

= Badlaa =

" Badlaa " is the tenth episode of the eighth season of the American science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . It premiered on the Fox network on January 21 , 2001 . The episode was written by John Shiban and directed by Tony Wharmby . " Badlaa " is a " Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " story , unconnected to the series ' wider mythology . The episode received a Nielsen rating of 7 @.@ 3 and was viewed by 11 @.@ 8 million viewers . Overall , the episode received mostly 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 . When a mystic smuggles himself out of India , Scully and Doggett give chase as his murderous spree starts terrorising two families in suburban Washington , D.C. But Scully soon comes upon a crisis of faith when she realises how dissimilar her techniques are from those of Mulder , even as she tries to be the believer .

" Badlaa " was inspired by stories of Indian fakirs as well as the idea of someone asking for money actually being " a bad guy . " Gurdeep Roy , a noted stuntman better known as Deep Roy , was chosen to play the part of the antagonistic beggar . The episode 's title means " retort " or " revenge " in Hindi .

= = Plot = =

At the Sahar International Airport in Mumbai , India , an American businessman dismissively makes his way past a paraplegic beggar . Later , while using the airport 's toilet , the businessman is pulled out of the stall violently by the beggar that he passed earlier . Later , the man checks into a Washington , D.C. hotel and sits down on his bed . Soon , blood streams out of his bodily orifices .

Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) arrives late to the crime scene and John Doggett (Robert Patrick) tells her that the man 's blood all drained abruptly in the hotel . A child ? s bloody print is found , but Scully doesn ? t believe that a child did this . Meanwhile , the beggar , somehow disguised as an ordinary looking Caucasian man , applies for a janitorial job at a Cheverly , Maryland elementary school . In the morgue , Scully describes the massive stomach damage done to the body which leads Doggett to the idea of drugs being forcibly cut out of him . However , the man showed no sign of drugs in the blood tests and Scully tells Doggett that his time of death was 24 to 36 hours prior , long before he left India . Due to a discrepancy in weight , she begins to believe that there was a passenger in the corpse .

Quinton , a student at the school mentioned before , calls his father after he sees the legless beggar man in his room at night . His father tells him that it was his imagination , goes back downstairs , but then screams . Quinton rushes down to find his father dead and his eyes turned red with blood . Doggett and Scully investigate this latest death after the police told them about the strange man the boy saw . While discussing the lack of any damage to the body except the broken blood vessels in the eyes , Scully comes to the conclusion that the man is still inside the latest victim . She rushes to the morgue and finds the boy ? s father with a distended belly . She cuts into him and then sees a hand emerge from the scalpel incision . After being temporarily knocked over , she follows a bloody trail , opens a door at the end of the trail , and finds no one there . Unbeknownst to her , however , the beggar is watching her , unnoticed .

At the school , the principal tells the legless man ? s janitor guise that she was very worried when he did not show up that morning . Trevor , a bully who had earlier tormented Quinton , sees partially through the beggar 's forms for a moment . Trevor later shows up at Quinton ? s home to say he is sorry and says he thinks he knows who killed his father .

Scully and Doggett consult Chuck Burks , an old friend of Fox Mulder 's (David Duchovny) , who tells the two that Siddhi mystics could do the things Scully described ; the mystics have powers of the mind and can alter people ? s perceptions of reality . Scully theorizes that a mystic is acting out of revenge since an American plant inadvertently released a gas cloud that killed 118 people in Vishi

, outside of Mumbai . One of the victims was the 11 @-@ year @-@ old son of a holy man of the beggar caste .

Trevor runs home after hearing the squeaking wheels and goes outside after encountering his mother . She follows him outside to find him face @-@ down in the middle of a pool . She dives down to get him but his form turns into the legless man . At the scene of the crime , the real Trevor tells Scully that it was the " little man " who killed his mother . Later , Quinton and Trevor , after realizing that the janitor is actually the beggar , hunt the legless man in the school . Eventually , the beggar takes the form of Trevor . At that moment , Scully enters the school and opens fire , wounding the beggar and reverting him back to his true form . Two weeks later in Sahar International Airport , the beggar , unharmed , watches another obese American man pass by .

