

= No Exit ( Miami Vice ) =

" ' No Exit " is the seventh episode of the first season of the American police procedural television series Miami Vice . It premiered on the National Broadcasting Company ( NBC ) on November 9 , 1984 . The episode was written by Charles R. Leinenweber and Maurice Hurley , and directed by David Soul . " No Exit " featured guest appearances by Bruce Willis and Katherine Borowitz .

Miami Vice focuses on the lives of two undercover Metro @-@ Dade police officers , James " Sonny " Crockett ( Don Johnson ) and Ricardo Tubbs ( Philip Michael Thomas ) . In this episode , the detectives investigate an arms dealer selling military hardware . The dealer 's abuse of his spouse complicates the surveillance .

Written under the working title " Three @-@ Eyed Turtle " , the episode has been seen as exploring existentialist themes , including Jean @-@ Paul Sartre 's theory that all relationships are based on a struggle for dominance . The episode features a contemporary pop soundtrack , using Phil Collins ' " I Don 't Care Anymore " and " Stay With Me " by Teddy Pendergrass .

= = Plot = =

Metro @-@ Dade detectives James " Sonny " Crockett ( Don Johnson ) and Ricardo Tubbs ( Philip Michael Thomas ) , and lieutenant Martin Castillo ( Edward James Olmos ) are undercover to arrest a pair of arms dealers . After a brief shoot @-@ out , the dealers are taken into custody , and during the course of their confessions , reveal their supplier to be a man named Tony Amato .

Amato ( Bruce Willis ) is an international arms dealer who the Federal Bureau of Investigation have been tracking , as they believe Amato is planning the sale of FIM @-@ 92 Stinger missiles stolen from a military arms depot . The FBI agrees to allow Metro @-@ Dade to conduct the surveillance as its equipment was in place first . Crockett and Tubbs watch Amato 's abusive relationship with his wife Rita ( Katherine Borowitz ) . When Rita attempts to hire a hitman to kill Amato , Crockett intercepts the call and meets with her , arranging her help in their case in return for her safety . She explains that she has tried to leave Amato before , but he hired thugs to rape her divorce lawyer 's wife to scare her into place .

Amato 's prospective buyer is intercepted and arrested . The FBI had initially planned to send one of their agents undercover in his place , but Tubbs volunteers for the role , fearing the agent is too inexperienced . Tubbs meets with Amato and his henchmen , who demonstrate one of the Stingers and explain how to take out a civilian airplane with an unarmed missile . Tubbs agrees to purchase all of Amato 's inventory and arranges another meet to make the buy . That night , Crockett , surveilling Amato 's house , sees him beat Rita again , and is unable to intervene .

When Amato breaks his telephone in a rage , he finds one of the surveillance devices . Tubbs quickly calls him , claiming to have been bugged as well , and the two arrange to move the buy to that evening . Amato is noticeably on @-@ edge during the meet , and is desperate to unload the missiles . The buy is set to take place at the docks , and the remainder of the Metro @-@ Dade vice squad arrive to complete the bust , taking Amato into custody safely .

However , when Amato is due to be arraigned the next morning , a group of federal agents arrive with paperwork offering him immunity from prosecution in exchange for working for them to supply South American anti @-@ Communist groups . Rita arrives to see Amato going free , draws a gun from her handbag , and shoots him .

= = Production = =

" No Exit " was originally given the working title " Three @-@ Eyed Turtle " , which was changed when an executive at the National Broadcasting Company ( NBC ) 's Standards and Practices office realized this was slang for a sexual act . The amended title , " No Exit " , has been seen by critics Stephen Sanders and Aeon Scoble as a reference to Jean @-@ Paul Sartre 's 1944 play No Exit , as the episode features " an early series engagement with existentialism " . The pair have argued that the fractured relationship between Tony and Rita Amato echoes the philosopher 's assertion

that all human relationships are defined by a struggle for control and supremacy .

" No Exit " was directed by David Soul , whose Starsky and Hutch co -@-@ star Paul Michael Glaser had also directed for the series . Writer Maurice Hurley would receive writing credits on a number of other Miami Vice episodes , including " The Dutch Oven " , " Whatever Works " , and " Golden Triangle " . The location used for Amato 's home was the " Pink House " , a nickname for the Spear House in Coral Gables , Florida ; a 1978 building designed by architecture firm Arquitectonica . The location was chosen for use in the episode by executive producer Michael Mann . Guest star Bruce Willis was one of a number of New York stage actors cast in the series , having only appeared in an Off @-@ Broadway performance of Fool for Love before being cast as Tony Amato .

As was customary for episodes of Miami Vice episodes , " No Exit " makes use of contemporary pop music in its soundtrack , featuring the songs " Stay With Me " by Teddy Pendergrass and " I Don 't Care Anymore " by Phil Collins . The latter song featured in a scene of Crockett driving at night , echoing the use of Collins ' " In the Air Tonight " in a similar scene in the pilot , " Brother 's Keeper " . The alienation discussed in " I Don 't Care Anymore " has been described as mirroring the violent rift in Amato 's marriage , and also the detachment with which Crockett must approach this aspect of the case .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" No Exit " was first broadcast on NBC on November 9 , 1984 . NBC repeated the episode twice in 1985 , before airing it once more in 1986 .

Writing for DVD Talk , Todd Douglass Jr. described " No Exit " as being " definitely one of the highlights " of Miami Vice 's first season . Douglass felt that the episode 's tight focus left it " one of the more entertaining " installments of the series . " No Exit " has been seen as a " turning point " for Miami Vice , finalizing what would become the overall tone of the series . This has been credited to the addition of Edward James Olmos to the cast , and Mann becoming the sole executive producer after the departure of Anthony Yerkovich . The episode has also been noted as an example of the series ' criticism of the presidency of Ronald Reagan , linking the villain Amato with United States intervention in South America . This critique of the federal government and its handling of foreign intervention would prove to be a recurring element of the series , featuring in the second season episode " Prodigal Son " and the fourth season episode " Baseballs of Death " .

Willis ' portrayal of Amato has been described by critic Mark T. Conard as an example of a recurring character archetype in the series , that of a troubled male with a checkered past . Other examples given by Conard are Bruce McGill 's guest role in " Out Where the Buses Don 't Run " and G. Gordon Liddy 's appearance in " Stone 's War " . Conard also identifies the three male protagonists ? Crockett , Tubbs and Castillo ? among this archetype .