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#1

KESEL
MALHOTRA
SCOTT
LOPES

THE X-FILES[™] YEAR ZERO

#1



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. Eventually, both agents left the FBI and began a new life together in peaceful anonymity. However, recent events prompted them to return to the Bureau and the X-Files.

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ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY



MULDER, YOU'RE SAYING THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO TURN INTO CATS?

OR POSSIBLY CATS WHO CHANGE INTO PEOPLE. SCULLY, DEPENDS ON HOW YOU INTERPRET THE MYTH.



AND WE'RE NOT TALKING TABBIES OR ANGORS, ARE WE?

BLACK LEOPARDS, MOSTLY.

IT'S LIKELY THE LEOPARD SOCIETY IN EARLY 20TH-CENTURY LIBERIA WAS ONE SUCH GROUP.



IN BOTH CASES THEY KILLED THEIR VICTIMS QUITE VICIOUSLY, ALMOST RITUALISTICALLY.

KILLING'S THE ONLY WAY THEY CAN RESUME THEIR HUMAN FORM, OF COURSE.

OF COURSE.



AND THE ONE WE'RE AFTER COULDN'T BE A NORMAL LEOPARD BECAUSE...?

BECAUSE IT DISAPPEARS, SEEN ON THE STREET ONE MINUTE, GONE THE NEXT.



BIG CATS ARE HARD TO HIDE, BUT IF IT CHANGED TO HUMAN FORM...

...WELL, THAT WOULD EXPLAIN MOST OF THE MYSTERIOUS BIG-CAT SIGHTINGS AROUND THE WORLD.

ALL RIGHT, IF YOU'RE CORRECT, HOW DO WE STOP THIS CAT-PERSON BEFORE IT KILLS ANYONE ELSE? SILVER BULLETS?



OH, REGULAR BULLETS WILL DO JUST FINE, IF IT COMES TO THAT.

DON'T OVERTHINK THIS, SCULLY.

BESIDES, I'M PRETTY SURE AT THIS POINT IT'S NOT TRYING TO KILL ANYONE...









EGG HARBOR CITY, NEW JERSEY

NOT EXACTLY
WHAT I'D CALL A CITY,
BUT A NICE ENOUGH
SMALL TOWN.

ACCORDING
TO THE GREAT GOD
GOOGLE, IT'S THE
HOME OF MILDRED "THE
PEACE PILGRIM" NORMAN,
2012'S MISS NEW JERSEY
LINDSEY PETROSH,
AND LOU BAUR.

LOU
BAUR?

PITCHED A
SINGLE GAME
FOR THE
PHILADELPHIA
ATHLETICS
IN 1918.

BACK BEFORE
ALIENS DOMINATED
THE SPORT.

IT'S ALSO SURROUNDED
BY THE PINE BARRENS,
A NEXUS FOR THE ODD
AND UNEXPLAINED.

SUCH AS THE
URBAN LEGEND
OF A HALF-CRAZED
RUSSIAN GANGSTER
WHO STILL STALKS THE
WOODS EVER SINCE A
BOTCHED JERSEY
MOB HIT.

NOK
NOK

YEAH?

MR. DELL
SPOON? I'M
SPECIAL AGENT
MULDER. THIS IS
SPECIAL AGENT
SCULLY.

YOU
CONTACTED ME
EARLIER?

OH, YOU
FIGURED OUT
THAT WAS ME,
HUH?

THE FBI
CAN DO THAT,
SIR.

AS YOU CAN
IMAGINE, WE
HAVE SOME
QUESTIONS. MAY
WE COME IN?









ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
1946



YOU DISGUISED
YOURSELF AS A STATE
TROOPER?

I THOUGHT
THE DOCTOR
WOULD RESPOND
BEST THAT
WAY, SIR.

THEN
STOLE A
VEHICLE?

BORROWED,
SIR. AND RETURNED
IT WITHOUT A
SCRATCH.

