

= Worlds Apart (Falling Skies) =

" Worlds Apart " is the second season premiere episode of the American television drama series Falling Skies and the 11th overall episode of the series . It originally aired on TNT in the United States on June 17 , 2012 , as a two @-@ hour season premiere with the second episode of the season . Written by the first season showrunner Mark Verheiden and directed by Greg Beeman , " Worlds Apart " was the first original Falling Skies episode in 10 months .

Remi Aubuchon was hired as the showrunner for the second season in May 2011 before the first season premiere . He replaced Verheiden , who is also the co @-@ executive producer . Once Aubuchon entered the writer 's room , he began speaking of the cliffhanger left over from the first season finale . He stated that creating the follow @-@ up was a " fun challenge , which propelled a lot of the storytelling for the second season . "

Three months have passed since Tom Mason boarded the spacecraft , and the 2nd Mass has been on the move . Assuming their father is dead , Tom 's eldest son , Hal , becomes more of a presence in the 2nd Mass , along with Ben , whose hatred of the Skitters grows stronger . After Tom 's return , through flashbacks , " Worlds Apart " details his torture by the Overlords and his pilgrimage back to the 2nd Mass .

Reviews for the episode were relatively positive . Many critics saw it as a step @-@ up in quality from the first season and praised the darker approach to storytelling . In the United States , the two @-@ hour season premiere achieved a viewership of 4 @.@ 46 million . The episode garnered a Nielsen rating of 1 @.@ 5 in the 18 ? 49 demographic , down from the season finale .

= = Plot = =

Three months have passed since Tom Mason (Noah Wyle) boarded the spacecraft , and the 2nd Mass has been on the move . In the opening scene , a small group , part of the 2nd Mass , led by Captain Weaver (Will Patton) , attack a group of Skitters and Mechs patrolling the streets . Ben Mason (Connor Jessup) , who was captured by the Skitters months earlier , has since grown to despise the extra terrestrials . Weaver orders the group to cease fire and conserve ammo . Ben , however , notices a Skitter still alive . He jumps from the rooftop on which he was firing and slits the Skitter 's throat . His brother , Hal (Drew Roy) , follows him . They both hear a noise and notice another Skitter . Ben shoots it . However , at that point , Tom Mason was wrestling with it . The bullet goes through the Skitter and wounds Tom .

The group bring Tom back to their camp . Anne Glass (Moon Bloodgood) and Lourdes (Seychelle Gabriel) operate on Tom . While Tom is in surgery , flashbacks appear , filling in the gaps of his 3 month departure . He is apparently tortured by the alien ? Overlords ? while on the spaceship . Later , the Overlords wish to speak with him . They communicate through Karen (Jessy Schram) , who was once part of the 2nd Mass . It tells Tom about a ? Neutral Zone ? , in which survivors can live in peace ? detained in a camp run by The Overlords . Tom quickly realizes that negotiation with their invaders is out of the question , and he immediately refuses . He attacks a nearby Skitter and is knocked unconscious in the process .

Later , Tom is dropped off in a field somewhere . There , he discovers that other people were held captive on the spaceship as well . A Mech kills everyone , except for Tom , presumably to tell others about what he witnessed . He begins a pilgrimage back to Boston . On his way , he finds a girl , Teresa (Laine MacNeil) being mugged . Tom helps her . Teresa ? s mother was murdered and Tom and Teresa bury her . They leave together on Teresa ? s motorcycle . Later , they hear Mech fire and people . Teresa decides to leave and go to the mountains . Tom stays to find other survivors . There , he finds a Skitter . While attempting to kill it , Tom is shot by his son , Ben .

His story complete , Tom awakens to find Anne by his side . She tells him she knew he ? d return for his sons . He tells her that he came back for her too . Tom then reunites with his children before greeting fellow members of the 2nd Mass . They appear happy to see him . Pope (Colin Cunningham) , however , appears not so happy to see Tom . He tells Weaver about his suspicions .

= = Production = =

Falling Skies was renewed on July 7 , 2011 , for a second season . TNT announced production had begun on the second season on October 24 , 2011 . For the second season , Brandon Jay McLaren joined the cast in October as Jamil Dexter , a mechanic . McLaren will feature in seven episodes .

