

= No Such Thing as Vampires =

" No Such Thing as Vampires " is the pilot episode of the American paranormal romance television drama Moonlight , which premiered on CBS on September 28 , 2007 in the United States . It was written by series creators / executive producers Trevor Munson and Ron Koslow , and directed by executive producer Rod Holcomb . The pilot introduces Mick St. John (Alex O 'Loughlin) , a private investigator who has been a vampire for over fifty years ; Beth Turner (Sophia Myles) , St. John 's love interest ; Josef Kostan (Jason Dohring) , St. John 's mentor and friend ; and Coraline Duvall (Shannyn Sossamon) , St. John 's ex @-@ wife and sire .

The series , originally titled Twilight , was commissioned by Warner Bros. Television as a presentation lasting 14 ? 20 minutes . Alex O 'Loughlin , Shannon Lucio , Rade ?erbed?ija and Amber Valletta were cast in the lead roles , and Rod Holcomb was hired as director . The project was renamed Moonlight when picked up by CBS for the 2007 ? 2008 American television season . David Greenwalt joined the staff in May 2007 as showrunner and executive producer alongside Joel Silver ; however , health reasons forced Greenwalt to leave the series . All of the original actors save for the male lead role were recast in June 2007 , and Sophia Myles , Jason Dohring and Shannyn Sossamon replaced them . With an almost entirely different cast , a retooled , full @-@ length pilot for television audiences was re @-@ shot .

Although received poorly by critics , the pilot managed to finish first among total viewers and adults 18 ? 49 for its night . Many critics criticized the acting and the writing ; one said that it had the " worst writing of the new season " . A few found that even though the series did not seem great , it " had potential " . Jason Dohring 's performance was praised , and one critic wished that he had " a bit more screen time " .

= = Plot = =

Mick St. John , a private investigator , dreams of being interviewed by a woman off @-@ camera , where he reveals that he is 90 years old , and that unlike other vampires , he has standards and does not hunt women , children or innocents . Mick 's job leads him to the scene of the murder of a young woman , where Beth , a reporter for the online newspaper BuzzWire , notices two large puncture wounds on the woman 's neck . While walking around the scene , she meets Mick and tells him he looks very familiar , but he insists that they do not know each other . Beth gives the murder article a vampire theme , using the puncture wounds as inspiration . The article makes Josef , a 400 @-@ year @-@ old vampire friend of Mick 's , concerned for the safety of vampires . To get more information on the murder , Mick goes to the morgue , where his friend Guillermo (Jacob Vargas) supplies him with blood . Mick does not detect any traces of vampire contact on the dead woman , eliminating them as her reason of death . Mick then comes across Beth at the dead woman 's apartment , where they find a necklace with a vial of blood inside .

Professor Ellis (Rudolf Martin) , a lecturer of the dead woman , gives a eulogy at her funeral . Chloe , a friend of the dead woman , attacks Ellis and slashes his neck , whose blood Mick recognizes as the blood in the vial . Beth tracks down Chloe , who explains that the professor has a vampire @-@ worshipping blood cult , and he believes that he is a vampire . Later , Mick finds Chloe 's dead body , who was murdered by Ellis . Knowing that Beth has gone to Ellis 's class , he rushes to save her . After the class , Beth talks to Ellis about vampires and the young woman 's murder , but he discovers that she is wearing a wire . Ellis attacks Beth and although she escapes , she is kidnapped by the professor 's teaching assistant . Mick tracks down the assistant , defeats him , and takes an unconscious Beth to his apartment . In flashbacks to 22 years in the past , Mick investigates the case of a missing girl . In a domestic fight between Mick and his ex @-@ wife Coraline over the kidnapped girl , Mick stabs Coraline 's heart with the leg of a broken chair . He lights the house on fire and rescues the girl , leaving Coraline to the fire . It is revealed that the little girl has grown up to be Beth , and that Mick has tried to watch over her and keep her safe over the years . In the present , Beth wakes up and remembers that Mick was stabbed by the assistant , and that he was the one who saved her as a child . Mick dismisses the claims as being caused by her

head injury . Thanking him for saving her , she hugs him .

= = Production = =

Trevor Munson conceived the character of Mick Angel in 2004 and spent two and a half years writing a novel featuring the character . The story was adapted into a feature film script , and Bruce Willis was considered as a possibility for the lead role . The script was shown to Nina Tassler at CBS , who paired Munson with Ron Koslow , creator of *Beauty and the Beast* , to rewrite the script as a television series . The series was titled *Twilight* , and Koslow and Munson wrote the pilot , which Warner Bros. Television initially commissioned as a presentation lasting 14 ? 20 minutes in January 2007 . Joel Silver and Gerard Bocaccio were hired to be executive producers on the project under the former 's production banner , Silver Pictures , in the same month . Alex O 'Loughlin and Shannon Lucio were cast in the presentation , and Rod Holcomb was hired as director .

