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THE X FILES™

GROUND ZERO

CREATED BY CHRIS CARTER



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THE X-FILES CREATED BY

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T H E X F I L E S™

GROUND ZERO

PART THREE OF FOUR

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PREVIOUSLY, IN THE X-FILES: GROUND ZERO:

FBI Special Agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully are investigating a series of mysterious killing that have been plaguing the top secret Bright Anvil project. Their investigation has lead them to the remote South Pacific island of Enika Atoll, the sight of an H-bomb test over thirty years ago. Now it is going to be the sight of another nuclear test – this one involving the Bright Anvil project. What neither Mulder and Scully, the U.S. Navy, or the Bright Anvil scientists know is that someone – or something – is preparing to take bloody vengeance on them at the moment of detonation.

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LOOKS THE SAME
AS THE OTHERS, SCULLY.
BUT THIS TIME WE'RE
NOT AT A MISSILE
TEST RANGE OR A
NUCLEAR DESIGN
LAB.

WE'RE IN
SOMEBODY'S
BACK YARD.

WHAT SORT
OF WEAPON...
WHAT SORT OF
FORCE COULD
CAUSE BURNS
LIKE THIS?

WELL,
AN ATOMIC
BOMB COULD
HAVE DONE
IT...



GROUND
ZERO
PART 3



GENERAL BRADOLIK'S, IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE, WE'LL LET YOU KNOW. WE MAY NEED TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS LATER.

I... I... BUT NANCY WAS SUPPOSED...



I WONDER IF THE GENERAL HAS ANY CONNECTION...

MULDER, ARE YOU THINKING OF DOCTOR GREGORY'S WEAPONS PROJECT?



EXCUSE ME, GENERAL. WE'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING SEVERAL DEATHS SIMILAR TO THIS ONE.



I'M SORRY-- I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO THE FBI.



CAN YOU TELL ME IF MS SCHECK'S WORK WAS CONNECTED WITH A PROJECT CALLED BRIGHT ANVIL?

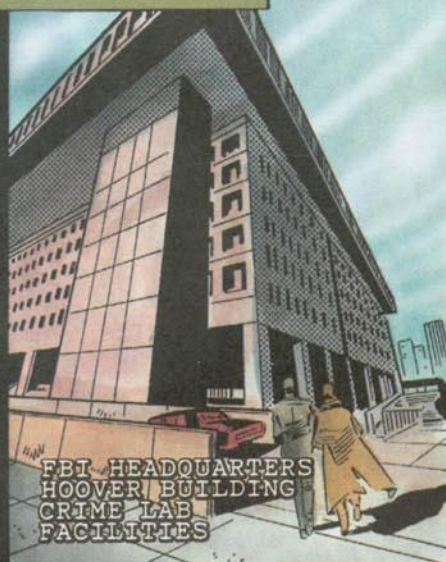


I'M NOT AT LIBERTY TO DISCUSS CLASSIFIED MATTERS WITH YOU, AGENT MULDER.



GOOD DAY.

"AGENT DANA SCULLY,
BEGINNING VISUAL
ANALYSIS OF BLACK
RESIDUE FOUND IN
NANCY SCHECK'S
POOL."



FBI HEADQUARTERS
HOOVER BUILDING
CRIME LAB
FACILITIES

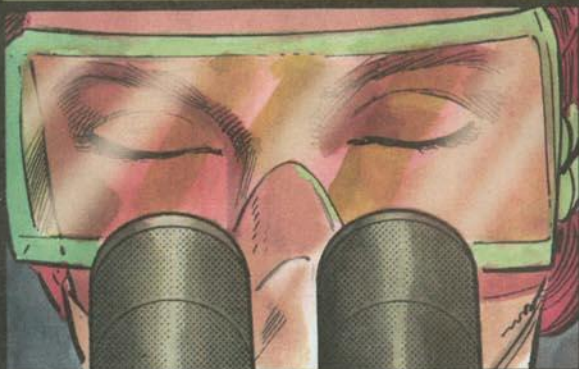
"A GRANULAR MATERIAL...FLAKY
AND POWDERY...MEASURABLE
RESIDUAL RADIOACTIVITY."



"MOSTLY DRY NOW. I
HOPE THE CHEMICAL
ANALYSIS TURNS UP
SOMETHING CON-
CLUSIVE. I EXPECT
RESULTS SHORTLY."



