

= Seeing Red (Dexter) =

" Seeing Red " is the tenth episode of the first season of the American television drama series Dexter , which first aired on December 3 , 2006 on Showtime in the United States . The episode was written by Kevin R. Maynard and was directed by Michael Cuesta . In the episode , the Miami Metro Homicide Department team investigate a blood @-@ soaked crime scene , where blood spatter analyst Dexter Morgan (Michael C. Hall) is confronted by a repressed memory of a traumatic incident from his childhood . Meanwhile , Dexter 's girlfriend Rita Bennett (Julie Benz) is charged with assaulting her ex @-@ husband Paul Bennett (Mark Pellegrino) and risks losing custody of their children , while Det . Angel Batista (David Zayas) investigates a hunch that the Ice Truck Killer has an amputee fetish .

Scenes for " Seeing Red " were shot at several locations around Long Beach , California . Particular attention was paid to the cinematography and filming of the sequence of Dexter 's flashbacks to make them feel like " fragments of memory " . The episode received positive reviews from critics , with particular mention made to the scene in which Dexter hits Rita 's ex @-@ husband , Paul , in the head with a frying pan because of his threats about the lengths he will go to in order to protect his children .

= = Plot = =

When a key to a room at the Marina View Hotel is delivered inside a jar of blood to the Homicide Department , Sgt. James Doakes (Erik King) and Debra Morgan (Jennifer Carpenter) visit the hotel , where they find a room completely covered in blood . Dexter is sent in first to investigate , but seeing the blood @-@ covered room brings back a repressed memory from his childhood ? Dexter at the age of three years sitting in a pool of blood ? and he collapses and runs from the room . The forensics team surmises that the blood in the hotel room came from at least five different bodies , although none were in the room . Since there were only one set of footprints in the room , they assume that the victims were killed elsewhere and their blood spread around the room by the killer . Debra suggests that the Ice Truck Killer , who had five bloodless victims , may have been responsible .

Angel finds that he cannot stop talking about his divorce when trying to meet new women at a bar . After he meets a woman recovering from her own divorce , he has to leave her to speak to a prostitute whom he sees across the room with a prosthetic hand and fingernails painted in the same way as the Ice Truck Killer 's first victim . Working on a hunch that the Ice Truck Killer is an acrotomophiliac , Angel decides to speak to Debra 's boyfriend , Rudy Cooper , a prosthetics specialist and (unbeknownst to anyone else) the actual Ice Truck Killer . Rudy cooperates with the interview upon realizing that Angel does not know his identity . Later , Angel is stabbed in a parking lot by a masked man . Angel manages to elbow him in the face before two men scare the attacker off . Minutes later , Rudy - who had earlier fallen out with Debra due to secretly having dinner with Dexter - arrives with flowers . They kiss , but Rudy backs away complaining of a cut lip , suggesting that he was Angel 's attacker .

Rita finds out from a county sheriff that Paul , her abusive ex @-@ husband who attacked her the night before , is pressing charges against her for assault . She talks with a lawyer , who tells her that since she invited Paul into her house , she cannot prove that her intent was to defuse the situation . At a hearing , it is revealed that Rita violated her and Paul 's custody agreement , making Paul 's case against her even stronger . When Paul drops by Rita 's house to return their children , he threatens Dexter when the two are alone in the kitchen , and Dexter responds by hitting him with a frying pan . Paul loses consciousness , so Dexter drives his body back to Paul 's hotel and frames him for drug abuse . Dexter alerts the police and Paul is sent back to prison .

With encouragement from Rudy , Dexter decides to dig up his repressed memory rather than avoid it . He returns to the bloody hotel room , where he relives the memory , which he realizes was of the murder of his mother with a chainsaw , right in front of him , when he was three .

= = Production = =

Since Dexter 's producers try to shield the child actors as much as possible from the show 's dark subject matter , executive producer Daniel Cerone urged the mother of his son 's friend not to let her son audition to play a young Dexter , who is filmed sitting in a pool of blood . Erik King found the shot of the boy crying in the blood to be the creepiest moment of the first season . He described it as " very uncomfortable to watch , even when you know it 's not real and you know these kids are actors . " Cinematographer Romeo Tirone tightened the camera 's shutter angle when filming these scenes to make them " feel like fragments of memory - subjective , with tight close @-@ ups against an indistinct background . You don 't see all the details of the environment . " Series director Keith Gordon found these flashbacks " incredible " because he thought they were " like a Stanley Kubrick movie " .

Several scenes from the episode were filmed on September 28 , 2006 with a crew of 200 people in Long Beach , California at the Seaport Marina Hotel , along the Pacific Coast Highway , and on San Anselme Avenue . The Seaport Marina Hotel was used as the setting for Paul 's motel , while a house on San Anselme Avenue was used as Rita 's house .

= = Reception = =

The episode received positive reviews from critics . Eric Goldman of IGN reviewed " Seeing Red " warmly and gave the episode an " Outstanding " rating of 9 @. @ 0 / 10 . He thought that the scene wherein Dexter hits Paul was " one of the most jaw @-@ dropping , intense scenes yet " , and he liked that Angel 's " seeming separate " subplot was well @-@ linked to the main plotline of the episode . He noted the " fascinating dynamic " between Dexter and Rudy , sensing " interesting psycho @-@ sexual undercurrents " developing . TV Guide 's Paula Paige felt that " Seeing Red " proved that each episode of Dexter was a constant improvement on the last . She enjoyed Dexter 's manipulation by Rudy and found his solution to Paul 's threats " perfect " . Jonathan Toomey of TV Squad wrote that he was " in awe " of the episode . He was particularly impressed with Dexter 's choice to frame Paul rather than kill him , and a minor storyline involving Lt. María LaGuerta (Lauren Vélez) and her betrayal of her superior , Capt. Tom Matthews (Geoff Pierson) .