



THE AUTHORIZED ADAPTATION OF THE BEST-SELLING NOVEL

THE X FILES™

GROUND ZERO

GROUND ZERO: ENIKA ATOL
SOUTH PACIFIC

CREATED BY CHRIS CARTER



BRIGHT ANVIL--T-00:00

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THE X-FILES CREATED BY
CHRIS CARTER

THE X FILES™

GROUND ZERO



PART FOUR 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 killings 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.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MARY ASTADOURIAN, CHRIS CARTER, TONY ISABELLA, MICHAEL MALONE, DEBBIE OLSHAN, JENNIFER K. SEBREE, FRANK SPOTNITZ, AND MADA STAFFS.
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GROUND

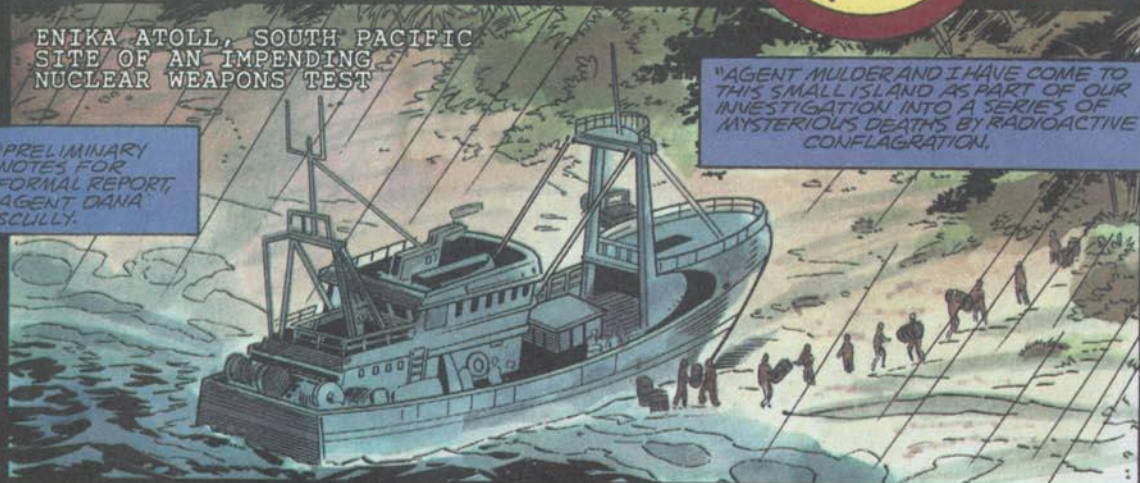


CONCLUSION
CONCLUSION
CONCLUSION
CONCLUSION
CONCLUSION
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CONCLUSION

ENIKA ATOLL, SOUTH PACIFIC
SITE OF AN IMPENDING
NUCLEAR WEAPONS TEST

"PRELIMINARY
NOTES FOR
FORMAL REPORT,
AGENT DANA
SCULLY."

"AGENT MULDER AND I HAVE COME TO
THIS SMALL ISLAND AS PART OF OUR
INVESTIGATION INTO A SERIES OF
MYSTERIOUS DEATHS BY RADIOACTIVE
CONFLAGRATION."



