

THE AUTHORIZED ADAPTATION OF THE BEST-SELLING NOVEL

T H E X F I L E S TM

GROUND ZERO

CREATED BY CHRIS CARTER

KEVIN J.
ANDERSON

GORDON
PURCELL

LARRY
MAHLSTEDT

GEORGE
PRATT

OBI



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THE X-FILES™

GROUND ZERO



PART ONE OF FOUR

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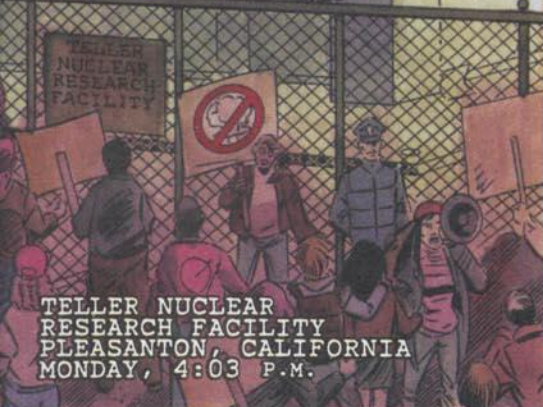
THE X-FILES™ Ground Zero™ Volume 1, Number 1, November, 1997. Published monthly by TOPPS COMICS, INC., One Whitehall Street, New York, NY 10004-2109. THE X-FILES is TM and © 1997 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. All Rights Reserved. The story, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine, unless otherwise noted, are entirely fictional. Topps Comics, Inc., is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Topps Company, Inc. First Printing. Printed in Canada.



"SO DEDICATED..."

"...SO VEHEMENT..."

"...SO NAIVE..."



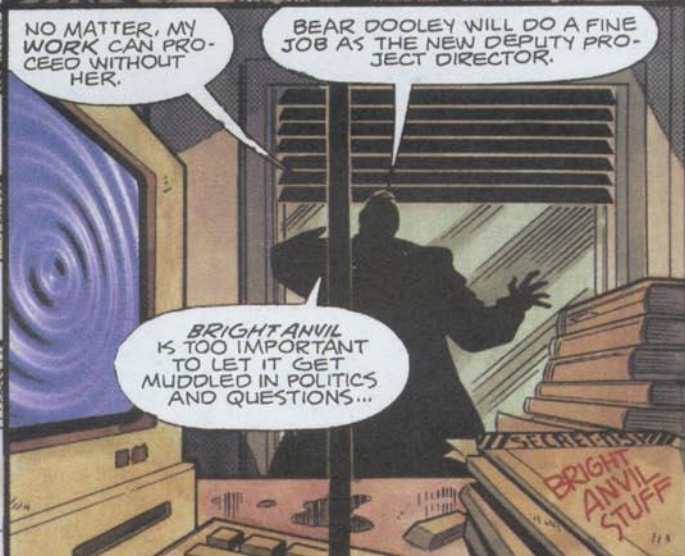
TELLER NUCLEAR
RESEARCH FACILITY
PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA
MONDAY, 4:03 P.M.



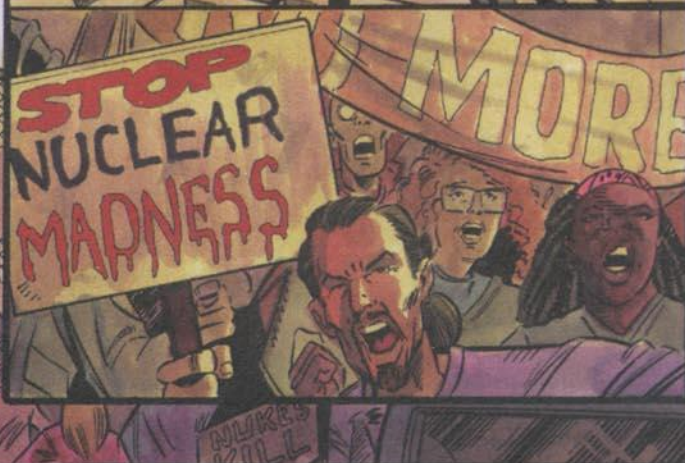
...LIKE MIRIEL, I WONDER
IF SHE'S OUT THERE WITH
THEM...

NO MATTER, MY
WORK CAN PRO-
CEED WITHOUT
HER.

BEAR DOOLEY WILL DO A FINE
JOB AS THE NEW DEPUTY PRO-
JECT DIRECTOR.



BRIGHT ANVIL
IS TOO IMPORTANT
TO LET IT GET
MUDDLED IN POLITICS
AND QUESTIONS...



EVEN I DON'T
UNDERSTAND IT...
BUT SOMEHOW
THE PROCESS
WORKS.

