

= Mind 's Eye (The X @-@ Files) =

" Mind 's Eye " is the sixteenth episode of the fifth season of the American science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . The episode first aired in the United States on April 19 , 1998 on the Fox network . It was written by Tim Minear and directed by Kim Manners . The episode is a " Monster @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Week " " story , a stand @-@ alone plot which is unconnected to the series ' wider mythology . " Mind 's Eye " received a Nielsen household rating of 10 @.@ 4 and was watched by 16 @.@ 53 million viewers . The episode received moderately positive reviews , with many critics praising Taylor 's performance as Glenn .

The show centers on FBI special agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files . In this episode , Mulder and Scully investigate a murder that seems to have been committed by a blind woman , Marty Glenn (Lili Taylor) , but Mulder suspects that she is capable of seeing images in some other way . Eventually , it is revealed that Glenn , while blind , can see the actions of her murderous father via her mind 's eye .

" Mind 's Eye " was inspired by the concept of " remote viewing " , or being able to see events beyond the range of normal vision . Minear sought to make Glenn the opposite of Audrey Hepburn 's character in the 1967 film Wait Until Dark , in which Hepburn played the part of an innocent but terrorized blind woman . " Mind 's Eye " marked the rare television appearance of Taylor , who primarily worked on well @-@ regarded independent films . In fact , Taylor herself requested to appear in the series .

= = Plot = =

In Wilmington , Delaware , while Marty Glenn (Lili Taylor) is walking around her apartment , she experiences a vision : someone brandishing a knife approaches a man standing in front of a bathroom sink . Later , local police are called to a motel , where they find a murdered man on the bathroom floor . Marty is discovered hiding in the shower holding a bloody sponge . The police arrest her , only to realize that she is blind . Detective Lloyd Pennock (Blu Mankuma) calls in Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) because he believes Marty (who has been blind since birth) possesses a " sixth sense " that makes her capable of committing this crime .

During an interrogation , it becomes obvious that Marty , who is being uncooperative , possesses knowledge of the crimes that only the guilty party should know . Mulder decides to administer a polygraph while Scully looks over the crime scene . In the bathroom , Scully discovers a leather glove hidden behind an old razor disposal bin . Mulder , meanwhile , becomes convinced that Marty somehow did observe the murder . Suddenly , Marty experiences another vision : the murderer approaches a woman , Susan Forester , at a bar . In the vision , Marty is able to see the name of the bar . When her premonition ends , she requests to make a phone call ; she calls the bar and warns a man named Gotts (Richard Fitzpatrick) to leave Forester alone . Later , Scully shows the glove to Marty , who informs her that her fingerprints were found on it and that it fits her . Pennock concludes that the evidence is enough to charge Marty , but Mulder still does not think she did it . Scully proposes that Marty may not be blind , and an eye examination is undertaken . During the test , Marty experiences another vision and Mulder points out that the measurement mode screen used to gauge whether Marty can see has a reaction . Despite this , the examiner concludes Marty is truly blind . Mulder , however , believes Marty 's ocular reaction is a physical response to an image in her mind 's eye . After the district attorney concludes that charging a blind woman solely based on fingerprints would not be enough to convict her , Marty is released .

While walking home , Marty experiences a vision of Gotts attacking Forester . Marty eventually makes her way to the crime scene where she finds the victim 's body . She returns to the police station and confesses to the murders . To convince the police that she is the murderer , Marty tells Pennock where Gotts hid the heroin he stole from the first victim , but none of the prints on the heroin belong to Marty , furthering Mulder 's argument that she is , in fact , innocent . Mulder

approaches Marty and tells her that he researched her mother 's murder ? she died from a stab wound to the kidney , the same way Gotts kills his victims . Mulder concludes that Marty was given her ability when her then @-@ pregnant mother was killed by Gotts ; it is revealed that Gotts is actually Marty 's father and that he had spent thirty years (her whole life) in prison until being paroled . Marty sends Mulder and Scully to the bar that Gotts was last seen at , while Pennock takes her back to her apartment to pick up some things before entering protective custody . While packing , Marty has a vision of Gotts in the apartment lobby ; she knocks Pennock out , takes his gun and waits . Mulder figures out that Marty had been experiencing Gotts ' sight for the thirty years he was in prison ; in effect spending her whole life in prison . Mulder and Scully arrive at Marty 's apartment to find Gotts dead by his daughter 's hands . Marty is convicted of his murder and is sentenced to prison , but she is finally free of her father 's vision .

