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#3

KESEL
MALHOTRA
SCOTT
LOPES

THE X-FILES™ YEAR ZERO



**THE ORIGIN OF THE
X-FILES REVEALED!**

YEAR ZERO

Previously on *The X-Files*...

For years, FBI agents **Fox Mulder** and **Dana Scully** toiled in the X-Files Unit, a one-office division of the Bureau dealing with cases deemed unsolvable and related to unexplained phenomena.

An anonymous tip has led Mulder and Scully to a case that seems to be connected to the very first X-File, which was investigated by FBI Special Agent Bing Ellinson and Special Employee Millie Ohio in 1948.

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From FBI Special Agent Bing Ellinson's report, November 9, 1948.

We followed the young Indian boy, Ish, to an abandoned cabin on the edge of Glacier National Park.

But we weren't the only ones following him.

A large wolf--or wolf-like creature that Ish called a manitou--had reared up through the rotting floorboards.

HARROOOW

Even though dazed by the attack, I could see Special Employee Ohio had placed herself protectively in front of the boy.

Also that her gun arm had been hurt.

I searched for my own weapon, which had been knocked out of my hand.

Unfortunately, I wasn't the one who found it.

I don't know what was more unsettling--that the creature could crush my weapon...

...or that it made a sound almost like a laugh.

HR
HR
HR

The creature was just as surprised by the Indian boy's attack as I was.

NO! YOU
CAME FOR
ME! KILL
ME!

But the kid didn't stand a chance.

The distraction, however, gave me time to find a hefty chunk of wood.

HARROOOOW

Not that I ever used it.

BING-
DOWN!

With her weapon in her remaining good hand, S.E. Ohio had taken careful aim on the creature...

...when all hell broke loose from outside.

BLAM

BLAM

POW

HOLD YOUR FIRE!
DAMMIT!

HOLD YOUR FIRE!

HOLY—!
DIDN'T KNOW
ANYONE WAS IN
THERE!

WE HEARD
THE WOLF,
CAUGHT SIGHT OF
IT THROUGH THE
CABIN WINDOW—
FIGURED IT WAS
CORNERED AND
WE'D DO THE
PARKER RANCH A
FAVOR.

YOU DIDN'T
SEE OUR
TRACKS?

IN THIS STORM?
WE ALMOST LOST THE
TIRE TRACKS FROM DICK
WATKINS' FORD THAT
THE ISH-KID STOLE!

I'M SURE HE
LEARNED HIS
LESSON.

HIS EYE'S IN
BAD SHAPE, BUT
IT COULD'VE BEEN A
LOT WORSE.

YEAH—YOU
FOUND THE KID
AND SAVED HIM
FROM THE
GUN-HAPPY HICKS.
I GET IT.

YOU FEDS
LOVE LORDING
IT OVER THE
LOCALS,
DON'T YOU?









ZERO SAYS
HE CAN SEE THE
FUTURE, RIGHT? HE
HAD ME SEND YOU
A TIP, AND THAT
FANNED OUT.

SO, WHAT IF
HE *KNEW* THAT
TREE WAS GOING
TO BE HIT AND
FALL ON ME?

FORGOTTEN
TO MENTION
TODAY!

WHAT IF
HE GOT YOU
TWO HERE
TO *SAVE*
ME?

THAT'S
PRETTY GOOD,
ACTUALLY...

NOT REALLY. WHY
WOULDN'T HE JUST
REACH OUT TO THE
TOWN COPS?

WELL, WE HAVE
SOME EXPERIENCE
WITH THIS SORT OF
THING THAT THEY
DON'T...

