

= Frank Black (character) =

Frank Black is a fictional character in the crime @-@ thriller television series Millennium . Black serves as the primary character of the series , which centers his investigation into unusual crimes as part of the private investigative organisation the Millennium Group . Black appeared in all but one of the series ' sixty @-@ seven episodes , with " Anamnesis " being the exception ; the character was portrayed by Lance Henriksen throughout the series .

The character of Black was conceived by series creator Chris Carter as a modern Western hero , and has been considered the main constant throughout the series ' changes in tone and direction . Henriksen was described by Carter as his " first and last " choice for the role , and has garnered critical acclaim for his portrayal , including three Golden Globe Award nominations .

= = Character arc = =

Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) started his career as an offender profiler for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) , where his unusual gift for empathising with the killers he was investigating aided in their capture . However , Black retires when he finds that his family ? wife Catherine (Megan Gallagher) and daughter Jordan (Brittany Tiplady) ? are being threatened by an unknown stalker , who is mailing polaroid photographs of the family to Black . After retiring from the FBI , Black moves to Seattle , Washington , and begins to consult for the Millennium Group , a private investigative organisation that aid law enforcement in violent criminal cases .

Despite the change in career , the stalker (Doug Hutchison) catches up with Black , kidnapping Catherine . Black is able to track them down and rescue Catherine , stabbing the stalker to death in the process . Disturbed by both the abduction and Black 's rage , Catherine moves out of their family home with Jordan for a time . Before they can reconcile , Catherine dies in a virus outbreak orchestrated by the Millennium Group , who Black discovers are attempting to control the possibility of the end of the world at the turn of the millennium . Disgusted by the group 's motives and actions , Black breaks rank and returns to work with the FBI in order to take them down .

Working with his new partner Emma Hollis (Klea Scott) , Black finds himself struggling to combat the far @-@ reaching influence of the Millennium Group . Due to the workings of the Group , Black is framed for the death of a fellow agent , prompting his resignation from the FBI and fleeing Washington D.C. with Jordan ; likewise , Hollis is convinced to abandon Black and work with the Group . Several months later , Black is able to work with FBI agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) to foil a last @-@ ditch effort by the Group to bring about the end of the world ; vindicated , he reunites with Jordan after the case .

= = Conceptual history = =

Millennium 's creator Chris Carter conceived Frank Black 's character early in the series ' genesis , knowing that he wanted to build the show around a retired law enforcement agent ; the tone of Millennium came to Carter later in the process but shaped Black 's character . Carter saw Black as an archetypal Western hero , describing him as " self @-@ reliant , quiet , capable , dangerous " and comparing him to the title character of the 1953 film Shane . Actor William Hurt was considered for the role early in the conception of the series , although Carter denies that Hurt was seriously approached for the part , saying Henriksen was their " first and last choice " . David Nutter , a frequent director for the series , described Henriksen as an " everyman " who appears to have " seen hell , and has reached for heaven but not often had it " .

When Henriksen first received the script for " Pilot " , he was impressed with what he saw as " vivid and edgy " writing , but was incredulous as the possibility of it being a television script , having initially mistaken it for a feature film . He also held reservations about working on television , as he was primarily a known for acting in films . The initial casting of Henriksen was not well received by executives at Fox Broadcasting Company , who had envisioned the lead role being played by " someone hot and in his mid @-@ thirties , at worst " according to producer Ken Horton .

Producer John Peter Kousakis has noted that Black remained the main constant throughout the series , as each season featured a marked change in tone and plotting . Black appeared in every episode of the series bar one ? the second season episode " Anamnesis " did not feature the character at all , focussing instead on another Millennium Group member . Henriksen used the break from production to take a trip to Hawaii . Following the cancellation of Millennium , character of Black ? again portrayed by Henriksen ? appeared in " Millennium " , an episode of The X @-@ Files which served as a crossover between the two programmes .

= = Reception = =

Henriksen 's portrayal of Black has been met with positive criticism . Henriksen was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Television Drama for each of the series ' three seasons , without winning . Henriksen 's first loss was to David Duchovny 's role as Fox Mulder in The X @-@ Files , followed by a loss to Anthony Edwards as ER 's Mark Greene , and finally coming in behind Dylan McDermott 's portrayal of Bobby Donnell in The Practice .

Writing for The A.V. Club , Zack Handlen noted that " Henriksen invests [Black 's] world @-@ weariness with a soothing , almost beautiful patience , and those few moments of delight he 's allowed on the show [...] are sincere instead of cloying " . DVD Talk 's Randy Miller considered the character to have been " masterfully played " by Henriksen . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @-@ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen , felt that Henriksen " seiz [ed] the part with a confidence that makes him immediately a more credible character " than Fox Mulder and Dana Scully , the lead roles in Millennium 's sister show The X @-@ Files . Writing for Slant magazine , Keith Uhlich described Henriksen 's portrayal of Black as " the perfect actorly complement to Carter 's thematic obsessions " , calling the character a " mortal survivalist pushing ever @-@ forward , even in the face of the devil 's idle temptations " .