

= 19 : 19 =

" ' 19 : 19 " is the seventh episode of the second season of the American crime @-@ thriller television series Millennium . It premiered on the Fox network on November 7 , 1997 . The episode was written by Glen Morgan and James Wong , and directed by Thomas J. Wright . " 19 : 19 " featured guest appearances by Kristen Cloke and Christian Hoff .

Millennium Group offender profiler Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) investigates the abduction of a bus full of schoolchildren , requiring the help of fellow Group members Peter Watts (Terry O 'Quinn) and Lara Means (Cloke) as he tracks a man preparing for a third world war .

" 19 : 19 " featured several minor guest stars who would later return to the series , as well as the second appearance by recurring actor Cloke . The episode was viewed by approximately 5 @. @ 98 million households in its initial broadcast , and received a mixed response from television critics .

= = Plot = =

In Broken Bow , Oklahoma , Matthew Prine (Christian Hoff) intently watches several televisions simultaneously , scrawling his reactions across every inch of his floor . As he finishes writing , he experiences a vision of the future ? nuclear war and its barren aftermath .

Later , Millennium Group offender profilers Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) and Peter Watts (Terry O 'Quinn) investigate the disappearance of a bus full of schoolchildren . They believe the driver was also a victim , and not responsible ; they meet with the local sheriff , John Cayce (Steven Rankin) , who has dredged the bus from a lake . It is empty , but inside , Black experiences the same vision as Prine . He also finds paint transfer on the exterior , indicating the perpetrator was driving a white van . A false positive results as police apprehend storm chasers in a different van , who warn that a violent tornado is approaching .

Prine is behind the kidnapping , and forces the children and driver into an underground bunker . He and his accomplice count the hostages , realizing that there is one less child than they had anticipated . Black and Cayce realize this too , and race to the home of the child who had not taken the bus that morning . They arrive in time to apprehend Prine as he attempted to snatch the child , and take him into custody .

Black believes Prine is not driven by malice ; he and Watts use the resources of the Millennium Group to find his home , discovering the dense writings across his floors . They learn that Prine believes a third world war is imminent , and took the children as he believes one of them is destined to bring peace during this time , wishing to protect this child when he learns which one it is destined to be . Black seeks aid from another Group member , Lara Means (Kristen Cloke) , who is able to observe Prine 's behavioural tells for clues when interviewing him . This , coupled with analysis of soil from his clothing , points to the children being held in an aluminium quarry . The investigators rush to the quarry , where Prine 's accomplice engages them in a firefight . However , the advancing tornado forces them to take cover ; it kills Prine and lifts the roof from the entombing bunker . It subsides as quickly as it arrived , and the children emerge safely from the wreckage ; Black senses that Cayce 's daughter may be the prophesied peacemaker . It turns out that the tornado destroyed the school where the children would have been if they weren 't abducted , and that Prine had saved their lives .

= = Production = =

" 19 : 19 " was written by frequent collaborators Glen Morgan and James Wong . The duo would pen a total of fifteen episodes throughout the series ' run . The pair had also taken the roles of co @-@ executive producers for the season . " 19 : 19 " was directed by Thomas J. Wright , who helmed a total of twenty @-@ six episodes across all three seasons . Wright would also go on to direct " Millennium " , the series ' crossover episode with its sister show The X @-@ Files .

The episode features the second appearance of Kristen Cloke as Millennium Group member Lara Means . Cloke had first portrayed the character in " Monster " , and would last appear in the second

season finale " The Time Is Now " . Several of the episode 's minor guest stars would appear again later in the series . Bill Marchant , who portrayed Prine 's accomplice , reappeared in an unrelated role in the third season episode " Collateral Damage " , while Kurt Evans , who played a sheriff 's deputy , resurfaced in " Darwin 's Eye " , also in the third season .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" 19 : 19 " was first broadcast on the Fox network on November 7 , 1997 . The episode earned a Nielsen rating of 6 @. @ 1 during its original broadcast , meaning that 6 @. @ 1 percent of households in the United States viewed the episode . This represented approximately 5 @. @ 98 million households , and left the episode the eighty @- @ fourth most @- @ viewed broadcast that week .

The A.V. Club 's Todd VanDerWerff rated the episode a " B " , finding its final act to be powerful and entertaining . However , he believed that the episode suffered from a poor opening act , and was critical of what he saw as a poor performance by guest star Steven Rankin . Bill Gibron , writing for DVD Talk , rated the episode 3 out of 5 , feeling that the episode 's police procedural elements did not mesh well with its theological themes . Gibron felt that the plot 's resolution was overly contrived , but praised the chemistry between the lead actors , highlighting Henriksen and Cloke in particular . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book *Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @- @ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen* , rated " 19 : 19 " three @- @ and @- @ a @- @ half stars out of five . Shearman felt the episode was a successful blend of the investigative plot structure used in the first season with the themes of religious eschatology introduced in the second season ; however , he believed that the plot " ran out of steam " by the final act , sacrificing engaging drama for accurate but dry psychology .