FBI FIELD OFFICE ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

SPECIAL AGENT
ELLINSON, THE
STATE AUTHORITIES
WERE WORKING WITH
US! ALL YOU HAD
TO DO WAS
ASK!

BY THE TIME
EVERYONE GOT
THEIR DUCKS IN A
ROW, THE DOCTOR
WOULD HAVE BEEN
LONG GONE.

MY ACTIONS DETERMINED
HE WAS GOING TO TALK,
AND DETAINED HIM BEFORE
HE COULD PASS ATOMIC
SECRETS TO ANYONE,
FOREIGN OR
DOMESTIC.

AND WILL
PROBABLY GET
THE ENTIRE CASE
THROWN OUT
OF COURT!

DOESN'T MATTER.
THE DOC'S BUGGY.
JUST GET HIM TALKING
ABOUT ANTS.

THAT'LL EARN
HIM A LONG STAY
AT SOME COMFY
COUNTRY ESTATE WITH
A PADDED ROOM AND
AROUND-THE-CLOCK
SECURITY, AND WE
ALL WIN.

SIR.

DO YOU KNOW
WHAT I THINK,
ELLINSON?

I THINK YOU
JUST WANTED TO
WEAR A SNAPPY
UNIFORM BECAUSE
YOU COULDN'T
DURING THE
WAR.

POW

**FBI
HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE
BUILDING
WASHINGTON,
D.C.**

-BROKE
HIS NOSE!

AND ELLINSON
WOULD BE OUT
ON HIS CHIN IF NOT
FOR STOPPING THAT
ATOMIC DOCTOR
FROM TALKING TO
THE REDS!

HE'S BEEN CALLED ON
THE CARPET AND IS BACK HERE
NOW, BUT THE DIRECTOR CAN'T
QUITE FIGURE WHAT TO DO
WITH THE MAN!

YOU EVER SEEN
A PHOTO OF BING
ELLINSON?

I CAN
THINK OF A
FEW THINGS
I'D LIKE TO
DO WITH
HIM!

I'M CONFUSED.
WOULD THAT BE
A REWARD FOR
STOPPING THE DOCTOR,
OR A PUNISHMENT
FOR STRIKING HIS
SUPERIOR?



EASY, GIRLS! WE
ALL KNOW OUR LITTLE
MISS MILLIE OHIO
HASN'T QUITE ADJUSTED
TO CIVILIAN LIFE AFTER
HER EXCITING TIME IN THE
WOMEN'S ARMY
CORPS...

...OR MADE
PEACE WITH THE
FACT THAT IT'LL BE A
COLD DAY BEFORE
THE DIRECTOR ALLOWS
FEMALE AGENTS.

THAT IS--UNLESS
HER FATHER IS ABOUT
TO INTRODUCE A BILL IN
THE SENATE THAT WOULD
CLEAR THE WAY FOR HIS
DAUGHTER TO BECOME
THE FIRST FBI SPECIAL
AGENTESS?

THAT
COLD DAY?

THAT'S WHAT
IT'LL BE BEFORE
I EVER ACCEPT MY
FATHER'S HELP.







...ASSISTING THE
ASSIGNED AGENT,
SPECIAL AGENT
BING ELLINSON.



IT'S A PLEASURE, MISS
OHIO. I'VE ALWAYS WANTED
TO MEET A CONTESTANT
FROM—

BEFORE YOU
MAKE A SENSELESS
MISS AMERICA JOKE
ABOUT MY NAME, A JOKE
EVERYONE SEEMS TO
THINK I'VE NEVER
HEARD BEFORE...

...WHY ARE YOU
DOING THIS, SIR? WHY ARE
YOU GIVING THIS CASE TO THE
FBI'S MOST UNWANTED?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT,
MISS OHIO. THE BUREAU HAS
FAITH IN *ALL* ITS OPERATIVES,
AND SPECIAL AGENT
ELLINSON IS THE *BEST*
WE HAVE AVAILABLE—
CURRENTLY.

I BELIEVE EVERY
MINUTE COUNTS,
DON'T YOU?

