

IDW
#4

KESEL
MALHOTRA
SCOTT
LOPES

THE *X* FILES™ YEAR ZERO



THE ORIGIN OF THE
X-FILES REVEALED!

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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Special thanks to Joshua Izzo and Lauren Wierski at Twentieth Century Fox and Gabe Rutter at Ten Thirteen Productions.

The X-Files created by Chris Carter

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IDW founded by Ted Adams, Alex Garner, Kirk Spinko, and Robbie Robins

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I'VE SHOWN YOU
MY **WORLD**,
DOROTHY SEARS.
YOU'VE SUPPED ON
AMBROSIAC.

I'VE MADE YOU
FRIEND TO FEDERAL
INVESTIGATORS, AND
LIFTED YOUR LIFE TO A
LEVEL **BEFITTING** ONE
WITH YOUR UNIQUE
GIFT...

...YOUR
SECOND
SIGHT...



THE FUTURE
LOOKED **SO**
BRIGHT.

BUT NOW
WHEN I LOOK
AT **YOURS**,
DOROTHY
SEARS...



...YOUR
FUTURE
IS ONLY
CLOUDY.



HE FEELS
HE'S **OWED**
SOMETHING.

WELL, HE'S
NOT GOING
TO GET IT.



MEN'VE
KILLED FOR
LESS—AND MEN
A LOT **LESS ODD**
THAN **XERO**.
THAT'S FOR
SURE.

I'M ON
YOUR SIDE,
MRS. SEARS, BUT
WE CAN'T LOCK HIM
UP BECAUSE YOU'VE
GOT A **BAD**
FEELING.



DO YOU
HONESTLY BELIEVE
YOU CAN **LOCK**
HIM UP, AGENT
ELLINSON?





NOT ONLY FOR YOU, AT LEAST.

MRS. ASHLAND'S HEIGHT, WEIGHT, HER PICTURE—WE COULD BE SISTERS.

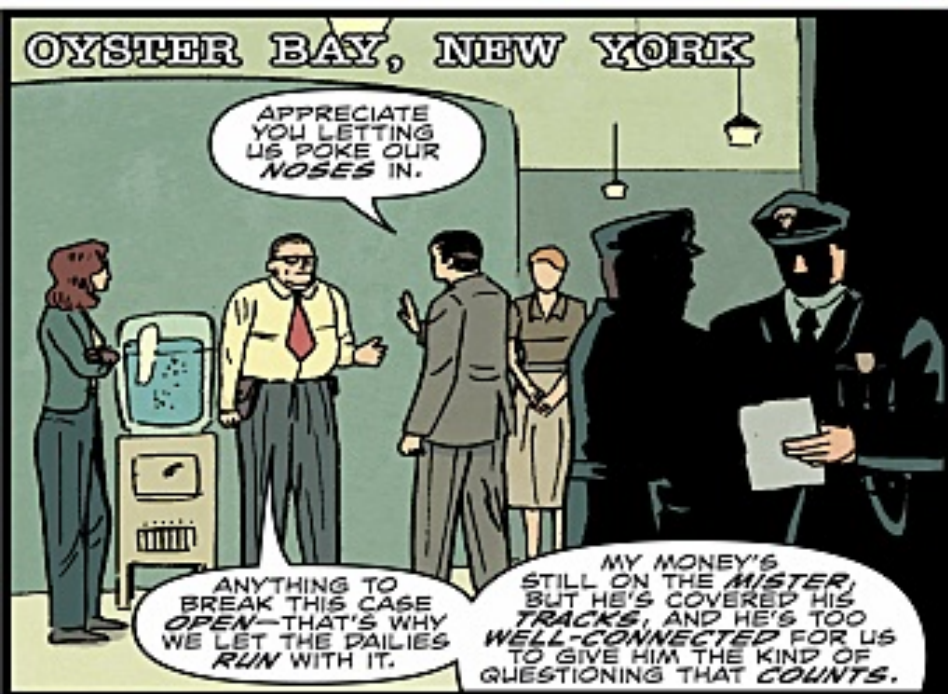
AND NOW SHE'S GONE, PRESUMABLY DEAD.

THIS ISN'T SIMPLY A TIP FOR YOU...



...IT'S A WARNING FOR ME!

PLEASE—WHATEVER YOU DO—DON'T LEAVE ME HERE ALONE!



APPRECIATE YOU LETTING US POKE OUR NOSES IN.

ANYTHING TO BREAK THIS CASE OPEN—THAT'S WHY WE LET THE DAILIES RUN WITH IT.

MY MONEY'S STILL ON THE MISTER, BUT HE'S COVERED HIS TRACKS, AND HE'S TOO WELL-CONNECTED FOR US TO GIVE HIM THE KIND OF QUESTIONING THAT COUNTS.



MAYBE YOU NEED A FEMININE TOUCH.



MR. ASHLAND?

WHO WANTS TO KNOW? YOU'RE NOT A COP...

REPORTER?



FBI.

LOOK, DEAR, I'VE BEEN COMPLETELY COOPERATIVE, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO WASTE MY TIME GIVING ANOTHER STATEMENT TO A SECRETARY.