"THOUGH WE'LL HAVE TO ALLOW FOR POSSIBLE
CHLORINE CONTAMINATION FROM THE POOL."



"THE MIXTURE IS NON-
HOMOGENOUS. TWO
SEPARATE MATERIALS,
ONE PART ORGANIC
AND ONE PART
CRYSTALLINE."



"SAND GRAINS...AND
SOMETHING ELSE."

AGENT SCULLY...I HAVE
THE CHEMICAL RESULTS--
AND I DON'T THINK
YOU'RE GOING
TO LIKE IT.



IT'S
ASH...
HUMAN
ASH.



KAMIDA IMPORTS
HONOLULU, HAWAII



RYAN, I HAD TO
COME SEE YOU MY-
SELF. I... I DON'T
KNOW WHAT WE'RE
GOING TO DO.

I HAVE BAD
NEWS--EVERY-
THING WE WERE
AFRAID OF.



"EVEN WITHOUT DOCTOR
GREGORY, THEY'RE GOING
AHEAD. NOT EVEN A
DELAY!"



MIRIEL BREMEN!
I RECOGNIZE YOUR
VOICE--BUT YOU SHOULD
BE BACK IN BERKELEY,
CONTINUING OUR VITAL
WORK AT STOP NUCLEAR
MADNESS!



PLEASE SIT DOWN.
JOIN ME FOR A
PLEASANT LUNCH
AS WE DISCUSS
WHAT IS
TROUBLING
YOU.

THE BRIGHT ANVIL
TEST WILL TAKE
PLACE IN ONLY A
FEW DAYS!
ON ENIKA
ATOLL.



ON ENIKA! IF
BRIGHT ANVIL IS
DETONATED...
THEN OUR
GREATEST
NIGHTMARES
ARE ABOUT
TO UNFOLD.





BRIGHT
ANVIL...



ENIKA
ATOLL...



HASN'T THERE
ALREADY BEEN
ENOUGH FIRE...
ENOUGH
PAIN?



I CAN HEAR
THEM COMING...
WHISPERING
VOICES...



THE GHOSTS
OF MY PEOPLE,
LOST, DESTROYED...
OBLITERATED IN
A FLASH OF
NUCLEAR
FIRE...



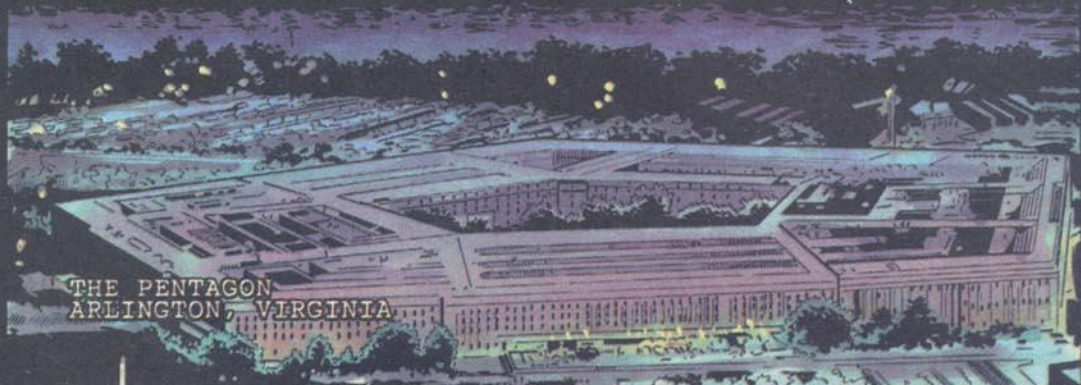
THEY
MUST TELL
ME THEIR
LIVES, THEIR
IDENTITIES...



...REAFFIRM
WHO THEY ARE,
WHO THEY
WERE...



ONE AFTER
ANOTHER,
AGAIN AND AGAIN
--EVERY NIGHT OF
MY LIFE.



THE PENTAGON
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA



GENERAL BRADOUKIS?
WE MET YESTERDAY--
AND I'D LIKE TO
CONTINUE OUR
CONVERSATION.

I NEED SOME
INFORMATION
FROM YOU.



I'VE BEEN
EXPECTING YOU,
AGENT MULDER.
SINCE YESTERDAY, I
CHECKED OUT YOUR
REPUTATION FOR
UNORTHODOX
THEORIES.



I MUST SAY THIS--
YOU MAY BE THE
ONLY PERSON IN
A POSITION TO BE
ABLE TO HELP.