MIRIEL
JUST LET
TOO MANY
QUESTIONS
GET TO
HER...



AFTERNOON MAIL,
DOCTOR GREGORY,
A PACKAGE FOR
YOU--SPECIAL
DELIVERY.

THANKS,
PATTY...
BUT I'M NOT
EXPECTING
ANYTHING.

WHAT
IS THIS?
NO RETURN
ADDRESS.

OOO...



NO
LETTER,
JUST...
HMMM...

IT'S FILLED WITH
A POWDERY SUB-
STANCE...LIKE ASH.
BLACK ASH.

I WONDER IF
THIS COULD BE
SOME KIND OF
PRANK...FROM
THOSE
PEOPLE.

DOCTOR
GREGORY,
IF IT'S ALL
RIGHT WITH
YOU, CAN I
GO HOME
EARLY--TO
AVOID THE
PROTESTERS?

GO AHEAD, PATTY.
I'LL BE WORKING
LATE. AS USUAL.
NOTHING FOR ME
AT HOME,
ANYWAY.

CLOSE THE
DOOR ON YOUR
WAY OUT.





UH OH,
LIGHTS ARE
FLICKERING.



PATTY?
PATTY, ARE
YOU STILL
OUT THERE?



OH, NO! HOURS
OF COMPUTER
CALCULATIONS
--DOWN THE
DRAIN!

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THE
BACKUP
GENERATORS?



WE'LL
JUST
SEE
ABOUT
THIS--



YAAAAH!



WHAT'S GOING ON
HERE? MY SKIN IS
TINGLING... SOME-
THING BUILDING IN
THE AIR.

WHAT ARE
THOSE VOICES?
SCREAMS?



THAT
LIGHT--
THE WIND!
THIS IS
IMPOSSI--



GROUND

ZERO

PART 1



TELLER NUCLEAR RESEARCH
FACILITY
TUESDAY
10:13 A.M.

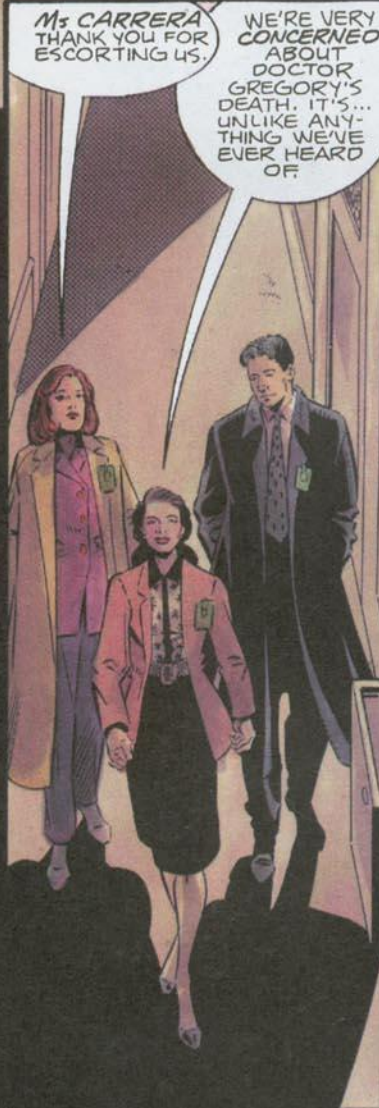


I WISH THE
DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY
RECOGNIZED
FBI
CLEARANCES.



A RADIATION
DOSIMETER?
IS THERE SOME
CAUSE FOR
CONCERN?

JUST A
PRECAUTION,
AGENT SCULLY.
WE ARE A
NUCLEAR
RESEARCH
FACILITY, YOU
REALIZE.



