

= Anamnesis ( Millennium ) =

" ' Anamnesis " is the nineteenth episode of the second season of the American crime @-@ thriller television series Millennium . It premiered on the Fox network on April 17 , 1998 . The episode was written by Kay Reindl and Erin Maher , and directed by John Peter Kousakis . " Anamnesis " featured guest appearances by Kristen Cloke and Gwynyth Walsh .

In this episode , Millennium Group member Lara Means ( Cloke ) teams up with Catherine Black ( Megan Gallagher ) , the wife of a fellow Group member , to investigate the possibility that a schoolgirl experiencing visions may be biologically descended from Jesus Christ .

Reindl and Maher based their script on their research into the role of women in the Bible , and compared the pairing of Lara Means and Catherine Black to that of the lead roles in The X @-@ Files , Millennium 's sister show . " Anamnesis " earned an audience of approximately 5 @.@ 2 million households in its initial broadcast , and received mixed responses from television critics .

= = Plot = =

Social worker Catherine Black ( Megan Gallagher ) arrives moments too late to prevent a shooting in a school prayer group .

Several days earlier , Black meets Emma Shetterly ( Gwynyth Walsh ) , the school 's vice @-@ principal . Shetterly explains that five students have claimed to be experiencing visions of Saint Mary ; she believes the girls involved are unlikely candidates for divine visions , particularly the trouble @-@ making Clare McKenna ( Genele Templeton ) . Black speaks to the girls , who claim to have had visions during a sermon by Reverend Hanes ; Hanes ' son Alex refutes this . Black returns to Shetterly 's office , and is met by Lara Means ( Kristen Cloke ) , who works with her husband in the Millennium Group . Means explains that the Group has explored many such reported visions .

Later , Means and Black listen to McKenna reading a passage from the Bible . Afterwards , McKenna reveals that she knows a great deal about the Polaroid Man who kidnapped Black weeks earlier . Means receives a vision herself during the conversation , and becomes convinced that McKenna is a prophet of some sort . Black thinks the girl is acting out , but Means reveals that she is reciting passages from the non @-@ canonical Gnostic Gospels , which supposed that Mary Magdalene was the only disciple to fully understand the teachings of Jesus Christ . Means believes the girls are not seeing visions of Saint Mary , but of Mary Magdalene .

Later , Black is informed that the girls are missing . She and Means search the woods , finding the girls in a grotto . They are with a teacher from the school , Ben Fisher ( John Pyper @-@ Ferguson ) who attacks Means ; she subdues him and he is arrested . She later confronts him , and it is revealed he is a former Group member charged with protecting the girls due to their powers . When Black later learns that Fisher has been released , she fears for McKenna 's life . She rushes to the school , knowing the girls will be at a prayer meeting . She arrives just too late to prevent Alex from firing upon the meeting ; Fisher is killed while shielding McKenna . Later , Means shows Black two sets of DNA test results ? one from McKenna , the other from the Shroud of Turin . The profiles seem to prove that McKenna is related to Jesus Christ ; Means entrusts them , and the decision as to whether to proliferate them , to Black .

= = Production = =

" Anamnesis " is the third episode of Millennium to have been written by Kay Reindl and Erin Maher ; the pair had penned two earlier instalments of the second season , and would return for another in the third season . The episode marks the only directorial contribution to the series by producer John Peter Kousakis .

Reindl and Maher researched early Christianity while writing the episode , learning that the traditional depiction of Mary Magdalene as a prostitute was probably an incorrect interpretation added later . Maher felt that Magdalene and early Christian priestesses were " pretty much weeded out of the Bible " over time , and wanted to explore the reasons why female religious figures may

have been seen as threatening . The writers faced difficulty from the network 's standards and practices office , who had taken exception to the depiction of Jesus Christ as having had a family . The pair also compared the writing of the episode to Millennium 's sister show The X @-@ Files , believing that the dynamic between Means and Black echoed that of Fox Mulder and Dana Scully on the latter programme , with one character a believer in the supernatural and the other a sceptic . The episode 's opening scene makes use of the song " Dancing Barefoot " by Patti Smith .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Anamnesis " was first broadcast on the Fox network on April 17 , 1998 . The episode earned a Nielsen rating of 5 @.@ 3 during its original broadcast , meaning that 5 @.@ 3 percent of households in the United States viewed the episode . This represented approximately 5 @.@ 2 million households , and left the episode the eightieth most @-@ viewed broadcast that week .

The A.V. Club 's Todd VanDerWerff rated the episode a " B " , finding the character of Catherine Black to have been one of its downfalls . VanDerWerff also criticised the holy blood plot line , comparing it to other contemporary takes on the idea such as the computer game Gabriel Knight 3 : Blood of the Sacred , Blood of the Damned . However , VanDerWerff felt that Cloke and Gallagher worked well on screen together , but ultimately did not believe that Millennium had room for a character like Catherine Black . Bill Gibron , writing for DVD Talk , rated the episode 3 out of 5 , finding it to be " out of step , both with the series and the times " . Gibron also felt that the characters of Black and Means were not strong enough to hold an episode together as lead roles . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @-@ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen , rated " Anamnesis " one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five . Shearman felt the episode suffered from having set up an interesting and emotive cold open , which he saw as a red herring to the episode 's mystical , theological focus . He was also critical of using Means and Black as the episode 's lead roles , finding that the lack of Henriksen 's character detracted from the episode .