

Outline for a New Ongoing IDW Comics Series

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Joe Harris

THE PREMISE

This series will reintroduce THE X-FILES to a new age rife with paranoia, conspiracy and enough availability of information to explore, proliferate or hide “the truth” than ever before. It is the era of WikiLeaks, drone strikes, SEAL Team Six and Stuxnet worms. Corporate power rivals the government’s and it’s often hard to figure out who holds more sway over who. The world is much smaller and interconnected than it used to be and the adage, “Trust No One” has never made more sense.

AGENTS MULDER and **SCULLY** have been off the *X-Files* for a few years, by the time we pick things up. The division has been closed, the unsolved cases archived and relegated to a storage locker even deeper in the basement of the Hoover Building than the FBI first stuck a young Fox Mulder hoping to keep him occupied and out of their hair.

But when personnel formerly associated with the *X-Files* begin turning up dead, Fox and Dana find themselves thrust back into a confrontation with strange, dangerous and difficult to believe things.

Our story begins with a new conspiracy as the Agents struggle to get to the bottom of who’s targeting their own, and why... only to reveal a new *Monster of the Week* concept, and a new antagonist brimming with dark power and a very personal axe to grind... and, finally, leading to a re-establishment of the grand conspiracy... the familiar, dizzying *mytharc* involving extraterrestrials, colonization and the ever elusive search for the truth.

OUTLINE

ISSUE #1

COLD OPEN: We open at the site of giant new PIPELINE being laid through an otherwise remote stretch of national parkland in Wyoming. As men work digging and fitting pipe, we note heavily armed security guards along a perimeter lined with protestors. This controversial pipeline will deliver tar sands from Canada to refineries in Texas and Louisiana, and it has been vehemently opposed by activists who claim the government is suppressing a study into the pipeline's potential effects on an underground aquifer that provides drinking water for a large swath of the Midwest.

A SHADOWY FIGURE walks amongst the protestors, his face hidden from view.

High above in the sky, a BLACK AIRPLANE gets the workers' attention. With its contrail, they first mistake it for a fighter jet or some sort of bomber. One of the men suggests, paranoid, that it's a U2 spy plane, spying on its own country. Domestic spying being an accepted thing in post-9/11 America.

When suddenly, the contrail spreads and forms a haze. The men begin to cough, along with the protestors and some of the security guards as it descends over everything around them.

The Shadowy Figure holds a COMPASS and we notice that the needle seems to spin, unable to find "true north" ... when one of the security guards comes running by, desperate for help.

He's having trouble breathing, or something else brought on by exposure to whatever just dusted them from above. He tugs at Shadowy Man's arm, and we finally get a look at this guy as he's spun around. The guard is horrified. Not only is this mystery guy wearing a REBREATHER, like he was ready for whatever it is that's happening... he's also hideously deformed.



Fans of the X-Files will recognize this person as former AGENT SPENDER.

***He's a great visual connection to the show as he's completely fucked up after the Smoking Man, his father, shot him in the face before subjecting him to*

experimentation. Longtime fans will recognize him without going into detail right away, and readers who don't know who he is will get a jolt as he's visually hideous, and a great, creepy visual unto himself.

Whether he's responsible for what's happening, or confirming something he expected would happen, it isn't clear. But as Spender walks to his car, making notes to be delivered to an undisclosed accomplice or client, he is attacked... by an attacker whose identity is even more mysterious and unclear.

CUT TO:

A CALIFORNIA SUPERMARKET where a *kind* of familiar-looking man watches his groceries convey down the checkout counter while the cashier rings him up. She does a double-take when she notices the thick mustache, hipster-y trucker hat and dark glasses on him (along with, maybe, a tee shirt that says, "Trust no one" on it). He looks like a guy who's trying to hide, honestly, and it's kind of funny too. Only, when she rings him up, she has to tell MR. SMITH that his credit card has been declined.

He calls the bank as it's a new account and has to verify his identity. After a couple of levels of customer service, he finally speaks to a representative who understands his *special* situation—and why his identity isn't so easily verifiable—and asks him what his special code word is to release his account.

Reluctantly, he answers, "*Spooky...*"

WHILE ACROSS TOWN:

MRS. SMITH—or, DOCTOR SMITH—is seeing patients at her pediatric practice, although there's no hiding who this really is.

Former **AGENTS MULDER** and **SCULLY** are still together, living in retired anonymity following the events of the second X-FILES movie. They both have new identities and take their seclusion seriously.

