

= Power Hungry (Fringe) =

" Power Hungry " is the fifth episode of the first season of the American science fiction drama television series Fringe . The episode was written by playwright Julia Cho and consulting producer Jason Cahill , and was directed by Christopher Misiano . The episode focuses on Fringe Division 's efforts in finding a man with the uncontrolled ability to affect electrical energy , thanks to the work of a wanted rogue scientist . Meanwhile , Olivia Dunham (Anna Torv) sees visions of her deceased lover , John Scott (Mark Valley) .

The episode 's premise began with the idea of a computer virus being able to spread to humans , which then evolved into the story of a man who comes into his unique abilities . Series consultant Glen Whitman noted the premise was based on the " very very weak magnetic field " of electrical energy surrounding humans that an EEG detects , and the writers simply amplified this . The special effects crew undertook much preparation to simulate a chase sequence involving an exploding transformer , leading guest actor Ebon Moss @-@ Bachrach to note how scary the effect was to film .

It first aired in the United States on October 14 , 2008 on the Fox network , and was seen by an estimated 9 @.@ 157 million American viewers , the network 's second highest rated show for the week . Critical reactions of the episode ranged from mixed to positive , as many believed the series was finally finding its footing . Others however critiqued the episode for seeming too ordinary for a science fiction series .

= = Plot = =

Joseph Meegar (Ebon Moss @-@ Bachrach) , a shy delivery boy who lives with his mother (Marylouise Burke) , arrives late for work and delivers a package to an office building where he comes across Bethany (Diane Davis) , a receptionist who he is infatuated with . Afterwards in an elevator , Bethany notices Meegar has pictures of her on his cell phone . Meegar 's angst then apparently causes the elevator to fall to the underground parking lot levels , killing all but Meegar , who walks away unhurt but startled as all the car alarms go off around him .

Olivia reveals to Charlie Francis (Kirk Acevedo) about her encounter with deceased lover John Scott in the previous episode . She , Peter (Joshua Jackson) and Walter Bishop (John Noble) later arrive at the scene , where they determine that the deceased have been electrocuted before the impact , and that the elevator did not fall , but drove down . Furthermore Walter detects electromagnetic energy in the area . Meegar meanwhile , inadvertently causes a packaging machine to malfunction , severely injuring his boss after Meegar is fired . He later reveals to his mother that some time ago he answered a magazine advertisement promising to " unlock [his] hidden potential " , and although has no knowledge of what has been done to him , believes that what he has done was a result of being experimented on . A further panicked Meegar then causes his mother 's pacemaker to fail , and she dies .

The team becomes aware that a human has the uncontrolled ability to affect electrical energy , made this way by Jacob Fischer (Max Baker) . Fischer is a rogue scientist wanted by Interpol , who experimented on humans by luring his victims through bogus advertisements . Olivia continues to encounter John Scott , who promises her that he does love her , and will prove it . Through him , Olivia realizes that someone survived the elevator impact . Now aware of Meegar 's identity , they attempt to track him . Meegar however , is captured by Fischer who wishes to perform further tests on him . Walter finds Meegar 's Walkman and uses its cassette tape to find a unique electromagnetic signature , then has some homing pigeons guide Olivia , Peter and Charlie to his location . Alarmed by the FBI 's arrival , Fischer attempts to leave with Meegar , who escapes . After Fischer is apprehended , Meegar attempts to flee from Olivia , only to be stopped by Peter .

After Meegar is sent to a hospital to be examined upon , Walter realizes Olivia is seeing Scott , and reveals she is not hallucinating ; he theorizes that when both minds were linked during Scott 's coma in " Pilot " , a part of Scott 's consciousness has imbedded itself into hers . Later , while driving home , she spots Scott again , who leads her to a basement where Scott has been running his own

Pattern @-@ related investigations . Phillip Broyles (Lance Reddick) hands Olivia Scott 's personal effects . Among them she finds an engagement ring , proving Scott 's claim to have loved her .

= = Production = =

" Power Hungry " was written by consulting producer Jason Cahill and playwright Julia Cho , each of which would go on to write other first season episodes . Christopher Misiano directed the installment . According to Fringe co @-@ creator Roberto Orci , series writers often approached episodes ' fringe cases by coming up with an idea and then asking science consultants to " justify it scientifically . " For " Power Hungry " , Cho and others brainstormed the concept of a computer virus being able to spread to humans . She explained , " And through kneading that idea over and over again , we came up with the idea of a character , Joseph , who would start waking up to this power of his to be able to actually control electronic- or computer @-@ driven devices . " New Media consultant and scientist Glen Whitman , who later co @-@ wrote some Fringe episodes , noted that the science depicted in the episode was not totally impossible . " It is true that human beings as a result of the electrical activity in our brains , we do all have a very very weak magnetic field around our heads , " he said . " And that 's in part what is sensed by an EEG . So the notion was , ' how can you amplify that ' " ?

