

= Broken World (Millennium) =

" ' Broken World " is the twentieth episode of the first season of the American crime @-@ thriller television series Millennium . It premiered on the Fox network on May 2 , 1997 . The episode was written by Robert Moresco and Patrick Harbinson , and directed by Winrich Kolbe . " Broken World " featured guest appearances by Ingrid Kavelaars , Donnelly Rhodes and Jo Anderson .

Millennium Group consultant Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) travels to North Dakota to track down a burgeoning serial killer who has progressed from mauling horses to attacking and killing people .

" Broken World " featured the last directorial effort for the series by Kolbe , and the last script written by Moresco ; however , Harbinson would return to write further episodes in later seasons . The episode has been compared to Peter Shaffer 's 1973 play Equus , and received a Genesis Award from the Humane Society of the United States in 1998 .

= = Plot = =

In Bowman , North Dakota , a stable @-@ hand named Sally Dumont (Ingrid Kavelaars) is attacked and left unconscious after she finds a horse has been murdered in its stall . Private investigation organization the Millennium Group send offender profiler Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) to investigate , as twenty @-@ one horses have been killed in the same manner over the past two years in the area . Black believes the culprit is in the early stages of developing into a sexually motivated serial killer . Investigating the stables , the word " help " is found written in human blood , while semen is found near where the horse was killed . Black concludes the killer is struggling with the new feelings of having attacked a person and not an animal .

The killer ? Willi Borgsen (Van Quattro) ? is next seen attacking pigs in a trailer using a cattle prod . Borgsen is accosted by the pigs ' owner , and responds by turning the cattle prod on him . The victim 's body is later found in a nearby thicket . Black examines the scene , determining from the bootprints and evidence of the cattle prod being used that the killer works in a slaughterhouse .

Another human victim is later found on a farm , alongside another dead horse . The phrase " thank you " is daubed on a nearby wall . The North Dakota police set up an anonymous phone number to appeal for information , which Borgsen uses to taunt Black by describing the pleasure he derives from killing . Black consults with a veterinarian , Claudia Vaughan (Jo Anderson) , about the case , and learns that the area is home to a Premarin farm ? estrogen for pharmaceutical use is derived from the urine of mares which are kept pregnant , their foals killed for meat to be exported . Black feels the killer may have been raised on one of these farms .

Borgsen contacts Black again , confessing that his latest killing has not satisfied him . Black warns that his urges will only grow , and will never be satisfied again . When Borgsen hangs up , Black deduces that Vaughan is to be the next victim . Black , fellow Group member Peter Watts (Terry O 'Quinn) and Sheriff Falkner (John Dennis Johnston) track the kidnapped Vaughan to an equine slaughterhouse . Falkner is attacked and incapacitated by Borgsen as Black locates a still @-@ living Vaughan , who has been hung by her jacket from a meat hook . Black is then confronted by Borgsen , who knocks him down with the cattle prod . Borgsen is about to kill Black with a captive bolt pistol , but is trampled to death by several escaped horses .

= = Production = =

" Broken World " was written by Robert Moresco and Patrick Harbinson . Moresco had previously written " Covenant " earlier in the first season , and also acted as a producer during the series ' run . Harbinson , making his first contribution to the series with this episode , would later pen a further four episodes in the third season ? " Via Dolorosa " , " Darwin 's Eye " , " The Sound of Snow " and " Through a Glass Darkly " . " Broken World " also marked the final episode of Millennium helmed by director Winrich Kolbe , who had previously worked on " Lamentation " , " Force Majeure " and " Kingdom Come " .

During production , " Broken World " was instead set to be titled " Equus " , which is Latin for "

horse " and was also the title of a 1973 play by Peter Shaffer concerning a young man with violent sexual urges towards horses . The episode opens with a quote from Friedrich Nietzsche 's 1883 ? 1885 treatise Thus Spoke Zarathustra ? " Man is the cruelest animal " . Guest star Donnelly Rhodes , who portrayed Peter Dumont , would later make an appearance in the third season episode " ... Thirteen Years Later " in an unrelated role .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Broken World " was first broadcast on the Fox Network on May 2 , 1997 . The episode earned a Nielsen rating of 6 @. @ 8 during its original broadcast , meaning that 6 @. @ 8 percent of households in the United States viewed the episode . This represented 6 @. @ 6 million households , and left the episode the sixty @- @ eighth most @- @ viewed broadcast that week .

The episode received mixed reviews from critics . The A.V. Club 's Todd VanDerWerff rated the episode a C , comparing it to the first act of Shaffer 's Equus . VanDerWerff described the episode as " a bland , boring mess that ends with one of the most ridiculous *deus ex machinas* [sic] I ? ve seen in ages " , and felt that " the guest cast is uniformly poor " , singling out Van Quattro as being " laughably bad " . Bill Gibron , writing for DVD Talk , rated the episode 3 out of 5 , calling it " enthralling " but " not completely successful " . Gibron felt that elements of the setting were " very sinister " , but found the " overwhelming pro @- @ horse mantras " of some characters to be " silly " . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book *Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @- @ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen* , rated " Broken World " three stars out of five , finding it " too familiar and too tentative to make much impact " . Shearman felt that the episode would have been better placed earlier in the series ' broadcast order , but by this stage in the first season it had been " outgrown " .

" Broken World " received a Genesis Award in 1998 , presented by the Humane Society of the United States in the category " Television Dramatic Series " .