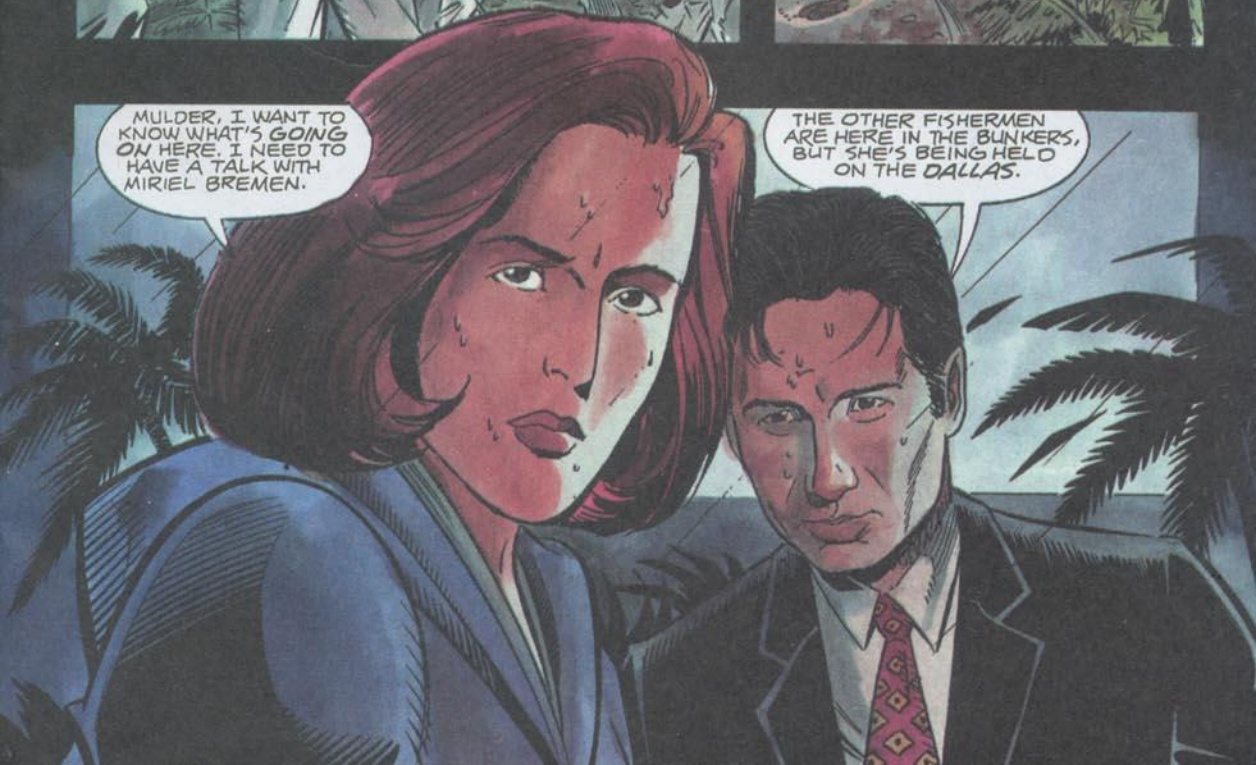
"NEAR SOME OF THE BURNED
BODIES, WE DISCOVERED A
SMALL SAMPLE OF BLACK
ASH--HUMAN ASH."

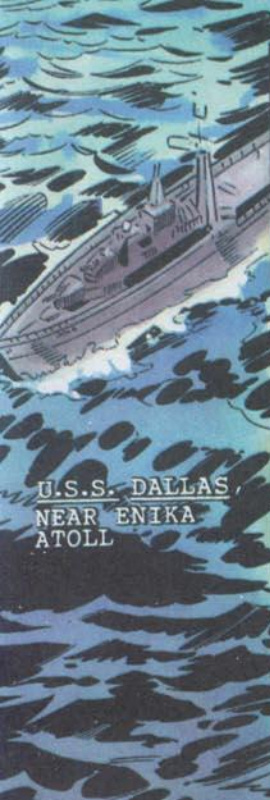
"ONLY HOURS BEFORE THE TEST DETO-
NATION OF THE BRIGHT ANVIL DEVICE,
WE ENCOUNTERED A SMALL FISHING
BOAT, WHICH CARRIED RADICAL
NUCLEAR PROTESTER MIRIEL BREMEN...
AS WELL AS BARRELS OF ASH, BLACK
ASH."



MULDER, I WANT TO
KNOW WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE. I NEED TO
HAVE A TALK WITH
MIRIEL BREMEN.

THE OTHER FISHERMEN
ARE HERE IN THE BUNKERS,
BUT SHE'S BEING HELD
ON THE DALLAS.





U.S.S. DALLAS
NEAR ENIKA
ATOLL



WE'VE HELD MS BREMEN
IN A LOCKED STATEROOM,
BUT SHE DOESN'T SEEM
READY TO CAUSE
TROUBLE.

SHE
JUST SEEMS
SCARED.



WOULD YOU GIVE US
A FEW MOMENTS OF
PRIVACY, PLEASE?



AGENT SCULLY! WHY AM
I BEING HELD HERE?
WHY WAS I LOCKED IN
THIS STATEROOM?

BECAUSE PEOPLE
ARE NERVOUS.
THEY'RE CONCERNED
THAT YOU'LL TRY TO
SABOTAGE THE
BRIGHT ANVIL
TEST.