I'LL GIVE YOU
TWO A MOMENT TO
GET ACQUAINTED,
THEN YOU HAD
BETTER GET
TO WORK!



THEY'RE
SETTING ME UP
TO FAIL...



US.

WHAT?

THEY'RE
SETTING *US*
UP TO FAIL.



YOU THINK
THIS IS YOUR
FIRST AND ONLY
CHANCE TO PROVE
YOURSELF, RIGHT?
WELL, THIS IS MY
LAST.

WHATEVER
YOU THINK OF
ME, WHATEVER I
THINK OF YOU—
LET'S DAMN WELL
PROVE THEM
WRONG.

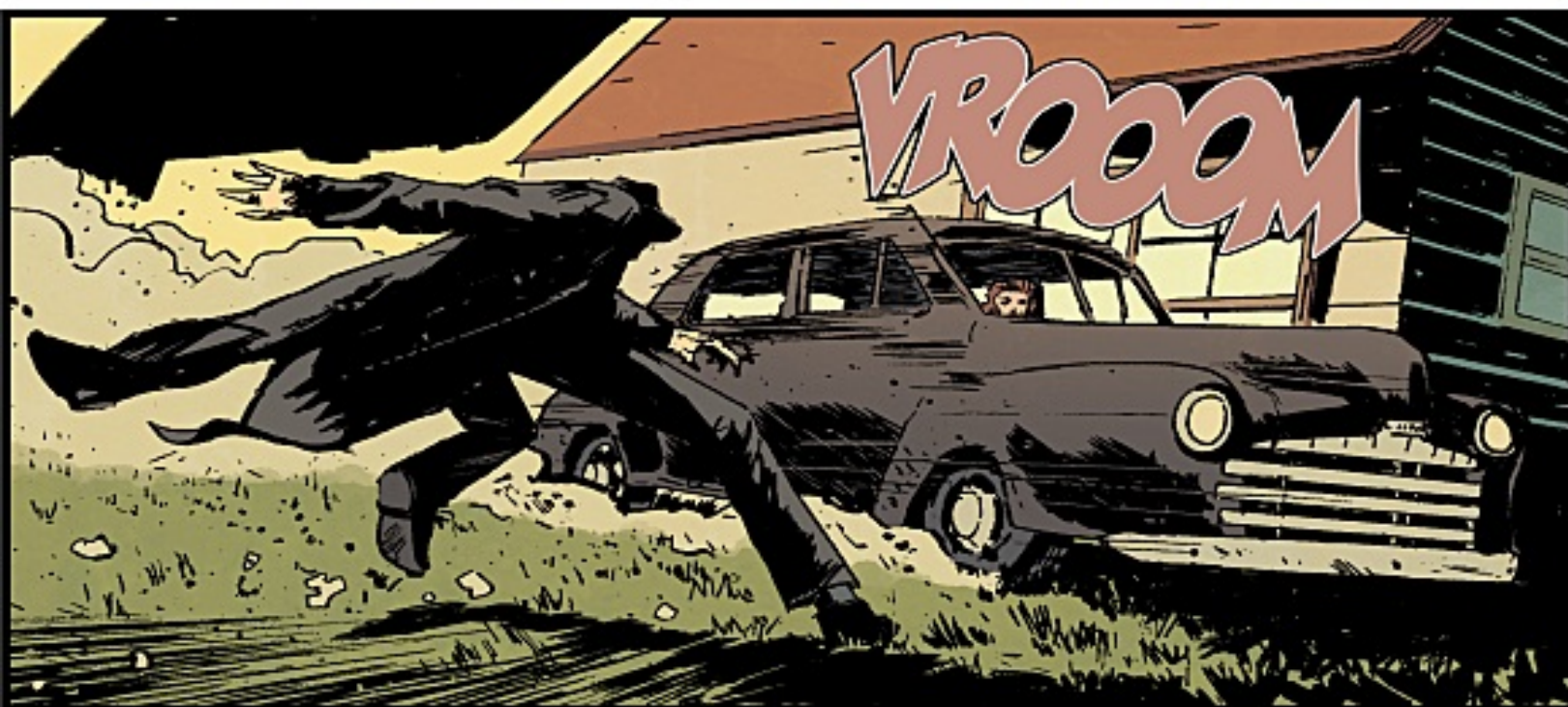
"LOOK AT THIS PLACE,
OHIO! IT'S A MAZE!"