Mulder has been toiling away at his memoirs, even though he doesn't expect the it'll ever be published due to the national security redactions it would face. Scully, drawn to children and privately still grieving for having given up her son, has sought solace in becoming a small town doctor. Neither of them has done anything for the FBI in five years.

They're soon visited by newly minted **DEPUTY DIRECTOR SKINNER** (indicating that he's recently been promoted to fill Kersh's old position) who says he needs their help. He tells them that former Agent Spender has been killed, and the Bureau believes that someone(s) are targeting personnel formerly associated with the "X-Files" division of the FBI.

***Think Kersh, Brad Follmer, etc.*

Mulder and Scully decline to return to service, but as Skinner leaves we realize things are not exactly 'happily ever after' these days. There are tensions, stresses and a growing distance between them. Maybe it's a lack of intimacy and purpose brought on over leaving the FBI, even though they needed to. Maybe they've just been through too damn much to not be a constant reminder of it all to one another.

MEANWHILE:

AGENT MONICA REYES is part of the team of Federal Agents dispatched to investigate the incident at the pipeline. They're trying to rule out some sort of eco-terrorist action as there has been some chatter regarding a threat.

But while interviewing witnesses, Reyes notices something odd. Something the other agents in the field with her wouldn't necessarily pick up on. Something paranormal.

She makes a discovery, but is reluctant to share what she suspects/discovers with her team. This is special. This needs conference beyond her current post in the FBI.

***We'll later learn that this pipeline isn't transporting tar sands at all, rather—it is funneling large deposits of the iron variation, **MAGNETITE** being mined in the north.*

Only she's captured before she has a chance to fill anyone, us included, in... we presume by the same forces that killed Spender and sent Skinner out to warn Mulder and Scully.

MEANWHILE:

Mulder and Scully have a falling out. He doesn't want anything to do with the FBI, but she's torn—still reeling over having given her baby up for adoption, still desperately wanting to keep him safe from the forces that would do us all harm.

They are being pulled apart, by themselves, and from within. And by the time a new threat emerges from the outside, the cleave has already begun.

Later on, Scully gets the feeling she's being followed. What first appears to be one shadowy figure tracking and trailing her soon turns into two, then three, then a dozen.

They're like AUTOMATONS—human, definitely, but penitent and solemn and almost entranced by some higher calling like a modern day Manson family or the Children of the Corn. As they close in on Scully, she notes that their EYES GLOW (***note: with the same color/effect we saw the sky turn at the opening of this issue*).

As they close in, grabbing and pulling her down, she swoons and soon falls, unconscious. It looks like she's doomed... until another figure swoops in and is able to disperse the attackers (***perhaps using something fantastical/mysterious to ward them off*).

A YOUNG MAN, in his twenties from appearances, steps from the shadows. We don't know if he's friend or enemy, but he's got Dana Scully.

And when former Agent Mulder realizes she's missing, he's going to heed Skinner's warnings... *then move heaven and earth to try and find her!*

ISSUE #2

COLD OPEN: An airliner travelling over the North Pacific suffers terrible turbulence. After first reassuring the passengers that everything was fine, save for the bumpy ride, the crew decides they need to head back to make an emergency landing due to some engine trouble. But soon after they turn back, the plane suffers greater instrument failure and the pilot is quickly struggling to control the rapidly falling aircraft. As the plane begins to dive and spiral toward the earth, both the crew and passengers alike note strange colors in the sky, along with odd vibrations that rattle their bones and nearly shear the aircraft apart before it plunges into the waters off Washington State...

AGENT DOGGETT leads the investigation into the downed airliner as the FBI does when a potential terrorist attack occurs. Only raising the aircraft from the shallows off the Washington coast doesn't provide any evidence of terrorism... just wild fluctuations in the instrument readings and almost completely unusable data scrounged from the plane's black box recorder.

Analysts don't know what to make of the readings, but Doggett seems to have his own unsubstantiated suspicions. He came to work on the *X-Files* as a skeptic, but he left enough of a believer in the paranormal that his curiosity is piqued.

Doggett is contacted by MULDER, who needs his help and says he doesn't trust the FBI.

DOGGETT: But I am the FBI.

But when Mulder's tells Doggett that Scully is missing, he gets all the help Doggett is able give. He needs Doggett to use his clearance to get into the newly digital archives. He's got a task for him.

MULDER: And Agent Doggett... be careful.

