

= Wide Open (Millennium) =

" Wide Open " is the ninth episode of the first season of the American crime @-@ thriller television series Millennium . It premiered on Fox on January 3 , 1997 . The episode was written by Charles D. Holland and directed by Jim Charleston . " Wide Open " featured guest appearances by Glynn Turman and Roger Cross .

Forensic profiler Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) , a member of the private investigative organisation Millennium Group , tracks a serial killer who hides in his victims ' homes and preys on those who feel most safe .

" Wide Open " was Charleston 's second , and Holland 's only , contribution to the series . The episode opens with a quote from the biblical Book of Job , and makes reference to author Patricia Highsmith . It received mixed reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

A man , Cutter (Pablo Coffey) , visits an open house viewing , where he is given a tour by the estate agent , and seems to take an interest in the bedroom of a young girl . That night , the owners have returned home , and are settling down for the evening when their daughter , Patricia , begins screaming . Later , a security guard for the family 's alarm company finds the bodies of the parents hacked to death on the first floor , but Patricia is nowhere to be seen .

The Millennium Group , a private investigative group , dispatches profiler Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) to the scene , where he meets Seattle detective Bob Bletcher (Bill Smitrovich) . Black finds the house 's alarm system , noticing that it did not go off until the killer left the house . He deduces that the killer stayed hidden in the house during the viewing , emerging that evening to kill the family . However , Black also notices something near an air vent ; pulling it from the wall , he finds Patricia , alive but greatly disturbed .

Black 's wife Catherine (Megan Gallagher) , a clinical social worker , warns against questioning Patricia ? although she is an important witness , she is only a child and is in a fragile mental state . Black and Bletcher visit James Glen (Glynn Turman) a graphology expert , having found the killer 's signature in the viewing 's guestbook . Analysis of the killer 's handwriting links him to almost forty open house viewings over the previous six months .

An estate agent receives a video recording of the murders in the post , leaving Black puzzled . That same day , the killer hides in another open house , later murdering a woman with a shotgun before calling the police to the scene . Black finds an X drawn in blood under the house 's welcome mat ; Patricia has begun drawing red Xs in her crayon pictures , which Catherine takes notice of . Black reviews the videotape , finding a reflection of the killer in a glass pane . Extracting a picture from this , he requests to show it to Patricia , but stops himself , realizing that the killer let Patricia live so that she could relive the events when questioned .

Cutter , a crossing guard , hides the shotgun in a dumpster , calling the police to report finding it . The police officer who takes his statement later recognizes him on seeing the video . Black has deduced the killer 's motives ? he is trying to undermine society 's notion of safety . Black and Bletcher organize a stakeout at another open house , identifying Cutter when he arrives ; however , Cutter escapes into the neighborhood . Black realizes that he has hidden in a nearby house , where he and Bletcher find the occupants tied up . Cutter ambushes Black , knocking him down , but before Cutter can escape , the family 's dog lunges at him , sending him falling over a mezzanine to his death . Bletcher later tells Black that Cutter 's aunt and uncle were tortured to death in front of him when he was a child , which led him to recreate the torment for other families .

= = Production = =

" Wide Open " is the second of two episodes of Millennium to be directed by James Charleston , who had also helmed the earlier first season episode " Blood Relatives " . The episode also marked the only contribution to the series from writer Charles D. Holland .

Pablo Coffey , who portrayed Cutter , the episode 's serial killer , would later appear in " Manus Domini " , an episode of Millennium creator Chris Carter 's series Harsh Realm . The episode features Glynn Turman as a graphologist , portraying the discipline in an exaggerated , " near @-@ psychic " manner ; although it had been portrayed more realistically in the second episode of the series , " Gehenna " . Bill Smitrovich , who plays recurring character Bob Bletcher , had previously portrayed a graphologist in the 1986 film Manhunter , which has been seen an influence on Millennium .

The character of Patricia Highsmith ? the little girl who survives the first attack ? is named for the author Patricia Highsmith , author of Strangers on a Train and the Tom Ripley series of novels . The episode opens with a quotation from the Book of Job , one of the poetic books of the Ketuvim , the third part of the Tanakh or Hebrew Bible . Another passage from the Book of Job had been used in the opening of the episode " Dead Letters " . Biblical verses were also used at the beginning of other episodes in the series , including the Book of Exodus in " Kingdom Come " ; the Book of Jeremiah in " Weeds " ; and the Gospel of Luke in " Blood Relatives " .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Wide Open " was first broadcast on the Fox Network on January 3 , 1997 ; and earned a Nielsen rating of 6 @. @ 9 , meaning that roughly 6 @. @ 9 percent of all television @-@ equipped households were tuned in to the episode . The episode was watched by approximately 6 @. @ 7 million households .

" Wide Open " received mixed reviews from critics . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @-@ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen , rated the episode one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five , finding that its cold open was " the most distinctive thing about the whole case " . Shearman and Pearson felt that the episode 's killer was unspectacular , remaining " largely anonymous " ; and that his death scene was " as half @-@ hearted a climax as he deserves " . Writing for The A.V. Club , Zack Handlen rated the episode a B + , describing it as " thoroughly unsettling " and " solid stuff " . Handlen felt that the treatment of the episode 's villain was better than most other instalments of the series , which " helps give the episode overall a stronger sense of purpose " . However , it was felt that the character of Frank Black was still too vague and impersonal , coming across simply as " a generic representation of Chris Carter 's idea of heroism " . Bill Gibron , writing for DVD Talk , rated " Wide Open " 3 @. @ 5 out of 5 . Gibron felt that the episode had " a clever premise , a great deal of suspense and some gruesomely graphic imagery " , but criticized the " off @-@ the @-@ cuff " manner in which the killer 's motives were explained .