

= Trust No 1 =

" Trust No 1 " is the sixth episode of the ninth season of the American science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . It premiered on the Fox network on January 6 , 2002 . The episode was written by series creator Chris Carter and executive producer Frank Spotnitz , and directed by Tony Wharmby . " Trust No 1 " helps to explore the series ' overarching mythology . The episode received a Nielsen household rating of 5 @. @ 1 and was viewed by 8 @. @ 4 million viewers ; it garnered mixed to negative reviews from television critics , with many feeling that it portrayed the series ' characters in a way that was unfaithful to the show 's history .

The show centers on FBI special agents who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files ; this season focuses on the investigations of John Doggett (Robert Patrick) , Monica Reyes (Annabeth Gish) , and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) . In this episode , Scully is hopeful about reuniting with her former partner , Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) when a complete stranger offers new information about what drove him into hiding . Yet her trust in the stranger may place Mulder in even more danger , for the man turns out to be a super soldier .

" Trust No 1 " features former leading star Duchovny via the use of previously filmed footage . It was written in response to fans who felt that , during season eight , Mulder 's abduction was not dealt with until his miraculous return in " This is Not Happening " / " Deadalive " . Actor Terry O 'Quinn , who appears in this episode as the Shadow Man , had appeared as different characters in the second season episode " Aubrey " and the 1998 feature film and appeared as Peter Watts in The X @-@ Files sister show Millennium . The tagline for the episode is " They 're Watching . "

= = Plot = =

While at a coffee shop , Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) sees an infant crying and sees the infant 's mother , Patti , outside of the coffee shop arguing with her husband , who then drives off . Scully asks the mother if she is OK , and the mother leaves with her child . Meanwhile , Doggett and Reyes stake out the location where Doggett traced a tipster 's call to his cell phone . They see Patti 's husband , who they believe to be the tipster , walk inside the apparently abandoned building . Inside , the husband sits at a computer . The Shadow Man (Terry O 'Quinn) , who appears to be the husband 's boss , monitors Scully through surveillance .

Scully sees Patti a short time later , arguing with her husband , who drives off with their baby in the car . Scully approaches Patti , offering her assistance , and invites Patti inside . Scully convinces Patti to stay the night after learning she has nowhere else to go . The next morning , Patti turns off the baby monitor and removes William from his crib . Scully awakens when she gets a phone call from Doggett warning her that the tipster they were following had just gone into her building . Scully then hears William cry and confronts Patti with her gun , telling her to put down her baby . Just then , Patti 's husband attempts to pick Scully 's lock , but is stopped by Doggett and Reyes . The husband reveals to Scully that he works for the NSA and has no name . He says he was not there to take William , but was there to retrieve his wife , as he knew she was upset . Patti says their daughter is just like William , and they only want to keep both children safe . The husband informs Scully , Doggett , and Reyes that they are being watched , and signals to Scully to close the window .

The husband reveals that he has discovered that their infant was part of the government 's ? Super Soldier ? project and begs her to call Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) out of hiding in order to give him this information . John Doggett (Robert Patrick) and Monica Reyes (Annabeth Gish) confirm that the couple 's story matches with what is known about the Super Soldiers . Initially , Doggett encourages Scully to contact Mulder . He believes the tipster has the names of super soldiers and that information would be vital to tracking the super soldiers down . The tipster indicates that he is willing to share this information with noone other than Mulder . Scully , fearful for Mulder 's safety , falsely claims not to know his whereabouts . All the while , she absent @-@ mindedly touches a printout of an email that Mulder sent her earlier .

Moments after Scully closes the drapes to her window , the Shadow Man calls her and tells her that

she must get Mulder . The Shadow Man then tells her that she has one day to contact Mulder or else he will disappear with a list of the Super Soldiers ' identities . Scully refuses to contact Mulder unless she can meet with the Shadow Man face @-@ to @-@ face . The Shadow Man gives Scully detailed instructions about how and where to meet him , warning her that even a slight deviation from his instructions would mean that he would never contact her again . The Shadow Man tells her to drive a series of vehicles and to drive west until she is told to stop . He also tells her to change into a different outfit that he has in the trunk of the car she is driving . Scully reluctantly changes her clothing . The Shadow Man then comes face @-@ to @-@ face with Scully , and she questions him about how he knows her clothing size . During the meeting , the Shadow Man explains that he has been watching her for quite some time and , that , in addition to her clothing size , he knows everything about her including , " That one lonely night you invited Mulder to your bed . " The Shadow Man presses a button , causing the vehicle Scully had been driving to explode . Scully finally gives in and contacts Mulder ; she tells Doggett that before Mulder left , they had worked out a plan that , if Mulder was to return , he would be arriving by train . Doggett urges Scully to contact Mulder and tell him not to come , fearing that the Shadow Man is a set up , and that Mulder is in harm 's way . Scully replies that she wants to see Mulder , and that it is too late to call it off . Reyes , Doggett , and the husband / NSA agent cover Scully at the train station . However , as the train pulls up , the Shadow Man appears and guns down the husband / agent before approaching Scully . Before the Shadow Man can kill Scully , Doggett appears and shoots him twice , sending him falling onto the train tracks , where the train seemingly runs over him without stopping . Because there has been a shooting , much to Scully 's dismay , a train employee radios to the conductor to keep the train moving and not to stop at that station .