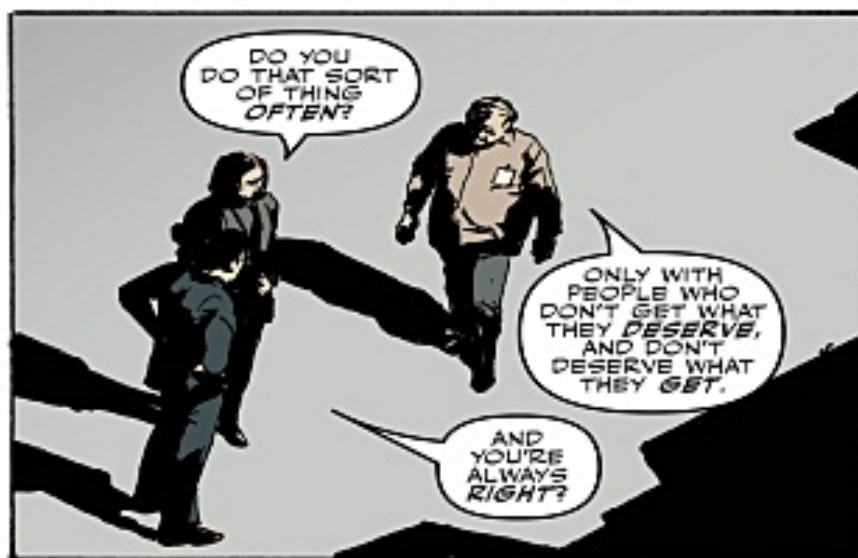
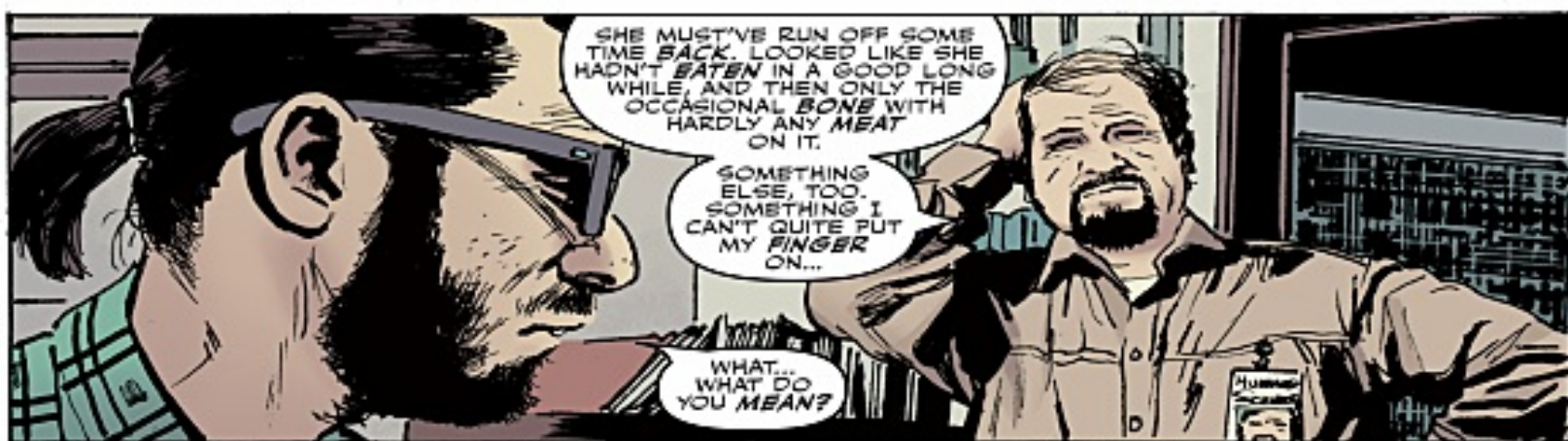
SO YOU'RE
SAYING YOU
DON'T BELIEVE
IN ENTITIES,
MR. SPOON, BUT
YOU *DO* BELIEVE
IN *SECOND*
SIGHT?

ASK ME AGAIN
AFTER I'VE MET
ONE OF THESE
"ENTITIES."

