

= All Hell Breaks Loose (Supernatural) =

" All Hell Breaks Loose " is the joint title for the two @-@ part second season finale of the CW television series Supernatural . It consists of the twenty @-@ first and twenty @-@ second episodes of the second season . " Part One " was first broadcast on May 10 , 2007 , and the second part aired the following week on May 17 , 2007 . The narrative follows series protagonist Sam Winchester (Jared Padalecki) ? a young man who travels the continental United States with his brother Dean (Jensen Ackles) hunting supernatural creatures ? as he is abducted by series villain Azazel (Fredric Lehne) and sent to an abandoned town . Azazel intends to find a leader for his demon army by having Sam and other psychic children like him fight to the death . Sam is eventually killed , but is resurrected after Dean sells his soul . The sole survivor , Jake (Aldis Hodge) , is sent by Azazel to a cemetery protected against demons , where he opens a gateway to Hell . At the end of the episode , Azazel is finally killed by Dean with the mystical Colt revolver , but not before hundreds of demons are released into the world .

The production process was plagued with problems , and changes had to be made throughout filming . " Part One " ' s setting was altered after production learned of a pre @-@ existing set , which had been used for the western television series Bordertown . The choice of location in turn influenced the type of supernatural monster that was featured . The once @-@ epic script of " Part Two " had to be toned down due to budgetary reasons , with weather conditions forcing the episode 's climax to be filmed on a sound stage rather than on location . The scenes featuring the return of John Winchester (Jeffrey Dean Morgan) had to be filmed weeks in advance using blue screen due to the actor 's limited availability .

Despite receiving season @-@ low ratings , the episodes garnered positive reviews from critics , who praised both the writing and the decision to end the main storylines . The performances of Fredric Lehne and Ona Grauer were also applauded , with Jessica Harmon gaining a Leo Award nomination for her role .

= = Plot = =

= = = Part one = = =

Sam Winchester (Padalecki) is abducted by the yellow @-@ eyed demon Azazel (Lehne) and taken to the abandoned town of Cold Oak , supposedly the most haunted place in America . Also placed there are Azazel 's other " psychic children " ? young men and women whom the demon visited as babies , doing something that gives them supernatural abilities later in life ? including Andy Gallagher (Gabriel Tigerman) and Ava Wilson (Katharine Isabelle) , as well as new characters Lily (Jessica Harmon) and Jake Talley (Hodge) . Ava had been abducted months earlier , but claims to have no knowledge of her whereabouts during the time gap . Lily tries to leave the town , but is killed by an Acheri demon , prompting the others to seek refuge in a building , protecting themselves from the demon with barriers of salt . As Dean Winchester (Ackles) and fellow hunter Bobby Singer (Jim Beaver) head to Harvelle 's Roadhouse ? a saloon frequented by hunters ? for help and find it burned to the ground with the body of hunter Ash (Chad Lindberg) buried in the wreckage , Andy uses his mind @-@ control abilities to send Dean his location telepathically .

After falling asleep that night , Sam is visited in a dream by Azazel , who reveals that he has brought them all together so that they can fight to the death , with the sole survivor becoming the leader of his army of demons . Admitting that he killed Sam 's girlfriend Jessica because he believed she was holding him back from returning to his old life of hunting supernatural creatures , the demon then shows him the night of his mother 's death . Azazel had come into Sam 's nursery and fed him his blood , with Mary Winchester (Samantha Smith) walking in and recognizing the demon .

Later , when Ava and Andy are alone together , she lets the Acheri demon into the building , and uses a new ability to command it to kill him . After revealing to Sam that she has actually been in the

town all the months she has been missing , killing off other psychic children that Azazel has sent there , she sets the Acheri demon on him . However , Jake sneaks up behind her and uses his superhuman strength to break her neck , prompting the now free Acheri demon to flee . As Sam and Jake then start to leave the town , Jake attacks him out of distrust , but Sam gains the upper hand and apparently knocks him unconscious . However , as Sam is distracted by an arriving Dean and Bobby , Jake regains consciousness and fatally stabs him . Dean assures his brother that he will take care of him , but Sam dies in his arms .