AND THEY SHOULD
BE NERVOUS...BUT
NOT OF ME.

WORRY ABOUT
WHAT RYAN
KAMIDA HAS
DONE, WHAT
HE'S BRINGING
TO ENIKA
ATOLL.



YOU MEAN THE BLACK ASH?
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO
DO WITH THE OTHER RADI-
ATION DEATHS?



THERE HAVE BEEN
MANY OTHER NUCLEAR
MURDERS HERE ON
ENIKA. COVERED UP BY
THE GOVERNMENT. WHY
DON'T YOU INVESTIGATE
THOSE?



GO TALK
TO RYAN IF
YOU WANT
SOME
ANSWERS...



HOME...TO
TOUCH THE
SANDS OF
HOME AGAIN...



IT'S GOOD
TO FEEL THE
LIFE OF THIS
PLACE...
BEFORE IT IS
ALL DESTROYED
AGAIN...



BUT ENIKA
IS UNINHABITED...
HOW COULD THIS
BE YOUR HOME?

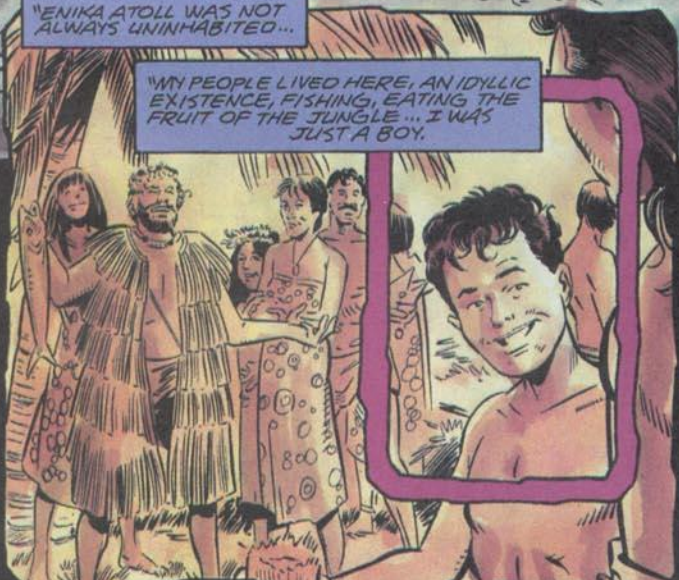


MISTER KAMIDA,
MIRIEL BREMEN
TELLS ME YOU
CAN GIVE US
ANSWERS.

THEN
LISTEN
WELL.

I CAN GIVE
YOU ANSWERS,
THOUGH YOU
MAY NOT WISH TO
BELIEVE THEM.

"ENIKA ATOLL WAS NOT
ALWAYS UNINHABITED..."



"MY PEOPLE LIVED HERE, AN IDYLIC
EXISTENCE, FISHING, EATING THE
FRUIT OF THE JUNGLE... I WAS
JUST A BOY."



"THEN STRANGERS CAME WITH THEIR
ALIEN MACHINES AND APPARATUS.
WE HID AND WATCHED--UNTIL THEY
LEFT."

"OUR LIFE WENT
ON, THOUGH WE
WERE STILL
FRIGHTENED OF
THE STRANGERS."

"WE HAD NO IDEA WE
WERE ALL MARKED
FOR DEATH."

"AS A SMALL BOY, I HAD THE JOB OF CRAWLING DEEP INTO CORAL
CAVES WITH MY KNIFE AND SATCHEL, TO COLLECT SHELLS..."



"THAT MORNING, THE
LAST MORNING, I
REMEMBER LOOK-
ING UP TO SEE MY
PARENTS..."



"...STANDING OUT
IN THE BRIGHT
SUN, WAITING
FOR ME..."

"THEN..."

"AND HOW THEY HAD ANNIHILATED AN ENTIRE TRIBE BECAUSE OF THEIR CARELESSNESS..."

"A NAVY SHIP FOUND ME SOME HOURS LATER... NO ONE KNOWS HOW I SURVIVED..."

"THEY SAY I HAD WALKED OVER TWO MILES ON THE SCALDING, RADIOACTIVE REEFS..."

"I MADE A LIFE FOR MYSELF IN THE CIVILIZED WORLD... BUT I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN..."

