

= Patience ( The X @-@ Files ) =

" Patience " is the third episode of the eighth season of the American science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . It premiered on the Fox network on November 19 , 2000 . The episode was written and directed by series creator Chris Carter . " Patience " is a " Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " story , unconnected to the series ' wider mythology . The episode received a Nielsen rating of 8 @.@ 2 and was viewed by 13 @.@ 3 million viewers . The episode received mixed to negative reviews from critics .

The series centers on FBI special agents Dana Scully ( Gillian Anderson ) and her new partner John Doggett ( Robert Patrick ) ? following the alien abduction of her former partner , Fox Mulder ( David Duchovny ) ? who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files . In this episode , John Doggett , after having been assigned to the X @-@ Files , joins Scully to investigate a series of gruesome murders that appear to be the work of a bat @-@ like creature . This being their first case together , Scully and Doggett find that their investigative techniques are less than similar .

Carter was inspired to write " Patience " to emulate the " back @-@ to @-@ basics stand alones [ ? ] of the earlier seasons " . The episode was the first The X @-@ Files entry to neither feature actor David Duchovny nor feature his name in the opening credits . Furthermore , the episode was crafted to be the first to test Doggett 's skepticism of paranormal activity .

= = Plot = =

In Burley , Idaho , an undertaker and his wife are brutally murdered by some sort of flying creature . Later , Dana Scully ( Gillian Anderson ) and John Doggett ( Robert Patrick ) , who has been assigned to the X @-@ Files , begin talking about the case . Scully explains about the death of the undertaker and his wife and notes that the cause of death being blood loss from human bite marks on their bodies .

Scully and Doggett arrive at the crime scene in Idaho and meet Detective Yale Abbott . He says they are less sure that the bites were made by a human and draws their attention to the strange footprint , believing that wild animals fed on the bodies after the fact . Scully points out that there is only one footprint , which looks ominously human , and that if it were left by an animal there would be more footprints leading to the bodies . Scully and Doggett check out the house and find prints leading upstairs and into the attic . Inside , Scully and Doggett find the missing fingers of the undertaker . They look like they have been regurgitated by something and the claw marks in the attic suggest something was hanging from the rafters . Meanwhile , elderly Mrs. McKesson is killed in her attic while looking at a photo album .

At the morgue , Scully explains that she studied the bite wounds and discovered that they are similar , but intrinsically different , than human bites ; the saliva on the regurgitated fingers has anti @-@ coagulants in it , which only bats have in their saliva . Doggett finds the evidence interesting , due to the newspaper article he brought Scully : in 1956 , a series of deaths was reported that ended when a group of hunters killed a man @-@ bat creature and brought it to the county morgue in part of Montana . The coroner said the creature was neither bat nor man . Then the coroner was killed a few days later and soon after a few more people were killed or disappeared .

Scully and Doggett join the investigation at McKesson ? s home . Scully suggests a connection between the burned body of Ariel McKesson who disappeared in 1956 and her mother , the latest victim . Scully believes that the burned body should be exhumed to potentially learn the connection with the other deaths . Later , the gravediggers already have the coffin excavated when Detective Abbott shows up at the town cemetery . They tell him that they did not have to dig because somebody already dug the coffin up and scratched the lid up . While they drive off with the body , Abbott inspects a dead tree . The creature is within and it eviscerates Abbott .

The police are upset about Abbott ? s death and blame Scully while Doggett reminds them that only the thing that killed Abbott and the others is to blame . Scully explains Ariel McKesson died of heart failure and then was burned to cover something up . She realizes that all the victims were people

who came in contact with the body of Ariel McKesson : Abbott investigated the crime , her mother identified the body , the undertaker prepared the body , and Myron Stefaniuk pulled the body from the river . All but Myron Stefaniuk are now dead . Doggett and Scully find Myron and ask him about Ernie Stefaniuk , one of the hunters from 1956 , who he reveals disappeared along time ago . The two eventually track down Ernie Stefaniuk , who tells them that he hid on an island in the middle of the town 's lake with his wife , Ariel , for 44 years . Ernie says that the bat creature kills anyone with Ernie 's scent on them , so he had burned his wife 's body to try and cover up the scent . He informs them that it hunts only at night and Myron is in danger . Doggett goes back to find Myron only to be attacked and badly torn up by the creature at the river .