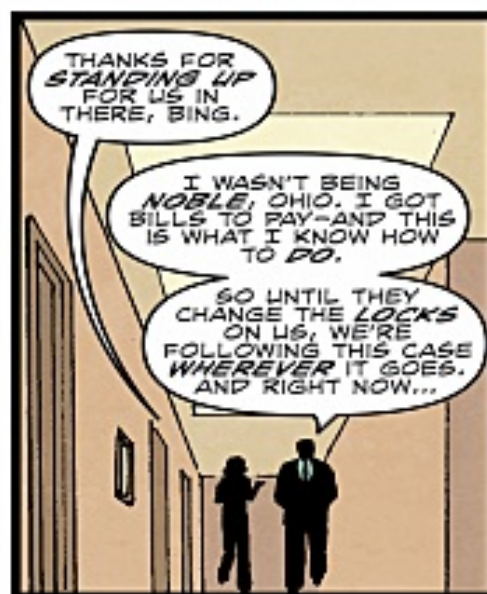
ZERO'S ECCENTRIC,
A LITTLE CREEPY, AND
COULD USE A BATH, BUT
HE'S JUST AS NORMAL
AS YOU OR ME.

DELL?
TOMMY
DONNELLY
IS HERE.

EXCUSE ME.
THIS I GOT
TO DO.









"... THAT'S BACK TO LONG ISLAND."

**NOK
NOK**

IF YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR
DOROTHY, SHE'S
NOT HOME.



HASN'T
BEEN FOR
MAYBE THREE
DAYS.

ANY IDEA
WHERE SHE
IS?



OH, THERE'S NO
TELLING WITH HER.
KEEPS MOSTLY TO
HERSELF.

EVEN HER
HUSBAND CAN'T
STAND TO LIVE WITH
HER ANYMORE!



I HEAR SHE HAS A
GENTLEMAN FRIEND
WHO CALLS.

AT THE
ODDEST HOURS!
TWO, SOMETIMES
THREE O'CLOCK IN
THE MORNING!

NOT
THAT WE'RE
JUDGING.



OH, NO! IT
DOESN'T SOUND
LIKE YOU'RE
JUDGING...

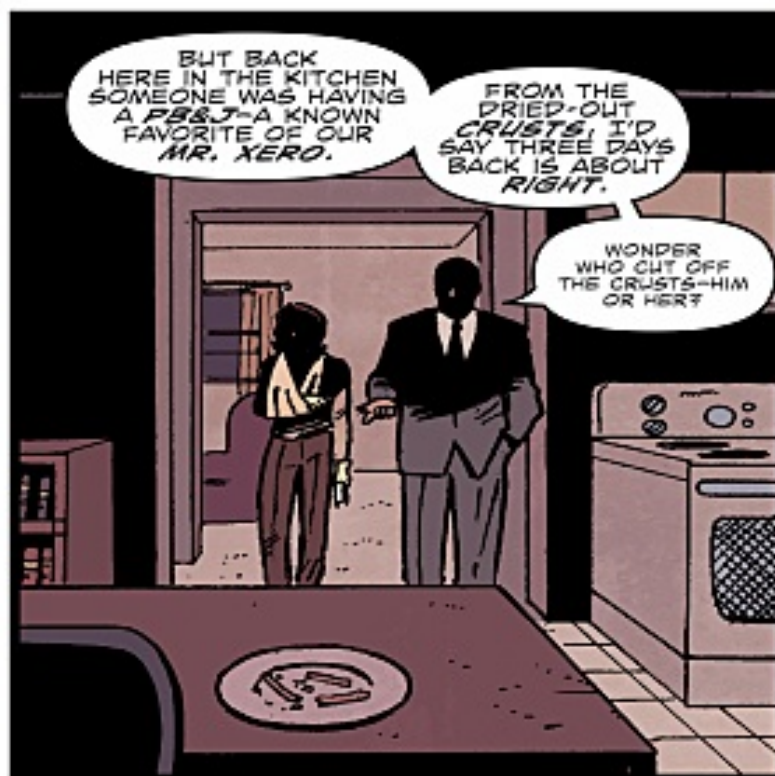
...IT
SOUNDS
LIKE YOU'RE
JEALOUS!