YOU WERE NANCY
SCHECK'S...FRIEND,
GENERAL. HER DEATH
IS ONLY ONE OF
THREE SIMILAR
RADIATION MURDERS
IN THE LAST
FEW DAYS.

AND I
THINK YOU
HAVE AN
IDEA OF
WHAT
CONNECTS
THESE
CASES.

GENERAL,
WHAT IS
BRIGHT
ANVIL?



THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN THREE DEATHS, AGENT MULDER.



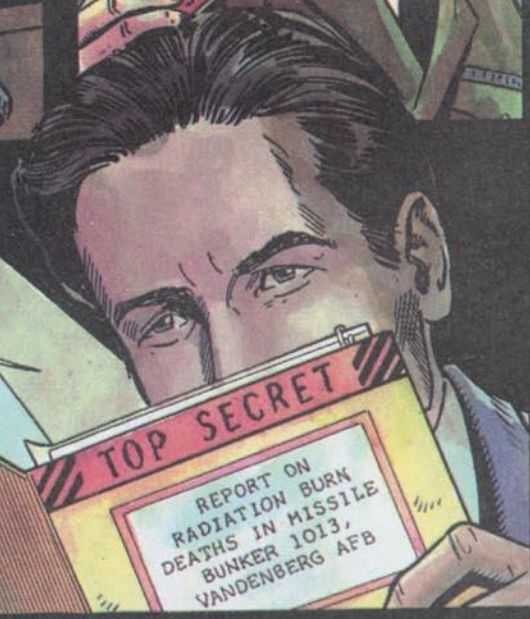
HERE ARE TWO YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT.



READ THE REPORT.



THEY WERE DEEP UNDERGROUND IN A SECURE MISSILE BUNKER, WITH A HUNDRED FEET OF EARTH OVER THEIR HEADS.



TOP SECRET
REPORT ON
RADIATION BURN
DEATHS IN MISSILE
BUNKER 1013,
VANDENBERG AFB



AND STILL SOMETHING CAME IN AND GOT THEM.

AGENT MULDER, WOULD YOU LIKE ACCESS TO THE BRIGHT ANVIL TEST? WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO GO OUT THERE, TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC?

I THINK THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS... DON'T YOU?



I'LL PACK MY BAGS RIGHT AWAY. I ALWAYS WANTED AN ISLAND HOLIDAY.



"IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME
SINCE I'VE BEEN TO
THIS ISLAND..."



"I HAD HOPED NEVER TO SEE
THIS CURSED PLACE AGAIN..."



"I TRY NOT TO FORGET...BUT
EVEN AFTER DECADES, THE
NIGHTMARES ARE STILL
TOO CLEAR."



"AND NOW IT'S
HAPPENING ALL
OVER AGAIN."



"I WAS A YOUNG SAILOR THEN, EXCITED TO BE PART OF THE GRAND SCIENTIFIC EFFORT."

"THROUGHOUT HUMAN HISTORY, THE ATOLL HAD BEEN PRISTINE--"



"BUT SINCE THE JUNGLE GOT IN OUR WAY, WE REMOVED IT."

"THE U.S. H-BOMB TESTING PROGRAM HAD BOUNCED FROM ISLAND TO ISLAND ACROSS THE SOUTH PACIFIC LIKE A CHILD'S GAME OF HOPSCOTCH."



"THE NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS WERE SO WRAPPED UP IN THEIR DIAGNOSTICS THAT THEY NEVER EVEN BOTHERED TO LOOK AT THE ISLAND PARADISE."



"ME, I HAD QUITE ENOUGH OF THE JUNGLE, UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL."



THERE AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ANY PEOPLE HERE.

THIS ISLAND ISN'T INHABITED! WE'VE GOT TO STOP THE TEST!



"BUT NOBODY WOULD LISTEN. OLD SIGNS, THEY SAID, NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF PRESENT-DAY HABITATION."

"THEY HAD SCHEDULES TO KEEP, TOO MUCH RIDING ON THE TEST. THE SOVIETS WERE AHEAD OF US, AND WE HAD TO MAINTAIN OUR NUCLEAR EDGE."

"DESPITE MY CONCERNS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PEOPLE ON ENIKA ATOLL, I SOON FORGOT ABOUT THAT AT THE END OF THE COUNT-DOWN."

"THE SAWTOOTH TEST WAS... SPECTACULAR."

