

= Colony (The X @-@ Files) =

" Colony " is the sixteenth episode of the second season of the American science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . It premiered on the Fox network on February 10 , 1995 . It was directed by Nick Marck , and written by series creator Chris Carter based on a story developed by Carter and lead actor David Duchovny . " Colony " featured guest appearances by Megan Leitch , Peter Donat and Brian Thompson . The episode helped explore the series ' overarching mythology . " Colony " earned a Nielsen household rating of 10 @.@ 3 , being watched by 9 @.@ 8 million households in its initial broadcast . " Colony " is a two @-@ part episode , with the plot continuing in the next episode , " End Game " .

The show centers on FBI special agents Fox Mulder (Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files . In this episode , Mulder and Scully investigate the murders of human clones working in abortion clinics at the hands of a shapeshifting assassin (Thompson) . Mulder receives news that his younger sister Samantha (Leitch) , who had been abducted as a child , may have returned . It is one of the X @-@ Files episodes that " feminizes the monstrous through reproduction . " In the episode , " the bodies of the male clones are feminized " and Scully becomes the protector of the monstrous when in one scene she meets several identical men in white lab coats .

" Colony " introduced the recurring role of the Alien Bounty Hunter . Actor Brian Thompson auditioned and later won the role . Frank Spotnitz and Carter did not have much time to cast this character , but they knew this casting would be important since he was intended to be a recurring character . Thompson was chosen according to Spotnitz because he had a very " distinctive look " about him , most notably his face and mouth .

= = Plot = =

The episode opens in medias res with Fox Mulder in a field hospital in the Arctic . As Mulder is lowered into a tub of water , Dana Scully bursts in and tells the doctors that the cold is the only thing keeping him alive . Suddenly , Mulder 's heart monitor flatlines .

Two weeks earlier , in the Beaufort Sea , crewmen on a ship spot a light in the sky that soon crashes into the sea . A body is retrieved from the crash , revealed to be an Alien Bounty Hunter . Two days later , the Bounty Hunter arrives in Scranton , Pennsylvania , at an abortion clinic and kills a doctor by stabbing him in the back of the neck with a stiletto weapon , then sets the building on fire and escapes . Mulder receives emails containing the doctor 's obituary along with two other identical doctors . After interviewing an anti @-@ abortion priest who had threatened one of the doctors , they are able to use a newspaper advertisement looking for one of the men to track another one , Aaron Baker , to Syracuse , New York .

Mulder has a fellow FBI agent , Barrett Weiss , visit Baker 's residence . Weiss and Baker are both killed by the Bounty Hunter , who impersonates Weiss and tells Mulder and Scully that no one is home . After Walter Skinner hears of Weiss ' death and closes the case , the agents meet CIA official Ambrose Chapel , who tells them that the doctors are clones from a Soviet genetics program , and are being systematically killed by the Russian and U.S. governments . Mulder , Scully and Chapel head to pick up another doctor named James Dickens , but Dickens flees at the sight of Chapel , who is really the disguised Bounty Hunter . Dickens is killed by the Bounty Hunter in the subsequent pursuit , unknowingly aided by Mulder and Scully .

Scully doubts " Chapel 's " credibility , but Mulder believes his story due to his credentials and experience . Scully performs an autopsy on Weiss and finds that his blood has coagulated , while his red blood cell count is excessively high . Scully finds an address on a bag recovered from Dickens ' residence and heads there , discovering a lab that is in the process of being destroyed by " Chapel . " Meanwhile , Mulder is summoned to the home of his father , Bill , and learns that his sister Samantha has seemingly returned home after being abducted decades before . Samantha claims that she was returned around age nine with no memory , and recently recalled her experience through regression hypnosis .

Samantha tells Mulder that the Bounty Hunter and the clones are actually aliens , and the Bounty Hunter will begin chasing her as soon as he has killed the remaining clones . Meanwhile , Scully heads to a hotel to hide from the Bounty Hunter . Returning to the lab , she finds four more clones , who claim to be the last . Scully arranges for them to be transported to a safe place , but the Bounty Hunter follows her and watches . At her hotel room , Scully lets in a man who seems to be Mulder , only to receive a phone call from the actual Mulder soon after .