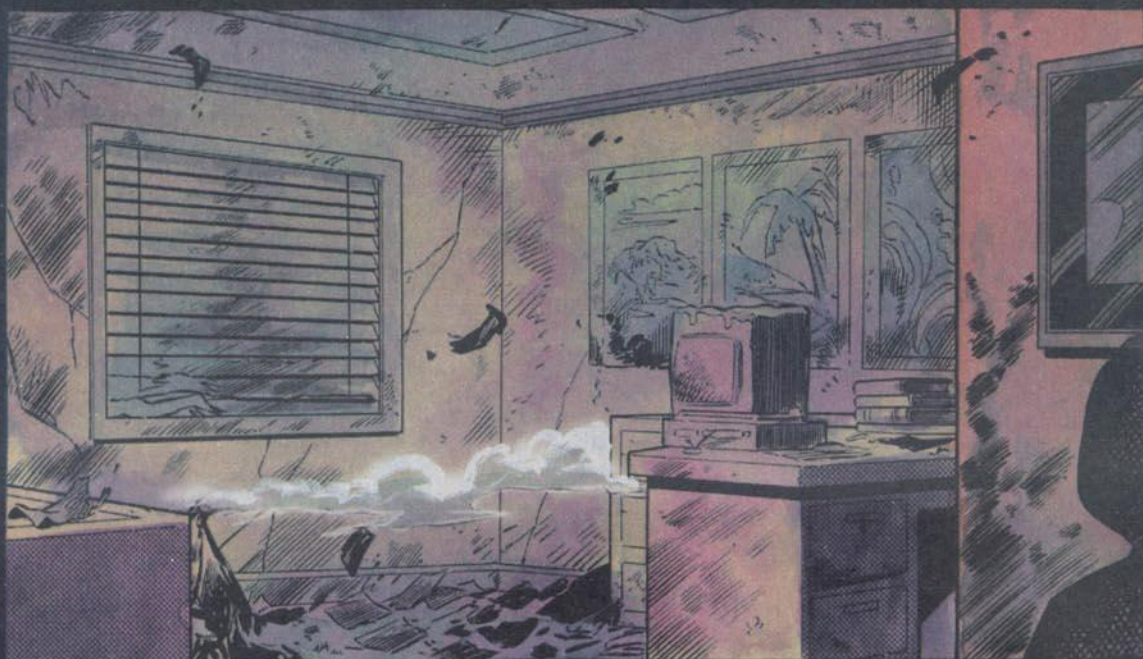
Ms CARRERA
THANK YOU FOR
ESCORTING US.

WE'RE VERY
CONCERNED
ABOUT
DOCTOR
GREGORY'S
DEATH. IT'S...
UNLIKE ANY-
THING WE'VE
EVER HEARD
OF.



WE, UH, SPECIALIZE IN
THAT KIND OF THING. OF
COURSE, THE FBI IS
REQUIRED TO INVESTI-
GATE ANY DEATH ON
FEDERAL PROPERTY.

TAKE
A QUICK
LOOK...BUT
PREPARE
YOUR-
SELVES.



SORRY, YOU CAN'T
GO IN THERE.
RADIATION LEVELS
ARE OFF THE
SCALE.



WHERE WOULD
RADIATION COME
FROM? WHAT
SORT OF FISSILE
MATERIAL?

WAS HE
WORKING ON
SOME SORT OF
SECRET
WEAPON?



DOCTOR GREGORY
WORKED ONLY ON
COMPUTER SIMU-
LATIONS. NO FISSILE
MATERIAL WAS
ALLOWED IN HIS
LABORATORY.

COME ON,
LET'S GET
YOU TWO
SUITED UP.

THESE SUITS SHOULD OFFER SUFFICIENT PROTECTION.

IF THERE'S NO RADIOACTIVE SOURCE IN THE ROOM, RESIDUAL LEVELS FADE QUICKLY.

I ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY OUT LEAD UNDERWEAR...



MAKE SURE THESE SEALS ARE TIGHT.

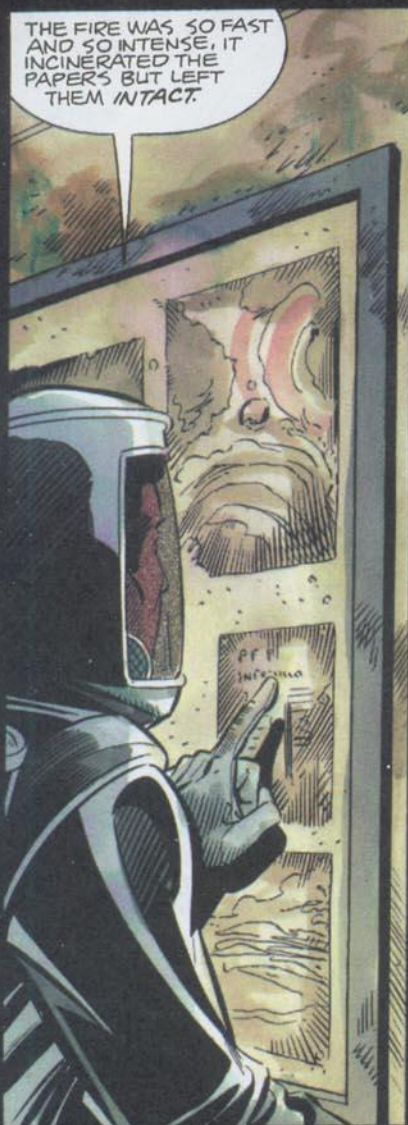
MULDER, LOOK AT THESE READINGS! THE RADIATION BURST IN THIS ROOM MUST HAVE BEEN PHENOMENAL.



THE FLASH WAS SO HOT IT MELTED THE COMPUTER.

AND IT WAS A NEW MODEL, TOO.





