

= Unruhe =

" Unruhe " is the fourth episode of the fourth season of the American science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on October 27 , 1996 , and was the first episode to air on Sunday night when the show was moved from Fridays to Sundays . " Unruhe " was written by Vince Gilligan , directed by Rob Bowman , and featured a guest appearance from Pruitt Taylor Vince . The episode is a " Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " story , unconnected to the series ' wider mythology . " Unruhe " earned a Nielsen rating of 11 @. @ 7 , being watched by 19 @. @ 10 million people upon its initial broadcast .

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 a man who kidnaps women and lobotomizes them . The agents ' only clues to catching him are distorted photos of the victims taken just before their kidnapping .

Gilligan wrote the episode after being inspired by stories of serial killers he read as a child . Other inspirations include the concept of thought @-@ photographs , and common fears associated with dentist chairs . The episode received a generally positive reception , though critics criticized the plotline featuring Scully being kidnapped . Critical attention also expressed a positive opinion of how scary the episode was in nature . Guest actor Taylor Vince received positive reviews as the episode 's antagonist .

= = Plot = =

In Traverse City , Michigan , Mary Lefante goes to a local pharmacy to get her passport photo taken . Realizing she has forgotten her wallet , she returns to her car and finds that her boyfriend has been murdered . The killer , clad in a hooded raincoat , renders Lefante unconscious with a hypodermic needle , then kidnaps her . Meanwhile , in the pharmacy , the elderly clerk peels open Lefante 's developed photo , which shows her screaming amidst a distorted background .

Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) are assigned to the case . Discussing the photograph , Mulder tells Scully about Ted Serios , who was famous for making photos which showed what was in his mind . He takes pictures of his gloved hand using a camera found in Lefante 's apartment , and they all appear the same as the one from the pharmacy . Mulder deduces that the kidnapper has been stalking his victims .

Lefante is found wandering on a roadside , but appears to have been given an improperly @-@ performed lobotomy . Another woman , Alice Brandt , is later kidnapped . She wakes up bound to a dentist 's chair , with her kidnapper brandishing an ice pick and speaking in German . Mulder returns to Washington , D.C. to digitally analyze the photos and finds no evidence that they were doctored . By closely examining the photos , he finds the face of an old man as well as the shadow of the kidnapper , who appears to be abnormally tall .

Scully , finding a construction company referenced at both crime scenes , investigates the possible lead , meeting Gerry Schnauz (Pruitt Taylor Vince) , who worked near both scenes of the kidnapping . Schnauz , who is wearing stilts that make him very tall , attempts to flee , but Scully pursues and arrests him . The agents interrogate Schnauz , who was once institutionalized for beating his father with an axe handle in retaliation for the abuse his sister suffered at their father 's hands . When questioned on the location of Brandt , Schnauz claims she is safe from the " howlers " . Brandt is soon found in the woods , lobotomized . Mulder believes that Schnauz thinks he is rescuing his victims from howlers and that the photos show his nightmares .

Schnauz escapes police custody by killing an officer and then robs the pharmacy from the opening , taking the passport photo camera , film , and an assortment of drug @-@ related materials . While investigating the robbery , Scully is rendered unconscious and kidnapped by Schnauz . Mulder heads to the office where Schnauz 's father used to work as a dentist , and finds the exam chair missing . Scully awakens bound to the chair with Schnauz claiming he 's going to kill the howlers in her head . Schnauz takes a photo of himself , the result of which greatly disturb him , then prepares to lobotomize Scully . Mulder , having found a clue in a photo of Scully from the drugstore 's photo

booth , finds a trailer in a cemetery and realizes it belongs to Schnauz . He manages to break in and shoot Schnauz in the nick of time . Mulder looks at the photo Schnauz took of himself , in which he is lying dead on the floor .

= = Production = =

Writer Vince Gilligan was inspired to write the episode based on Time @-@ Life mail order books he read as a child discussing the lives of serial killers . One of the books featured mass murderer Howard Unruh . The episode was also inspired by Ted Serios , whose thought @-@ photographs were mentioned by Fox Mulder in the episode . The use of the dentist chair where Schnauz sat his victims was included considering people 's common fear of the dentist . Gilligan had written the role of Schnauz with Taylor Vince in mind when he saw him in the Adrian Lyne film Jacob 's Ladder . Vince had been approached to be a guest star on the show in the first season but declined the role due to it being too small .

Most of the scenes featuring Schnauz on plasterer 's stilts were shot using stuntmen . In the scene where Scully meets Schnauz , a safety cable was attached to Vince to keep him upright on the stilts and was edited out in post @-@ production . Ken Hawryliw created the lobotomy instrument Schnauz used from scratch when he was unsuccessful with his attempts to borrow one from a doctor or hospital . The title of the episode , " Unruhe " , is the German word for " unrest " or " anxiety " . When Scully talks in German to Schnauz , she says " Ich habe keine Unruhe " (literally " I do not have anxiety ") . The episode prominently features the drug scopolamine which can cause people to quickly become unconscious , and twilight sleep , which is a condition that can render people unconscious following great moments of pain .

The name of the serial killer ? Gerald Thomas Schnauz ? comes from Vince Gilligan 's friend and classmate at Tisch School of Arts , Thomas Schnauz , who would eventually serve as writer / story editor for The X @-@ Files in season 9 , as well as for the spin @-@ off , The Lone Gunman , and later for Breaking Bad and Better Call Saul .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Unruhe " premiered on the Fox network on October 27 , 1996 . This episode earned a Nielsen rating of 11 @. @ 7 , with an 18 share , meaning that roughly 11 @. @ 7 percent of all television @-@ equipped households , and 18 percent of households watching television , were tuned in to the episode . It was viewed by 19 @. @ 10 million people . This episode was broadcast out of order in the series ' production schedule as once the producers of the show knew that they would be moving to Sundays starting with the fourth episode of the season , they decided to push this episode back , feeling that it would be an excellent representative of the show for its first Sunday night episode and a better representative than the fourth episode of the season filmed , " Teliko " .

Entertainment Weekly gave the episode a " C " , feel that the " interesting concept " of the psychic photographs were ruined by " boilerplate Scully @-@ in @-@ distress shtick " . Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club was more positive , grading it as a " B + " . He felt that its " greatest virtue " was being terrifying and that it worked for being an " urban fairytale " . However , he also criticized it for putting Scully in danger . Sarah Stegall awarded the episode four stars out of five , praising the writing by Gilligan , who she commented was " genius for tight confrontation scenes " , complimenting the atmosphere and presentation of the episode . She criticized the final scene featuring Scully tied up with duct @-@ tape , commenting that the way she was loosely tied up was unrealistic . The fact that the episode 's " absurd concept " was simply a " side @-@ story " also drew positive attention , summarizing her review with , " otherwise a creepy and engaging detective story " .

Taylor Vince 's performance as Gerry Schnauz received positive critical attention . Writer Barbara Barnett in her book Chasing Zebras stated that he was memorable as a " psychotic killer " . John Kenneth Muir in his book Horror Films of the 1990s wrote that Taylor Vince portrayed one of the " memorable and frightening serial killers " of the series . In a later book , Terror Television American

Series 1970 ? 1999 , Muir praised the episode as a whole , writing that the episode " is nightmare provoking because it subjects a wonderful individual to a terrifying situation which will remove all traces of individuality from that character " . Television Without Pity ranked " Unruhe " the sixth most nightmare @-@ inducing episode of the show .