

= Blood Relatives (Millennium) =

" ' Blood Relatives " is the seventh episode of the first season of the American crime @-@ thriller television series Millennium . It premiered on the Fox network on December 6 , 1996 . The episode was written by Chip Johannessen , and directed by Jim Charleston . " Blood Relatives " featured guest appearances by John Fleck , Sean Six and Lynda Boyd .

Forensic profiler Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) , a member of the private investigative organisation Millennium Group , is asked to investigate a killer who targets mourners after visiting the funerals of strangers .

" Blood Relatives " saw the series ' first writing credit for Johannessen , who would contribute another twelve episodes across three seasons . The episode ; which opens with a quotation from the Christian Gospel of Luke ; went on to receive positive reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

At a funeral in Seattle , James Dickerson (Sean Six) , approaches the mourning family . He introduces himself as " Ray Bell " and pretends to have known the deceased at university . He embraces the dead man 's mother lingeringly , and leaves . Later that night , the mother is visiting her son 's grave , and is pulled into an open grave as she passes it . Her body is found the next day , although the rest of her family have been told they cannot see it . Speaking to clinical social worker Catherine Black (Megan Gallagher) , Seattle police officer Bob Bletcher (Bill Smitrovich) reveals that the victim had been graphically mutilated during the murder .

Catherine Black 's husband , offender profiler Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) , is asked to consult on the case as a member of the Millennium Group , a private investigative organisation . Black senses that the killer feels rage towards someone ? not the victim ? and is taking it out on strangers . Speaking to the family , Black finds that the victim 's dead son has had a sports team badge taken from his body ; he also realizes that the strange " Ray Bell " must be the killer .

Back at his halfway house Dickerson is wearing the missing badge , as the house 's trustee Connor scolds him for breaking curfew ? and threatens not to cover up for him any more . After Connor leaves , James finds an obituary in the newspaper and circles it . Elsewhere , Black finds the name " Ray Bell " in the same newspaper as the victim 's son 's obituary , and deduces that the killer may have been frequenting funerals before , probably taking souvenirs like the badge . He believes that the victim is his first , but that killing will become easier for him .

Dickerson visits another funeral , and befriends a mourner , Tina , by pretending to have been a childhood friend of the deceased . They visit a nearby lake to reminisce , but she feels something is wrong . Dickerson apologises and leaves ; however , Tina is soon attacked from behind . Her body is found with the words " stop looking " carved into her stomach , and Black believes there may be a message somewhere on the first victim 's body . He asks fellow Group member Peter Watts (Terry O 'Quinn) to look for it ; Watts is also able to find fingerprints on Tina 's hair clip that identify Dickerson ? a paroled convict . They track him down to the halfway home , although Connor secretly helps him to escape to a nearby scrapyard . In Dickerson 's room , a hidden cache of souvenirs is found , along with a journal and a stack of letters marked " return to sender " .

Catherine Black identifies Dickerson as an archetypal " lost child " , raised in poor foster care and neglected . He visits funerals to connect with society , leaving her to wonder what has pushed him to murder . Meanwhile , Dickerson remains in hiding at the scrapyard , while Connor brings him food . Frank Black has noticed that the " S " carved in Tina 's stomach matches that seen in the logo for Skorpion Salvage , the scrapyard Dickerson is hiding in . When he and the police arrive to find Dickerson , Connor is able to escape while the yard 's dogs attack Dickerson .

Catherine Black has found Dickerson 's biological mother , a Mrs. Dechant (Lynda Boyd) . Having given Dickerson up for adoption as a teenager , she is now a suburban housewife . Dickerson had tried several years previously to reconnect with her , though she wanted nothing to do with him . Catherine asks her for help , and she begrudgingly agrees to see her son . She recoils when he hugs her , blaming the government for making him what he is . Rejected , Dickerson confesses to

the murders . Connor is able to see all of this , his connection to it not yet uncovered . Frank Black is unconvinced that everything has been wrapped up , and realizes that Connor is involved ? he wants Dickerson to himself . " Stop looking " was his message to Dickerson , to stop looking for affection anywhere else .

Mrs. Dechant returns home , and is about to take a bath when she is attacked by Connor . Black has followed her , and interrupts the attack ; he and Connor struggle , with Black almost being strangled until he is able to hold Connor under the bathwater until he stops fighting . Connor is arrested and charged , while the now @-@ cleared Dickerson resumes circling obituaries in the newspaper .

= = Production = =

" Blood Relatives " is the first of two episodes of Millennium to be directed by James Charleston , who would return later in the first season to helm " Wide Open " . The episode also marks the first writing credit in the series for Chip Johannessen , who would go on to write an additional twelve episodes across all three seasons , including the series ' final episode " Goodbye to All That " . After Millennium 's cancellation , Johannessen would also contribute an episode to its sister show The X @-@ Files , 1999 's " Orison " .

" Blood Relatives " featured the second of three appearances by Brian Markinson as Seattle police detective Teeple ; Markinson had previously played the character in " The Judge " , and would reprise the role in " Sacrament " . Guest star Deanna Milligan , who portrayed the second victim Tina , would also appear in the third season episode " The Sound of Snow " in an unrelated role . Bob Morrissey , who played the first victim 's husband , also appeared in the third season , playing a sheriff in " Omertà " .

The episode opens with a quotation from the Gospel of Luke , the third and longest of the four canonical Gospels of the Christian New Testament . Biblical verses were also used at the beginning of other episodes in the series , including the Book of Job in " Wide Open " and " Dead Letters " ; the Book of Jeremiah in " Weeds " ; and the Book of Exodus in " Kingdom Come " .

= = Reception = =

" Blood Relatives " was first broadcast on the Fox Network on December 6 , 1996 ; and earned a Nielsen rating of 7 @.@ 5 , meaning that roughly 7 @.@ 5 percent of all television @-@ equipped households were tuned in to the episode . The episode was watched by approximately 7 @.@ 3 million households .

" Blood Relatives " received positive 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 five stars out of five , comparing it favourably to " Irresistible " , a second season episode of The X @-@ Files . Shearman and Pearson lauded Johannessen 's " subtle writing " , especially in the handling of the James Dickerson character ; they felt the episode was " a study of a sociopath " which " humanises " its villain . Writing for The A.V. Club , Zack Handlen rated the episode a B , finding that its depiction of the character of James Dickerson added " some shades of gray " to the series ' usual " black and white morality " . Handlen also felt that while the scene in which a woman is killed by a lake shore was " shocking without being exploitative " , and was carried out in such a manner that " we don 't feel as though she 's targeted because she 's a woman " ; however , the climactic scene in which Dickerson 's mother is attacked while stripping for a bath was seen as " a reminder of the show 's inability to separate its lofty goals from its willingness to take the cheapest shots " . Bill Gibron , writing for DVD Talk , rated " Blood Relatives " 5 out of 5 , describing it as being " as shocking as it is sentimental " . Gibron compared the episode to " Best Boys " , an episode of the English series Cracker , and praised its " atmospheric , moody tone " .