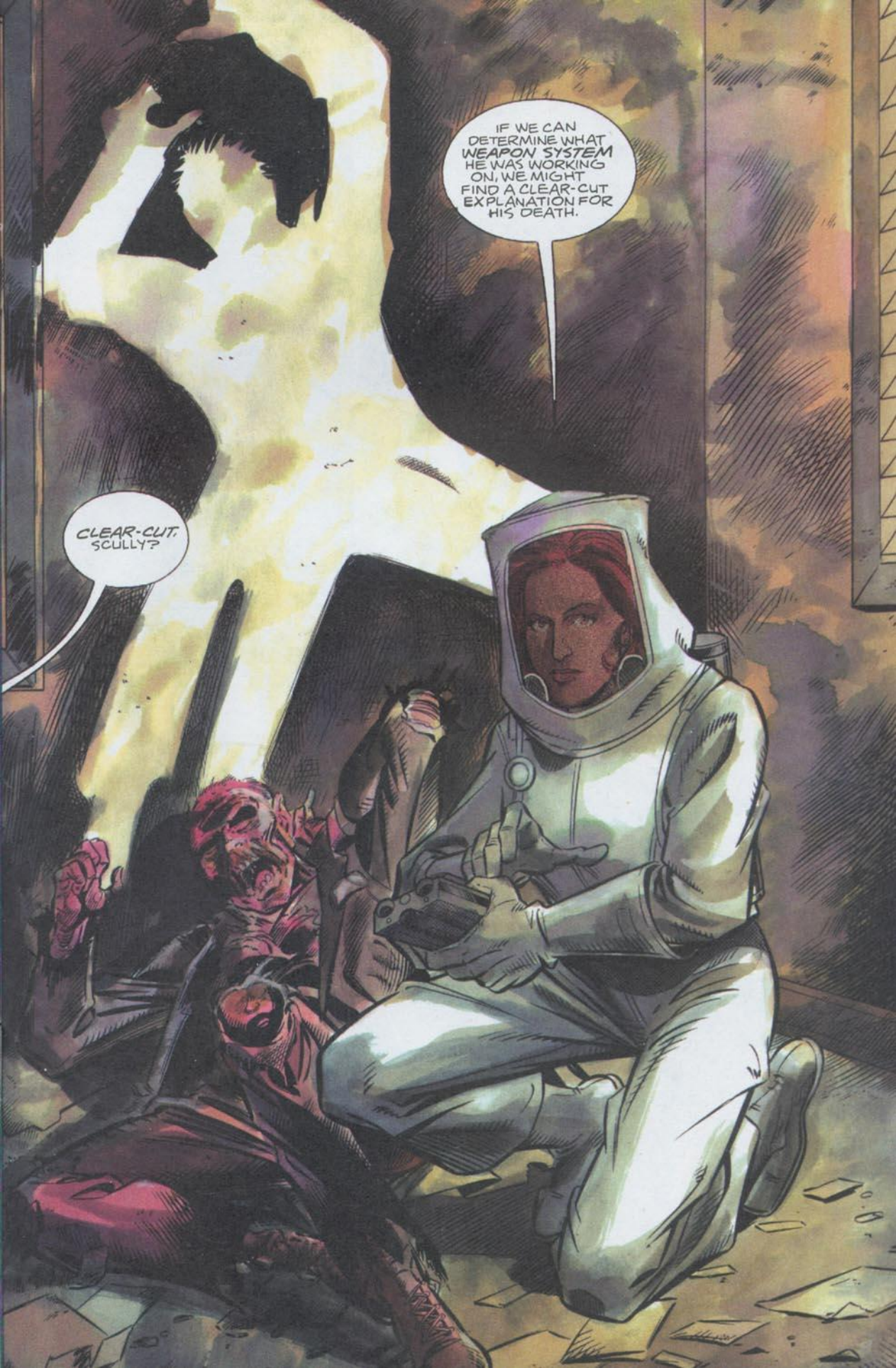
THE BURST WAS VERY **CONFINED**. THE OTHER OFFICES DOWN THE HALL SHOW NORMAL RADIATION LEVELS...



PICTURES OF SOUTH SEA ISLANDS, WEATHER SATELLITE PHOTOS...

NOT THE SORT OF STUFF I'D EXPECT A NUCLEAR WEAPONS RESEARCHER TO COLLECT ON HIS WALLS.





IF WE CAN
DETERMINE WHAT
WEAPON SYSTEM
HE WAS WORKING
ON, WE MIGHT
FIND A CLEAR-CUT
EXPLANATION FOR
HIS DEATH.

CLEAR-CUT,
SCULLY?

I'VE GOT MORE
BURN SHADOWS
HERE ON THE
DESK...