THE GHOSTS OF MY PEOPLE WILL NOT LET ME FORGET. AND NOW THEY ARE COMING FOR REVENGE.

"I THINK THEY WISH I HADN'T. THEY ALL WANTED TO FORGET ENIKA ATOLL..."



THAT WAS A TRAGIC INCIDENT, MISTER KAMIDA, BUT TO CLAIM THAT... THAT ATOMIC BOMB GHOSTS ARE SPEAKING TO YOU REGULARLY--

AGENT SCULLY, THE BLACK ASH THAT SO INTRIGUES YOU IS THE INCINERATED REMAINS OF MY PEOPLE, PAINSTAKINGLY COLLECTED.

I CAN SENSE THEM... HEAR THEM. I KNOW WHAT THEY INTEND TO DO.

SCULLY, WHAT IF SURVIVING THAT H-BOMB TEST SOMEHOW... BOOSTED KAMIDA? MADE HIM AWARE OF THINGS BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION?

I DO BEAR SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEATH OF DOCTOR GREGORY.

HE WORKED ON THE SAWTOOTH TEST THAT OBLITERATED MY PEOPLE, AND NOW HE HAS DEVELOPED BRIGHT ANVIL.

I ALSO TRACKED DOWN NANCY SCHECK, THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OFFICIAL WHO FUNDED BRIGHT ANVIL.

I BROUGHT THEM TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GHOSTS. I CHOSE THEM AS TARGETS.

BUT THERE WERE OTHERS-- A RANCHER NEAR THE TRINITY SITE IN NEW MEXICO, TWO MISSILES AT VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE.

I WAITED TOO LONG, AGENT MULDER. I HAVE HELD THE GHOSTS IN CHECK FOR TOO MANY MONTHS, TOO MANY YEARS.

AND NOW THEY'RE GROWING RESTLESS, STRIKING EVEN AT THOSE I HAVEN'T DESIGNATED-- THOSE THEY BELIEVE ARE A THREAT TO OUR ISLAND.

"I'M TELLING YOU THIS
BECAUSE YOU DESERVE
THE ANSWERS... BUT IT
DOESN'T MATTER.

"NONE OF US
WILL GET OUT
OF THIS ALIVE,

THEY HAVE
BEEN GATHERING
POWER... AND
THEY GROW
RESTLESS.

WHY ARE
YOU TELLING
US THIS,
MISTER
KAMIDA?

CONFESSING
TO MURDER
ISN'T SOME-
THING PEOPLE
DO LIGHTLY.

WITHIN A FEW
HOURS, THEY WILL
FULFILL THEIR
DESTINY AND
PROTECT THIS
ISLAND AGAIN.

IT'S NOT SAFE TO BE
OUT HERE. WE NEED TO
GET INSIDE-- ALL OF
US.

THERE IS NO
SAFE PLACE ON
THIS ISLAND,
NOT NOW.

BEAR DOOLEY
WANTS MS BREMEN
IN THE BUNKER
DURING THE
DETONATION.
I'VE GOT TO
GET BACK TO
MY SHIP.

BEAR WANTS TO
GLOAT WHEN HIS
FALLOUT-FREE MIKE
GOES OFF... BUT THAT'S
THE LEAST OF MY
CONCERNS RIGHT NOW.



HEY, GET
INSIDE HERE!
THE COUNT-
DOWN IS
PROCEEDING



BEAR, YOU
HAVE NO IDEA
WHAT YOU'RE
DOING...



IT
WON'T BE
LONG NOW,
MIRIEL.
NOT LONG.



SCULLY, YOU
SAW THE OTHER
IMPOSSIBLE RADIO-
ACTIVE DEATHS... IT'S
POSSIBLE THE SAME
FORCE COULD BE
COMING HERE...

THINK OF
ALL THE
**BLACK
ASH** IN
THOSE
BARRELS.



MULDER,
WE'LL BE INSIDE
A SOLID, SECURE
BUNKER. WE
SHOULD BE
PROTECTED.

IF THAT DEADLY
...**THING** COULD
GO DEEP UNDER-
GROUND TO A
MISSILE CON-
TROL ROOM,
SOME CONCRETE
AND SANDBAGS
WON'T STOP IT.



WE'VE GOT A
NUCLEAR DETONA-
TION TO WORRY
ABOUT--AND A
WORLD-CLASS
TYPHOON.