While Scully consoles Patti , whose husband just died in Scully 's arms , Doggett reports that he cannot find the Shadow Man 's body . Scully , fearful that he is a Super Soldier pursuing Mulder , chases after the train with Doggett and Reyes . An employee who works for the trail gets a call on his radio , saying that someone jumped off a train and into a rock quarry . Doggett and Reyes chase after someone they believe to be Mulder , while Scully goes deeper into the quarry . There , she is attacked by the Shadow Man . Suddenly , the Shadow Man is destroyed by the magnetite being mined from the quarry .

= = Production = =

" Trust No 1 " was written by series creator Chris Carter along with executive producer Frank Spotnitz ; it was directed by Tony Wharmby . The episode features former leading star David Duchovny via the use of previously shot footage . According to Matt Hurwitz and Chris Knowles in their book *The Complete X @-@ Files* , the episode includes themes " about Orwellian surveillance . " " Trust No 1 " was written in response to fans who felt that , during season eight , Mulder 's abduction was not dealt with until his miraculous return in " This is Not Happening " / " DeadAlive " . Despite this , series director Kim Manners was critical of this take on Mulder , noting , " The only thing I thought we didn 't do right during seasons eight and nine was that a lot of the shows were about Mulder , and I thought it was a mistake to make a series about a man that wasn 't standing in front of the camera . " The email addresses that Mulder and Scully use to communicate with each other were real addresses , created and maintained by Ten Thirteen Productions . The tagline for the episode is " They 're Watching " , changed from the usual " The Truth is Out There " .

Actor Terry O 'Quinn , who appears in this episode as the Shadow Man , had appeared as different characters in the second season episode " Aubrey " and the 1998 feature film . He had also played a recurring role as Peter Watts on *Millennium* , the sister series to *The X @-@ Files* , and appeared in the short @-@ lived series *Harsh Realm* . O 'Quinn later earned the nickname " Mr. Ten Thirteen " , due to his appearance in multiple shows and movies affiliated with Ten Thirteen Productions , the company that produced *The X @-@ Files* . His name is spelled Terrance Quinn in the opening credits .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Trust No 1 " first premiered on the Fox network in the United States on January 6 , 2002 . The episode earned a Nielsen household rating of 5 @. @ 1 , meaning that it was seen by 5 @. @ 1 % of the nation 's estimated households and was viewed by 5 @. @ 4 million households , and 8 @. @ 4 million viewers . It was the 55th most watched episode of television that aired during the week ending March 3 . The episode eventually aired in the United Kingdom on BBC Two on December 8 , 2002 . The episode was later included on The X @- @ Files Mythology , Volume 4 ? Super Soldiers , a DVD collection that contains episodes involved with the alien super soldiers arc .

The episode received mixed to negative reviews from television critics . Jessica Morgan from Television Without Pity gave the episode a B ? grade . John Keegan from Critical Myth gave the episode a mixed review and awarded it a 6 out of 10 . He wrote , " Overall , this is not nearly as bad an episode as many people are making it out to be , but it ? s not exactly a sterling piece of work , either . It feels like they were shooting for a ' Momento Mori ' [sic] , and wound up with a ' Zero Sum ' . This episode is interesting in the information it provides , and not much else . But in my opinion , it ? s better than ' Lord of the Flies ' . "

Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X @- @ Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen , rated the episode one star out of five . The two called the entry " an exercise in futility [?] at best " and argued that , because Duchovny had left the series , the sense of excitement that he might have made an appearance in the episode was completely gone . Furthermore , Shearman and Pearson heavily criticized Mulder and Scully 's characterization , calling Mulder a character the audience " can 't recognize any more " and Scully a " gullible patsy " . M.A. Crang , in his book Denying the Truth : Revisiting The X @- @ Files after 9 / 11 , was also critical of the script 's treatment of the characters , arguing that Mulder and Scully in this episode " sound nothing like the characters we have come to know " . He also lamented that the episode did not examine the central theme of electronic surveillance in greater detail . Tom Kessenich , in his book Examinations , wrote a largely negative review of the episode . He derided the series for making it appear that Mulder abandoned the woman he loved and his own child . He noted , " Just because it walks , talks , and sometimes acts like The X @- @ Files , doesn 't make it The X @- @ Files . "