...RECTANGULAR
ONES...

LIKE
DOCUMENTS...

...SOMEBODY
REMOVED
THEM.

MULDER, YOU
SEE COVERUPS
EVERYWHERE.
REMEMBER,
THEY BROUGHT
US IN TO
INVESTIGATE.

MAYBE
THEY WERE
AFRAID...

...THEN
AGAIN...

...MAYBE
THEY WERE
A LITTLE
SLOPPY,
TOO.

THIS IS A
WEAPONS LAB...
I WONDER IF
DOCTOR GREGORY
WAS WORKING ON
SOMETHING THAT
BACKFIRED
ON HIM.

I'D CALL
THIS A
PRETTY
MAJOR
BACK-
FIRE.

LET'S SEE
WHAT THE
AUTOPSY
SHOWS.

BRIGHT
ANVIL
STUFF

"AGENT DANA SCULLY, MEDICAL REPORT."

"NO MEMBERS OF THE HOSPITAL STAFF CHOSE TO ASSIST ME, THOUGH THE SAFETY TECHS ASSURE ME RESIDUAL RADIATION IN DOCTOR GREGORY'S BODY IS NEGLIGIBLE."

OPERATING ROOM--4

QUARANTIN
IRULENT
SEASE
UTOPSY

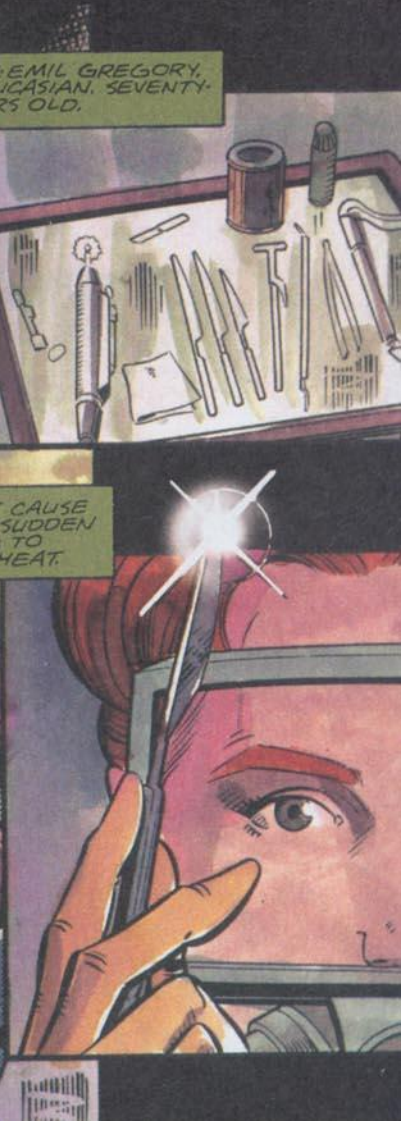
VETERAN'S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
TUESDAY
3:27 P.M.



STILL, IT'S
BEST TO TAKE
PRECAUTIONS.

"SUBJECT: EMIL GREGORY,
MALE CAUCASIAN, SEVENTY-
TWO YEARS OLD."

*APPARENT CAUSE
OF DEATH: SUDDEN
EXPOSURE TO
EXTREME HEAT.



"HOWEVER, OTHER THAN SEVERAL
EXTERNAL LAYERS OF COMPLETE
CHARRING..."

"...THE MUSCULATURE
AND INTERNAL ORGANS
APPEAR RELATIVELY
INTACT."

"IT APPEARS THAT THE HEAT WAS
SO INTENSE AND SO BRIEF THAT
IT INCINERATED THE SUBJECT'S
EXTERIOR..."

"...BUT DISSIPATED BEFORE
IT COULD PENETRATE
MORE DEEPLY..."

"BUT THERE APPEARS
TO BE SOMETHING
ELSE--MY GOD, HE
MUST HAVE KNOWN!"

DOCTOR
GREGORY HAD
AN EXTREMELY
ADVANCED
CASE OF
TERMINAL
CANCER.

HE WOULD
NOT HAVE
SURVIVED
THE MONTH.

OLD BARRACKS...
NICE DIGS. I GUESS
THEY COULDN'T BE
PICKY AFTER DOCTOR
GREGORY'S DEATH.
THEIR OTHER
OFFICES ARE
OFF-LIMITS.

COMP. B
BARRACKS

TELLER NUCLEAR
RESEARCH FACILITY
BRIGHT ANVIL PROJECT
TEMPORARY QUARTERS
TUESDAY
3:50 P.M.

SCREWY OFFICE
NUMBERS...YOU
CAN TELL WHEN
THINGS ARE DE-
SIGNATED BY THE
MILITARY...

