

= The Jersey Devil (The X @-@ Files) =

" The Jersey Devil " is the fifth episode of the first season of the American science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . It premiered on the Fox network on October 8 , 1993 . It was written by series creator Chris Carter , directed by Joe Napolitano , and featured guest appearances by Gregory Sierra , Wayne Tippit and Claire Stansfield . Although the episode is the series ' second " Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " story ? after the earlier " Squeeze " ? it was the first to have been written by Carter .

The show centers on FBI special agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files . In this episode , Mulder and Scully investigate seemingly cannibalistic murders in New Jersey . The two later come across what seems to be an evolutionary relict which may have inspired tales of the Jersey Devil .

Chris Carter was inspired to write " The Jersey Devil " after reading an essay by E. O. Wilson regarding ants ; Carter , in turn , wrote a story that posed whether mankind was hellbent on its own extinction . The concept of mankind being carnivores and eating its own tail evolved into the idea of using an evolutionary mutation that was a throwback to the Neanderthal . The purpose of the scenes with Scully going on a date were to show the life she was passing on to work on the X @-@ Files and to open up Scully to the audience .

= = Plot = =

In New Jersey in 1947 , a man is attacked while fixing a flat tire on the road near the woods . His corpse is later found with his leg chewed off , and a hairy humanoid is killed nearby .

Back in present @-@ day Washington D.C. , Scully brings to Mulder 's attention news about a body found in New Jersey with its arm and shoulder missing . Upon arriving at the Atlantic City morgue , Scully and Mulder discover that the body was eaten by a human . However , the local detective , Thompson , denies the agents access to the investigation . Scully returns to Washington to attend her godson 's birthday party , while Mulder stays in New Jersey . At the party , Scully meets Rob , the divorced father of one of the guests . Meanwhile , Mulder questions homeless people about the case . A man shows him a drawing of a humanoid and tells him that he saw it and that the other homeless people and cops know about it . Mulder gives his hotel room key to the man and sleeps in the alley , where he sees a shadowy , human @-@ like creature . He chases the creature , but is arrested before he can catch it .

The next morning , Mulder calls Scully to come bail him out . Afterwards , Scully brings Mulder to meet with Dr. Diamond , a professor of anthropology at the University of Maryland , before going on a date with Rob . The local park ranger contacts Mulder after finding the corpse of a wild man in the woods who he believes could be the Jersey Devil . Scully and Mulder bring the ranger and Dr. Diamond to the morgue , where the body has mysteriously vanished . Mulder believes that the Jersey Devil they are hunting is actually the creature 's mate who has headed into Atlantic City in search of food after her mate 's death . The agents , along with the ranger and Dr. Diamond , search for the creature in an abandoned building . While they are searching the building , Detective Thompson arrives with a SWAT team .

Mulder spots the creature and chases after her . He is attacked by the creature , which wounds him before Scully scares her away . The creature then escapes into the woods . Scully , Mulder , Dr. Diamond and the ranger manage to find the creature , which again escapes after being shot with a tranquilizer dart . However , the SWAT team soon finds and kills her . Mulder asks Detective Thompson why he killed the creature ; he responds that it is the same reason one would kill a rabid animal . The autopsy reveals no prehistoric bone structure , although human bones are located within her digestive tract . The autopsies of the male and female creatures also reveals that they likely had children . Mulder leaves to talk to an ethnobiologist at the Smithsonian ; Scully turns down a second date with Rob to join him . Meanwhile in the woods , the child of the creatures appears , watching a father and son hiking .

= = Production = =

Writer and series creator Chris Carter decided that rather than trying to present a typical Bigfoot @-@ like creature , he would present the Jersey Devil as a missing link . Carter was inspired to write the episode by an essay by E. O. Wilson regarding ants and a story he wrote that posed whether mankind was hellbent on its own extinction . The concept of mankind being carnivores and eating its own tail evolved into the idea of using an evolutionary mutation that was a throwback to the Neanderthal . A Greg Cannom werewolf outfit from a previous project was used for the costume of the creature .

The purpose of the scenes with Scully going on a date were to show the life she was passing on to work on the X @-@ Files and to open up Scully to the audience . Carter explained that he " tried to develop a love interest for Scully only to heighten the sexual tension between her and Mulder " . The scenes with Mulder in Atlantic City were shot against a blue screen in Vancouver , with stock casino footage added in in post @-@ production .

During filming , Claire Stansfield , who played the titular creature , was intended to appear nude , necessitating several solutions to be found for different scenes ? some were shot with the actress wearing a nude @-@ colored outfit , while others were shot with her hair tied in such a manner as to keep her breasts covered . Several scenes for the episode were filmed in a Vancouver mansion , which served as an office , town @-@ house and restaurant . This same mansion was used for exterior shots in the later first season episode " Fire " . The forest scenes were filmed in a remote area accessible only by large trucks , while all of the exterior city scenes were filmed in and around a sheet metal store .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" The Jersey Devil " premiered on the Fox network on October 8 , 1993 , and was first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC Two on October 17 , 1994 . The episode earned a Nielsen household rating of 6 @. @ 6 with a 12 share ? meaning that in the US , 6 @. @ 6 percent of television @-@ equipped households , and 12 percent of all households actively watching television , were watching the program . It was viewed by 6 @. @ 2 million households .

In a retrospective of the first season in Entertainment Weekly , " The Jersey Devil " was rated a C , with the episode being called " corny " , and full of " needless philosophizing " ; it was noted however that the sub @-@ plot concerning Scully 's private life set the stage for the series ' future . Keith Phipps , writing for The A.V. Club , had mixed feeling about the episode , rating it a C. He felt that the scenes featuring Scully 's private life and Mulder speaking to a group of homeless people were effectively done , although the episode overall was " pretty silly " and took " a decent idea to a dead end " . Producer James Wong was critical of the episode , feeling that it " ran out of steam in the middle . It didn 't go anywhere ; there weren 't enough complications to it " , though he added that it had been " beautifully shot " .