

= Powers , Principalities , Thrones and Dominions =

" Powers , Principalities , Thrones and Dominions " is the nineteenth episode of the first season of the American crime @-@ thriller television series Millennium . It premiered on the Fox network on April 25 , 1997 . The episode was written by Ted Mann and Harold Rosenthal and directed by Thomas J. Wright . " Powers , Principalities , Thrones and Dominions " featured guest appearances by Sarah @-@ Jane Redmond and Richard Cox .

Millennium Group consultant Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) is convinced to return to work after the death of a close friend . However , it soon becomes apparent that his first case back on the job is much deeper than he had expected .

" Powers , Principalities , Thrones and Dominions " features the final appearances in the series by both Bill Smitrovich and Robin Gammell . The episode has received mixed to positive reviews from critics , and was viewed by approximately 6 @.@ 5 million households in its initial broadcast .

= = Plot = =

Millennium Group consultant Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) runs out to a supermarket parking lot where he witnesses a lawyer , Alistair Pepper (Richard Cox) , being confronted by a man named Sammael (Rodney Eastman) . Sammael raises his hand , and a bolt of lightning arcs from his fingers to strike Pepper dead ; however , when Black reaches Sammael , he finds a pistol at the killer 's feet .

A few days before fellow Group member Peter Watts (Terry O 'Quinn) investigates a murder in a suburban home , in which occult paraphernalia has been laid out in a disorganized manner . Watts contacts Black for help with the case . However , Black is still recovering from the murder of his friend Bob Bletcher (Bill Smitrovich) , who was murdered in Black 's home . Watts hangs up when he sees Sammael looking through the house 's window , but by the time he can investigate , Sammael is gone .

Watts later shows Black a picture taken at the murder scene , with Sammael recognizable among a crowd of people . Elsewhere , a man named Martin (Guy Fauchon) is arrested after slitting a babysitter 's throat at a public park ; despite the seemingly random nature of the crime , Black believes that the man may be connected to Bletcher 's murder . However , he soon starts to suspect that Martin may be innocent of the crime he has been arrested for . Black also has a dream in which a mutilated Bletcher tries and fails to speak to him , which leads Black to believe he has lost his ability to see into the minds of others .

The case against Martin falters as evidence disappears and witnesses fail to identify him in a line @-@ up . Black is approached by Pepper , Martin 's self @-@ appointed lawyer , who extends Black an invitation to join his legal practice . Martin later claims in court to have killed Bletcher . Elsewhere , another Millennium Group member , Mike Atkins (Robin Gammell) , receives a telephone call from someone pretending to be Black . Meanwhile , Black suspects that the occult @-@ oriented murder may have been committed to draw the Group , and Black , into the open again .

In his jail cell , Martin cuts his own throat with a concealed razor blade ; however , a coroner later finds that his death was caused by an aneurysm . Black believes that Pepper is somehow involved . Watts and Black find Atkins murdered in a hotel room , and chase a suspect down a fire escape and into a supermarket . Inside , Black finds Pepper , but as Pepper moves in and out of view , his appearance seems to change to that of Martin , and then of Lucy Butler (Sarah @-@ Jane Redmond) , the woman Black suspects to have killed Bletcher . Pepper leaves the supermarket and approaches his car , where he is confronted and killed by Sammael . As Black apprehends Sammael , he is told that Pepper was killed as a " consequence of his own error " ; Black takes it to mean that there is a larger mystery to which his own involvement is only tangential .

= = Production = =

" Powers , Principalities , Thrones and Dominions " is the third of four episodes of Millennium to have been written by Ted Mann , who had previously written " The Judge " and " Loin Like a Hunting Flame " , and would go on to write the first season finale " Paper Dove " . Director Thomas J. Wright would go on to direct twenty @-@ six episodes across all three seasons . Wright would also direct " Millennium " , the series ' crossover episode with its sister show The X @-@ Files . " Powers , Principalities , Thrones and Dominions " is co @-@ writer Harold Rosenthal 's only credit throughout the series .

Both the title of the episode and the invocation spoken by the character of Sammael refer to four of the nine choirs of angels in Christian mythology . Christian angelology holds that there are three groupings of three choirs each . The Thrones are the third @-@ highest ranking choir , belonging to the group charged with attending to God , and are described as stern incarnations of holy justice . Dominions , the fourth @-@ highest choir , belong to the group appointed to deal with God 's creations . Dominions lead the lower orders and impart wisdom to humanity . Powers belong to the same tier as Dominions , and are tasked with countering the threat of temptation by the devil and demons . Principalities are the seventh @-@ highest ranking choir and belong to the lowest grouping of angels , those most likely to appear to mankind . Principalities oversee those humans who rule over others , teaching kings and heads of families the skills needed to lead .

" Powers , Principalities , Thrones and Dominions " features the final appearance of the character Bob Bletcher . Smitrovich had first portrayed Bletcher in " Pilot " , appearing intermittently throughout the first season . Bletcher was murdered in the previous episode , " Lamentation " . The episode also features the death of Millennium Group member Mike Atkins , played by Robin Gammell , who had also portrayed the character in the earlier episode " Gehenna " . Sarah @-@ Jane Redmond , who had first portrayed Lucy Butler in " Lamentation " , would return in the second season episode " A Room with No View " , and the third season episodes " Antipas " and " Saturn Dreaming of Mercury " .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Powers , Principalities , Thrones and Dominions " was first broadcast on the Fox Network on April 25 , 1997 . The episode earned a Nielsen rating of 6 @. @ 7 during its original broadcast , meaning that 6 @. @ 7 percent of households in the United States viewed the episode . This represented 6 @. @ 5 million households , and left the episode the sixty @-@ fifth most @-@ viewed broadcast that week .

" Powers , Principalities , Thrones and Dominions " received mostly positive reviews from critics . The A.V. Club 's Zack Handlen rated the episode an A , describing it as " gleefully grim " . Handlen felt that the episode represented the series coming into its own , noting that " Millennium , after weeks of hinting at possibilities without delivering much of anything , has finally started to give a real sense that yes , there is a lot of bad news happening , and it really does make a twisted kind of sense " . Bill Gibron , writing for DVD Talk , rated the episode 3 @. @ 5 out of 5 , noting that it shared similar themes with the direction the series would take in its second season . Gibron described the episode as " spooky and somewhat surreal " , adding that " the entire installment [sic] crackles with possibilities " . Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @-@ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen , rated " Powers , Principalities , Thrones and Dominions " four stars out of five , describing it as being " surprising , intriguing , moody and pretentious " . Shearman compared the episode thematically to Mann 's earlier script for " The Judge " , and noted that while the story " doesn 't make for an especially comprehensible yarn , it does produce an episode that is genuinely uneasy viewing " .