The project was renamed *Moonlight* when picked up by CBS on May 14 , 2007 , prior the upfronts . David Greenwalt , creator of *Miracles* and co @-@ creator of *Angel* , joined the staff in May 2007 as showrunner and executive producer alongside Silver . CBS hired Greenwalt during the pilot process to restructure the original concept by Koslow and Munson , however health reasons forced him to leave the series , and Chip Johannessen took over showrunner duties in August 2007 . All of the original actors save for the lead role of Mick St. John were recast in June 2007 : Shannon Lucio , Rade ?erbed?ija and Amber Valletta were originally cast in the roles of Beth Turner , Josef Kostan and Coraline Duvall respectively before Sophia Myles , Jason Dohring and Shannyn Sossamon replaced them . With an almost entirely different cast , a retooled , full @-@ length pilot for television audiences was re @-@ shot . To promote the series , Silver , along with the rest of the main cast , attended the Comic @-@ Con International in San Diego on July 27 , 2007 , where the show was featured .

Joel Silver approached Dohring " out of the blue and said , ' There 's a role , and I 'm making it younger ' " . Dohring read two pages of script featuring Josef , and was interested by the character 's " dark " and " sharp " personality . Dohring had to go through the normal audition process and was not sure if he would have gotten the role without Silver , who had " pushed it all the way through to the end " . Munson explained that the goal of the casting changes was " to lighten the show up a bit " . He believed the changes granted the studio 's and network 's wish to " make it a little younger and hipper " . O 'Laughlin felt that the whole cast 's becoming " a little bit younger " especially effected the character Josef , as the originally chosen actor , ?erbed?ija , was twice Jason Dohring 's age . The creators and the network were concerned that Josef , whose relationship with Mick was important , would appear as more of a " father figure " rather than as a friend . O 'Laughlin supported the recasting of Josef with a younger actor due to the resulting " level of ease in that age difference " .

= = Reception = =

" No Such Thing as Vampires " finished first among total viewers and adults 18 ? 49 for its night . It was seen by 8 @.@ 54 million American viewers , and received a 5 @.@ 7 household rating and a 10 % share of all televisions in use . The critical responses to the pilot were overall unfavorable . Several critics compared it detrimentally with the television series *Angel* , as well as other vampire related media , including *Forever Knight* , *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* , *Blood Ties* , *The Night Stalker* , *Dark Shadows* and the works of Anne Rice . Tim Goodman of *The San Francisco Chronicle* considered it as a " flat @-@ out awful " pilot of what " may well be the worst new fall show " . Rob Owen of the *Pittsburgh Post @-@ Gazette* described the pilot as " a weak , generic private @-@ eye drama with a vampire story overlay " , and Matthew Gilbert of the *Boston Globe* felt that it came close to a " full @-@ on nightmare " .

The writing of the pilot was criticized as " ponderous " , and having " familiar , conventional plots " . One critic claimed it did not offer much " to inspire an actor " , while another thought it had the " worst writing of the new season " . The dialogue was described as " groan @-@ inducing " . Tom

Shales of The Washington Post criticized the series creators ' decision to make St. John a private investigator , and felt that they " appear eager to avoid what makes their show unique " . Mary McNamara of the Los Angeles Times saw promise in the series , but remarked it got " lost between concept and execution , and instead of suspense we get silliness , as if the creators were determined to use only the clichés of both genres " . The acting of the pilot was criticized as " sub @-@ par " and " woeful " . Robert Bianco of USA Today felt that Moonlight had a " less adept cast " than Angel . Matthew Gilbert of the Boston Globe depreciated the chemistry between O 'Loughlin and Myles as " artificial " , and said that they " exchange lines of dialogue with a stilted rhythm and no natural flow " . O 'Loughlin was described as a " flatliner " , and " passable in the lead role " , while Sossamon 's appearance was said to be " preposterously not @-@ scary " . Travis Fickett of IGN praised the actors , however , and felt that O 'Loughlin did " a decent job " , and that Myles was " perhaps the most promising aspect of the show " . Maureen Ryan of the Chicago Tribune commended Myles as " reasonably good " .

Not all reviews , however , were negative . Sarah Stegall of SF Scope gave the pilot a decent review , and said that if Moonlight could survive " the Friday night time slot " and the " thwarted expectations of [vampire] fans who were expecting Blade " , she thought it would " rock " . Kara Howland of TV Guide gave the pilot a positive review , and thought it was a " solid start " . Several critics praised Jason Dohring 's portrayal of Josef . One said that he gave the pilot " a small burst of energy " , while another said that he made it " crackle with a bit of wit " . Dohring was described as " a welcome presence " , and one critic wished for " a bit more screen time " . Travis Fickett of IGN praised the action scenes , and noted that " once the action gets started , it plays well " .