

= New Allegiances =

" New Allegiances " is the series seven premiere and 57th episode of the British espionage television series *Spooks* . It was originally broadcast on BBC One on 27 October 2008 . The episode was written by Neil Cross , with additional writing by Ben Richards , and directed by Colm McCarthy . The episode is considered the first of a two @-@ part story , which concludes with following episode " Split Loyalties " .

In the episode , Private Andy Sullivan (Ian Virgo) is kidnapped by an Al @-@ Qaeda cell , who demand Remembrance Sunday be cancelled or he will be executed . Adam Carter (Rupert Penry @-@ Jones) and recently returned Lucas North (Richard Armitage) , who spent the past eight years in a Russian prison , work together to find him , only to realise the kidnapping was a diversion to bomb a Remembrance ceremony . Adam drives the rigged car to safety , but dies in the explosion . Knowing FSB head of operation in London Arkady Kachimov (Stuart Wilson) withheld the bomb plot , Harry Pearce (Peter Firth) plots revenge .

Before the episode was broadcast , it was announced that Rupert Penry @-@ Jones would leave the series after playing Adam Carter for four years , while afterwards , another announcement was made introducing a new lead character , Lucas North . Inspiration towards the plot for the episode , and the remainder of the series , came from the resurgence of Russia , which the producers felt would in subtle ways threaten the security of the West . The episode was partially filmed on location in Moscow , the first time in series history where filming took place outside the United Kingdom .

After its original broadcast , the episode attracted almost six million viewers ; although it won its time slot , the episode was down by over one million viewers from the last series premiere . The episode received generally positive reactions for its plot , as well as the introduction of Lucas and death of Adam .

= = Plot = =

The episode is set six months after the series six finale , where Jo Portman (Miranda Raison) and Adam Carter were kidnapped by the Redbacks , a mercenary group known for kidnapping intelligence officers and selling them to be tortured . At the end of the episode , Jo appears to have been killed by Adam to spare her from the torture before they could be rescued . However , in a flashback it is revealed Jo played dead before rescue teams arrived , and later beats her kidnapper , Boscard (Gus Gallagher) , to death . At first undecided , towards the end of the episode Jo returns to duty . In the meantime , Sir Harry Pearce secures the release of MI5 officer Lucas North , who was imprisoned in Russia for eight years .

In the main plot , British Army Private Andy Sullivan , on leave from Afghanistan , is kidnapped by members of an Al @-@ Qaeda cell while on his way home to see his wife and newborn daughter . From an Internet broadcast , they demand Britain cancel the ceremonies during Remembrance Sunday or Sullivan will be executed . Lucas feels determined to help , much to Harry 's reluctance , as he believes Lucas should be properly rested , but eventually allows him to work until they find Sullivan . Malcolm Wynn @-@ Jones (Hugh Simon) voice matches one of the terrorists to Aaqib Faris (Shane Zaza) , and learns he works under a Munzir Hatem , a known cell leader . In the middle of the night , Adam and Lucas silently break into Hatem 's home and gather intelligence from his mobile phone . On the morning of Remembrance Sunday , the team find that Hatem sends out messages to a man codenamed " Firefly " to relay it to Faris . Ben Kaplan (Alex Lanipekun) follows Firefly to a payphone , and Malcolm traces where he is calling . Adam and Lucas arrive at the house Sullivan is being held and successfully rescues him .

As this transpires , Ros Myers (Hermione Norris) is stationed in Moscow under the codename " Rangefinder " . There she finds intelligence on Tranquility , a codename of a Chechen assassin working with Al @-@ Qaeda . After arriving back in London , Ros discovers Sullivan 's kidnapping was a diversion ; Tranquility is going to bomb a St. Augustus War Memorial ceremony at 11 am . Adam and Lucas arrive at the ceremony ; while Lucas follows Tranquility , Adam discovers the bomb in her car that can only be defused by a code . When Tranquility kills herself , Adam must drive the

car to an unpopulated zone . Adam makes it , but the car explodes just as he exits , killing him .

Harry realised earlier that FSB head of operations in London Arkady Kachimov purposely withheld the bomb plot when he announces chatter between Chechnya and Al @-@ Qaeda , and plans to commit revenge . Kachimov meanwhile , is on the phone , and asks " is it enroute ? " to the person on the other end , and appears pleased to the response . In the next episode , it is revealed to be a Russian submarine planning a cyber attack on a submarine communications cable . In the end , Harry visits Wes Carter , Adam 's son , to tell him his father died .

= = Production = =

After portraying Adam Carter for four years , Rupert Penry @-@ Jones felt his character had run its course over the series and wanted to explore other venues , stating he was " getting to the point where I needed to move on . " In December 2007 , before the sixth series finale was shown , Penry @-@ Jones announced he would leave the series sometime during its seventh year , and revealed the character would leave in what he believed to be " one of the best " Spooks exits . To keep the series in general fresh , the producers wanted to tease the audience into thinking whether or not Adam would escape his fate in time , and even after he is killed , wanted to surprise them and make them think " Oh my God , I can 't believe they just did that . " Penry @-@ Jones found that his last days on Spooks was generally upsetting and " welled up " on his final day .