"AFTERWARD, BOATS WERE DISPATCHED INTO THE HOT ZONE, OUT TO GROUND ZERO. WE ALL HAD RADIATION DETECTORS TO TAKE READINGS."





"THE SCIENTISTS HAD TO HAVE THEIR DATA."



HEY! THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE--SOMETHING MOVING!



MY GOD! IT'S A BOY--A LITTLE BOY!



HAUL HIM ABOARD! WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM BACK TO THE SHIP.

"THE BOY WASN'T EXPECTED TO LIVE--BLIND, RADIATION-BURNED. ALONE."

BUT THERE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ANYBODY ON THAT ISLAND!

IF WE FOUND ONE BOY, YOU CAN BET THERE WERE OTHERS, TOO... PLENTY OF OTHERS.

NOT ANY MORE.



"BUT SOMEHOW HE PULLED THROUGH, THOUGH HE WAS QUITE AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THE NAVY AND ITS LAX PREPARATIONS."

"HE WAS SWEEPED UNDER THE RUG, AND THE ENTIRE SAWTOOTH TEST WAS CLASSIFIED, AS IF IT HAD NEVER HAPPENED."

"AND NOW WE'RE BACK AT ENIWA ATOLL, FOR ANOTHER NUCLEAR TEST... AND I HAVE JUST AS BAD A FEELING THIS TIME."



MAYBE I'D BETTER GO TO THE ISLAND.





THEY COULD
HAVE SHOWN
A MOVIE ON
THIS
FLIGHT.

JUST
KEEP YOUR
SEATBELT
BUCKLED,
MULDER.



WELCOME TO
PARADISE.

SOME ALL-
EXPENSE-PAID
GOVERNMENT
TRIP.

I BELIEVE THAT
WHATEVER... **FORCE**
...KILLED DR. GREGORY
AND ALL THE OTHERS
IS GOING TO TRY ONCE
MORE TO STOP THE
BRIGHT ANVIL TEST.

THIS IS
IT'S LAST
CHANCE.

IF THAT
TYPHOON
DOESN'T
GET US ALL
FIRST.



BRIGHT ANVIL CONTROL
BLOCKHOUSES

MAKE SURE
THOSE CRATES
ARE LASHED DOWN
SECURELY!

COME
ON! COME ON!
WE DON'T
HAVE MUCH
TIME.

I'M CAPTAIN IVES OF
THE DALLAS. GENERAL
BRADOLIK'S INFORMED
ME TO EXPECT YOU--
THOUGH I'M A BIT
MYSTIFIED AS TO YOUR
PURPOSE HERE.

THIS ISN'T AN
FBI MATTER,
AS FAR AS I
CAN SEE.

IT DOVETAILS
WITH ANOTHER
INVESTIGATION.

IT'S OUR FRIEND
BEAR DOOLEY.
FANCY MEETING
HIM HERE.

YOU AGAIN!
I DON'T HAVE
TIME TO BABY-
SIT FBI
AGENTS...

WE'RE BUSY,
CAN'T YOU SEE?
THE STORM IS
COMING.

I HAVEN'T
NEEDED A
BABYSITTER
IN YEARS...

MISTER DOOLEY, DO YOU
KNOW HOW MUCH DAMAGE
A TYPHOON CAN CAUSE?

OF COURSE
I KNOW! WHY
DO YOU THINK WE
PICKED THIS
PLACE?

AFTER
THE STORM,
WHO'S GOING
TO NOTICE A
LITTLE MORE
DAMAGE
FROM A
SECRET
NUCLEAR
TEST?



YES...YES,
I READ
YOU.

CAPTAIN IVES!
WE'VE RECEIVED
AN EMERGENCY
DISTRESS
CALL!

A FISHING BOAT! WHAT ARE THEY
DOING OUT HERE IN THIS STORM? I
THOUGHT THIS AREA WAS SUPPOSED
TO BE SWEEP CLEAR!

SMALL FISHING BOAT
SPOTTED 1.3 METERS
FROM ENIKA ATOLL
02:17 PM

IDIOTS! WHY
NOT JUST LEAVE
THEM TO THE
ELEMENTS,
CAPTAIN?
COULD EVEN
BE A SPY
SHIP.

MISTER DOOLEY, I
DON'T REALLY CARE
ABOUT YOUR TEST
--AND IF YOU
HADN'T INSISTED
ON SUCH SECRECY,
WE COULD HAVE
DONE A MORE
THOROUGH SWEEP
OF THE AREA.