WITH A BUM
WING YOU'D THINK
YOU'D TAKE IT A
LITTLE EASY!

I WAS
TAKING IT
EASY! THOSE
HARPIES-

JUST GAVE
US PROBABLE
CAUSE TO SEARCH
MRS. SEARS'
HOUSE, FOR ALL
WE KNOW SHE'S
IN THERE, HURT
OR WORSE.





THE BED
HADN'T BEEN
SLEPT IN, EITHER.
BUT NEXT TO
IT...

DIARY?
JOURNAL?

MORE A WISH
LIST. INSIDE IT
SAYS "THINGS TO
DO BEFORE I
DIE."



SEE THE
PYRAMIDS... ATTEND
A PARIS FASHION
SHOW...

HAS TO BE A
COUPLE *HUNDRED*
THINGS LISTED HERE,
EACH AT THE *TOP* OF
A PAGE, THE REST OF
THE PAGE *BLANK*.

NOT *EVERY*
PAGE. *RIDE THE
CONEY ISLAND
CYCLONE* IS FILLED
IN WITH THE *DATE*
AND *DETAILS*
OF WHEN SHE
DID IT.

SHE
RECOMMENDS
*NOT EATING A
HOT DOG*
BEFOREHAND.



PILOT A JET
AIRPLANE.

THE
LADY DREAMS
BIG.



SHE *HAS*
TO, BING.

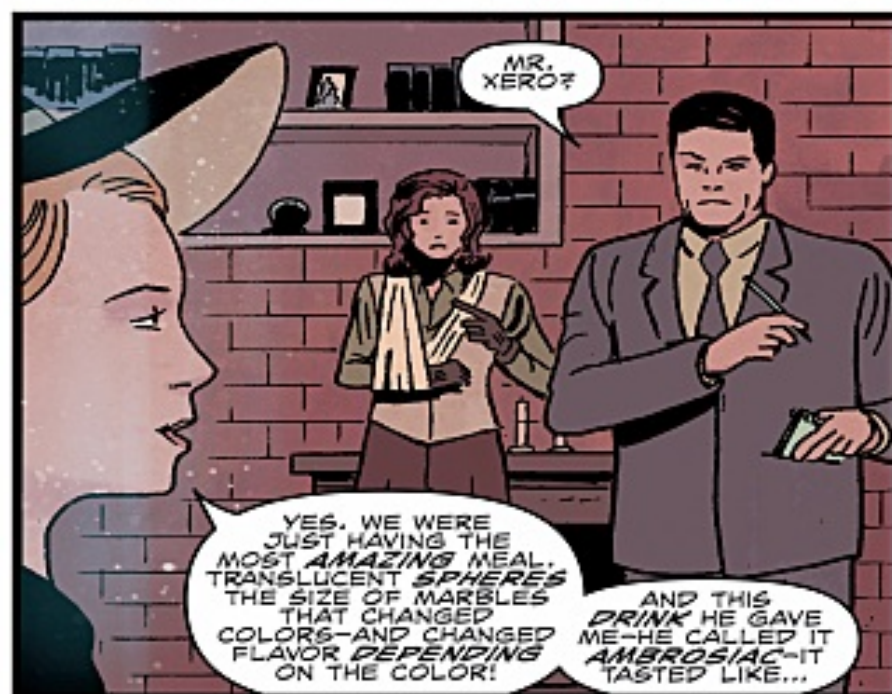
HER LIFE
HERE IS SO
SMALL.