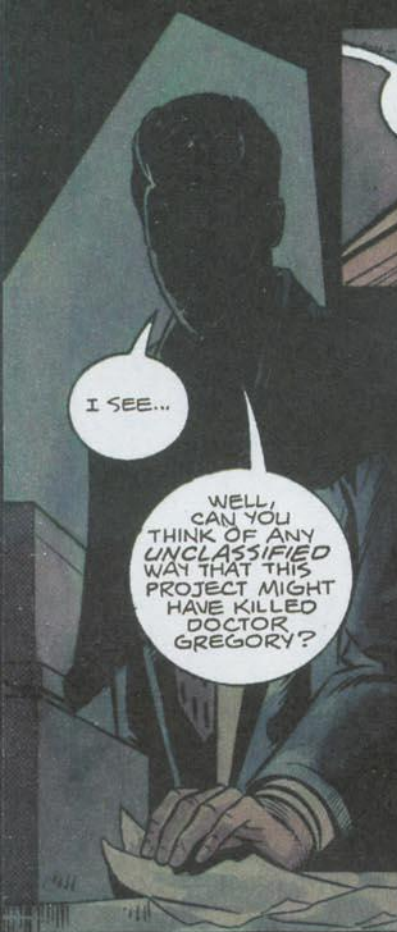
DOCTOR
DOOLEY?
ARE YOU IN
THERE?

THAT'S MISTER
DOOLEY--I AIN'T
NO PH.D. WHO ARE
YOU AND WHAT
DO YOU WANT?

BEAR DOOLEY?
DOCTOR GREGORY'S
DEPUTY PROJECT
HEAD?

OFFICIAL
PROJECT HEAD
NOW, I SUPPOSE.
DON'T TELL ME
...YOU'RE ONE
OF THOSE
FBI GUYS.

FIRST OFF, DON'T
ASK ME ABOUT
DOCTOR GREGORY'S
PROJECT. I CAN'T
TELL YOU--IT'S
CLASSIFIED.



I SEE...

WELL, CAN YOU THINK OF ANY UNCLASSIFIED WAY THAT THIS PROJECT MIGHT HAVE KILLED DOCTOR GREGORY?



NOPE.

WHAT ABOUT THIS PROJECT CALLED BRIGHT ANVIL? CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT IT?



NEVER HEARD OF IT.



YES, YOU HAVE.

YOU DON'T HAVE A NEED TO KNOW, AND YOUR FBI CLEARANCE DOESN'T MEAN A THING TO ME.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO FIND OUT ABOUT DOCTOR GREGORY'S DEATH, WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO THESE PEOPLE?



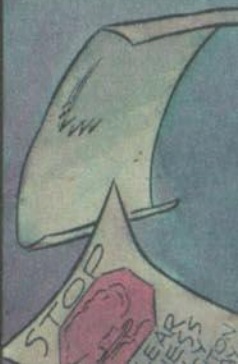
MIRIEL BREMEN RUNS THEIR SHOW-- AND SHE USED TO BE GREGORY'S DEPUTY...



"...BEFORE SHE TURNED TRAITOR."



"WE'LL CHECK HER OUT, MISTER DOOLEY. THANKS FOR YOUR TIME."



IT SAYS IN THE
REPORT THAT
GREGORY'S WIFE
DIED SIX
YEARS AGO.
LEUKEMIA.

GREGORY RESIDENCE
PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA
WEDNESDAY, 10:28 A.M.

MULDER,
THE HOUSE IS
EMPTY.

NICE
POTS.

NICE
PHOTOS.

AND TO THINK
SOME PEOPLE
COLLECT PAINTINGS
OF ELVIS ON
BLACK VELVET..

LIKE A HIGH
SCHOOL
YEARBOOK
PHOTO.
THERE...
THAT ONE'S
DOCTOR
GREGORY.

HE CERTAINLY
WAS PROUD
OF HIS WORK.
BUT MULDER, THIS
WORK TOOK PLACE
DECADES AGO...

WHAT WAS
HE WORKING
ON LATELY?

VANDENBERG
AIR FORCE BASE,
CALIFORNIA
MISSION CONTROL
BUNKER
3:45 P.M.

A BORING
ROUTINE IN
A BURIED
TRASHCAN...

...SOME
CONSIDERED
IT AN OFFICE...

...SOME
CONSIDERED
IT PUNISH-
MENT...

I THOUGHT
BEING A *MISSILEER*
WAS SUPPOSED TO
BE EXCITING...

NUCLEAR
ARMAGEDDON
AT YOUR
FINGERTIPS--
JUST THINK OF
THE *POWER* IN
YOUR HANDS.

I'D RATHER THINK
ABOUT HOW *NICE*
THE WEATHER IS
TOPSIDE...