I'M NOT A SECRETARY.



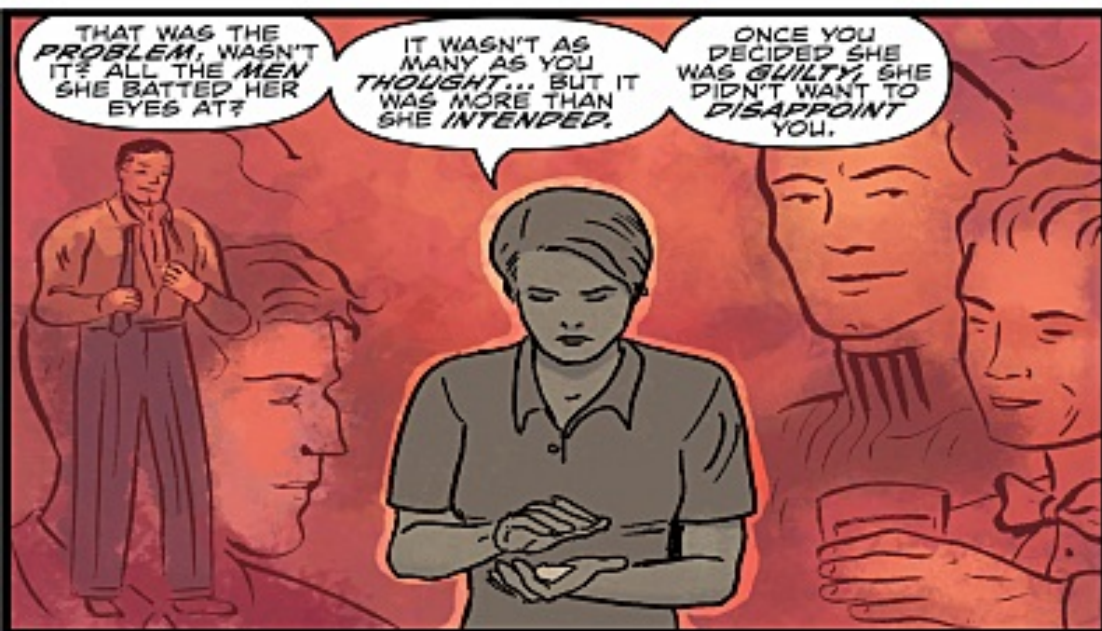


SHE HAS
BEAUTIFUL
EYES.

THEY'RE WHAT
ATTRACTED YOU
TO HER IN THE
FIRST PLACE,
AREN'T THEY?



YEAH. ONCE GRACIE BATS
THOSE *BABY BLUES*, I
CAN'T THINK OF A MAN WHO
WOULDN'T FALL HEAD
OVER HEELS.



THAT WAS THE
PROBLEM, WASN'T
IT? ALL THE MEN
SHE BATTED HER
EYES AT?

IT WASN'T AS
MANY AS YOU
THOUGHT... BUT IT
WAS MORE THAN
SHE INTENDED.

ONCE YOU
DECIDED SHE
WAS *GUILTY*, SHE
DIDN'T WANT TO
DISAPPOINT
YOU.



THAT'S
A—

—WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE? WHAT'S
SHE TRYING
TO PULL?



AT THAT PARTY SHE MADE
EYES AT EVERYONE
BUT YOU.

YOU COULDN'T
STAND THAT,
COULDN'T LOOK HER IN
THOSE EYES WHEN
YOU CAME UP FROM
BEHIND AND...





DECEMBER 31, 1946

JUST
CHECKED IN WITH
OYSTER BAY. THEY
FOUND THE CAR,
THE CLIP, THE
BUTTON...



...SOME BRAIN
MATTER...

...ASHLAND
WON'T BE
WALKING AWAY
FROM THIS.



TOO BAD
GRACIE'S BODY
WASN'T WITH THE
CAR, TO GIVE HER
FAMILY SOME
PEACE OF
MIND...

I'M SORRY,
MILLIE. MY
SECOND SIGHT ISN'T
ALL-SEEING. I'VE
TRIED TO GAIN
MORE CONTROL
OVER IT, BUT—



DO YOU
THINK XERO
HAD SOMETHING
TO DO WITH IT?
WITH THE BODY
VANISHING?

BRRR! I
DON'T EVEN
WANT TO
THINK ABOUT
THAT—OR
HIM!

YOU TWO
HAVE GIVEN UP
YOUR NEW YEAR'S
EVE TO WATCH
OVER ME—LET'S AT
LEAST TRY TO HAVE
SOME FUN!



NO BIG
SACRIFICE ON
MY PART, MRS.
SEARS. I DON'T
THINK ANY OTHER
RESPECTABLE
PLACE WOULD
HAVE ME.

MEAN
DRUNK?