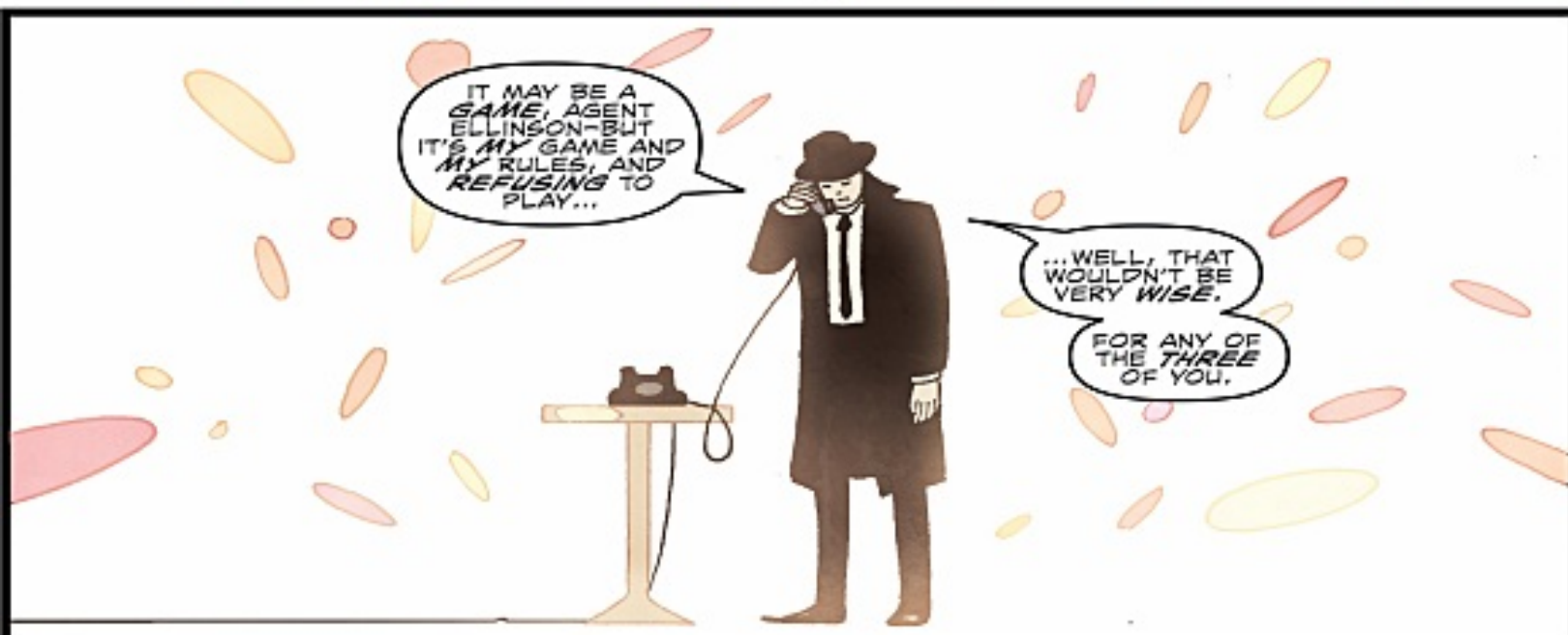
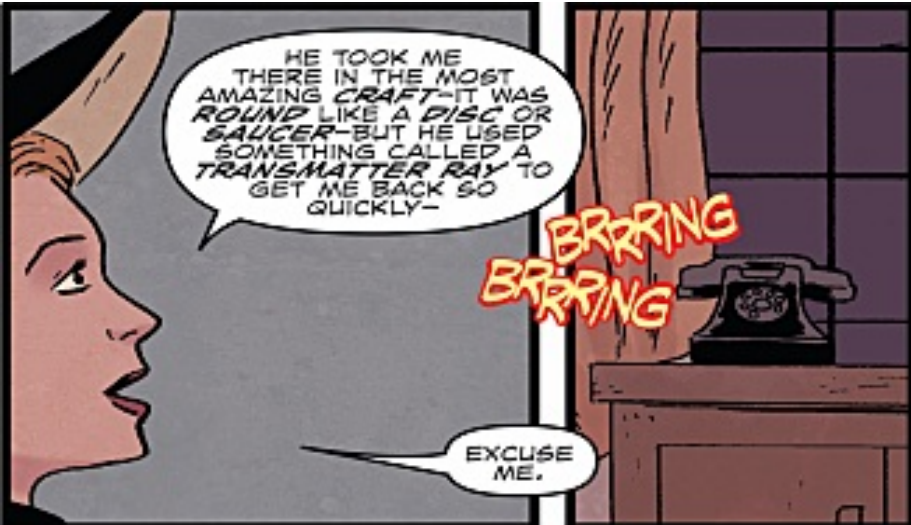
MR. XERO IS
A WAY FOR HER
TO *ESCAPE* IT,
IF ONLY FOR A
FEW~