= = = Part two = = =

Desperate to save his brother , Dean sells his soul to a Crossroads Demon (Ona Grauer) in exchange for Sam 's resurrection , and is given only one year before collection is due . They later conduct research at Bobby 's home , hoping to determine Azazel 's plan . Ellen Harvelle (Samantha Ferris) , owner of the now @-@ destroyed Roadhouse , then arrives , and is forced to drink holy water to prove that she is not possessed by a demon . After giving them a map of Wyoming that Ash had left in the Roadhouse 's safe , she points out five X 's that have been marked , representing frontier churches built by Samuel Colt ? hunter and creator of the mystical Colt , a gun capable of killing anything . Research also shows that railway lines connect all the churches in the form of a pentagram , creating a giant devil 's trap that demons cannot enter .

At the pentagram 's center is an old cowboy cemetery , which Azazel forces Jake to go to by threatening his family . The Winchesters , Bobby , and Ellen are there to meet him , but Jake , having given in to his demonic side , develops mind @-@ control abilities and orders Ellen to put her gun to her head . Everyone is forced to lower their weapons , giving Jake time to use the Colt as a key to open a mausoleum . However , Sam then shoots Jake in the back , and finishes him off with multiple shots as he begs for mercy . As the mausoleum doors begin to open , they realize that it is a Devil 's Gate ? a doorway to Hell . A rush of demons then escape and break the iron railway lines of the devil 's trap , allowing Azazel to enter . As Ellen and Bobby try to close the gateway , Sam and Dean take the Colt to confront Azazel . Unfortunately , the demon catches them by surprise and takes the gun . After taunting Dean about his demonic pact and questioning if what came back was " one hundred percent pure Sam " , Azazel prepares to kill them . To his surprise , the escaped spirit of John Winchester (Morgan) grabs him , distracting him long enough for Dean to take back the Colt and shoot him in the heart , finally killing him . As Bobby and Ellen manage to close the gates , John 's spirit moves on . Knowing that they now have to face an army of demons , Sam promises to try to free Dean from his deal .

= = Production = =

= = = Guest stars = = =

The first episode featured the return of many characters . Actress Samantha Smith reprised her role as Mary Winchester in a flashback , with Chad Lindberg making an appearance as the hunter Ash . Actor Gabriel Tigerman of the second season episode " Simon Said " guest starred as the mind @-@ controlling Andy Gallagher , and Katharine Isabelle of " Hunted " returned as the missing Ava Wilson . Other of Azazel 's psychic children introduced in the episode were the heart @-@ stopping Lily , portrayed by Jessica Harmon , and the super @-@ strong Jake Talley , who is played in both episodes by Aldis Hodge . Actor Jim Beaver also guest starred in both parts as recurring character Bobby Singer , as did Fredric Lehne as the yellow @-@ eyed demon Azazel . Lehne first portrayed the character in the second season premiere " In My Time of Dying " , and was originally meant to only play the part temporarily because the demon changes human hosts periodically . However , the show runners liked him so much they kept him in the role . Executive producer and director Kim Manners was happy with this decision , believing that Lehne brought to the character " a real Jack Nicholson flavor " . The second episode brought back actress Samantha Ferris as hunter Ellen

Harvelle , as well as Jeffrey Dean Morgan as John Winchester , whose previous appearance was in the season premiere . Morgan 's busy schedule required his scenes for the episode to be filmed weeks in advance .

= = = Writing = = =

Multiple storylines spanning the first two seasons were brought to a close in the two @-@ part season finale , including the search for the demon Azazel and the existence of Azazel 's psychic children . As many of the show 's questions are answered in one long conversation by Azazel , series creator Eric Kripke and writer Sera Gamble had to rewrite the demon 's speech multiple times because they felt that " the payoff [was] never as good as the anticipation " . Though it would have been easier for them to keep postponing the revelations , the writers believed they would get " crushed under the anticipation " because they would not be able to satisfy fans if they kept building up more expectations . As for the psychic children , the writers originally intended to continue their storyline into the third season , but ultimately killed them off after deciding that the characters were not as interesting as demons and monsters . In the first version of the script , the character of Lily was two roles : a girl named Alex who could kill with a single touch , and a telepath named Lily . Believing they had too many characters , the writers combined Alex and Lily into one . Gamble had envisioned the episode as a " psychic Breakfast Club " , so the new Lily 's motivation was that she was Ally Sheedy . The Acheri demon responsible for two of the psychic children 's deaths was based on the Acheri from Hindu mythology ; writer Sera Gamble felt that it being a " diseased spirit " that comes down from the mountains and " kills everybody in the settlements " fit in with the abandoned mountain @-@ side town that the episode takes place in . Harvelle 's Roadhouse ? a saloon frequented by demon hunters ? was dropped from the show in these episodes as well , as Kripke disliked the concept of having a fixed home for a road @-@ based series . With the Roadhouse 's destruction came the death of recurring character Ash , whom the writers had been phasing out during the season because they felt his " comical " and " wacky " personality was too unrealistic for the show .

