

= Two Birds ( Awake ) =

" Two Birds " is the twelfth episode of the American television police procedural fantasy drama Awake . The episode premiered on the National Broadcasting Company ( NBC ) on May 17 , 2012 . In the episode , Michael learns more about the truth of the accident . He tries to get evidence that Ed Hawkins ( Kevin Weisman ) tried to kill him , and finds out that Hawkins ' commanding officer Carl Kessel ( Mark Harelik ) was also in on this setup .

The story and concept of the episode was written by Evan Katz , with teleplay by Howard Gordon and Davey Holmes . It was directed by Milan Cheylov . " Two Birds " was well received by critics , who praised its storylines . Commentators noted that the script was well @-@ written . Upon airing , " Two Birds " obtained 2 @.@ 1 million viewers in the United States and a 0 @.@ 7 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , according to Nielsen ratings .

= = Plot = =

The episode starts with Michael Britten ( Jason Isaacs ) trying to convince therapists Dr. Jonathan Lee ( BD Wong ) and Dr. Judith Evans ( Cherry Jones ) that Ed Hawkins ( Kevin Weisman ) tried to kill him . The therapists claim that he is imagining the plot to cope .

Later , Michael tells Rex he must stay with his Aunt Carol , as Michael is working on a case with a dangerous suspect . His partner , Bird , goes to his house , after trying to call him to make sure he is alright , but then looks in the garage and finds Michael 's work on his accident and Detective Hawkins . Bird goes to Dr. Judith Evans , who reluctantly advises Bird to check on Michael . Michael goes to Ed Hawkins ' house , shoots Hawkins in the leg , and asks him for evidence . Hawkins says heroin was taken from various evidence lockers and sent out for sale through Westfield Distribution , and further evidence is on his laptop . Hawkins tries to overpower Michael , forcing him to kill Hawkins , right before Bird enters the house . Michael takes Bird 's gun and handcuffs him . Bird suggests that to get into Hawkins ' laptop , they use a hacker they both worked with previously , right before he knocks out Michael , who wakes up in the red reality .

Michael tells his wife to stay somewhere safe , and then tells the red reality Bird to meet him in the park . He tells Bird what he found out in the green reality ( where his son is alive and his wife is dead ) regarding Hawkins , his accident and the encrypted file and convinces Bird to copy it from Hawkins ' computer , though neither of them know Hawkins has been watching them . Hawkins meets immediately with Tricia Harper and Carl Kessel ( revealed to be Bird and Hawkins ' precinct chief in this reality ) and Kessel says they will kill both Michael and Bird and make it look like Michael did it , given his recently unstable behavior . Captain Harper shows doubts and remorse at this idea , but agrees .

Still in the red reality ( where his son is dead and his wife is alive ) , Michael visits the hacker suggested in the green reality. he gains Hawkins ' password and unlocks the file . The files tell Michael that Hawkins and Kessel had a shipping container where they had been storing the heroin . Bird tells Michael that they will meet at his house , but when Michael gets there , Hawkins has killed Bird and tries to kill Michael . Hawkins , however , only manages to injure him . Hawkins calls in that Michael killed Bird and Captain Harper tells her precinct to use deadly force to bring Michael in , much to Detective Vega 's surprise . Vega tries to tell Harper that , even deranged , Michael would never kill Bird , but Harper emotionally rebuts him , saying he is showing sympathy for a killer . This leaves Vega confused and suspicious . Michael manages to escape Hawkins , but passes out from his wound and wakes up back in the green reality .

He finds himself back in his car , handcuffed , but relieved to see that the green reality Bird is still alive . He gives Bird Hawkins ' password ( " tulip " ) , and the information regarding Kessel and the shipping container convinces Bird that something is wrong . He takes Michael to Harper still in cuffs but they both tell her what they have learned . Harper approves Bird 's plan to send a team to the storage container but sends Michael to a cell , saying that if they do not find any evidence of his accusations , he 'll go to jail for killing Hawkins .

= = Production = =

The story and concept of the episode was written by consulting producer Evan Katz , with teleplay by executive producer Howard Gordon and co @-@ executive producer Davey Holmes ; it was Katz 's third writing credit , Gordon 's fourth writing credit , and Holmes ' second writing credit . It was directed by Milan Cheylov , his first directing credit for the series .

In January 2012 , it was announced that Kevin Weisman would appear in multiple episodes of Awake . This is Weisman 's second appearance on the series as Ed Hawkins . Other guest stars included Laura Innes as Tricia Harper and Daniela Bobadilla as Emma .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Two Birds " was originally broadcast on May 17 , 2012 ( 2012 @-@ 05 @-@ 17 ) in the United States on NBC between 10 : 00 p.m. and 11 : 00 p.m. , and obtained 2 @.@ 1 million viewers in the United States , slightly down from the previous episode . It acquired a 0 @.@ 7 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , according to Nielsen ratings , meaning that it was seen by 0 @.@ 9 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds .

= = = Critical response = = =

The episode was met with praise from most critics . IGN rated it 9 of 10 as " amazing " , and wrote that " it really ramped up the intensity " . Alan Sepinwall from HitFix complimented parts of the episode , notably the " excellent work from Jason Isaacs , Steve Harris and Laura Innes in both realities " , despite claiming that they did not particularly care for the script . TV Fanatic rated it 4 @.@ 6 out of 5 , and noted that " Awake works so much better when there ? s one unifying case " . Screenrant praised the episode , claiming that there was " some fantastic editing and writing that allows two conversations between three people to appear as one cohesive interchange , basically setting up the remainder of the episode " . ScreenCrush claimed that " a conspiracy that saw NBC running this great show off the road , or a simple unfortunate accident . " . The Voice of TV graded the episode a " A- " , despite claiming that it is annoying that he doesn 't tell his family members about his new knowledge . The TV.com official blog claimed the episode was " impossible to sustain " . The A.V. Club graded the episode " B + " , claiming that it was " completely entertaining and engrossing " , and that " it 's just a slight tick down from last week 's " Say Hello to My Little Friend " , which was the best episode since Awake 's pilot , and the most surreal since the hallucinations of " That 's Not My Penguin . "