EVER THINK ABOUT
HOW MANY SHEER
TONS OF ROCK AND
DIRT ARE HANGING
OVER OUR HEADS
RIGHT NOW?

WISH
YOU
WERE
HERE!
302

SACK ADAMS
60 ZUIDA W.
FURNING SPR.
AL 96520

RRNNNGGG



THE RED PHONE!
PROBABLY
ANOTHER DRILL
TO KEEP US FROM
GOING INSANE.

WE'VE GOT TO
TAKE EVERY ONE
SERIOUSLY. GET
THE INSTRUCTION
BINDER.



CHECK!

I'VE GOT THE
VERIFICATION
CODES.

CHECKING CO-
ORDINATES...
SOUTH
PACIFIC...WHAT
ON EARTH'S
OUT THERE?

MUST BE
A DRILL.
COORDINATES
INPUT.

KEYS
IN.

KEYS
IN.



READY?

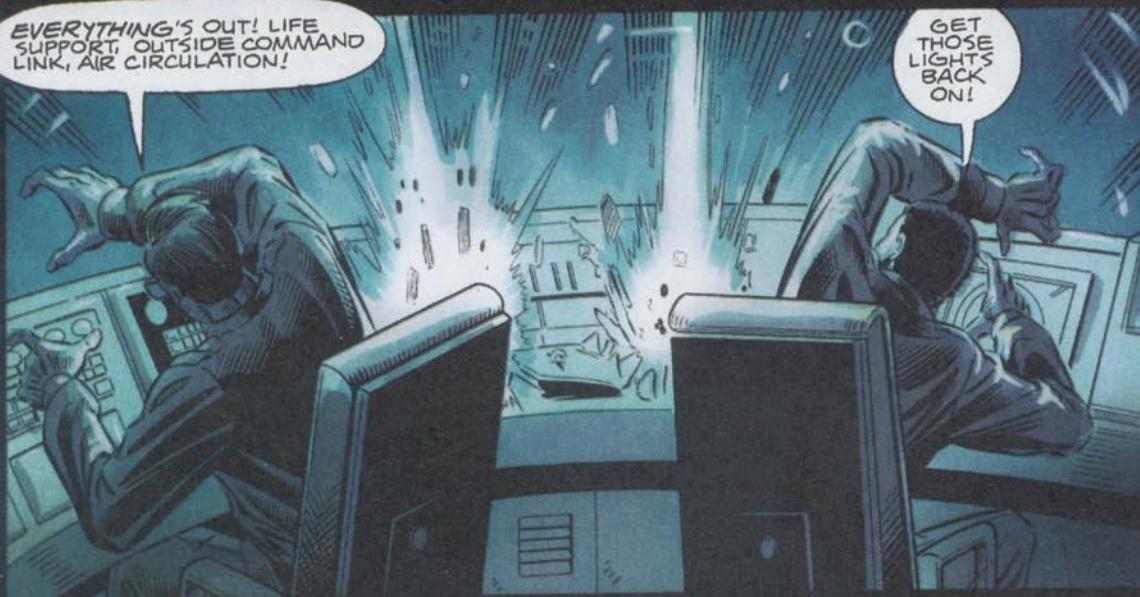


READY...
TURN!

HEY,
POWER'S
OUT!



EVERYTHING'S OUT! LIFE
SUPPORT, OUTSIDE COMMAND
LINK, AIR CIRCULATION!



GET
THOSE
LIGHTS
BACK
ON!



I'LL
CALL FOR
HELP.

MAYBE
THIS WASN'T
A DRILL! DID WE
JUST GET NUKED
FOR REAL?







ABOUT TIME...

TELLER NUCLEAR RESEARCH
FACILITY
DOOLEY'S TEMPORARY OFFICE



METEOROLOGICAL
PROJECTIONS...
SOUTH PACIFIC
FORECASTS...



COME ON,
COME ON!
LET THE
STORM
BE ON THE
RIGHT
HEADING!