MEANWHILE:

Scully is nursed to consciousness by a her rescuer who says his name is BOBBY (**maybe—name TBD). He claims that things are too dangerous, and he cannot let her contact anyone on the outside.

We learn that she was attacked by a group known as the ACOLYTES—a cult-like order or devotees to matters she and her partner, former Agent Mulder, know a lot about.

But Scully doesn't know how they found them, or understand what their connection to the X-Files is. And how does this guy, Bobby know what's up?

He claims he was one of them. But their plans are so twisted he was forced to bail. They must be careful, he insists, as these people have resources and they won't rest until they have the rest of the X-Files team.

At which Scully tries to bolt. She's got to warn Mulder.

Only she's woozy... something strange has happened to her. She appears to have been drugged, or compromised in some other way.

Bobby tells her that the group uses some sort of compound to both induce their religious fervor and visions—almost like *aya huasca*, or the way southwestern Indians used peyote—and have likely dosed her. He assures her it will pass.

In the meantime, he needs to get her to safety...

CUT TO:

WYOMING, where Agent Reyes is being held by the group who kidnapped her. They're the same people Bobby was just warning Scully about and Reyes, most certainly, is going to be dosed, and trip out as a result of their manipulations.

Only she's able to resist, then escape... but not before learning some terrible truths.

These people—these cultists—want Scully's child whom she gave up for adoption in an effort to keep safe, a few years ago.

Desperate and hunted, she reaches out to Agent Doggett and tries to warn him... to relay what she's learned...

But it's too late. The cultists are on her. This time, there's no escape.

CUT TO:

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY – VIRGINIA. Mulder follows a walking tour through the cemetery in which a guide tells us about the place... how it was once the estate of none other than Confederate General Robert E. Lee, seized by the Union Army and turned into a final resting place for fallen Civil War soldiers so that the treasonous rebel Commander might never return to it after the war was over.

Using information gotten to him from Agent Doggett, Fox sneaks away from the tour group and locates the graves of **BYERS, FROHIKE** and **LANGLY**—the **LONE GUNMEN!**

Last believed to have perished, off-screen, the trio of hacker conspiracy theorists were buried with honors in Arlington National Cemetery... only Mulder doesn't seem to believe that.

He reveals a shovel hidden under his trenchcoat and we realize Mulder *hasn't* come to pay his respects. Checking over his shoulder to be sure nobody is watching, he starts digging...

The first grave contains what appear to be human remains... but they disintegrate in the air. Fake bones!

The second is empty as well, but contains a note for Mulder (***some indication of how to find them*).

The third and final grave contains a communications device, and this leads Mulder to his old associates.

These guys have been working for the military and have recently come into possession of some very, very incriminating cables and information—*harkening to the real-life drama surrounding WikiLeaks and whistleblower Private Bradley Manning*—details the United States' efforts in *geoengineering*, or “planet hacking,” in which efforts are made to seed the atmosphere with particulate in an effort to increase the earth's reflectivity and, in turn, lower the global temperature.

You'd think this could be a good idea, considering the persistent and growing phenomenon of human-added climate change and global warming. But the Gunmen point to a—no surprise—more conspiratorial application of the science: *control...*

If the government can control the weather, it can be really good for its friends, and pretty awful for its enemies. But that's when this explanation gets even stranger...

Hacked cables and other communications reveal the names of various companies... service industry providers, manufacturers, scientific innovation and design, factory farms and grain growers, along with other sectors of the economy... all with a

similar, mysterious parent company. Only that parent company's name is redacted on most governmental paper they've been able to dig up.

THAT NIGHT:

Mulder has another encounter with an old relation. He smells cigarette smoke, then spies an empty pack of familiar "Morley" cigarettes on the ground.

We end Issue #2 as the infamous **SMOKING MAN** steps from the shadows. Only he's much more vital than we've seen, lately. Looking a hell of a lot healthier and stronger than we last saw him, holed up in a southwestern pueblo village, desperately smoking through a hole in his windpipe and waiting for the black helicopters to, finally, put him down.

SMOKING MAN: You're looking well, Agent Mulder.

MULDER: I was about to say the same thing about you.

Mulder should know better by now to believe Cancer Man—*later revealed to be Mulder's own father*—died, no matter what he saw.

The Smoking Man tells him there isn't much time. If he wishes to save Dana Scully, he'll have to trust him. No easy task. But Mulder won't have much choice.

