

= Beware of the Dog ( Millennium ) =

" ' Beware of the Dog " is the second episode of the second season of the American crime @-@ thriller television series Millennium . It premiered on the Fox network on September 26 , 1997 . The episode was written by Glen Morgan and James Wong , and directed by Allen Coulter . " Beware of the Dog " featured guest appearances by Randy Stone and R. G. Armstrong .

Millennium centers on offender profiler Frank Black ( Lance Henriksen ) , who investigates unusual crimes as part of the private investigative organisation the Millennium Group . In this episode , when Black investigates several killings by a pack of savage dogs , he discovers a strange old man who teaches him more than he ever knew about the Group .

Guest star Armstrong would reprise his role later in the season , while Stone was the casting director for both Millennium and its sister show The X @-@ Files . " Beware of the Dog " received mixed reviews from television critics , and was viewed by approximately 6 @.@ 37 million households during its original broadcast .

= = Plot = =

A couple in a camper van get lost along a country road . They stop near a small town to read their map , but a pack of dogs break into their van , mauling them to death .

Meanwhile , Millennium Group member Peter Watts ( Terry O 'Quinn ) tries to convince fellow Group member Frank Black ( Lance Henriksen ) to investigate the case . Black is experiencing a separation from his wife and daughter after killing his wife 's kidnapper ; he initially refuses the case but Watts ' insistence sways him . Black arrives in the isolated town of Bucksnot , and visits a local diner . Standing out amongst the residents is Michael Beebe ( Randy Stone ) , who has moved there from Los Angeles . Beebe believes his elderly neighbour may be responsible for the attack and asks Black to investigate .

Black instead examines the crime scene . At sunset , he sees a group of five dogs beginning to follow him . He returns to his hotel , but when he discovers he is locked out the dogs attack him . He fights them off , killing one , and flees to a hospital where he is refused entrance . An elderly man ( R. G. Armstrong ) drives past , stopping to pick up the dead dog , and drives off again . The remaining dogs follow his pickup truck . Black passes out and is helped into the hospital . The locals believe he is unconscious and discuss the " situation " ; however Black is awake and overhears everything , realising there is a greater threat than savage dogs at hand .

The next day , Black finds a group of obelisks in the woods . He is about to examine one when Beebe appears , chased by dogs . The Old Man also arrives , and Black asks him to call off his dogs . The Old Man denies the dogs are his , but they retreat regardless . Black then sees that the obelisks all bear an ouroboros , the symbol of the Millennium Group . He visits the Old Man 's home , where the two speak about the Group and its symbolism , and the coming millennium . The Old Man then brings Black to a clearing full of the wild dogs , where the latter realizes they are embodiments of the evil in the world . He approaches them as stands his ground , being struck by several visions as he does so . The Old Man then explains that the world 's balance between good and evil is being lost as the millennium approaches , and that Beebe 's home , built on sacred ground , is one of the many small things upsetting this balance .

Black rushes to Beebe 's home , knowing the dogs will attack it . Beebe refuses to leave , but the house has been surrounded by five dogs ; as they are killed they are seemingly endlessly replaced by others . The Old Man arrives , and insists the only way to rid the town of the dogs is burn down Beebe 's house , which the trio do before fleeing . Back home in Seattle , Black refuses to sell his own home , telling his wife that they will move back into it together when their problems are resolved .

= = Production = =

" Beware of the Dog " was written by frequent collaborators Glen Morgan and James Wong , and

directed by Allen Coulter . The episode was Coulter 's first credit for the series , and he would return to helm " The Pest House " and " Siren " later in the second season . " Beware of the Dog " was the fifth episode to have been written by Morgan and Wong , after " Dead Letters " , " 522666 " and " The Thin White Line " in the first season ; and the second season première " The Beginning and the End " . The duo would go on to pen a further ten episodes over the course of the second season , having taken the roles of co @-@ executive producers for the season .

Guest star Randy Stone was the casting director for Millennium and its sister show The X @-@ Files . Stone was responsible for the casting of Henriksen in the role of Frank Black , and of the two lead roles in The X @-@ Files . " Beware of the Dog " features the first appearance by R. G. Armstrong as The Old Man , a recurring character who would reappear in the two @-@ part episodes " Owls " and " Roosters " . Armstrong has been described as " a long @-@ time favorite " of Morgan 's .

The episode makes use of Bobby Darin 's song " As Long As I 'm Singing " in a diegetic manner . Darin 's music has been noted by Millennium 's resident composer Mark Snow as a hallmark of the works of Morgan and Wong . " Beware of the Dog " marked the pair 's first use of the singer in Millennium , but his music would later feature in the episodes " Sense and Antisense " , " Monster " and " Goodbye Charlie " .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Beware of the Dog " originally aired on the Fox network on September 26 , 1997 . The episode earned a Nielsen rating of 6 @.@ 5 during its original broadcast , meaning that 6 @.@ 5 percent of households in the United States viewed the episode . This represented approximately 6 @.@ 37 million households , and left the episode the sixty @-@ ninth most @-@ viewed broadcast that week .

The episode received mixed reviews from television critics . The A.V. Club 's Zack Handlen gave the episode a B + , finding it " endearingly batshit " . Handlen felt that the episode was not entirely cohesive and that its ending was somewhat disappointing , but felt that overall the episode 's imagery made up for this ? summing up this idea by saying " Millennium often seems to be at its best when sense is a secondary consideration " . Bill Gibron , writing for DVD Talk , rated the episode 3 @.@ 5 out of 5 , noting that its " atmospheric elements do not quite add up to a cohesive whole " . Gibron felt that this resulted in " an episode that feels like the first half of a bad b @-@ movie " . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book *Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @-@ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen* , awarded " Beware of the Dog " one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five . Shearman felt the episode was so similar to The X @-@ Files that it gave the impression that Millennium had " lost its own identity " . He found that the script contained " enough wit in the dialogue " but that its plot seemed too " vague and elliptical " . Writing for the *Star Tribune* , Bill Ward felt that the episode featured a " lighter " tone than usual , comparing it to The X @-@ Files . Ward described the episode as taking " some nice turns en route to an ambivalent semiresolution " .