

= Roosters (Millennium) =

" Roosters " is the sixteenth episode of the second season of the American crime @-@ thriller television series Millennium . It originally aired on the Fox network on March 13 , 1998 . The episode was written by Glen Morgan and James Wong , and directed by Thomas J. Wright .

Millennium Group offender profilers Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) and Peter Watts (Terry O 'Quinn) become embroiled in a growing schism within the Group , prompted by the discovery of the True Cross . " Roosters " is the second half of a two @-@ part episode , continuing the story which began in " Owls " .

" Roosters " develops plot elements introduced both in " Owls " and in the earlier instalment " The Hand of St. Sebastian " , and would later be followed up by the season 's two @-@ part finale . The episode also features the use of operatic music , a decision praised by the show 's composer Mark Snow . The episode featured guest appearances by Kristen Cloke , Philip Baker Hall and R. G. Armstrong . " Roosters " received a mixed critical reaction , and attracted 5 @.@ 4 percent of the available audience during its initial broadcast .

= = Plot = =

Continuing from " Owls " , Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) approaches the car that has been surveilling his home . The occupants claim to be fellow members of the Millennium Group , but soon begin shooting ; Black takes cover and returns fire , shooting one of the men before the car escapes . The car is later found abandoned .

Meanwhile , Lara Means (Kristen Cloke) is examining evidence relating to Johnston 's murder ; she discovers that Peter Watts (Terry O 'Quinn) had suppressed infrared post @-@ mortem photographs . Learning of this , the Elder (Philip Baker Hall) ? a high @-@ ranking Group official ? demands an explanation ; Watts divulges that the murdered man had been conspiring to pit conflicting faction within the Group against each other . Watts had found evidence in one of the photographs which may have influenced such a schism and wished to keep it hidden until its significance could be known . The Elder agrees , and similarly decides to hold off on testing which would reveal if an artefact in Johnston 's possession was an authentic piece of the True Cross .

Black 's wife Catherine (Megan Gallagher) is approached at her new job by a colleague , who reveals that the company is part of the Odessa network . Meanwhile , Black visits Catherine 's boss Clear Knight (Kimberly Patton) , experiencing visions of Nazi Germany after seeing a watercolour painting in her office . Later that night Black is visited by Means and the Old Man (R. G. Armstrong) , another high @-@ ranking Group member . They explain to Black that the Group has , throughout history , been privy to scientific discoveries of which the public has no knowledge . Johnstone had theorised the existence of a tear in the universe which would reach Earth in several decades ; his death may be connected to this theory . The Old Man also explains that the Group has been infiltrated in the hopes of splintering it , by members of the Odessa network ? a faction founded by fugitive Nazis which had previously been known for its anti @-@ communist work and has now turned its focus to the Millennium Group .

When Catherine finds her colleague dead , she flees from the company premises and finds her husband , who has deduced that her job offer was simply a way for Odessa to reach him . Elsewhere , an Odessa agent murders the Old Man in Frank 's home ; the loss serves to reunite Watts , Means and Black , who contrive a plan to strike back at Odessa . As the Elder conducts a funeral for the Old Man , a carbomb kills his assassin , while Odessa 's Paraguayan headquarters is destroyed and Knight 's company is raided and closed . The Elder finishes his rites and returns home , opening a package delivered from the Middle East ; inside is the fragment of the True Cross .

= = Production = =

" Roosters " was written by frequent collaborators Glen Morgan and James Wong , who also served

as co @-@ executive producers for the second season . It was the thirteenth episode to have been written by the pair , who had penned several across the first and second seasons of the series . " Roosters " was directed by Thomas J. Wright ; Wright had directed twelve episodes previously and would helm a further thirteen over the series ' run . Wright would also go on to direct " Millennium " , the series ' crossover episode with its sister show The X @-@ Files .

Morgan has noted that the plot for " Roosters " , and the previous instalment " Owls " , grew out of the internecine conflict seen within the Millennium Group in " The Hand of St. Sebastian " , an earlier second season episode he had penned with Wong . Morgan had wanted to introduce secular elements to the series ' focus on eschatology , after the theological focus of the earlier episode ; he began focussing on ideas such as biological warfare as a possible way of depicting the end of the world ? an idea which would later play out in the two @-@ part episodes concluding the second season , " The Time Is Now " and " The Fourth Horseman " . Millennium 's composer Mark Snow spoke positively about the series ' producers for their decision to use operatic music in this episode , rather than relying on " hip @-@ hop or rock and roll " as prior episodes had done .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Roosters " was first broadcast on the Fox network on March 13 , 1998 . The episode earned a Nielsen rating of 5 @.@ 4 during its original broadcast , meaning that 5 @.@ 4 percent of households in the United States viewed the episode . This represented approximately 5 @.@ 29 million households .

The A.V. Club 's Zack Handlen gave the episode an " A ? " , finding that it " lacks the wild momentum of " Owls " " . However , Handlen felt that , mostly as a result of its characters and the performances given , the episode served as a satisfying conclusion to the story arc . Handlen particularly highlighted O 'Quinn 's performance , reflecting positively on his increased importance in the series and noting that " portrayal of an acolyte struggling with the demands and doubts of his faith does as much for Millennium as Henriksen 's work " . Bill Gibron , writing for DVD Talk , rated " Roosters " 5 out of 5 , calling both it and " Owls " a " dense , deceptive set of shows " which focus on the personal and ideological conflicts between their characters . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book *Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @-@ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen* , rated the episode one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five , calling it " dull and flabby " . Shearman felt that the plot failed to capitalise on what had been set up by " Owls " , offering more exposition than resolution . However , he highlighted the work of Thomas J. Wright , finding that those scenes which allowed for more action were directed well .