***Note: Smoking Man's 'resurrection' will be a mystery we explore later on in this series. I'd like to build some anticipation for the reveal of just what and how he's back, and take our time getting to it if at all possible...*

ISSUE #3

COLD OPEN: 46th Street, New York City—a location fans of the show will recognize. Only things are different at the headquarters we used to watch the dreaded **SYNDICATE** meet.



Only these days, office temps and mailroom staff are more visible than dark conference rooms filled with shadowy conspirators... or so we present, to start.

***Something very creepy is uncovered by folks at the building, which leads us further down the rabbit hole the Smoking Man is about to usher Mulder down...*

MEANWHILE:

Mulder listens as Cancer Man talks about a new iteration of **THE SYNDICATE**—that shadow group within the United States, as well as foreign, governments who conspired with the aliens so that they might be spared in a re-colonization of the earth—only Mulder shuts things right down.

He's done with this road. He's not following this elliptical, indefinite leads anymore.

Smoking Man smiles. Mulder is always so close to, yet so far from what he seeks... only times have changed, and he's not dealing with the same dark forces he was once upon a time.

SMOKING MAN: Perhaps you already know this, but the REVOLVING DOOR between the government and the private sector swings quite freely these days.

A consortium of different interests, very shadowy, like the Carlyle Group, has risen in recent years to *transform* the Syndicate. They hold many of the same old goals, but with different means employed to accomplish them. They use greed and profit motive to arc private enterprise to their will and further manipulate the governments of the world.

***We establish that there's a corporate component to the conspiracy these days, which is new for THE X-FILES. In reintroducing this franchise for a 2013 audience, used to the ideas of private contractors fighting our wars and corporations fleecing the government for contracts as congressmen become lobbyists become congressmen again, etc. in a never-ending circle between our government for sale and the forces that are buying, I thought this idea could play, and have legs...*

MEANWHILE:

Scully and the young man, Bobby, are being hunted...

Only Mulder is going to come for her when he's able to figure out that *he* is behind the attacks on X-Files personnel (***where this all takes place, and how he figures out where she's at, still TBD*) and a confrontation looms...

The Acolytes are converging on Scully and Bobby...

Mulder is closing in on them too...

Only Scully begins to get a bad feeling about Bobby... she realizes he's (***somehow*) calling the Acolytes to him!

There's a big action-filled fight, and Mulder is able to get to Dana before there's either a huge explosion or some other event that separates the good guys from the bad...

Mulder is able to pull Scully to safety. They can't get to Bobby, however, as things go south fast.

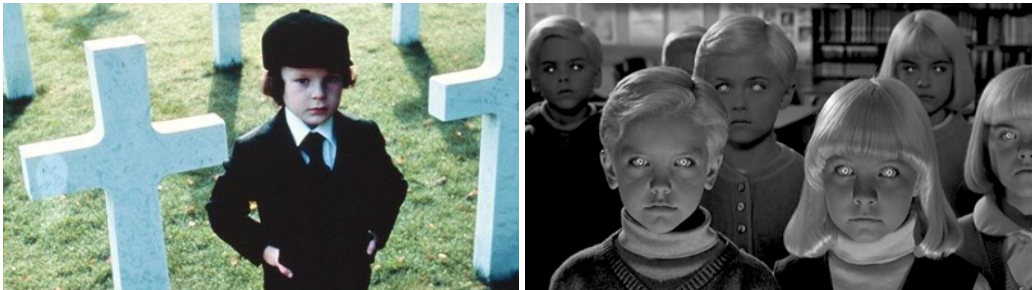
Mulder tells her it's all right. He's not going to let that freak hurt her. But Scully looks stricken, tears frozen on her face. Mulder doesn't realize it, but she does. Bobby isn't some just some past *X-Files* relation with an axe to grind. Tears streaking her face, stricken, she reveals—

SCULLY: He's my son.

ISSUE #4

COLD OPEN #4: Two years ago. We're introduced to a young boy living in Wyoming... only he's not your average kid. His parents are called to the principal's office as there's been an incident. The boy was involved in a fight. The parents regret that he's becoming a handful, already growing faster than anyone expected. It's when the Principal addresses as them as MR. and MRS. VAN DE KAMP that we realize they're discussing WILLIAM. He's grown, seemingly at an accelerated rate, and he's apparently quite troubled, constantly getting into fights and causing problems. But things take a sharp, dark turn when young William displays powers we associate with his *alien* side. And some horrible, schoolhouse massacre ensues before his adoptive parents are dead and he's free to chart his own course...

