

= A Room with No View =

" ' A Room With No View " is the twentieth episode of the second season of the American crime @-@ thriller television series Millennium . It premiered on the Fox network on April 24 , 1998 . The episode was written by Ken Horton , and directed by Thomas J. Wright . " A Room With No View " featured an appearance by recurring guest star Sarah @-@ Jane Redmond .

Millennium Group member Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) learns that a figure from his past has been abducting students , seemingly in an attempt to quash their hopes and aspirations . The episode was Horton 's first script for the series , and saw the return of villain Lucy Butler (Redmond) , who appeared sporadically throughout the series . " A Room With No View " received positive feedback from television critics , and was viewed by approximately 4 @.@ 7 million households in its initial broadcast .

= = Plot = =

A young man tunnels out of a farmhouse in Oregon City , Oregon , escaping into the night . He finds an abandoned car and attempts to hot @-@ wire it ; someone inside starts the engine and run him off the road , injuring his ankle . A woman , face obscured , and her male accomplice exit the car and throw the man into its trunk .

In Seattle , two friends argue about applying for college . Landon Bryce (Christopher Kennedy Masterson) tells his friend Howard Gordon (Michael R. Coleman) to apply , but Gordon has been convinced by school counselor Teresa Roe (Mariangela Pino) that his progress is too mediocre to make it worthwhile . Bryce accosts Roe , calling her a failure . That night , Gordon is killed , and Bryce is kidnapped . Millennium Group criminal profiler Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) learns that Gordon died of a heart attack , which the coroner believes was caused by fear . Black visits the crime scene , and sees visions of Lucy Butler (Sarah @-@ Jane Redmond) , a woman who killed his friend and colleague Bob Bletcher (in season one 's Lamentation) . Meanwhile , Bryce is bound and gagged in a remote farmhouse , then left in a room with the would @-@ be escapee . The woman from earlier tells Bryce she loves him .

Black speaks to fellow Group member Peter Watts (Terry O 'Quinn) about his Butler vision . Watts informs Black that a Group member , Olson , has been tasked with monitoring Butler since her release . Watts and Black travel to Butler 's last known address and find Olson 's long @-@ dead body . They realize Butler had been filing her own surveillance reports in Olson 's name . Meanwhile , Bryce attempts to escape , but is subdued and later comforted by Lucy Butler . Black interviews Roe , suspecting her involvement when she continually refers to Bryce in the past tense . He later discovers that in every school she has worked for , students have been kidnapped ; all the victims resembled Bryce in being average students who showed signs of promise .

Bryce learns about the tunnel from his cellmate , and the two escape again . Emerging from the tunnel , they are met by Butler and a dog that attacks Bryce . After being brought back to the farmhouse , Bryce is told to accept that he is mediocre and ordinary . Elsewhere , Black and Watts interview Roe again , who seems to espouse the same mindset . Black reveals that he knows Roe was once a promising student , and accuses her of being cowed by a fear of failure . Frightened , she reveals the location of Butler 's farm . Police raid the farm , freeing several captive youths , including Bryce , but Butler is nowhere to be found .

= = Production = =

" A Room With No View " was directed by Thomas J. Wright , who helmed a total of twenty @-@ six episodes across all three seasons . Wright would also go on to direct " Millennium " , the series ' crossover episode with its sister show The X @-@ Files . " A Room With No View " was the first to have been written by producer Ken Horton , and his only solo writing credit . Horton would pen a further two episodes in the third season , both with Chip Johannessen .

" A Room With No View " saw the third appearance of recurring villain Lucy Butler , who had

previously appeared in " Lamentation " and " Powers , Principalities , Thrones and Dominions " , and would return for the third season episodes " Antipas " and " Saturn Dreaming of Mercury " . Redmond , a fan of series creator Chris Carter and recurring series director David Nutter , had initially auditioned for another episode of the first season which would have been directed by Nutter . Redmond did not get the part she auditioned for but was instead contacted about portraying a minor recurring role instead , which led to her casting as Butler . The episode features the repeated use of the song " Love Is Blue " , performed by Paul Mauriat .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" A Room With No View " was first broadcast on the Fox network on April 24 , 1998 . The episode earned a Nielsen rating of 4 @. @ 8 during its original broadcast , meaning that 4 @. @ 8 percent of households in the United States viewed the episode . This represented approximately 4 @. @ 7 million households , and left the episode the eighty @- @ second most @- @ viewed broadcast that week .

The episode has received positive reviews from critics . The A.V. Club 's Zack Handlen rated the episode an " A " , finding it to be a particularly well @- @ executed version of kidnapping trope in crime thrillers . Handlen also praised the development of the Lucy Butler character , feeling positively that her scenes did not seem like " rote horror " but made use of clear motives and characterization . Bill Gibron , writing for DVD Talk , rated the episode 4 @. @ 5 out of 5 , praising the dialogue and the use of " Love Is Blue " . However , Gibron felt that the episode did little to move the series along , not exploring any of the season 's themes or mythology . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book *Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @- @ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen* , rated " A Room With No View " five stars out of five . Shearman felt the episode was the season 's most frightening installment , as it dispensed with the wider theological trappings that he felt lessened the impact of other episodes . He also praised the decision to bring back Redmond as Lucy Butler , finding the character to be a good balance between the different depictions of evil depicted throughout the series .