

= Reciprocity (Fringe) =

" Reciprocity " is the eleventh episode of the third season of the American science fiction drama television series Fringe , and the 54th episode overall . In the episode , the Fringe division follows a chain of shapeshifter murders as the assembly of the doomsday device nears completion . Ryan McDonald and Charles Parnell guest starred .

Co @-@ executive producer Josh Singer wrote " Reciprocity " , his seventh such credit for the series . For his third Fringe directional credit , Jeannot Szwarc served as the director . The episode first aired in the United States on January 28 , 2011 to an estimated 4 @.@ 57 million viewers , making it the highest rated program of the night . Television critics generally viewed the episode positively , with a number praising the reveal of the shapeshifter killer 's identity .

= = Plot = =

The Fringe division visits a secured Massive Dynamic facility where the prime universe 's version of the doomsday device , believed to be an artifact of the " First People " , has been assembled . The company is trying to use the books about the First People , including those that William Bell had sought , that they have collected to understand the workings of the device . They are aware that before her departure , Fauxlivia (Anna Torv) ? Olivia 's parallel universe doppelgänger ? stole one component of the unit , possibly its power source as they cannot find any other way to engage the device . However , as Peter (Joshua Jackson) nears it , the device reacts , moving into a new configuration and sending out electromagnetic pulses , while Peter suddenly has a nosebleed . Peter returns with Olivia (Torv) and Walter (John Noble) to Massive Dynamic to undergo some tests to see if he was the cause for the device 's activation . Meanwhile , Broyles (Lance Reddick) asks Astrid (Jasika Nicole) to discreetly review the files pulled from Fauxlivia 's computer for any hidden messages , not wishing to have Olivia or Peter be forced to learn of what Fauxlivia wrote about them .

The next day , the corpse of a shapeshifter is found , shot in the head with its data disc ? encoded information regarding its mission ? missing . When the identity connects it to one of the employees at the facility where the Fringe mainframe is housed , Broyles suspects a mole seeking to wipe out Fauxlivia 's data , and orders a mainframe lockdown , while verifying the humanity of key people in the FBI and Massive Dynamic . Astrid identifies several other potential candidates , including a doctor from Massive Dynamic who had already left . By the time Fringe division reaches his home , they find the man , a shapeshifter , already dead .

Olivia returns to the lab and convinces Astrid to let her review Fauxlivia 's notes , believing that she should think like her doppelgänger , she will see something they missed . Eventually , she comes to identify a cipher based on her childhood name , Olive , that identifies Newton and the other slain shapeshifters , and one that has yet to be killed . Fringe begins to descend on his residence .

Meanwhile , Walter , having thought Peter had returned to Massive Dynamic for tests , learns he is not there . Walter enters his room , finding printed pages of Fauxlivia 's notes including the circled names of the shapeshifters , those that Olivia just identified . Walter arrives at the home of the final shapeshifter just as Peter finishes killing him . Peter tries to justify his actions as no longer wanting to be just reactive to the situation and to learn of the shapeshifters ' goal . Peter and Walter depart before the Fringe team arrives ; Walter postulates that the device , when it activated , may have " weaponized " Peter to take these steps and fears what else Peter may attempt to do .

= = Production = =

Co @-@ executive producer Josh Singer was responsible for writing " Reciprocity " , his seventh such credit for the series . The episode was directed by Jeannot Szwarc , his third directional credit for the series . The episode featured one @-@ time guest roles by actors Charles Parnell as Dr. James Falcon and Sean Campbell as Zach Alpert . Ryan McDonald reprised his role as Massive Dynamic scientist Brandon Fayette .

Alluding to the premise of " Reciprocity " , story editor Glen Whitman noted that " often in science fiction simply because you need a source of conflict , it ends up being that science or technology is the source of evil . And that happens a lot in Fringe . I think that ? s unavoidable . But the flip side of that coin is that on Fringe , science just as often ends up being able to save the day . " The machine around which the episode is based was rendered using CGI .

Since the parallel universe was revealed in the season two finale , viewers have debated nicknames for the various doppelgangers featured . Olivia Dunham 's double from the parallel universe was one such matter of contention ; such nicknames included Bolivia , Fauxlvivia , and Altlivia . " Reciprocity " was believed by some critics to have resolved this , as one character refers to her as Fauxlvivia .

As with other Fringe episodes , Fox released a science lesson plan in collaboration with Science Olympiad for grade school children , focusing on the science seen in " Reciprocity " , with the intention of having " students learn about the classification of blood into blood types based upon the molecules on the surface of red blood cells . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Reciprocity " was the second episode to air on Friday in the United States . On its initial broadcast on January 28 , 2011 , " Reciprocity " maintained similar numbers of viewers from the previous episode , " The Firefly " , with a 1 @. @ 9 / 6 share and an estimated 4 @. @ 57 million viewers . There was some concern that Fringe would be aired against Supernatural , a CW show with a similar science fiction theme , but that network decided to move the episode to the following week , when it aired opposite the Fringe episode " Concentrate and Ask Again " . " Reciprocity " was broadcast against reruns and news programs from the other rival networks . It was the highest @- @ rated program of the night , as it tied with NBC 's Dateline , but its ratings were not enough to prevent the Fox network from placing fourth in total viewers . With time shifting devices taken into account , the episode had been watched by an estimated 6 @. @ 17 million a week from its initial broadcast .

= = = Reviews = = =

Reviews of the episode from television critics were generally positive . Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly enjoyed the scenes set at Massive Dynamic , and thought the episode did a good job tricking the audience into thinking Peter was not responsible for the shapeshifter killings . After not loving the previous week 's episode , Andrew Hanson from the Los Angeles Times thought " Reciprocity " had " all the aspects of Fringe I loved " . Hanson particularly loved the opening 's first few minutes , and like Tucker , he was pleasantly surprised about Peter and the murders . A.V. Club 's Noel Murray graded " Reciprocity " with a B , explaining that despite the awe @- @ inspiring opening (which reminded him of the film Close Encounters Of The Third Kind) and the final revelations , Murray found the episode " solid but largely unexceptional " . He thought the shapeshifter investigation " lacked a certain frisson " and found the Peter ? Olivia relationship scenes to be " more of a drag " .

SFScope contributor Sarah Stegall believed the episode " got us quickly back on track after last week 's lackluster tale , " and called the killer revelation the greatest shock she has received on the series thus far . She continued that one of her favorite parts of the Peter @- @ as @- @ a @- @ killer arc is being able to watch the emotional setbacks he is facing as a result of Fauxlvivia 's betrayal ; she called it " good characterization , and excellent acting " . However , Stegall questioned why Massive Dynamic would build a machine known to be the destroyer of mankind . IGN columnist Ramsey Isler praised the writing staff because " just when you think they might be stuck in old habits , they come up with new ideas and put a whole new perspective on old storylines and characters . "

Isler continued that while " ' Reciprocity ' " isn 't the most groundbreaking episode in the series , it does try a number of new ideas , and it gives us one big new plot point that could change the tone of the rest of the season . "