***Think Baby William Scully as Damien from The Omen or those creepy kids in Village of the Damned...*



MEANWHILE:

Mulder takes Scully to the Lone Gunmen to hide and we learn some more/get caught further up to speed on William.

Believing himself to have been abandoned by his mother and clearly no longer a *baby* due to his advanced alien hybrid biology accelerating his growth, William has been setting plans in motion on two fronts—

- 1) First, he's sought to destroy everything about the *X-Files* and those associated with them... everything, and everybody, Dana Scully holds dear out of pain and hate over being abandoned by her, as he sees it.
- 2) He's sought to 'phone home' and bring on the long-predicted, but previously averted alien re-colonization of the planet earth so that he might join the people, and family, whom he hopes actually *want* him.

And Fox Mulder will have to face the one person—*the one thing in this universe*—with more of an attachment to Dana Scully than him if he wants to save her, and the world.

We also learn some new details as to the overall threat they're all facing. This group—the newly re-minted Syndicate—is using their influence to alter the climate if they can. But why?

One of the Gunmen has a crazy theory about reversing the polarity of the earth.

“Don't encourage him,” another of the Gunmen says to the Agents.

But Scully realizes something. If the Acolytes can manage to affect the ionosphere... if they can succeed in shifting the earth's natural weather patterns... if they can manage to restore the ice caps and increase the reflectivity of the sun's rays so that less solar energy gets stuck here... if they can alter the consistency of the ozone layer so that it does...

The reasoning circulates through the group and a conclusion is reached...

By effecting the earth's climate, they hope to affect the earth's magnetic field and, in doing so, render neutral the vast amounts of one particular element that would stand in the way of a renewed alien conspiracy...

We reveal that Agent Reyes was onto this at the pipeline, back in Issue #2. She had discovered that it was actually transporting something other than tar sands oil. It all points to one, pesky obstacle in the way of alien re-colonization of the earth being removed—MAGNETITE

It kills the extra-terrestrials. It is their Achilles heel. And these people mean to remove the threat of it so that our once and future conquerors might return.

ISSUE #5

COLD OPEN: The top-secret HAARP science facility in Alaska. Home to highly classified ionospheric research and—conspiracy theorists say—efforts to hack the planet and control the weather. Eco-activists are infiltrating to try and expose the compound as they blame powerful forces who stand to profit from engineered rains and a more predictable and controlled growing season, as well as dominate other parts of the planet hurt by the shifting climate. They witness a huge array of transmitters beaming high-frequency waves into the sky. Clouds part. The horizon begins to glow in the same colors/effects as we saw the plane go down around to open our first issue. The activist group realizes they're onto something big... when security swoops down on them. Or so they think! In reality, the forces who descend and close in around them appear to be connected to the same fervent masses who tried to abduct Scully at the end of issue #1. Their eyes glow in that familiar color as well before we—

CUT TO:

ALASKA—Elsewhere as Mulder and Scully will race to stop William and the Syndicate at the HAARP station.

***They'll have figured things out by this point, obviously, though it still needs tying together...*

Everyone knows about HAARP in the conspiracy theorist community. They've been experimenting with weather control for decades up there.

The Syndicate is using William to call the aliens to earth. His mature, ascendant self means to bring the foretold invasion down.

THE HAARP FACILITY is where they'll square off, Mulder vs. William and his followers, and Fox will suffer some sort of crisis of faith, along with a serious beat down.

Knowing what William means to Scully (and to himself, really, as he also loved that child like his own), he'll hesitate at some crucial moment...

And Agent Scully will betray her own child, *killing* William in some big set piece ending, to save Mulder once more.

***Only "Baby" William will survive this confrontation... his plans, along with his vengeance, merely delayed...*

Mulder and Scully in the aftermath. Silence. Solemn.

MULDER: Scully, I don't know what to say.

She has tears in her eyes.

MULDER: Dana, I'm so—

She kisses him, deep and almost desperate. It's a reversal for them, with her in command and *he* being the vulnerable one seeking protection. But when he moves to hold her, she recoils just a bit. She's colder toward him, now. Changed.

By the end of our opening arc, the *X-Files* are re-opened with Agents Mulder and Scully working together. But there's a distance between them now. A coldness that won't thaw easily, or soon.