= = Production = =

= = = Writing = = =

" Mind 's Eye " was written by Tim Minear ? his second credit for the series ? and directed by Kim Manners . He was inspired to write the episode after hearing about the concept of " remote viewing " . Purportedly , the process allows one to view events ? either through one 's eyes , or through the eyes of others ? beyond the range of normal vision . Reportedly , the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency spent \$ 20 million on a research project to determine if the ability exists .

Minear initially had trouble conceptualizing his idea , noting that " it might be a good idea for a short story , but how do you make the whole thing work visually ? " To combat this issue , Minear decided to make the remote viewer blind . He sought to make the blind woman " not Audrey Hepburn " , a reference to the 1967 film *Wait Until Dark* , in which Hepburn played the part of an innocent but terrorized blind woman . He later said , " I wanted to make [Glenn] a bitch , because the fact is that disability doesn 't necessarily ennoble a person . " After several meetings with fellow writers John Shiban , Vince Gilligan , and Frank Spotnitz ? who provided storyboard support ? Minear was allowed to begin work on the episode .

= = = Casting and filming = = =

" Mind 's Eye " marked the rare television appearance of Lili Taylor , who primarily worked on well @-@ regarded independent films . Taylor was cast as Glenn ; initially , the producers for the show felt that Taylor would not be interested , but she actually was a fan of the show and series co @-@ star Anderson . Taylor , in fact , had contacted the series ' casting director , Rick Milikan , and requested a role . Blu Mankuma , who played the part of Detective Pennock , had previously appeared in the first season episode " Ghost in the Machine " . Mulder 's line " even if the gloves do fit ? you can still acquit " , a reference to the leather gloves of the O. J. Simpson murder case , was improvised by Duchovny during filming .

During the filming of the episode , art director Greg Loewen pointed out that , in her apartment , Glenn would not need lamps and ceiling lights . The lighting department for the show , however , countered that " although *The X @-@ Files* was a dark show , it wasn 't that dark . " The " staccato " and " nightmarish " remote visions that Glenn experiences were created in post @-@ production by visual effects supervisor Laurie Kallsen @-@ George .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Mind 's Eye " premiered on the Fox network in the United States on April 19 , 1998 , and was first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC One on February 10 , 1999 . It earned a Nielsen household rating of 10 @.@ 4 , with a 16 share , meaning that roughly 10 @.@ 4 percent of all television @-@ equipped households , and 16 percent of households watching television , were

tuned in to the episode . It was viewed by 16 @. @ 53 million viewers . " Mind 's Eye " also was nominated for several Emmy Awards . Taylor was nominated for an award in the category of Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series ? a nomination shared by fellow X @- @ Files guest star Veronica Cartwright ? although Cloris Leachman won . Editor Casey O Rohrs was nominated for Outstanding Single @- @ Camera Picture Editing .

The episode received moderately positive reviews from television critics , with many praising Taylor 's performance as Glenn . Zack Handlen from The A.V. Club gave the episode a moderately positive review and awarded it a B + . He was slightly critical that Glenn 's ability to see visions was not sufficiently expanded upon ; he ultimately called Mulder 's explanation " crap " . However , Handlen praised guest star Taylor and Duchovny , noting that " Taylor is convincing in the role , and Duchovny does a good job making his lines sound more logical than they actually are . " He ultimately concluded that the entry is " not a bad episode , exactly " but that " it 's far from a great one . " John Keegan from Critical Myth gave the episode a positive review and awarded it an 8 out of 10 . He labeled the episode " a strong stand @- @ alone installment " helped by the " powerful " chemistry between Duchovny and Taylor . He noted that " there are some interesting philosophical themes at work " . Keegan concluded that " [t] he lack of context within the season arc itself could have worked against it , but the episode manages to stand on its own . "

Paula Vitaris from Cinefantastique gave the episode a moderately positive review and awarded it two @- @ and @- @ a @- @ half stars out of four . Vitaris drew comparisons between the installment and the third season episode " Oubliette " . However , she noted that because " the new episodes doesn 't have the specific connection ' Oubliette ' drew between Lucy and Mulder 's sister Samantha , it doesn 't touch the heart as deeply . " She did , however , praise Taylor 's performance , writing " it is [Taylor] who makes ' Mind 's Eye ' truly memorable . " 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 three stars out of five . The two called the entry " solid , if unspectacular " , noting that , once the premise is developed , " there 's really not much depth to be mined from it . " Shearman and Pearson , however , concluded that " the episode works nonetheless , thanks to a superb central performance from Lili Taylor [who] gives the best guest star turn of the year , lending a strength , an anger , and a redeeming humour to a blind woman who has adapted the world to her disability . "