-AHH!

IF SOME
FLASHBULB-
POPPING
SHUTTERBUG'S
FOLLOWED
US...!





EGG HARBOR CITY, NEW JERSEY
OUTSIDE DELL SPOON'S HOUSE
TODAY

GO AFTER
THAT, XERO POINTED
ELLINGTON AND OHIO
TOWARD A NUMBER
OF CASES...

FIVE
BEFORE THE
END OF THE
YEAR...

...MY FAVORITE
BEING ABOUT A
GREMLIN INADVERTENTLY
BROUGHT TO A DEFENSE
PLANT BY A RETURNING
VETERAN WHERE IT CAUSED
MULTIPLE DANGEROUS
MALFUNCTIONS UNTIL IT
WAS CAPTURED.

IT'S
IMPLIED HOOVER
AIRDROPPED IT
INTO A SOVIET
MUNITIONS
FACTORY.

QUITE A
TOUCHING
CHRISTMAS STORY,
ACTUALLY, WITH JUST
THE RIGHT HINT
OF JINGOISTIC
PATRIOTISM.

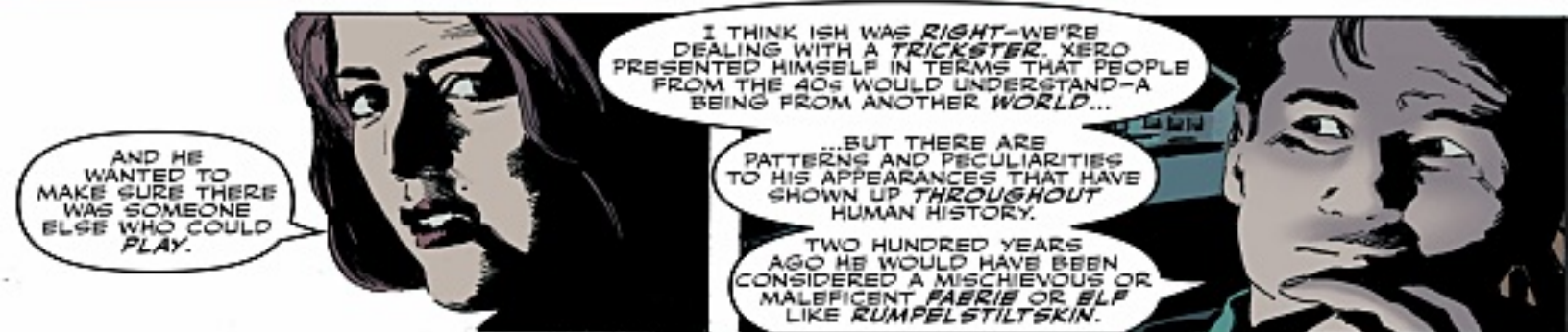
IF YOU SAY
SO, MULDER.

IT SEEMS IN EACH
INSTANCE XERO MADE AN
UNEXPECTED APPEARANCE
THAT HELPED THE
AGENTS...

EXCUSE
ME-AGENT
AND SPECIAL
EMPLOYEE...

...SOLVE
THE CASE.

HE WAS
TRAINING
THEM.









DARKNESS