***But at the end, we realize that Mulder isn't being completely honest with Scully. He's protecting her by withholding some very painful, and potentially dangerous information. That's how much he really does love her. He's willing to let her hate him if it gave him the means to protect her from some terrible truth. That's what he's willing to sacrifice for her own safety and emotional rescue.*

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

The goal, by the end of this first story arc, is to re-establish the grand MYTHARC involving earth's once and future alien conquerors, but with a fresh spin suited to a 2013 that's rife with even more darkness and paranoia around the edges and in the guts than even the original television series imagined during its 1990s pinnacle.

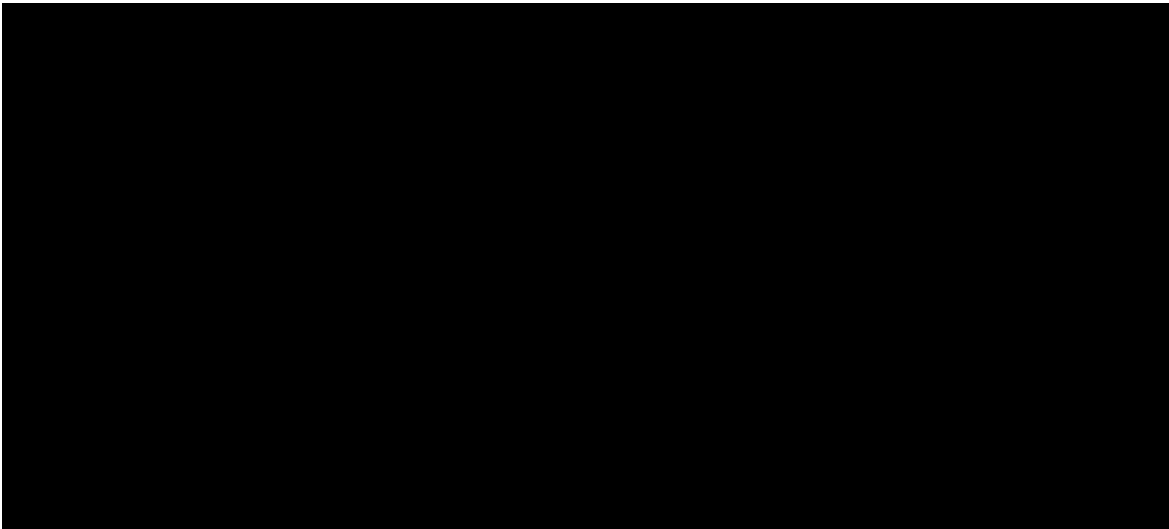
We'll follow this opening arc with new, shorter "Monster of the Week" stories—maybe standalones/self-contained—that help redraw the characters while slowly gearing us toward the next time William Scully and the alien menace resurface.

The extra-terrestrial invasion still looms. These beings waited an eternity already... what's a little more time? But now they have an agent on earth that is their harbinger, a new face to the outer space threat. And "Baby" William presents challenges for Agents Mulder and Scully that are not as easily met as some of the other 'big bads' the *X-Files* have brought them into conflict with.

***These are just some springboard ideas. Nothing too fleshed out yet...*

HOSTS

I wanted to revisit one of the fan-favorite "Monster of the Week" episodes from early in the second season, in which Mulder and Scully took on a "flukeman" stalking victims from the sewers. Only this is James Cameron's ALIENS to Ridley Scott's first film. One word: "flukemen."



MR. X

***This issue would come around issue #10 or so and help get the ongoing narrative ready for the next arc involving the aliens. Everyone used to love "X" when he became Mulder's inside informant. He was intense. I know I was pissed when he died. But we could totally revisit the character in flashbacks...*

Mulder receives a dated package from an old, dead associate—the mysterious 'X' informant. In hopes that Mulder was able to help stave off the extra-terrestrial invasion of the earth, he arranged for this to be delivered after he was killed. As Mulder sifts through the contents, we get some backstory on this highly secretive, coldblooded shadow agent inside the conspiracy. Details of his life, his family, of the person behind the paranoid shadows... or so we're led to believe. This man, we soon learn, led multiple lives... had numerous relations and identities. Our flashbacks soon reveal that he'd built a life around providing cover for himself, having betrayed the Syndicate. We'll see him sacrifice in order to maintain his role in the conspiracy. He'll do his best to keep up appearances and not drop his cover story within the various relationships he builds, and suffer the tragic loss of loved ones when he does.