With John Winchester making a demonic pact in the second season premiere , it was decided early on that the season would also end with another demonic pact . This required the writers to kill Sam ? they felt it was the only thing that could motivate Dean to sell his soul ? with the pact becoming one of the driving forces behind the third season . At the same time , it opened up another new storyline by questioning if what returned was " one hundred percent pure Sam " . Additionally , the " war of demons against humanity " ? hinted at throughout the first two seasons ? finally started with the release of demons through the Devil 's Gate at the end of the second episode . This plotline continues throughout the rest of the series , with the Winchesters attempting to hunt down the demons in the third season .

While the final version of " Part Two " is quite enclosed , the initial script was considered epic , with production designer Jerry Wanek jokingly referring to it as a " six @-@ hour mini @-@ series " . In the original version , the giant devil 's trap keeping demons away from the gateway to Hell was much more complex , with each point in the pentagram being a church housing a holy relic ? such as a sliver from the True Cross . With the artifacts powering the devil 's trap , Jake 's role would have been to go to each church and destroy them , the hunters following after him to try to stop him . Jake would then eventually destroy the final relic during a fight with Sam , and Dean would race to the gateway to prevent Azazel from opening it while Jake and Sam are " beating the crap out of each other " . However , when director and executive producer Kim Manners received the script , he realized it was huge , and had the storyboard artist make five @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half hours of storyboards for the episode to prove that it could not be filmed without going hundreds of thousands of dollars over @-@ budget . Production suggested that a large amount of money could be saved by not depicting the churches , which were major set pieces for the intended story . Kripke realized that instead of using churches , he could have the points of the pentagram be connected by railroad tracks . With tracks being made of iron , it fit perfectly with the series mythology because iron is a demon deterrent . Kripke found this aspect to be more Western , matching the tone of show . Rather

than destroying the devil 's trap as in the original script , Jake is instead sent by Azazel to open the gateway himself , and the major fight scene between Jake and Sam was then changed into a standoff between Jake and the hunters . Though the storyline had to be toned down , Kripke felt that this improved the overall episode by making it simpler .

= = = Filming = = =

Filming for the first episode lasted for a period of nine days . The diner at the beginning of the episode was built by Wanek , though a pre @-@ existing set ? a deserted town built for the Western television series Bordertown that is filmed in the Vancouver area ? was used for seven days of filming . Originally , the episode was meant to mainly take place in an abandoned orphanage with many hallways . However , producer Cyrus Yavneh had sent Kripke photos of the Bordertown set during production of Supernatural 's first season , and the " creepy " and " evocative " aspects of the town prompted the writers to change the setting . With the new location , references to the ghost town of Dudleytown , Connecticut were going to be included in the script , but were eventually edited out . Unfortunately for production , the Bordertown set was surrounded by mountains on one side and farmland on the other , making it difficult for the production team to access . It also rained all seven days , causing problems during filming . However , director Robert Singer felt that the gray skies and mist ended up helping the episode 's appearance .

The second episode 's climax was originally to take place in an actual cemetery , but problems at the potential filming locations prohibited this . The scene takes place at night , which , at that time of year , only lasts for nine and a half hours in Vancouver . With only four nights to film the sequence , production came up with the idea of having a " supernatural solar eclipse " so that the scenes could be shot day for night . However , the first filming location did not have trees , which were needed for the filming technique to work . After eventually finding a cemetery that did have trees , a rain storm during inspection forced the production team to realize that weather would interfere with the filming . It was decided at the last minute to film on a sound stage , and a cemetery set was constructed . However , the bark mulch used for the set had to contain manure , making it very rancid . According to actress Samantha Ferris , " It stunk so bad your eyes watered . "