Filming took place in Vancouver and at the Riverview Hospital in Coquitlam from October 2011 to March 2012 . For the first season , production took place in Hamilton and Toronto . Noah Wyle said that the change in location made filming significantly different . A new crew came in for the second season , with only " two or three people on staff that were there in season one . " The new staff includes a new writing staff and showrunner .

Remi Aubuchon was hired as the showrunner for the second season in May 2011 before the first season premiere . Once Aubuchon entered the writer 's room , he began speaking of the cliffhanger " it became a really fun challenge . " Out of that cliffhanger , says Aubuchon , " came some really positive things that propel a lot of the storytelling in the second season . And the writers came up with a pretty cool way for Tom Mason to get off that spaceship again . " " You 'll always catch people after a huge trauma saying , ' Oh , it wasn 't that bad . ' Or , ' It was fun , ' Or , ' It was cool falling off that cliff , ' " says Aubuchon . " The truth is , at first it was like , ' Oh my God , should i just say I can 't do this job ? ' Ultimately , though , I think it turned out cool . "

Series lead Noah Wyle received several phone calls after the first season finale aired . The number one question was " What the hell were you doing getting on that spaceship ? " He said that they " wrote themselves into a corner " . Moon Bloodgood , who plays Dr. Anne Glass , says she was sort of daunted but impressed by the writing . Aubuchon added that Tom Mason 's capture helped the writer 's change the character slightly . He stated : " Tom comes away from that experience feeling used and manipulated . It wasn 't the experience [he expected] . He thought he was going to be having a nice conversation with an extraterrestrial being . It turned out to be worse than that . More than that , I won 't say . But that 's what made it fun . "

Greg Beeman , who directed the episode , spoke about Remi Aubuchon 's hiring . He said that Remi had " a lot of ideas about how to keep the good stuff we 'd established in Season 1 " , and " diminish the things that weren 't as strong " . Steven Spielberg 's original conception of Falling Skies was that the characters in the series would be nomadic . The idea for the second season was to " create a mobile refugee camp made up of vehicles and rag @-@ tag tents . " Chris Faloona , who was the Director of Photography in the first season , was unable to return due to commitments on another series , and Nate Goodman was hired . Aubuchon and Beeman discussed what was a head for the characters this season , and soon after , Beeman called Connor Jessup , who plays Ben Mason , and said " I 've just heard what the plans are for you for this season . And my strong advice is that you get a trainer and start eating your Wheaties ! You are in a HUGE storyline is going to revolve around you ? You 're a warrior , you 're a skitter killer and you 're a badass ! " Jessup hired a trainer that very day .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original American broadcast , " Worlds Apart " was seen by an estimated 4 @.@ 46 million household viewers , according to Nielsen Media Research . The episode was down 24 % from its series debut , which garnered a 2 @.@ 0 rating in the 18 @-@ 49 demographic . Nevertheless , Falling Skies remains TNT 's highest @-@ rated scripted series . " Worlds Apart " received a 1 @.@ 5 rating among viewers between ages 18 and 49 , meaning 1 @.@ 5 percent of viewers in that age bracket watched the episode .

= = = Reviews = = =

Reviews for the episode were strong . Many critics noted a step @-@ up in quality from the first season . Newsday 's Verne Gay called stated " " Skies " has made the bad guys intriguing , and now if it can only get serious about character development with the good ones -- humans -- then the second season will be a big improvement . " Maureen Ryan of The Huffington Post compared the episode to the first season by saying " Season 2 is a different animal , a much leaner and meaner machine that allows sentiment to be present but unexpressed and depicts a darker world in which innocence is a luxury that no one can truly afford . " Chuck Barney declared " Sunday 's explosive two @-@ hour opener boldly delivers on the promise by TNT producers to rev up both the pace and the firepower in Season 2 . " Matt Richenthal of TV Fanatic called the episode a " strong start overall to Falling Skies Season 2 , " and continued by praising the performances of Wyle , Patton and Cunningham . Screen Rant 's Anthony Ocasio praised the episode . " While further episodes will reveal more , the type of character development , intriguing storylines and exciting action that will be contained in Falling Skies season 2 , there ? s no doubt that TNT ? s hit drama will likely become an epic adventure , spanning many seasons , " he said .