Ernie says Scully is now marked and the creature will go after her too . When his ground radar goes off , Scully goes outside . Ernie stays inside and is butchered by the bat creature . Scully returns to see it ravaging Ernie ; she manages to shoot it before being knocked down . Doggett appears and shoots the creature several more times , saving Scully . The creature disappears into the night while Scully helps the injured Doggett .

= = Production = =

" Patience " was written and directed by series creator Chris Carter . The episode , inspired by the " back @-@ to @-@ basics stand alones [ ? ] of the earlier seasons " , was the first episode of The X @-@ Files to neither feature actor David Duchovny nor feature his name in the opening credits . After settling his contract dispute with Fox , Duchovny quit full @-@ time participation in the show after the seventh season . In order to explain Mulder 's absence , Duchovny 's character was abducted by aliens in the seventh season finale , " Requiem " , and as such , did not appear in " Patience " .

The episode 's main villain , the human @-@ bat hybrid , was inspired by the 1970s comic book villain , Man @-@ Bat , one of the arch @-@ nemeses of Batman . During the filming of the episode , live bats were used ; the type of bat used in " Patience " was the Egyptian Fruit Bat . Furthermore , the episode was the first to test Doggett 's skepticism of paranormal activity . As Robert Patrick explained , " [ ' Patience ' ] is where it starts to toy with my willingness to believe in the paranormal and strange happenings . You 've got a guy that 's a bat , which is sort of out of the norm . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Patience " first aired on Fox on November 19 , 2000 . The episode earned a Nielsen household rating of 8 @. @ 2 , meaning that it was seen by 8 @. @ 2 % of the nation 's estimated households . The episode was viewed by 8 @. @ 27 million households , and 13 @. @ 3 million viewers . The episode ranked as the 42nd most @-@ watched episode for the week ending November 19 . The episode subsequently aired in the United Kingdom on the BBC Two on July 28 , 2002 . Fox promoted the episode with the tagline " More deadly than a man . More ruthless than a bat . A hungry predator waits in the darkness for its next prey ... Scully and Doggett . "

= = = Reviews = = =

" Patience " received mixed to negative reviews from critics . Jay Anderson , writing for What Culture , was positive toward the episode . While noting the show 's return to its " dark , creepy [ ... ] roots " in the eighth season , Anderson described the episode as an " early success at returning to the realm of the scary " . Anderson ranked the human bat as the eighth creepiest creature of the show . Television Without Pity writer Jessica Morgan rated the episode a D and criticized the episode 's references to Mulder 's absence , most notably the scene wherein Scully put Mulder 's nameplate away , asking , sardonically , " Is that supposed to be symbolic , I wonder ? " 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 two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five . The two noted that , despite the fact that " a lot of [ the episode ] works [ ? ] because the scenes between Doggett and Scully are so good " , the positive aspects of the episode were not " put to better use in a more exciting episode ; this particular case hardly stretched anyone 's deductive prowess . " Shearman and Pearson later wrote that if the episode had been " a Mulder and Scully adventure , this would have been bottom of the barrel stuff . "

Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club awarded the episode a " C + " and criticized both its monster , and its guest cast . Concerning the former , he wrote that it was " just ridiculous " and that its design was " bland and generic " . Concerning the latter , he wrote that the cast was filled with " actors hamming it up " . VanDerWerff did note that the episode was better " than its reputation " suggested , but that it still was " undone by some very strange story choices and a dumb monster " . Paula Vitaris from Cinefantastique gave the episode a negative review and awarded it one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of four . Vitaris bluntly wrote , " if you 're looking for a suspenseful , bite @-@ your @-@ nails , monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ week X @-@ Files episode ? this isn 't it . " Furthermore , she criticized the villain , calling it " a dull monster in fake @-@ looking make @-@ up " .

= = = Awards = = =

" Patience " earned a nomination for an ASC Award by the American Society of Cinematographers for Outstanding Achievement in Cinematography - Regular Series .