= = Production = =

= = = Casting = = =

As in all other episodes of The X @-@ Files at that point , the casting process took eight days . Megan Leitch , the woman who portrayed Samantha Mulder , did according to Frank Spotnitz a " phenomenal job " . Leitch returned to The X @-@ Files over the years to portray Samantha or one of her many clones . She had a lot of lines , which she felt were " very hard " and " specific . " Actor Darren McGavin , star of Kolchak : The Night Stalker , was originally sought to play the role of Bill Mulder , but was unable due to his work schedule . The role was ultimately played by Peter Donat .

Brian Thompson auditioned for the role of the bounty hunter in a casting session , where he was competing with another actor . Frank Spotnitz and Carter did not have much time to cast this character , but they knew this casting would be important since he intended to be a recurring character . Thompson was chosen according to Spotnitz because he had a very " distinctive look " about him , most notably his face and mouth . After casting him , they told Thompson 's agent that Thompson needed a hair cut , because at the start the Alien Bounty Hunter was supposed to be a kind of military pilot who 'd been shot down . But when the day came that Thompson came to Vancouver , there had been some " misunderstanding " and he hadn 't been told of the " crewcut " , so the hairstyle seen in this episode was a " compromise " of sorts .

= = = Writing and filming = = =

Carter said that while " Colony " was a " crystallization of the series ' mythology " , it " came about inadvertently " , following David Duchovny 's suggestion to face an alien bounty hunter . Thus he sat with the actor and decided to also add Mulder 's disappeared sister . The alien weapon , described by the cast and crew as " the ice pick " , was done with an air hose that ran through Brian Thompson 's arm . To create a unique and otherworldly sound made by the weapon used by the hunter , several sound effects were considered before co @-@ producer Paul Rabwin voiced the noise himself on a microphone .

Carter had initially wanted to set the first season episode " Ice " at the North Pole , but this was too ambitious at the time . " Colony " provided an opportunity to create an episode using such a setting . Some of the interior shots on the icebreaker were filmed on the HMCS Mackenzie , a decommissioned Canadian Forces destroyer , which was also used in the episode 's follow @-@ up , " End Game " , and the later second season episode " Død Kalm " .

= = Reception = =

" Colony " premiered on the Fox network on February 10 , 1995 , and was first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC Two on December 11 , 1995 . The episode earned a Nielsen household rating of 10 @. @ 3 with a 17 share , meaning that roughly 10 @. @ 3 percent of all television @-@ equipped households , and 17 percent of households watching TV , were tuned in to the episode . A total of 9 @. @ 8 million households watched this episode during its original airing .

In a retrospective of the second season in Entertainment Weekly , the episode was rated a B + . The review stated that " untangling this web of shifting allegiances and identities requires intense concentration . Hang on , though ; the payoff 's worth it " . Writing for The A.V. Club , Zack Handlen

rated the episode an A , noting that it was " X @-@ Files in top form " . He praised how the character of Samantha Mulder was presented , saying that " In the seasons to come , we end up with enough Samantha 's [sic] to fill a clown @-@ car , but here , the reveal is shocking , effective , and unsettling " ; and also felt that the episode 's flashforward cold open was particularly well @-@ handled . Michelle Bush , in her book *Myth @-@ X* , wrote that " Colony " presents a moral dilemma for the characters , noting that " on the surface Mulder 's quest appears righteous , however , the results of his quest would suggest otherwise " , and adding " generally the ideology that focuses on a single life 's (be that human or alien) importance is successful , whereas Mulder 's ideology of finding the truth at all costs is not " . Duchovny 's portrayal of Fox Mulder in this episode has been cited as an example of the character 's reversal of traditional gender roles ? his openness and vulnerability when confronted with what he believes is his prodigal sister casts him " in a pattern typically engendered as female . "