"I HEAR THEY'LL EVENTUALLY
BUILD OVER A THOUSAND
SIMILAR HOUSES—IMAGINE
WHAT IT'LL BE LIKE THEN!"

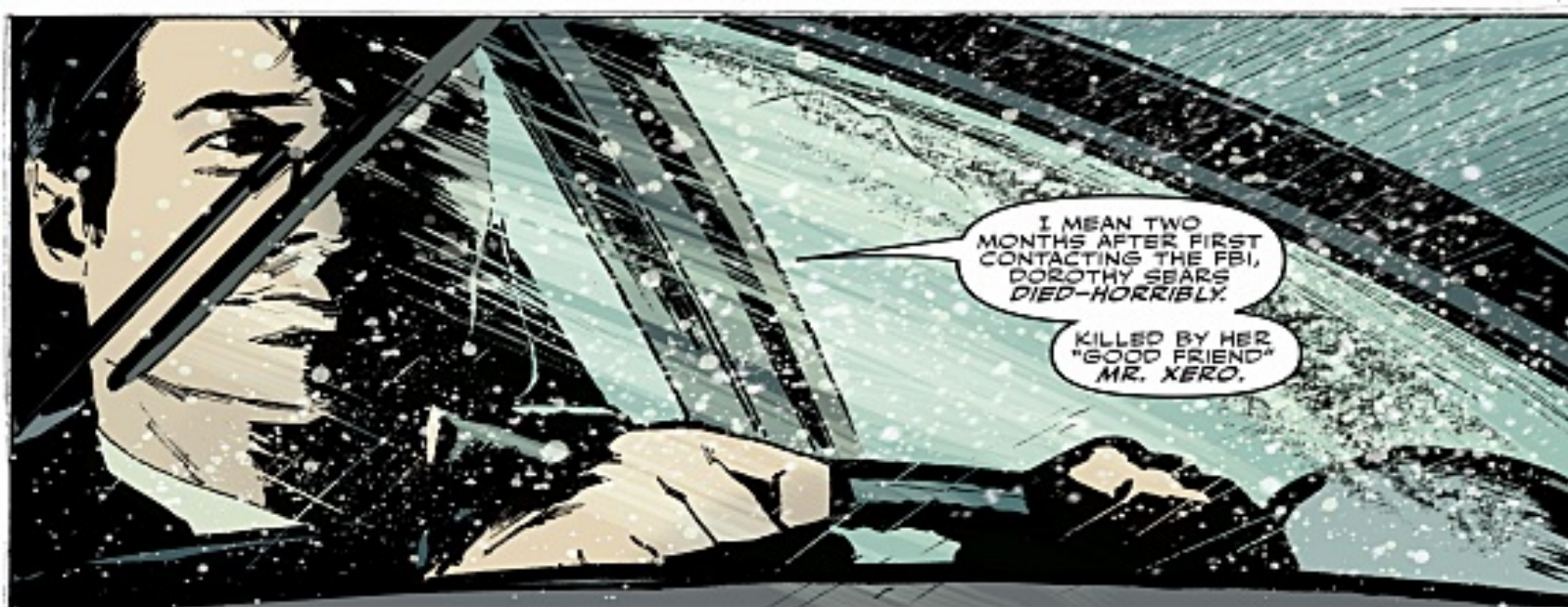
"LUCKILY, WE'RE LOOKING FOR
SOMEONE WHO LIVES IN ONE
OF THESE FEW TEST HOMES."

LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK









 TO BE CONTINUED!