= = = Effects = = =

As with all other episodes , visual effects were done in @-@ studio . Production wanted to keep the number of shots to a minimum for the opening of the Devil 's Gate at the second episode 's climax , so instead of just digitally creating demon smoke shots , visual effects supervisor Ivan Hayden filmed stand @-@ ins dressed as characters from past episodes ? Woman in White , Hook Man , and the Reaper ? on a blue screen and inserted them into the scene in post @-@ production during brief flashes of lightning . This filming technique also had to be used for the return of John Winchester . Actor Jeffrey Dean Morgan was busy filming the movie The Accidental Husband during the episode 's scheduled shooting , so he , Jensen Ackles , and Jared Padalecki filmed the scene six weeks earlier in front of a blue screen . The reunion was intended to be " more complex with a lot of fighting " , but the movie 's production crew believed Morgan would be at risk of getting injured and forbid it . Kripke trimmed the scene , removing Morgan 's dialogue and only having him being thrown to the ground by Azazel . The script was not yet complete during the scene 's filming , so Padalecki 's appearance was based on the original storyline in which Sam has a brutal fight with Jake and ends up covered in blood . When the fight scene was removed , Padalecki had to re @-@ film his part of the family reunion using tennis balls and a stand @-@ in as replacements for Ackles and Morgan who were not available .

= = = Music = = =

As is typical for the series , the synthesized orchestral score of the episodes was written alternately by Jay Gruska and Christopher Lennertz , with the former working on " Part One " and the latter

scoring " Part Two " . Because he had worked on the pilot episode of the series ? where he introduced a recurring musical theme for scenes related to the villain Azazel ? Lennertz was happy to be the one to score the episode featuring the demon 's death , allowing him to " close that chapter " . With the opening of the gateway to Hell at the episode 's end , Lennertz felt that the music " became much larger in scope " than previous episodes , deeming it " an issue of making things larger than life " . As with most episodes of the series , classic rock music is also included .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " Part One " was viewed by an estimated 2 @. @ 9 million viewers , with " Part Two " bringing in approximately 2 @. @ 72 million viewers . Compared to the rest of the second season , " Part Two " became the lowest @- @ rated episode behind " Born Under a Bad Sign " , which received only 2 @. @ 84 million viewers . Despite this , the episodes garnered positive reviews from critics . Tina Charles of TV Guide found " so much goodness " in the first episode , and called Dean 's speech to Sam " rip @- @ your @- @ heart @- @ out sad " . She deemed the second episode just plain " wow " , praising both the brotherly relationship depicted and the scenes between Jensen Ackles and Jim Beaver , but was disappointed that the brothers did not converse with the spirit of John Winchester after he escapes from Hell . Of particular interest to critics was the wrapping up the Azazel story arc , described by Charles as a " great way to cap off the season " . Kathie Huddleston of Sci @- @ fi.com noted that the " terrific " finale closed Sam and Dean 's " dad issues and their Yellow @- @ Eyed Demon issues " while opening up new problems for them to face , while TV Squad said it had a " weight and importance that a good finale should have " . TV Squad further stated that in " Part Two " , the show handled Sam 's coming back well , though it was apparent he would from " Part One " . The actors ' performances were also applauded , with Ona Grauer being deemed " delightful " as the Crossroads Demon , coming across as something of a " supernatural used @- @ car salesman " . Frederic Lehne received praise for his portrayal of the demon Azazel , described as " riveting " , " great " , and " appropriately creepy " .

However , Tom Burns of Underground Online had previously criticized Supernatural for ruining a surprise ending by giving it away in the show 's recap . For " Part One " , he noted that its ending was given away in the CW 's preview for the episode which showed Sam stabbed in the back and collapsing into Dean 's arms . Burns liked the episode , but did find some fault with it . He felt that " Part One " focusing on Sam and " Part Two " on Dean was a mistake since " Supernatural 's strongest asset has always been the chemistry between the leads " . In addition , Burns felt the season had set up the question of whether Sam was going to " go evil " , and the finale did not follow through , which Burns described as a " tease " .

Jessica Harmon gained a Leo Award nomination for " Best Guest Performance by a Female in a Dramatic Series " for her role as Lily in " Part One " .