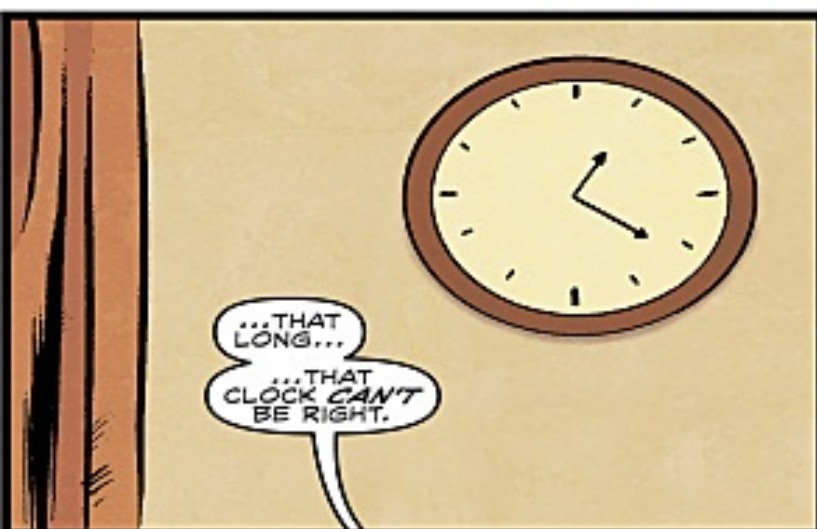
SO I'M
TOLD.



AT LEAST YOU TRY
TO NOT HURT
OTHERS.

IF I WEREN'T
WORKING TONIGHT,
I'D BE LISTENING TO MY
FATHER—THE GREAT
SENATOR—UNDERLINE
EVERY MISTAKE I'D
MADE IN THE LAST YEAR,
AND UNDERMINE EVERY
ACHIEVEMENT.











EGG HARBOR CITY, NEW JERSEY
TODAY



THIS ALL BEGAN
AT THE END. DELL
SPOON—ON THE DAY
YOUR MOTHER DID
NOT DIE.

I HAVE BEEN
SEARCHING
FOR HER
EVER SINCE.



NEVER KNEW
THE WOMAN, ZERO.
NEVER CARED TO.

SHE HAD ME
THEN HAD SECOND
THOUGHTS. LEFT
ME TO BE RAISED
BY THE STATE.



WOULD
YOU THINK
DIFFERENTLY IF
YOU HEARD SHE
WAS DOROTHY
SEARS?

I'D
THINK YOU'RE
JOKING. NEVER
HEARD OF THAT LADY
BEFORE YESTERDAY,
AND WHAT I HEARD
WAS SHE DIED
DECADES BEFORE I
WAS EVEN BORN.



A RUSE.
A CHARADE.
A TRICK!

BUT NO
ONE TRICKS
ME!



SO YOU ARE
THE SAME MR.
XERO FROM
1946.

IN WHICH
CASE—TRICK OR
NO TRICK—THERE'S
AN OUTSTANDING
MURDER WARRANT
FOR YOUR
ARREST.



LET US SAY,
AGENT MULDER,
THAT XERO IS MY
LEFT HAND—AND I
AM HIS RIGHT.

BUT
NEITHER OF US
KILLED DOROTHY
SEARS—WHICH
DELL SPOON IS
PROOF OF!

EXCEPT DOROTHY
MUST'VE BEEN IN HER
60s WHEN DELL WAS
BORN. NOT PRIME
CHILD-BEARING
YEARS.



AND YET
SHE WOULD
NOT HAVE AGED
A SINGLE DAY
SINCE HER
YOUTH—NOT
THEN, NOT
EVEN NOW.

SUCH ARE THE
BENEFITS OF
AMBROSIAC.



IF THIS IS THE TRUTH, IT'S OUT THERE, GUYS! WAY OUT THERE!

IT IS TRUE! I KNOW THIS BECAUSE YOU SHARE YOUR MOTHER'S SECOND SIGHT! IT IS WHAT LED ME TO YOU!

YOURS IS AN EXACT PSYCHIC MATCH WITH HER'S! THERE CAN BE NO MISTAKE ABOUT THIS, NO OTHER EXPLANATION!



I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOUR WORD ON THAT.

BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY EVIDENCE OF—



ANIMAL EMPATHY.

THAT'S HOW HE KNEW WHAT HAPPENED TO SALLY-GIRL, SCULLY. HE CAN READ THE MINDS OF ANIMALS.



IF I COULD DO THAT—AND I'M NOT SAYING I CAN—DO YOU KNOW HOW THAT'D GO OVER IN A TOWN LIKE THIS?

I'D BE A FREAK. I'D LOSE MY JOB.

MINIMUM.



WE CAN KEEP A SECRET, MR. SPOON. TRUST US.

MR. ZERO, YOU DO KNOW THAT MRS. SEARS' BODY WAS IN THE RUINS OF HER HOUSE?

NOT HER BODY—A BODY—BADLY MANGLED BY THE BLAST, HEAD CRUSHED, I BELIEVE.



THEY NEVER FOUND A BODY IN THE RELATED ASHLAND CASE BACK THEN, SCULLY, YOU DON'T THINK—?

I'D RATHER NOT.













THE ORIGIN OF *THE X-FILES* CONCLUDES IN ISSUE #5



THE *X* FILES™
YEAR ZERO