

= Lord of the Flies (The X @-@ Files) =

" Lord of the Flies " is the fifth episode of the ninth season of the science fiction television series The X @-@ Files , and the show 's 187th episode overall . It first premiered on the Fox network in the United States on December 16 , 2001 , and was subsequently aired in the United Kingdom on BBC Two . The episode was written by Thomas Schnauz , and was directed by Kim Manners . The episode is a " monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ week " episode , a stand @-@ alone plot which is unconnected to the mythology , or overarching fictional history , of The X @-@ Files . " Lord of the Flies " earned a Nielsen household rating of 6 @. @ 2 , and was watched by 9 @. @ 9 million viewers . The episode received mixed reviews from television critics , with many critical of the episode 's reliance on humor .

The show centers on FBI special agents who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files ; this season focuses on the investigations of John Doggett (Robert Patrick) , Monica Reyes (Annabeth Gish) , and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) . In this episode , an amateur stunt performer is killed while performing a daring act for a local cable reality show , Scully , Doggett and Reyes discover that the culprit was apparently a swarm of killer flies hidden in the victim 's brain .

" Lord of the Flies " marked a return of comedic episodes to the series . Due to this , Patrick had issues with his acting because , initially , he felt the entry was too foolish . The aggressiveness of flies in the episode was inspired by the actual habits of Australian blow flies . The episode 's title , " Lord of the Flies " , is an English translation for the name of the semitic demon Beelzebub , and may be a reference to the classic novel Lord of the Flies by William Golding . In addition , the episode makes several references to musician Syd Barrett , the original singer and guitarist for Pink Floyd .

= = Plot = =

A group of teenagers , led by " Sky Commander Winky " (Aaron Paul) , film one of their friends , nicknamed " Cap 'n Dare " (played by Branden Williams) , doing stunts for a cable TV show called Dumbass . The last stunt of which involves a ramp @-@ jump in a shopping cart . During the stunt , Dare veers off and falls out of the cart and is found dead after part of his skull collapses . The local coroner calls in John Doggett (Robert Patrick) and Monica Reyes (Annabeth Gish) to investigate the death . During the autopsy , flies erupt from Dare 's eye sockets . Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) examines the body and finds that the insects had fed on Dare 's brain to such a degree that it simply collapsed .

At a local high school , Winky and his brother film a memorial service for Dare , much to the annoyance of his girlfriend Natalie . The teens harass Dylan Lokensgard , the son of the principal and a social outcast . Doggett and Reyes arrive at the school to talk to Winky . During their interview , body lice mysteriously attack him and bite " Dumbass " into his flesh . While watching the Dumbass recordings , Doggett notices that Dylan was at each of the stunts and decides to question him . While the two agents talk to Dylan , his mother appears and tries to stop the questioning . During the proceedings , Dylan becomes covered in flies ; subsequently , Reyes starts to believe that Dylan is behind the attack . The agents take a tissue soaked with Dylan 's sweat back for Scully to analyze . The results show that Dylan 's body fluids contain a high number of insect pheromones .

That night , Natalie sneaks into Dylan 's house . When they kiss , something apparently cuts her mouth , causing her to leave in tears . Dare 's friends , who believe Dylan is responsible for his death , pull up moments later and abduct him . During the drive , an insect like protrusion comes out of Dylan 's mouth and sprays webbing everywhere , causing the car to flip and crash . Doggett and Reyes arrive at the scene , and are told that Dylan chewed his way out the back window . Meanwhile , Scully and a bug specialist search Dylan 's home . Scully leaves to help Reyes find the teenager while the specialist stays behind ; the specialist is subsequently attacked by Dylan 's mother .

