

= Monster ( Millennium ) =

" ' Monster " is the fourth episode of the second season of the American crime @-@ thriller television series Millennium . It premiered on the Fox network in the United States on October 17 , 1997 . The episode was written by Glen Morgan and James Wong and directed by Perry Lang . " Monster " featured guest appearances from Kristen Cloke , Robert Wisden and Chris Owens .

In the episode , Millennium Group profiler Frank Black ( Lance Henriksen ) travels to Arkansas to investigate allegations of child abuse in the community , meeting fellow Group member Lara Means ( Cloke ) . They soon discover that the abuse may actually be the work of another child .

" Monster " introduces the recurring character Lara Means , who would appear throughout the second season . The episode also features music by Bobby Darin , a hallmark of Morgan and Wong 's work . The episode has been well received by critics , and earned guest star Lauren Diwold a nomination at the 1998 Young Artist Awards .

= = Plot = =

Millennium Group member Frank Black ( Lance Henriksen ) travels to Springdale , Arkansas to investigate allegations of child abuse brought against a daycare owner , Penny Plott ( Mary Gillis ) . Before he leaves Seattle , he takes his daughter Jordan ( Brittany Tiplady ) shopping for shoes , but chastises her when she begins acting out for attention .

In Arkansas , sheriff 's deputy Bill Sherman ( Chris Owens ) discovers bite @-@ marks on his son 's skin after he returns home from the daycare . When his son refuses to discuss what happened , Sherman is convinced of the rumours about Plott . Black arrives in town , and pretends to be a local parent interested in using the daycare . His visit is interrupted by Lara Means ( Kristen Cloke ) , who is investigating for Plott 's defence . However , the two are forced to work together when one boy , Jason Wells , stops breathing . Despite attempts to revive him , the boy dies . Meanwhile , in Seattle , Black 's wife Catherine ( Megan Gallagher ) takes Jordan to the dentist after she spits blood while brushing her teeth . The dentist tells her such an injury is most commonly caused by blunt force trauma . Catherine dismisses the idea outright , but Jordan mentions Black losing his temper during the shopping trip .

An autopsy reveals Wells ' death was the result of an asthma attack . However the ambitious district attorney , Gordon Roberts ( Robert Wisden ) believes Plott is somehow responsible . The investigation stalls until another child , Danielle Barbakow ( Lauren Diwold ) , mentions overhearing Wells being physically abused by Plott . Plott is arrested by Sherman , who she reprimands sternly , reminding him that she looked after him as a child too , and has never been accused of anything in three decades of childcare work . Sherman sees she is incapable of what she has been accused of and continues to send his son to the daycare , but other parents protest , to the point of picketing and vandalizing the fence around the daycare .

Black and Means discover that they have both been sent to investigate by the Group , realizing that this is some kind of test for them . They both come to believe that Barkabow , from whom Black senses a demonic presence , is responsible for Wells ' death , and visit her home . Means speaks to Barkabow 's mother while Black interviews the child . As they speak , Barkabow begins screaming and accuses Black of harming her ; after he leaves the room she hits herself in the face and breaks her jaw . This leads Roberts , who learns that Black is under suspicion of harming Jordan , to arrest him for assault . Means has ultraviolet photographs taken of Barkabow 's injuries , deduces that the girl was injured with an angel statue from her room . Means realizes that Black could not have wielded this statue , and Barkabow 's mother admits to having heard her daughter hit herself . Black is released , and the Seattle investigation against him is dropped when Catherine defends him . The Black family and Lara return to Seattle , while Barbakow is adopted by a family of the Millennium Group .

= = Production = =

" The Beginning and the End " was written by frequent collaborators Glen Morgan and James Wong , and directed by Perry Lang . The episode was the sixth to have been written by Morgan and Wong , after the duo had penned " Dead Letters " , " 522666 " and " The Thin White Line " in the first season , and " The Beginning and the End " and " Beware of the Dog " in the second . The pair would go on to script a further nine episodes over the course of the second season , having taken the roles of co - executive producers for the season . " Monster " saw director Lang 's only contribution to Millennium .

The episode makes use of Bobby Darin 's song " Goodbye Charlie " in a diegetic manner ; the song would also be put to use in the later second season episode " Goodbye Charlie " . Darin 's music has been noted by Millennium 's resident composer Mark Snow as a hallmark of the works of Morgan and Wong , and would also appear in the episodes " Beware of the Dog " and " Sense and Antisense " . " Monster " opens with a quote from William Shakespeare 's Henry VI , Part 2 ? " First thing we do , let 's kill all the lawyers " .

" Monster " marked Kristen Cloke 's first appearance in the series as Millennium Group member Lara Means . Cloke would make several further appearances as the character , with the last of these being the second season finale " The Time Is Now " . Guest stars Robert Wisden and Chris Owens both appeared in Millennium 's sister show The X - Files ? Owens first appeared in the Morgan and Wong - penned " Musings of a Cigarette Smoking Man " , before taking on the recurring role of Jeffrey Spender in that series ' fifth season ; while Wisden appeared in " Pusher " . Wisden would also reappear in Millennium 's third season , acting in an unrelated role in " TEOTWAWKI " .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Monster " was first broadcast on the Fox network in the United States on October 17 , 1997 . The episode earned a Nielsen rating of 6 during its original broadcast , meaning that 6 percent of households in the United States viewed the episode . This represented approximately 5 . 88 million households , and left the episode the seventy - second most viewed broadcast that week . Guest star Lauren Diwold received a nomination for Best Performance in a TV Drama Series ? Guest Starring Young Actress at the 1998 Young Artist Awards for her role in " Monster " , losing out to Cara Rose for Touched by an Angel .

The episode received positive reviews from critics . The A.V. Club 's Zack Handlen rated the episode B + , finding that it has " impressive ambition " but " doesn 't really work " . Handlen found the episode " immensely fun to watch " , and was pleased that the series had departed from the sexually motivated serial killings of past episodes ; however , he felt that the plot was " muddled " and found Black 's personal involvement in the case to be unnecessary . Bill Gibron , writing for DVD Talk , rated the episode 4 . 5 out of 5 , calling Cloke " an amazing addition to the series " . Gibron also felt positively about the increasingly plot - driven nature of the series , describing Morgan and Wong 's developments as a " complex , completely innovative mythology " . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X - Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen , rated " Monster " four stars out of five , describing it as " a brave story well told " . Shearman praised Diwold 's guest appearance , and felt that the introduction of Lara Means was a positive addition , although it caused the character of Catherine to seem increasingly needless .