

= See No Evil (Homicide : Life on the Street) =

" See No Evil " is the second episode of the second season of the American police drama television series Homicide : Life on the Street , and the eleventh overall episode of the series . It originally aired on NBC in the United States on January 13 , 1994 . In the episode , Felton 's friend kills his father in an assisted suicide , and Felton tries to convince Lewis to look the other way . In a subplot , Pembleton investigates what appears to be the police shooting of an unarmed suspect .

The episode was directed by Chris Menaul and written by series creator Paul Attanasio . Wilford Brimley made a guest appearance as Harry Prentice , an ill and bed @-@ ridden man who convinces his son to help him kill himself . Attanasio deliberately wrote the script so it would be morally questionable whether police handling of both the suicide and the police shooting were done in an ethically correct way . Pembleton 's investigation was based on a real @-@ life investigation into a suspicious shooting featured in David Simon 's non @-@ fiction book Homicide : A Year on the Killing Streets , on which the Homicide series was based .

Detectives from the Baltimore Police Department wrote a letter of formal protest to executive producer Barry Levinson over the negative portrayal of police in the episode . According to Nielsen Media Research , " See No Evil " was seen by 12 @.@ 53 million household viewers . Although a drop from the previous episode " Bop Gun " , it was nevertheless considered a strong rating for Homicide , which NBC was still considering whether to renew . The episode received generally positive reviews .

= = Plot = =

Felton (Daniel Baldwin) visits Harry Prentice (Wilford Brimley) , the elderly and bed @-@ ridden father of his friend Chuckie (Michael Chaban) . Ill and miserable , the hard @-@ bitten Harry has decided he wants to die and has hired a suicide doctor . Felton believes this is wrong and convinces Chuckie to call it off , much to Harry 's anger . A few days later , however , Harry wears Chuckie down and convinces his son to shoot him to death with a handgun . When Lewis (Clark Johnson) and Crosetti (Jon Polito) investigate , Chuckie claims Harry shot himself , which Lewis does not believe . Felton talks to Chuckie at the police station and Chuckie admits to the assisted suicide , but Felton tells him to stick to the original suicide story . Lewis realizes what happened and confronts Felton , who admits what Chuckie did and suggests it was the right thing to do , but Lewis adamantly disagrees . Since the bullet evidence is inconclusive , Felton asks Lewis to let Chuckie secretly wash his hands so no gunpowder residue will be found in tests . Lewis initially refuses , but he eventually reluctantly agrees , allowing Chuckie to get away with the shooting .

Meanwhile , the homicide department is requiring all the detectives to take sensitivity training with therapist Carry Westin (Jennifer Mendenhall) . While most of them have positive experiences with her , Bolander (Ned Beatty) flatly refuses to participate and repeatedly avoids their scheduled sessions . When Gee (Yaphet Kotto) tells Bolander he will be suspended without pay if he does not meet with her , Bolander chooses the suspension , but later reconsiders after his partner Munch (Richard Belzer) harasses him at the bar until he changes his mind . When they finally meet , Bolander explains he does not trust therapists because when going through marriage counseling with his ex @-@ wife , the therapist actively encouraged her to leave Bolander . He feels he was cheated out of \$ 7 @, @ 000 in therapy bills , but Westin explains his anger is not from the money , but from feelings of betrayal by his ex @-@ wife . Bolander is ultimately impressed by Westin and even decides to ask her on a date , but she strongly hints she is a lesbian .

Pembleton (Andre Braugher) and Bayliss (Kyle Secor) are called to investigate the shooting death of Charles Courtland Cox , a small @-@ time drug peddler shot in the back shortly after a police raid of a crackhouse . When Pembleton suspects a police shooting , Lt. Tyron (Michael S. Kennedy) explains Officer Hellriegel (Jeffrey Mandon) accidentally shot Cox after falling down and discharging his weapon . However , Hellriegel does not recall details and appears nervous by questioning from Pembleton . Gee is angry with Pembleton 's inquiries into the police , and becomes even angrier when Colonel Granger (Gerald F. Gough) and Captain Barnfather (Clayton LeBouef)

say they will make Hellriegel a scapegoat if the media start suggesting racism or police brutality . Hellriegel is cleared when tests reveal the bullet does not match his gun , but Pembleton requests the firearms of the other officers be tested . Gee refuses to approve the tests , but Pembleton gets Barnfather to order them .