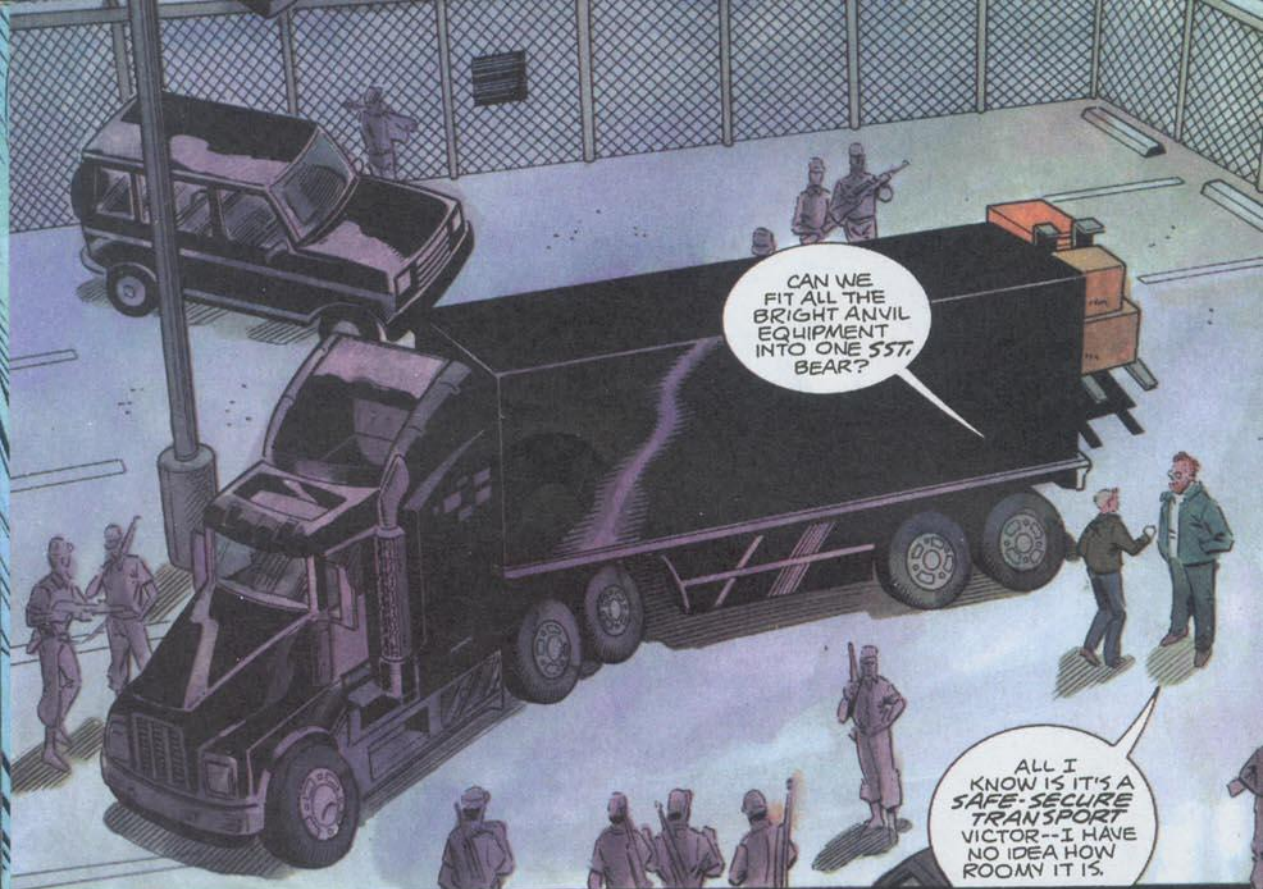
VICTOR! GET OVER
HERE NOW--WE'VE GOT
A LIVE ONE! LOOKS LIKE
A BREWING HURRICANE
SYSTEM, RIGHT ON
TARGET!



A LITTLE
TURD OF AN
ISLAND, AN
UNINHABITED
LUMP OF ROCK
CALLED
"ENIKA
ATOLL."

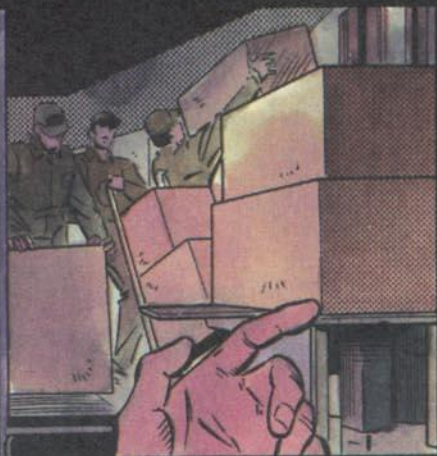
NOBODY
WILL NOTICE
ANYTHING
THERE.

I'VE BEEN
WAITING LONG
ENOUGH FOR
THIS. TIME TO
SEE EXACTLY
WHAT BRIGHT
ANVIL
CAN DO.



ONCE LOADED, THE TRUCK WILL BE ESCORTED DOWN TO SAN DIEGO WHERE A NAVY SHIP IS ALREADY WAITING FOR US.

WE'LL FLY DOWN AND MEET IT, THEN HEAD OUT FOR THE SOUTH SEAS.



I'M BRINGING MY SWIM TRUNKS!



I DON'T CARE, VICTOR...

I'M JUST ANXIOUS TO GET AWAY FROM THOSE FBI INVESTIGATORS.

• TO BE CONTINUED •