Afterwards in March 2008 , another announcement was made , where a new character was revealed to be in development ; Lucas North . The producers wanted to create Lucas to become a " new heroic figure . " They focused on casting Richard Armitage in the early stages as they felt he could carry the mystery of the character . Armitage was approached following the completion of the second series of Robin Hood , for which he portrayed the regular part of Sir Guy of Gisbourne . He was initially hesitant to join the series because of the " tall order " for replacing Penry @-@ Jones . To keep with the description that Lucas is malnourished on his first appearance , Armitage lost a stone in weight , but also had to keep physically fit in order to perform a fight sequence during his first week of filming . Hermione Norris also returns to the series as Ros Myers , having previously left the series in the eighth episode of the sixth series because of her pregnancy .

With regards to the plot , the producers wanted to repeat the same style as the previous sixth series and include another story @-@ arc in the seventh . The writers and producers got together to think about what is to become a big political story that will affect the United Kingdom in twelve to eighteen months time . They decided on using the resurgence of power in Russia following the end of the Cold War , which the producers felt in subtle ways , is threatening the security of the West . The new storyline would allow the series to return to the world of spying , truth , and who the character should trust . The episode was written by Neil Cross . It was also additionally written by Ben Richards .

Filming in London commenced at the start of March 2008 . The car explosion was filmed at Finsbury Square . Because it was a large explosion , much of the filming crew present recorded the shot on their mobile phones for the cast to view . Miranda Raison believed the explosion was the " biggest bang " on British television . In August of the same year , production moved to Moscow to film scenes for this episode , as well as the penultimate episode of the seventh series . It was the first time in series history where filming took place outside the United Kingdom ; filming Spooks took place in London , and producer Katie Swinden noted the filming the series was very " London @-@ orientated , " and do not usually film outside the M25 motorway , which circles the city . On that occasion however , the producers were able to afford a shoot in another country . Only Armitage and Hermione Norris , along with a small crew including director Sam Miller and Swinden , could film in Moscow . One of the troubles of filming the scenes in Moscow was because the episode was set in November , Norris had to wear a winter coat during 32 degree heat .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

The episode was originally broadcast on BBC One , during the 9 pm to 10 pm time slot on Monday , 27 October 2008 , except in Northern Ireland , where it was withheld until 10 : 35 pm . After its

original broadcast , the episode received unofficial overnight viewing figures of 5 @. @ 5 million and an audience share of 23 @. @ 4 per cent . Spooks won its time slot against other terrestrial channels , including the final episode of ITV1 's Wired , which attracted only 3 @. @ 1 million viewers . However , the episode was down by 1 @. @ 1 million from the series six premiere . According to the Broadcasters ' Audience Research Board , the episode received final viewing figures of 5 @. @ 91 million , placing Spooks the 12th most seen programme on BBC One , and the 28th most seen programme overall during the week the episode was broadcast .

The episode received generally positive reviews from television critics . The Guardian published three separate reviews . Gareth McLean stated " rare is the returning British drama that gets you giddy but , back for its seventh series and resolving last year 's big cliffhanger , Spooks returns triumphant , " adding " it 's no secret that Ros is back , Adam is leaving and new boy Lucas North has been rescued from a Russian prison , but how it all plays out is a delight . " Vicky Frost from the media blog Organgrinder felt that although the storyline was decent , " it did seem to be about three different episodes stuffed into one . " She also noted the it was generally " ridiculous , but it isn 't nearly as ridiculous - or ridiculously bad - as its spin @-@ off [Spooks : Code 9] was . " Leigh Holmwood however , believed " it was good to see the spy drama return for a seventh series with a high octane episode mixing Islamic terrorism and Russian counter espionage , even if it did overdo the ' for Queen and country ' bit . " Holmwood also stated he was " tempted to watch the second episode , " which was broadcast a day after the first episode on BBC One .

Wayne Storr of On the Box stated the series premiere is " another cracking episode , " and " truly wonderful that Spooks still pulls it together to be one of the best British shows on telly . " Storr also stated the episode is an " absolute must watch for anyone who has ever been a fan . For those who aren 't , now is a good time to start . " Whilst also reviewing the second episode , as both episodes are considered a two @-@ parter , Greg O 'Keefe of the Liverpool Echo stated it was " packed with great action sequences , razor @-@ sharp writing and the usual quota of twists and turns . We were also treated to some excellent scenes , shot in Moscow , as the pesky Russians were established as the villains of the series . " John Beresford of TV Scoop stated that although he found " two dodgy moments " in the episode , it " didn 't mar what was otherwise an excellent opener to the new series . "

Lucas North 's introduction was met with general praise . Sky TV described his introduction as a " refreshing change " for the series . The Bromsgrove Advertiser noted that Armitage " certainly has the looks needed for the part " with " classic leading man presence , " and while comparing past main actors of the series , Matthew Macfadyen and Rupert Penry @-@ Jones , the author believed that " the eye candy quota is being kept high . " Fans and critics have also both displayed shock towards Adam Carter 's death . Fans voted Adam 's death as the fourth most shocking death scene in the series according to a poll on LastBroadcast . The Radio Times stated the shock factor of his death was " spectacular " and said that " driving a primed car bomb to a safe place is so run @-@ of @-@ the @-@ mill for the spooks they wouldn 't normally break a sweat . This time , however , it went off . " Hilary Rose of The Times noted that fans will remember Adam 's " dramatic exit , " and said that " the nation 's women duly went into mourning , " regarding that " pretty much every woman with a pulse seems to fancy Rupert . " She then noted that some would find " consolation in the shape of new Spooks totty Richard Armitage . "