= = Production = =

" Badlaa " was written by John Shiban and inspired by stories of Indian fakirs . In fact , the episode 's title means " to retort " or " to revenge " in Urdu . Further inspiration came " from a little bit of desperation " according to Shiban . He later recalled that he was walking through the Vancouver airport and suddenly had the thought , " What if someone who came up to me and asked me for money was actually a bad guy . " Shiban later noted that his early drafts of the episode featured the antagonist with a different power . He explained , " My original idea was a beggar with no legs who can actually shrink himself and climb inside your ear , and Chris Carter ? and this is why he 's Chris Carter ? said ' No , no , no ! I know what 's even better . ' " Shiban later said that " ... one thing about this episode that I 'm sort of proud is that people often have told me that it is the most disgusting thought that they ever had , that this little man would actually enter your body and travel around inside you . "

The scenes featuring the Indian airport were filmed at a cruise line terminal in Long Beach , California . Ilt Jones , the location manager for the series , felt that the " dated feel " of the terminal added to the scene . He noted , " if you look at newsreel footage of India , they always have old English cars from the sixties , the cruise line terminal in Long Beach was perfect . "

Casting director Rick Millikan was tasked with finding a suitable actor to play the part of the beggar . Millikan 's only instructions were to look for " a small all @-@ Indian man with no legs . " Eventually , Gurdeep Roy , better known as Deep Roy was chosen to play the part . Deep Roy was a noted stunt man who had notably played Droopy McCool of the Max Rebo Band in Return of the Jedi . Deep Roy , however , is not an amputee and so a cart with a false bottom was created . Anytime there was a scene where the beggar had to move , blue screen technology was used to add the background in during post @-@ production . The cart featured a distinct " squeak " that Paul Rabwin described as " creepy " . He noted , " There was a squeak that had to let us know that it was him . It had to scare us [...] Finally we came up with what we thought was just the right squeak and John [Shiban] said ' Okay , that 's the one . ' "

Producer Paul Rabwin was displeased with the final episode , noting , " ' Badlaa ' was the one episode I did not like the most [...] I think if I had done it different , I would have had John Shiban change the method of transportation . I don 't think it ever worked on any level for me . It was just weird and creepy , but I think the whole idea was distasteful to me . " He later bluntly concluded that " it 's the only episode that I kind of wish we hadn 't done . "

= = Reception = =

" Badlaa " first aired on Fox on 21 January 2001 . The episode earned a Nielsen household rating of 7 @.@ 3 , meaning that it was seen by 7 @.@ 3 % of the nation 's estimated households . The episode was viewed by 7 @.@ 46 million households and 11 @.@ 8 million viewers . The episode ranked as the 50th most @-@ watched episode for the week ending January 21 . The episode subsequently debuted in the United Kingdom on the BBC Two on May 12 , 2002 . Fox promoted the episode with the tagline " Imagine a man who can squeeze into a shoebox ... a suitcase ... or a victim . "

Critical reception to the episode was mostly negative . Television Without Pity writer Jessica Morgan rated the episode a " C " and criticized the episode 's plot holes , such as how the beggar escaped back to India after being shot by Scully . 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 stars out of five . The two noted that the episode was " best " when " it 's at its most tasteless " , citing the beggar " crawling up the bottom of an obese man " as " pretty tasteless " . Shearman and Pearson , however , noted that it suffered from the fact that " it doesn 't have the courage of its convictions " .

Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club awarded the episode a " C + " , calling it " a messy episode " . He argued that it is an example of " magnificently bad television " . This in turn , makes it somewhat entertaining ; VanDerWerff argued that he would " rather watch this episode several times than I would some of those season seven outings where everybody seemed like they would rather be just about anywhere else . " However , he did compliment the episode 's gross @-@ out scares , noting that the beginning was " a pretty great cold open " . Tom Kessenich , in his book *Examinations* , was extremely critical of the episode . Referring to it as the series ' " nadir " , he ridiculed the plot and sarcastically labeled the main villain " Butt Munch " . Paula Vitaris from *Cinefantastique* gave the episode a negative review and awarded it one star out of four . Vitaris , sardonically referring to the episode as " The X (enophobic) -Files " , noted that while " the butt @-@ crawler is new , the plot is pure " X @-@ Files generic Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week . " Matt Hurwitz and Chris Knowles noted in their book *The Complete X @-@ Files* that the episode soon became known as the " ' Butt Genie ' episode " among fans .

Despite the negativity , several reviews wrote positively of the episode 's antagonistic beggar . Both TV Guide and UGO Networks listed him amongst the greatest monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ week characters in The X @-@ Files . The UGO review , in particular , noted that the character was " One of the series ' more blatant allegories [...] , as a legless Indian Mystic [...] literally climbs into his victims to travel where he will . [...] Scully and Doggett investigate the bloody goings @-@ on [...] and a gut @-@ wrenching climax , though not entirely successful , still opens up some thorny issues over how we view weakness , deformity , race , and ' otherness.' "