LET'S
NOT GET
AHEAD
OF OUR-
SELVES.



STORM LEVELS
ALREADY REACHING
MAXIMUM
PREDICTED!

FIFTY MINUTES TO
GO, PEOPLE! I WANT
A VERIFICATION ON
EACH SUBSYSTEM.

AT LAST THE
WAVE OF FIRE
WILL REACH
THE SHORE
OF DEATH...



HEY!

NOW
WHAT?

GET
THAT POWER
BACK ON!
MY GOD,
THERE'S NOT
MUCH TIME
LEFT!



ALWAYS
KEEP A
FLASH-
LIGHT
HANDY...

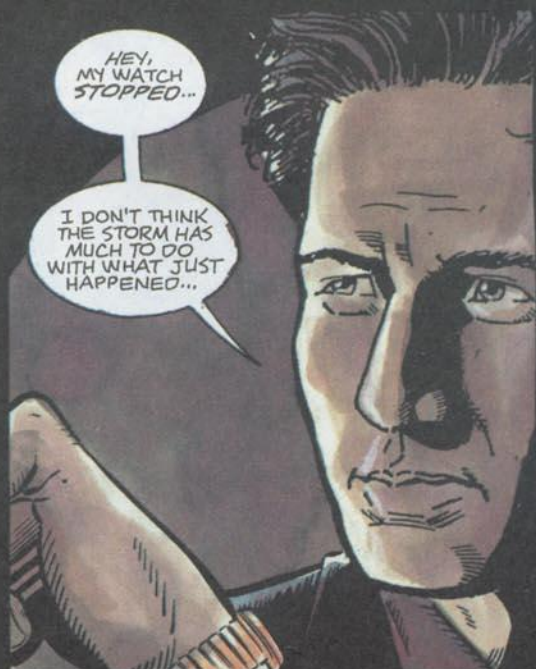
WHAT COULD GO
WRONG NOW! CHECK
THOSE SYSTEMS AND
GET THE BACKUP
GENERATOR
RUNNING!

WE'LL LOSE OUR
BRIGHT ANVIL DATA
IF WE'RE NOT
READY BY THE
DETONATION!

MESSAGE FROM
DALLAS. THEIR
RADAR SYSTEMS
JUST PICKED UP
SOMETHING BIG
AND POWERFUL
APPROACHING
THE ATOLL.

NOT A
STORM--
LIKE
NOTHING
THEY'VE
EVER
SEEN
BEFORE!





WIND WALL LEVELS
REACHING 115 MILES
PER HOUR, SIR!

HANG ON; IT'LL GET
MUCH WORSE. I REFUSE
TO FALL DOWN ON THE
BRIDGE OF MY OWN
SHIP.

BRIGHT ANVIL
DETONATION IN
LESS THAN
FIFTEEN MINUTES

U.S.S. DALLAS

"ALL STATIONS HAVE
CHECKED IN SECURE,
CAPTAIN."

"ALL STATIONS HAVE
CHECKED IN SECURE,
CAPTAIN."

ANYTHING,
MR. KLANTZE?
YOU'RE AN
OPTIMIST.

I'M IN
THE NAVY,
SIR.

CAPTAIN!
PICKING UP
SOMETHING
ON FORWARD
RADAR! THE
THING IS
HUGE!

EXTREMELY HIGH ENERGY,
AND IT'S HEADING THIS
WAY!

SONAR SHOWS A
GREAT TURMOIL
ON THE WATER
SURFACE, FAR
EXCEEDING THE
STORM
DISTURBANCE.



"NOW I AM BECOME
DEATH, THE DESTROYER
OF WORLDS."

--QUOTED BY
J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER
DURING THE FIRST
ATOMIC BOMB
DETONATION

WE'RE ALL
GOING TO BE
OBLITERATED.
THE WAVE IS
COMING! A
FLASHFIRE...

WE JUST
LOST ALL
CONTACT
WITH THE
DALLAS!

WAS THAT
AN ELECTRO-
MAGNETIC
PULSE?
ANOTHER
NUCLEAR
AIR BURST!

IS SOMEONE
ELSE TESTING
OUT HERE?
THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!

A WALL OF CLEANSING RAGE
FROM THE ENIKA GHOSTS...
IT'S ALREADY HIT THE
DALLAS, AND IT'LL BE
HERE NEXT.