I'M GOING OUT
PERSONALLY TO
RESCUE THEM. THE
INTERNATIONAL
LAW OF THE SEA
TAKES PRECE-
DENCE OVER
YOUR LITTLE
BRIGHT ANVIL
TOY.

WAIT! I'M
GOING ALONG,
IN CASE THEY
NEED HELP.

APPROACHING
FISHING BOAT
FUKURYU MARU...

I CAN SEE THEM,
BUT I CAN'T MAKE
OUT ANY DETAILS.

THE
REFUGEES
ARE READY TO
BOARD.

HELLO,
AGENT
SCULLY.

MIRIEL BREMEN!
YOU...YOU CAME
OUT HERE ON
PURPOSE!

YOU'RE A PAIN IN THE BUTT, AGENT MULDER, BUT YOU'RE HERE, AND I CAN'T KEEP YOU FROM SEEING WITH YOUR OWN TWO EYES, SO...

THE BRIGHT ANVIL DEVICE! A BEAUTY, ISN'T IT?

LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A DR. SEUSS BOOK.

NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT--A WHOLE NEW TECHNOLOGY, A NEW WEAPONS CONCEPT.

THESE ARE LIGHT PIPES CARRYING OPTICAL FIBERS FOR OUR DIAGNOSTICS.

THEY'LL BE VAPORIZED IN THE FIRST NANOSECOND OF THE BRIGHT ANVIL BLAST, BUT WE'LL GET GREAT DATA.

AREAL KODAK MOMENT..

AGENT MULDER, THAT SUIT OF YOURS IS GOING TO GET MESSED UP AS SOON AS THE TYPHOON HITS.



NOBODY'S GOING TO NOTICE BRIGHT ANVIL BECAUSE YOU'RE DETONATING DURING A HURRICANE? BUT SOME OF THE H-BOMB BLASTS IN THE FIFTIES ERASED ENTIRE ISLANDS!

THIS HAS A *SMALLER* YIELD... NOT MUCH BIGGER THAN THE LITTLE BOMBS USED ON HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI. RELATIVELY DINKY.

SO WHY IS BRIGHT ANVIL SO... SO *EXCITING*, MR. DOOLEY? IF IT'S JUST A---UH--- DINKY WEAPON?

BECAUSE THERE'S NO *FALLOUT*, AGENT MULDER! WE CAN USE THESE BOMBS WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES.

AND DOESN'T THAT BOTHER YOU?

HEY, I TRY TO STAY AWAY FROM THE POLITICS OF IT ALL. I JUST DO THE PHYSICS-- THAT'S MY PART OF IT.

"SO...YOU CREATED A WEAPON THAT OUR GOVERNMENT CAN USE WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT CONSEQUENCES-- AND YOU'RE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE POLITICS?"

"OKAY, I ADMIT I THINK ABOUT IT--A LOT, BUT I AM NOT A POLICY-MAKER, OR A DIPLOMAT, OR A POLITICIAN. I UNDERSTAND PHYSICS. THEY UNDERSTAND FOREIGN POLICY.

"I DON'T PRETEND TO BE SOMETHING I'M NOT. I DON'T DECIDE HOW THESE WEAPONS ARE USED. SAVE THAT FOR THE EXPERTS. I DON'T WANT TO TURN INTO SOMEONE...SOMEONE LIKE MIRIEL BREMEN..."

DANGER
NO
SMOKING



UNUSUAL CONSTRUCTION--
DOUBLE HULLS, SPECIALLY-
DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND
ABUSE--LIKE THIS
STORM.



NOT MUCH OF
A FISHING BOAT
--NO CARGO
OF FISH...



THIS EQUIPMENT HAS
NEVER EVEN BEEN
USED. THEY WEREN'T
REALLY FISHING OUT
HERE.

YOU KNOW SOMETHING,
DON'T YOU, CAPTAIN?
I CAN SEE YOU ARE
VERY CONCERNED
ABOUT THIS TEST.

I AM UNEASY ABOUT
BRIGHT ANIL, AGENT
SCULLY... BUT THAT'S NOT
WHAT TROUBLES ME.

THAT TROUBLES ME. DO YOU
RECOGNIZE THE NAME? IT'S
JAPANESE FOR "LUCKY DRAGON."

