers , although the reason is not known .

Mulder runs a background check into Kristen , discovering that she formerly lived in Memphis and Portland ? both the previous locations of earlier murders . Mulder assists the LAPD in searching Kristen 's home , where he finds various blood @-@ related paraphernalia . When Kristen arrives later , Mulder is waiting for her . Kristen tells Mulder that she met The Son in Chicago and that they had engaged in " blood sports " together . Later , Kristen fled The Son as he formed the Unholy Trinity with his accomplices and began their killing spree , following her across the country . Mulder and Kristen kiss while The Son , who has returned from the dead , looks on .

The next morning , The Son confronts Kristen and tells her that by killing Mulder and drinking the blood of a " believer " , she will become one of them . Kristen approaches Mulder with a knife but instead stabs The Father , who is hiding in the bedroom . The Son attacks Mulder but is subdued . Mulder and Kristen try to escape using a car parked in the garage , but the The Unholy Spirit jumps

onto the car hood and attacks them . Kristen drives into her , impaling her on a wooden peg on the wall . Kristen tricks Mulder into running outside of the house while she goes back inside and pours gasoline around herself and The Son . Kristen lights a match , blowing up the house and taking her own life in order to kill the other vampires . Firefighters and police find four bodies in the wreckage while Mulder stares at Scully 's cross necklace .

= = Production = =

Howard Gordon was originally supposed to write the seventh episode of the season , but when he became unavailable Glen Morgan and James Wong , who were working on writing the eighth episode of the season , agreed to rewrite a freelance script provided by Chris Ruppenthal . The writers had to do significant edits , but retained the main plot surrounding three vampires .

Club Tepes , named after Prince Vlad Tepes ? better known as Vlad the Impaler , who was the inspiration for Dracula ? was shot inside a closed @-@ down and redecorated nightclub , with extras recruited from other Vancouver clubs . The location for Kristen 's house was the mansion of hockey player Pavel Bure , then the leading name of the Vancouver Canucks . The producers had an agreement for the late filming from all but one of Bure 's neighbors , who was absent during the petitioning . Said neighbor later tried to sue Fox , only agreeing to let production continue after receiving an indenization .

Perrey Reeves , who played Kristen , was David Duchovny 's real @-@ life girlfriend at the time . Speaking of Mulder 's possible sexual encounter with Kristen , series creator Chris Carter said , " I thought , ' This guy 's a monk . Let 's let him be a human . Especially in [Scully 's] absence , it seemed like a perfect opportunity to do it . " Duchovny had previously acted alongside another real @-@ life girlfriend , Maggie Wheeler , in the first season episode " Born Again " . Gillian Anderson is absent from the episode as she was on leave to give birth to her daughter Piper at the time . This episode was the first in which Scully did not appear .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" 3 " premiered on the Fox network on November 4 , 1994 , and was first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC Two on October 9 , 1995 . This episode earned a Nielsen rating of 9 @.@ 4 , with a 16 share , meaning that roughly 9 @.@ 4 percent of all television @-@ equipped households , and 16 percent of households watching television , were tuned in to the episode . It was viewed by 9 million households .

= = = Reviews = = =

" 3 " received mixed reviews from critics . Sarah Stegall , in The Munchkyn Zone , gave the episode a 5 out of 5 rating . Stegall referred to it as a " compelling story " with " excellent special effects " . She commended Duchovny 's performance , saying he is " definitely at the top of his form in this episode " . While writing about vampire @-@ related television shows for Metacritic , Zeenat Burns described the episode as " wretched " . Entertainment Weekly gave the episode a C , criticizing the fact that it did not explore enough the " promising premise " of Scully 's absence . Reviewer Zack Handlen of The A.V. Club also considered that without said premise " deserve [d] better than to be background noise for a by @-@ the @-@ numbers erotic thriller " . Handlen described Mulder and Kristen 's " tedious romance " as " all kinds of misguided " , and felt the episode indulged in " lazy writing " regarding the over @-@ explored theme of vampires which resulted in " terrible dialogue and heavy @-@ handed attempts at mood " . He still praised David Duchovny 's performance and felt the first twenty minutes were " endurable trash " with a " serious USA Up All Night vibe " .

Co @-@ writer Glen Morgan felt doing an episode on vampires was a mistake , and said that they

also took heat for having Mulder fall for Kristen . Co @-@ writer James Wong was also disappointed , saying that the script was a lot better than the show and that the episode was weakened when Fox censors had problems with the episode . Actor David Duchovny thought the episode had style , but suffered some lapses in logic , including the scene where Kristen shaves Mulder before the two kiss .