

= Night of Desirable Objects (Fringe) =

" Night of Desirable Objects " is the second episode of the second season of the American science fiction drama television series Fringe . The episode followed Olivia and Peter 's investigation into mysterious disappearances taking place in a small Pennsylvania town .

The episode was written by executive producers / showrunners Jeff Pinkner and J. H. Wyman , and directed by Brad Anderson . It was the last episode to feature guest actress Meghan Markle as Agent Amy Jessup , but was the first with recurring guest actors Kevin Corrigan and Stefan Arnglim .

" Night of Desirable Objects " premiered on September 24 , 2009 to an estimated 7 @. @ 73 million viewers in the United States . It received generally positive reviews , as multiple critics praised the storyline while at the same time acknowledging it did little to advance the show 's mythology .

= = Plot = =

In Lansdale , Pennsylvania , a highway construction worker hears an odd noise in a cornfield , and is pulled down into an underground tunnel by a mysterious , unidentified creature . Using a lighter for sight , he sees the remains of other creatures , and is then eaten by the creature off screen . Meanwhile , Walter (John Noble) investigates Olivia 's (Anna Torv) car crash from the previous episode . He believes she traveled to a parallel universe that is similar to theirs , but she still cannot remember with whom she met with , or why .

Having recovered enough from the events of the previous episode , Olivia is released from the hospital , and is watched by the shapeshifter who has killed Charlie Francis (Kirk Acevedo) and adopted his appearance . Peter (Joshua Jackson) learns of mysterious disappearances taking place in Lansdale , and the Fringe team arrives to investigate . Walter finds a blue , paralytic substance at the scene , which he suspects is from mutated DNA . The investigation leads to a local resident , Andre Hughes (John Savage) , who tells them he lost his wife and baby in childbirth . Olivia begins to develop super @-@ hearing as a result of crossing to the parallel universe , and hears someone else in Hughes ' house despite his saying he 's the only one there . She ventures upstairs to investigate ; after failing to find anything , she accidentally fires her weapon , narrowly missing Peter . They bring Hughes in for questioning , and he refuses to give them a blood sample for their investigation .

Nina Sharp (Blair Brown) talks with Olivia , and recommends she see a friend , Sam Weiss (Kevin Corrigan) " who helped put [her] back together " after she was diagnosed with cancer . Agent Amy Jessup (Meghan Markle) and she believes Hughes may have killed his wife and son . When they exhume their bodies , they find the baby 's casket is empty . Hughes commits suicide however before they can question him further .

Walter discovers that Hughes ' wife had a form of lupus , and was incapable of having children . Hughes genetically altered the baby to enable his survival , and after birth , it developed into a " superbaby " and began feeding on people . Olivia and Peter travel back to Hughes ' house , and are attacked by the creature when investigating the basement and its nearby tunnels . The creature attempts to escape by digging out but is killed by a police car parked above ground upon collapsing into the tunnel , thereby crushing the creature .

At Nina 's recommendation , Olivia meets with Sam Weiss , who works at a bowling alley . He tells her to expect headaches as one consequence of crossing universes . The final scene shows the shapeshifted Charlie communicating with someone from the parallel universe , who tells him to help make Olivia remember her experience crossing over .

= = Production = =

Executive producers and showrunners Jeff Pinkner and J.H. Wyman wrote the episode , while filmmaker Brad Anderson served as the director , his first such credit for the season .

The show 's sound production team had two major special effects to create for the episode : the

mole creature , and Olivia 's superhearing . They decided to voice the creature using Automated Dialogue Replacement (ADR) " because his range of actions and emotions was simply too broad for a library monster vocal set to cover " . Sound editor Bruce Tanis cut " creepy moans and breaths " when the creature was heard but not seen , and added " a layer of vicious attack growls and wounded screams " for when it died . Tanis commented that the actor voicing the creature placed pieces of orange in his mouth in order to have " a slobbery , sputtering voice " . For Olivia 's scenes with superhearing , Tanis made ordinary , far off items like phones , typewriters , and cars " sound a little beefier than normal and kept them a bit more up in the mix than they usually would be , " as these things were not in the same room as her . The sound editors wanted to emphasize that the various sounds she hears could be coming from anywhere , such as next door , or a block away , or could perhaps be all inside her head . Torv later noted in a BuddyTV interview that while shooting , she was unsure whether her newfound abilities were permanent or temporary , to which the writers replied that " apparently it 's just something that comes and goes " . After expressing her confusion , they responded " Oh that 's good , Olivia 's confused too " .