DON'T TRY TO SPOOK
ME, MIRIEL. I DON'T
HAVE TIME FOR IT
RIGHT NOW.

YOU KNEW
THIS WOULD
HAPPEN,
DIDN'T
YOU?

RYAN
TOLD ME,
BUT I DIDN'T
COMPLETELY
BELIEVE
HIM.

NOW
I DO.

WE WANT TO GO BACK
TO THE LUCKY DRAGON!
WE'LL RISK THE STORM!

IT'S OUR
ONLY
CHANCE.

THAT'S INSANE! EVEN IF
THAT BOAT WAS SPECIALLY
MODIFIED TO WITHSTAND
GALE-FORCE WINDS--

GO ON OUT IN THE
STORM--ALL OF YOU--
SEE IF I CARE. GET
AWAY FROM ME, I'VE
GOT WORK TO DO.

THIS PLACE IS
A DEATHTRAP,
SCULLY.



THE
ASHES...
THIS IS
EVERY-
THING
I HAVE
LEFT.



I CAN
BRING
THEM ALL
HERE... ALL
OF THEM...
FINALLY.





MY EYES
NO LONGER
SEE, BUT I
CAN FEEL
THEM...
NEARBY...



HERE!
HERE!
COME
HOME!



TIME REMAINING:
09:43





MULDER,
I CAN'T BELIEVE
I LET YOU TALK
ME INTO THIS.

TIME REMAINING:
09:07

ONE LOOK
AT THAT SKY,
SCULLY...

...AND YOU
KNOW THIS IS NO
TYPICAL STORM.

NO MATTER WHAT ELSE
YOU BELIEVE, MULDER,
THE BRIGHT ANVIL DEVICE
IS GOING TO GO OFF IN
A FEW MINUTES.

TIME REMAINING:
06:22

COME
ON IN, THE
WATER'S
FINE.

GO!
GO!

BUT WE'D
BETTER GET
MOVING IF WE'RE
GOING TO OUTFIGHT
THE SHOCKWAVE!

KEEP THOSE
DIAGNOSTICS
UP AND
RUNNING.

GET READY
FOR THE
BIG SHOW!

TIME REMAINING:
03:14



DO YOU
SEE IT,
SCULLY?
DO YOU
SEE IT?

THAT
CAN'T BE
THE BRIGHT
ANVIL
TEST--

--IT'S
STILL
A FEW
MINUTES
AWAY!



COVER
YOUR
EYES!



WAIT!
I SEE
SOME-
ONE!

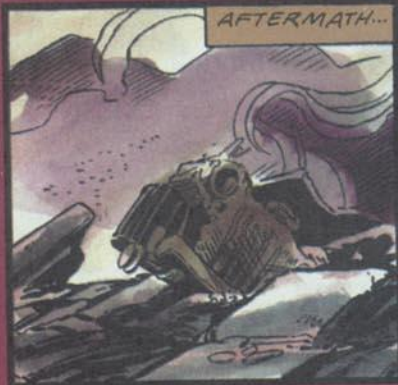


COME TO
ME! HERE
SAVE OUR
ATOLL FROM
THESE MEN!

AND
NOW I
THINK...

...I WILL JOIN
THE REST OF
MY PEOPLE...





SOUTH PACIFIC...
EXACT POSITION
UNKNOWN...



SO, HOW DO YOU
LIKE THE TROPICAL
VACATION I
PROMISED YOU?

THERE'S NO MORE
BRIGHT ANVIL, NO
MORE TEAM, THEY'RE
ALL DEAD.

NOW WE'LL
NEVER GET
OUT OF HERE,
EITHER.

I SHOULD TRY TO
CALL FOR HELP,
THOUGH I CAN'T
IMAGINE WHAT THE
ROAMING CHARGES
WILL BE OUT
HERE...

MULDER, WHO DO YOU
EXPECT TO PICK UP IN
THE MIDDLE OF THE
PACIFIC?

THIS IS THE U.S. MISSILE
TRACKING AND TESTING
STATION ON KWAJALEIN
ISLAND.

YOU HAVE REACHED A
RESTRICTED NUMBER.
PLEASE GET OFF THE
LINE.