= = Production = =

" See No Evil " was directed by Chris Menaul and written by series creator Paul Attanasio , who had not penned a Homicide script since series premiere " Gone for Goode " . The episode was originally meant to be the second season premiere , but NBC decided to air " Bop Gun " first because it featured a guest appearance by Robin Williams , which the network hoped would lead to increased Nielsen ratings . Like the other three second season episodes , the script for " See No Evil " was already finished by the time the first season ended , but due to poor ratings throughout the duration of the show , NBC executives asked for several refinements ? including fewer episode subplots and less camera movements and jump cuts ? before approving a second season . Attanasio deliberately wrote the " See No Evil " script so that it would be morally questionable whether the police handling of both main subplots ? the assisted suicide and the suspected police shooting ? were handled in an ethically correct way . Ultimately , Attanasio wanted it to be up to the audience to interpret for themselves .

Pembleton 's investigation of fellow police officers for a suspicious shooting was based on a real @-@ life investigation chronicled in David Simon 's 1991 non @-@ fiction book Homicide : A Year on the Killing Streets , from which the Homicide series was adapted . Baltimore Police Department Detective Donald Worden , on whom the Bolander character is based , handled the actual real @-@ life investigation in 1988 . Lewis ' agreement to help Felton would later be referenced in the third season episode " Crosetti " , when Lewis reminded Felton of the favor while seeking help in stopping Bolander 's investigation into the death of Crosetti . Several members of the Baltimore Police Department publicly criticized Homicide for its negative portrayal of the police in the episode , and 22 detectives wrote a formal letter of protest to executive producer Barry Levinson over the matter .

" See No Evil " featured a guest performance by Wilford Brimley as the bed @-@ ridden and suicidal Harry Prentice , as well as Michael Chaban as his son Chuckie Prentice and Jennifer Mendenhall as sensitivity training therapist Carry Westin . The Harry Prentice story line includes his service aboard the SS John W. Brown , with the final scene of the episode filmed in front of that Liberty ship in Baltimore harbor . Mendenhall , predominately a stage actress , was a regular performer with the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in Washington , D.C. at the time she appeared in this episode . Michael S. Kennedy , an actor from Richmond , Texas , played Lt. Jimmy Tyron , a part he would reprise in the subsequent episode , " Black and Blue " . A struggling actor , Kennedy received a call in the middle of an all @-@ night shoot in Virginia Beach from a casting director he knew , informing him about the audition for Homicide one day in advance . He so enjoyed working on the show that he wrote a Homicide script himself , with Tyron playing a major part in the story , although it was ultimately never used . The songs " Rhythm and Blues " by Benjamin Antin , and " Barkeep " by Lee Curreri , were featured in " See No Evil " .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original American broadcast on January 13 , 1994 , the episode was watched by 12 @.@ 53 million households , according to Nielsen Media Research , earning the episode a 13 @.@ 3 rating . It was a drop from the previous episode , " Bop Gun " , which drew 16 @.@ 3 million household viewers , and Homicide dropped from the 10th highest @-@ rated show of the week to the 31st highest @-@ rated . But the ratings dip was expected due to the absence of Robin Williams and the " See No Evil " rating was nevertheless considered a strong one for the show , better than past

Homicide episodes and the average rating for L.A. Law , the legal drama which previously occupied that NBC timeslot . " See No Evil " was outperformed in its timeslot by the ABC news series Primetime Live , which was the 11th highest @-@ rated show of the week . Fontana said of the rating , " I hope the numbers level off now . This Thursday night is do @-@ or @-@ die . It will tell the tale , " referring to the subsequent week 's episode , " Black and Blue " .

= = = Reviews = = =

" See No Evil " received generally positive reviews . David Bianculli of The Baltimore Sun said he was surprised and impressed that the writers placed their characters in ethical dilemmas that led them to making illegal decisions . He added of the series , " Please watch this series ; it 's so good , I don 't mind pleading . " Matt Roush of USA Today called it a powerful episode and praised Andre Braugher 's " terrific " performance . Gannett News Service writer Tim Kiska praised the episode and called Yaphet Kotto 's performance a " tour @-@ de @-@ force " . The Miami Herald television critic Hal Boedeker called " See No Evil " equally as strong as " Bop Gun " , of which he was also extremely complimentary . Tom Shales of The Washington Post said both " See No Evil " and " Black and Blue " were better than the critically acclaimed " Bop Gun " , in part because they showcased Andre Braugher , who he called the finest actor in the ensemble cast : " Braugher manages to be utterly compelling whether slamming doors and throwing chairs , reducing a murder suspect to quivering tears , having furious arguments with Lt. Giardello (rock @-@ solid Yaphet Kotto) or simply lurking about . "

= = DVD release = =

" See No Evil " and the rest of the first and second season episodes were included in the four @-@ DVD box @-@ set " Homicide : Life on the Street : The Complete Seasons 1 & 2 " , which was released by A & E Home Video on May 27 , 2003 for \$ 69 @. @ 95 .