Reyes tracks down Natalie , but Reyes is attacked and cocooned by Dylan . Dylan 's mother approaches him , and tells him that he is not like other kids and never will be . Doggett arrives at the girl 's home and finds Reyes and Natalie alive . Dylan and his mother , however , are nowhere to be

found . A subsequent search of the Lokensgard home reveals other bodies , including the bug specialist , cocooned but survived , and Dylan 's father , who supposedly ran off years earlier . After leaving with his mother , Dylan sends Natalie one last message in the form of fireflies : " I love you . "

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Thomas Schnauz , and was directed by Kim Manners . It was Schnauz 's first writing credit , and Manner 's second directing credit for the season . The episode marked a return of " the comedy episode " for the series . According to Matt Hurwitz and Chris Knowles in their book *The Complete X @-@ Files* , the episode " revisit [s] [the] themes of genetic grafting experiments from ' Travelers ' in a humorous context . " Series co @-@ star Robert Patrick had a difficult time with the episode ; he later explained , " I couldn 't deal with some of the material . As an actor , I found some of it to be a little silly . " Accordingly , Manners helped Patrick traverse the script , an action that helped him achieve the desired delivery for his lines .

A few of the flies on the dead body of " Cap 'n Dare " were real , but the rest were created via CGI , according to special effects supervisors John Wash . The eye of the body was opened by a cable . Hank Harris , the boy who played Dylan , wore a suit made of rubber for the swarming scene . 30 @,@ 000 live flies were then " dumped " onto him during filming . The opening for the episode was filmed at Cheviot Hills Park in Los Angeles . The site had previously been used for various shots in the sixth season episode " The Unnatural " and the eighth season episode " Three Words " . Garfield High School in Sherman Oaks , California , stood in for Grant High School . During filming breaks , Robert Patrick spent his time listening to his brother Richard Patrick 's industrial rock band , Filter .

The aggressiveness of flies in the episode was inspired by the actual habits of Australian blow flies . The episode 's title , " Lord of the Flies " , is an English translation for the name of the semitic demon Beelzebub . The name was also used as the title for 1954 novel of the same name by British author William Golding . The episode makes several references to Syd Barrett . Barrett was the original singer , songwriter , and lead guitarist for British band Pink Floyd . Two of his songs , " No Good Trying " and " Terrapin " , are featured in the episode .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Lord of the Flies " first premiered on the Fox network in the United States on December 16 , 2001 . " Lord of the Flies " earned a Nielsen household rating of 6 @.@ 2 , meaning that it was seen by 6 @.@ 2 % of the nation 's estimated households and was viewed by 6 @.@ 54 million households , and 9 @.@ 9 million viewers . " Lord of the Flies " was the 51st most watched episode of television that aired during the week ending December 16 . The episode eventually aired on BBC Two in the United Kingdom on December 1 , 2002 .

The episode received mixed reviews from television critics . Jessica Morgan of *Television Without Pity* gave the episode a " C " grade rating . She derided the show 's need to place The X @-@ Files logo in the teaser , but ultimately concluded that the episode was a " decent [one] to recap " . John Keegan from *Critical Myth* wrote that the episode " ranks right in the mediocre range " and awarded it a 5 out of 10 . He noted , " Overall , this episode did very little for me . I ? m sure that the writing staff could have come up with something better than a bad sixth season plot when the idea of a humorous ninth season episode came to the table . Is there any hope that there might be a truly memorable episode where Doggett is allowed to be amused ? " 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 . The two argued that the entry was trying to " be a ' Rain King ' or a ' Terms of Endearment ' and would like to recapture the sweet and charming feel of those early Season Six experiments . " However , they noted that because the show was in a different stage ? Mulder and Scully were no longer the focus of the show 's attention ? that " the same style falls flat on its face " . Furthermore , Shearman and Pearson

complained that " The X @-@ Files is draining the trough of teenage angst again " . M.A. Crang , in his book Denying the Truth : Revisiting The X @-@ Files after 9 / 11 , felt that the teaser " intrigues for a moment " , but that the competing elements of " quirky humour , body horror and teen love story quickly sink this disappointing outing . "