I'VE HAD DAYS TO MULL THIS OVER, THINKING ABOUT HOW I'M GOING TO WRITE IT UP IN MY REPORT... BUT STILL, THE PIECES DON'T QUITE FIT TOGETHER...



HOOVER BUILDING
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FBI HEADQUARTERS



MENU • FILE • VIEW • SETTINGS • BLOCK • PRINT

ACCORDING TO THE NAVY, THE U.S.S. DALLAS SANK DUE TO THE UNEXPECTEDLY SEVERE TYPHOON. ALL HANDS ON BOARD WERE LOST. THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LISTS THIS HURRICANE AS ONE OF THE MOST UNUSUAL STORMS ON RECORD.

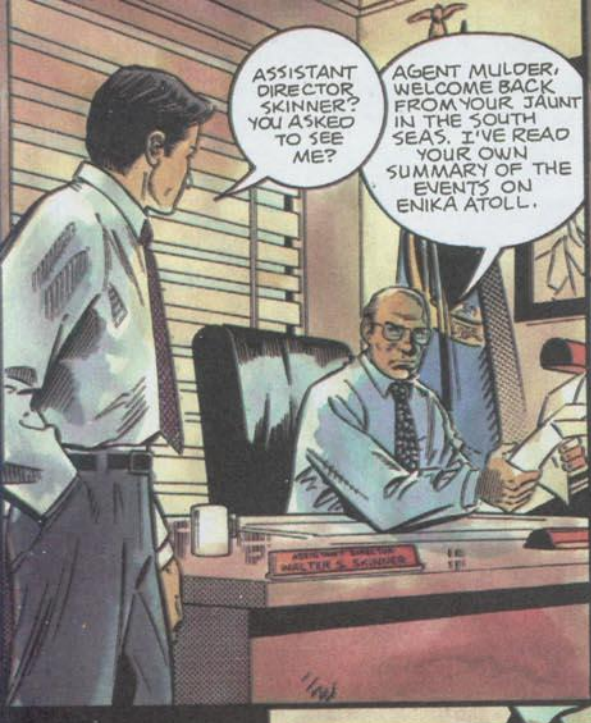
RESCUE TEAMS FOUND NO SURVIVORS ON ENIKA ATOLL. NO BODIES WERE RECOVERED, WHICH THE NAVY NOTES IS NOT SURPRISING, CONSIDERING THE INCREDIBLE FORCE OF THE STORM.

THE EVENTS I WITNESSED AS WE DEPARTED ON THE FISHING BOAT CAN BE EXPLAINED BY THE AIR-BURST TESTING OF ANOTHER NUCLEAR DEVICE UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT OR GOVERNMENTS UNKNOWN. THROUGH THE HEAVY DOWNPOUR AND HIGH WINDS, PRECISE DETAILS WERE DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN.

THE RESCUE TEAM MEASURED ONLY NORMAL LEVELS OF RESIDUAL RADIOACTIVITY ON THE ISLAND. THIS INFORMATION HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED.

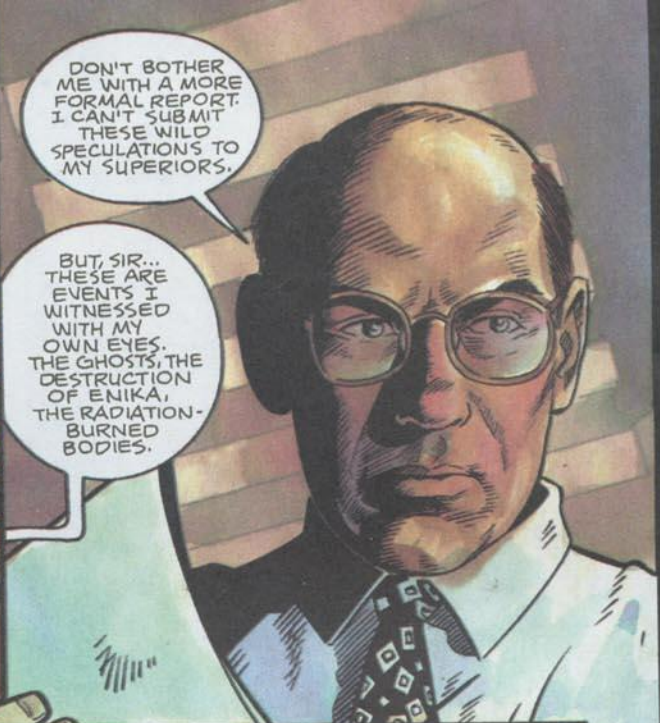
AS TO THE BIZARRE DEATHS OF THE OTHER VICTIMS, THE EXPLANATION REMAINS VAGUE. THESE DEATHS MIGHT BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO A BRIEF BUT INTENSE NUCLEAR ACCIDENT CAUSED BY SOME UNSPECIFIED EQUIPMENT DEVELOPED FOR THE BIG ANVIL-TEST PROGRAM. THE SPECIFIC CAUSE OF SUCH A POWERFUL AND DEADLY NUCLEAR ACCIDENT AND THE ORIGINAL TYPE OF ANY EQUIPMENT ED REMAIN UNEXPLAINED.





ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR
SKINNER?
YOU ASKED
TO SEE
ME?

AGENT MULDER,
WELCOME BACK
FROM YOUR JAUNT
IN THE SOUTH
SEAS. I'VE READ
YOUR OWN
SUMMARY OF THE
EVENTS ON
ENIKA ATOLL.



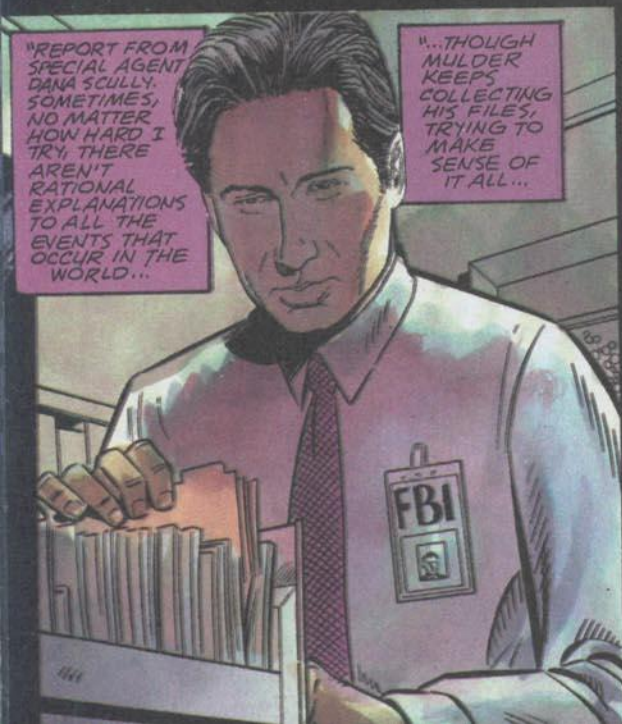
DON'T BOTHER
ME WITH A MORE
FORMAL REPORT.
I CAN'T SUBMIT
THESE WILD
SPECULATIONS TO
MY SUPERIORS.

BUT, SIR...
THESE ARE
EVENTS I
WITNESSED
WITH MY
OWN EYES.
THE GHOSTS, THE
DESTRUCTION
OF ENIKA,
THE RADIATION-
BURNED
BODIES.



YOU HAVE NO
CORROBORATING
EVIDENCE. NO ONE
IN THE NAVY OR AT
THE TELLER
NUCLEAR LABS
WILL BACK UP
YOUR STORY.

ALL YOUR
NOTES ARE
WORTHLESS



"REPORT FROM
SPECIAL AGENT
DANA SCULLY.
SOMETIMES,
NO MATTER
HOW HARD I
TRY, THERE
AREN'T
RATIONAL
EXPLANATIONS
TO ALL THE
EVENTS THAT
OCCUR IN THE
WORLD..."

"...THOUGH
MULDER
KEEPS
COLLECTING
HIS FILES,
TRYING TO
MAKE
SENSE OF
IT ALL..."

"MIRIEL BREMEN
HAS DISAPPEARED,
SUPPOSEDLY
TRANSFERRED TO
A NEW HIGHLY-
CLASSIFIED RE-
SEARCH GROUP

"SHE IS UNABLE
TO OFFER ANY
CORROBORATING
TESTIMONY..."

"THE FULL
ANSWERS TO
THE BRIGHT
ANVIL
INCIDENT
REMAIN
UNEX-
PLAINED."



"...ANY EVIDENCE
AT ALL."



THE END