" Night of Desirable Objects " was the first episode to feature guest actor Kevin Corrigan as the mysterious Sam Weiss . To help Corrigan , Torv compared Sam Weiss to the Oracle in The Matrix , which the actor had not yet seen . Corrigan noted , " It opened my mind up ... So now Sam 's just this regular guy in a bowling alley but he 's so much more than that . " Weiss ' appearance generated some rumors that he was a figment of Olivia 's imagination , causing actress Anna Torv to state in a later interview that she has always believed Weiss to be " 100 percent real " and her character 's " guide " . The episode marked the last appearance by guest actress Meghan Markle , who plays Agent Amy Jessup . Frequent Fringe collaborator Akiva Goldsman later hinted in January 2010 that audiences have " not seen the last of Agent Jessup " . Other guest stars included John Savage and Charles Martin Smith , as well as Stefan Arngrim , who made his second appearance on the series .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

On its initial broadcast in the United States on September 24 , 2009 , the episode was watched by an estimated 7 @. @ 73 million viewers . It earned a 3 @. @ 6 / 6 ratings share , which was a decrease of 20 percent from the season premiere . Fringe faced tough competition from CBS 's CSI : Crime Scene Investigation and ABC 's Grey 's Anatomy , causing Fox to place fourth for the night .

= = = Reviews = = =

The episode received mostly positive reviews . Writing for The A.V. Club , critic Noel Murray graded the episode with an A- , explaining he thought the episode worked well because the monster was " cool , " the newly super @- @ powered Olivia was " intriguing , " and the little episode quirks (such as a typewriter communicating messages) helped to give Fringe " its own flavor " . Ramsey Isler from IGN rated the episode 8 @. @ 1 / 10 , writing that despite its " relative insignificance " at explaining more show mythology , it " was still very well done , creepy as hell , and pretty entertaining " . He also praised the main actors ' performances , but wished Fringe would answer more questions and produce less " monster @- @ of @- @ the @- @ week " episodes .

Andrew Hanson of the Los Angeles Times wrote he recognizes the show is trying to define itself , and compared Peter 's newfound leadership to The X @- @ Files ' Fox Mulder , praised Acevedo 's performance as " evil Charlie , " but found some of Walter 's mannerisms to be " cheesy " . SFScope writer Sarah Stegall lauded the premise of multiple universes , and called the episode 's horror elements the reason she is now " a devoted fan of this show " . Stegall also praised Kirk Acevedo 's performance as well as the parallels between Andrea Hughes and Walter ; she concluded " This may have been the best episode of this entire series , second perhaps to last season 's finale , and

certainly better than anything the anemic Grey 's Anatomy or the aging CSI can offer " .

On the other hand , MTV 's Josh Wigler thought the episode 's mystery was " barely compelling " when compared to the aftereffects of Olivia 's journey to the parallel universe , and wished that more time had been focused on this . Though he understood that Fringe " rides a fine line between an ongoing drama and a series of stand @-@ alone stories , " Wigler believed the show would have to choose one soon , and wanted the focus to be on the former and its parallel universe storyline . UGO Networks writer Alex Zalben later compared " Night of Desirable Objects " to the similarly @-@ plotted episodes " Johari Window " of Fringe and " Home " of The X @-@ Files . Zalben found " Home " to be superior , explaining that " the two Fringe eps are basically the one X @-@ Files ep split in two , " and " clearly , ' Home ' was a good enough episode to inspire [them] . Advantage ? X @-@ Files . "

= = = Awards and nominations = = =

" Night of Desirable Objects " was nominated for " Best Sound Editing : Short Form Music in Television " at the Motion Picture Sound Editors ' 2010 Golden Reel Awards ; " Unleashed " , an episode from the first season , was the only other Fringe episode to be nominated . " Night of Desirable Objects " lost to the pilot of Glee .