The chase scene involving Joseph and Olivia required much preparation , as the crew had to simulate an exploding transformer . Special effects coordinator Conrad Brink used a " mechanical trip " to support an electrical cable , which he then strung to the other side of the adjacent road using a pole . The crew filled the fuse box with " sparking devices " , meant to give the appearance of an exploding transformer and power lines . Demonstrating this , Brink noted , " What happens is the panel cover will blow off , sparks will come out , the cable will go up , sparking down to the ground . " Misiano said of the sequence , " This young man runs by an electrical box and it blows up . It really blew ! " The director added that guest actor Ebon Moss @-@ Bachrach later told him , " that was actually really scary " to film . After he filmed his character hitting Joseph with a crow bar , actor Joshua Jackson joked , " Finally I 'm going to get a little respect on this set . "

Mark Valley returns as John Scott . The actor stated that despite the character 's death in the pilot ; " I 'm going to be showing up in the first season . And , for a guy who died in the pilot , I consider myself pretty fortunate . " Actors who guest star in the episode include Ebon Moss @-@ Bachrach as Joseph Meegar , Max Baker as Jacob Fischer , and Marylouise Burke as Flora Meegar . The first season DVD contains a deleted scene of Olivia and Peter picking up the homing pigeons from a friend of his named Tony . Tony quietly mentions to Peter that his sister could use Peter 's help , but when asked , Peter refuses to tell Olivia more of the story .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Power Hungry " first broadcast on the Fox network in the United States on October 14 , 2008 . It was watched by 9 @.@ 157 million viewers , Fox 's second highest rated show for the week . It also earned a 4 @.@ 2 / 10 ratings share among adults aged 18 to 49 , meaning that it was seen by 4 @.@ 2 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 10 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of broadcast . With time shifted ratings taken into account , viewership rose to 11 @.@ 05 million seven days after original broadcast .

= = = Reviews = = =

Critical reactions of the episode ranged from mixed to positive . Travis Fickett of IGN rated the episode 6 @.@ 8 / 10 , stating that although it was " perfectly serviceable , professionally produced television , " it was " much like the last week with a little bit of been @-@ there @-@ done @-@ that

conspiracy stuff thrown on top of it , " and that the plot was " almost boilerplate for this genre . " By this point in the series , the reviewer believed that " the thing about Fringe that is holding it back is that you 're always ahead of it . The show needs to change things up . " Bryant L. Griffin of Airlock Alpha , opined ; " Though not the show 's best hour to date , ' Power Hungry ' is still a solid entry . Good directing , writing , and outstanding production values are maintained as the series ' norm . " In addition Griffin enjoyed Fischer 's " casual surrender " , as " in the past , those associated with ' the pattern ' exhibited a fevered desire to avoid capture , going as far as committing suicide . What 's this guy 's deal ? He obviously has a plan . " However the reviewer was skeptical as to why Astrid was comfortable working with Walter again , considering he subdued her in the previous episode .

Los Angeles Times reviewer Patrick Kevin Day stated that at this point in the series , he " initially fretted that Fringe would never grow beyond a run @-@ of @-@ the @-@ mill " X @-@ Files " knock @-@ off , " but now saw the creators ' intentions . Sarah Stegall of SFScope called the episode an homage to X @-@ Files episode " D.P.O. " , whose featured character has a similar premise to Meegar . Stegall admitted that " this show is growing on me , " with the same atmosphere as The X @-@ Files " coupled with a slightly better grounding in actual science . " Erin Dougherty of Cinema Blend reacted positively towards the episode , commending it as it " bounced back so quickly from that lame silver cylinder episode or they would 've lost me forever . " Dougherty also felt that the three protagonists , Olivia , Walter and Peter , " are becoming much more believable characters . " Noel Murray of the A.V. Club rated the episode a B ? , opining that the cold open was the series ' best since the pilot , but added that " despite the added [Freak of the Week] sympathy , ' Power Hungry ' promptly peters out , because the level of oddity required for Walter and the Pattern Team to track the Freak down isn 't especially high . " Murray added that the return of Scott and his scenes with Olivia " serves to string along the home viewer , inviting us to question whether Olivia 's playing for the right team in this whole Pattern game . " Television Without Pity meanwhile , graded the episode with an A ? .