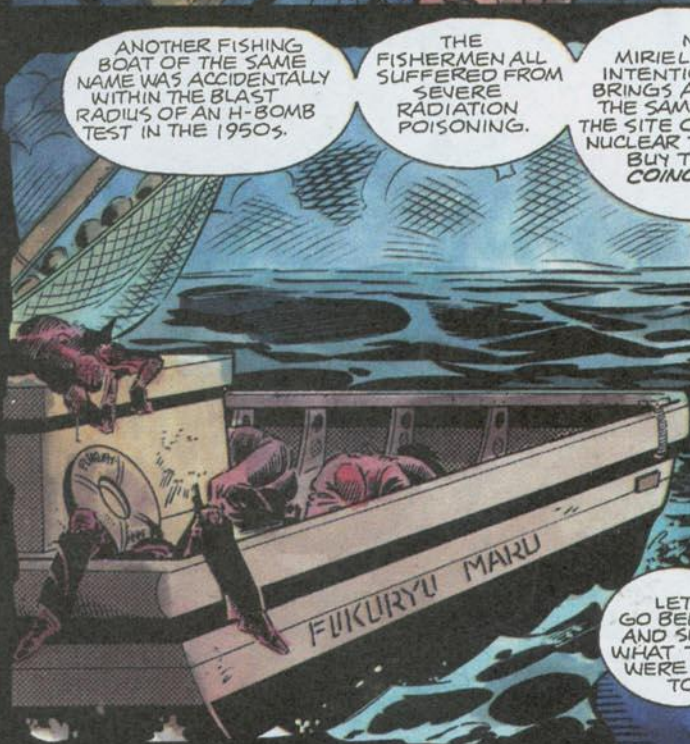


FUKURYU
MARU

ANOTHER FISHING
BOAT OF THE SAME
NAME WAS ACCIDENTALLY
WITHIN THE BLAST
RADIUS OF AN H-BOMB
TEST IN THE 1950s.

THE
FISHERMEN ALL
SUFFERED FROM
SEVERE
RADIATION
POISONING.

NOW
MIRIEL BREMEN
INTENTIONALLY
BRINGS A SHIP WITH
THE SAME NAME TO
THE SITE OF ANOTHER
NUCLEAR TEST... I CAN'T
BUY THAT AS A
COINCIDENCE.



LET'S
GO BELOW-
AND SEE
WHAT THEY
WERE UP
TO.





NO FISH
ABOARD,
BUT THERE'S
DEFINITELY
CARGO IN
THE HOLD.

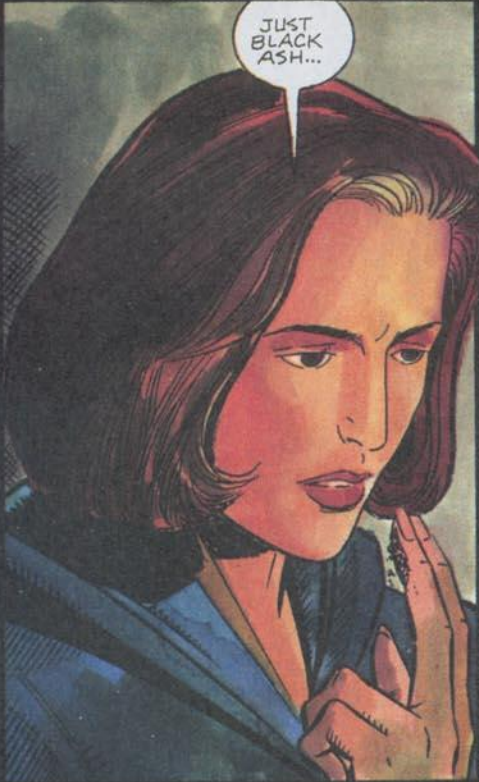


BARRELS?
WHAT ARE THEY
HAULING?



WE NEED
TO OPEN
ONE.

IT'S
**BLACK
ASH...**



JUST
BLACK
ASH...



...VERY MUCH LIKE
WHAT WE FOUND
AT THE RADIOACTIVE
MURDER SITES...



NO QUESTION
ABOUT IT--THIS
HAS SOME CON-
NECTION WITH THE
DEVASTATION AND
DEATH WE'VE SEEN
BEFORE.

YOU'D
BETTER
FINISH YOUR
INVESTIGATION
SOON, AGENT
SCULLY. THE
STORM IS
ABOUT TO HIT--
AND BRIGHT ANVIL
GOES OFF IN A
FEW HOURS.



TO BE CONCLUDED...