

= Monica Reyes =

Monica Julieta Reyes / ˈreɪ.ˈz / is a fictional character in the Fox science fiction @-@ supernatural television series The X @-@ Files . Monica Reyes is portrayed by Annabeth Gish . A Special Agent with the FBI , she works with her longtime friend and partner John Doggett in the X @-@ Files office , which is concerned with the investigation of paranormal cases , dubbed " X @-@ Files " . Introduced in the series ' eighth season , Reyes would become a main character throughout the entirety of its ninth season , before returning for a single @-@ episode guest appearance in the tenth season finale .

= = Conceptual history = =

Due to their decision to continue The X @-@ Files television series and try to appeal to a new generation of viewers , the production personnel knew from the beginning of season 8 that they were going to introduce another female character who would be a believer , as departing character Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) had been a believer . However , the writers wanted a different kind of believer character to contrast with the sceptical nature of John Doggett , who had already been established . The writers were required to create a character who was unlike any of the preconceived main characters that were a part of the series . This female character was initially named Karen Miller and then Jane Jones before the name " Monica Reyes " was decided upon , named after a friend of series creator Chris Carter 's acquaintance who had an art gallery in Vancouver .

When the role was being cast , actress Annabeth Gish received a call from her agent , who informed her that the producers of The X @-@ Files were looking for a new female character . Gish applied for the part , but her audition consisted of a meeting with writers Chris Carter and Frank Spotnitz . Spotnitz considered Reyes to be like Mulder in her optimism , faith and enjoyment of being open to beliefs , while still being somewhat different as she was more spiritual and subscribed to a more New Age @-@ like view than Mulder had . Reyes was seen as different from both Mulder and the other main characters as she was somewhat more neurotic , scattered , and quirky . She smiled and laughed more than the other characters , having a nature that writer Frank Spotnitz felt was lighter , sunnier , brighter , warmer and more " overtly sexy " .

The character of Brad Follmer was created in season nine to provide a love interest for Reyes , as the writers believed the audience needed to know more about her . However , Follmer 's unresolved relationship with Reyes also served to heighten the conflict between Doggett and Follmer , as both men had feelings for her . Portraying actress Annabeth Gish was pleased that the relationship between her character and Scully was similar to that of two sisters , rather than Reyes serving as an antagonist to Scully .

The ninth season episode " Hellbound " , in which Reyes discovers that she was apparently reincarnated , began as an effort to give Reyes or Doggett a " drive " or sense of motivation , as they were seen by the writers as the successors to Mulder and Scully . According to the writer of the episode , David Amann , executive producer Frank Spotnitz was interested in giving Reyes " some darkness to play " and her past life was consequently written with sombre overtones .

= = Background = =

Monica Reyes was born and raised in Mexico City , Mexico , and speaks fluent Spanish . She studied folklore and mythology at Brown University , and has a master 's degree in Religious Studies . In 1990 , Reyes enrolled in the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Quantico , Virginia . Her first assignment in the FBI was serving on a special taskforce investigating Satanic ritual abuse . Reyes then served in the New York City field office , where she became romantically involved with special agent Brad Follmer despite the FBI 's strict anti @-@ fraternization rules . Reyes was the head investigator in the kidnapping of 7 year @-@ old Luke Doggett , son of then NYPD officer John Doggett . The boy was eventually found dead , but no suspect was ever apprehended . In 1999 ,

Monica Reyes transferred to the New Orleans field office .

= = Character arc = =

= = = Season 8 (2000 ? 2001) = = =

In 2001 , Reyes was contacted by Doggett , now an FBI agent assigned to X @-@ Files department , to assist in on a case involving the disappearances of several individuals who claimed to be alien abductees , as well as the disappearance of fellow agent Fox Mulder . Because of her background , Reyes considered that these believers may have simply formed a cult , but did not rule out the possibility of alien intervention . She stayed with the case until after Mulder was returned by his abductors , but returned to her field office soon after .

She later contacted Mulder , who was back to full health at the time , seeking help on a case she suspected had some link to the murder of Doggett 's son . However , as before , she soon returned to her own work . Reyes remained with the New Orleans field office until she was called upon to protect agent Dana Scully in May 2001 , driving her out to a remote location in Georgia so that the pregnant Scully might deliver her child out of harm 's way . Reyes helped deliver the child , and made a permanent move soon afterwards , becoming Doggett 's partner on The X @-@ Files .

= = = Season 9 (2001 ? 2002) = = =

Season nine sees Reyes join the X @-@ Files on a permanent basis , working with both John Doggett and Dana Scully . Following a year of investigating the paranormal , Doggett and Reyes were last seen in the New Mexico desert in 2002 , where they were warning Agents Mulder and Scully of the arrival of Knowle Rohrer , a Super Soldier linked to the alien colonists . They were fleeing the scene as black helicopters destroyed the Anazasi adobes where The Smoking Man had been living . The X @-@ Files office was closed shortly after the involvement of Walter Skinner and Alvin Kersh in Mulder 's escape was revealed ; Reyes still stayed with the FBI in some capacity for a time afterwards .

= = = Between seasons 9 and 10 = = =

Shortly after the closure of the X @-@ Files , Reyes was contacted by C.G.B. Spender (the Cigarette Smoking Man) , who had miraculously survived the confrontation in New Mexico , albeit with devastating major injuries . Spender offered to secure Reyes a place among the designated survivors of end @-@ times , in exchange for her assistance . Reyes departed the FBI shortly thereafter , electing to take Spender 's offer . She spent the next 14 years personally assisting the physically damaged Spender (even lighting his cigarettes for him) , but with the intent to halt the invasion from within the syndicate .

= = = Season 10 (2016) = = =

Following the widespread outbreak of a contagion , Dana Scully is contacted by Reyes , who claims to know how to develop a vaccine . During their meeting , Reyes reveals her arrangement with Spender . Scully implies that Monica was weak for accepting the deal , though Reyes ' information ultimately allows Scully to create , and administer , a vaccine to Agent Einstein ? and , presumably , to the rest of humanity thereafter .

= = Reception = =

The character of Monica Reyes has attracted mixed reviews from critics . Gish 's portrayal of the character has been described by Entertainment Weekly 's Ken Tucker as " ferocious yet lissome " .

Robert Shearman and Lars Pearson , in their book *Wanting to Believe : A Critical Guide to The X-Files , Millennium & The Lone Gunmen* , felt that Reyes ' introduction in " This Is Not Happening " was " rather forced " , finding her upbeat personality at odds with the tone of the series at that time ; Shearman and Pearson also felt that the overall use of the character in season nine was " lazy " , with her willingness to believe in anything compromising the tension of episodes such as " 4 @-@ D " or " Hellbound " . However , Shearman considered the character 's appearance in " Empedocles " to be " very clever " , while Gish 's acting in " 4 @-@ D " was described as " stand out " . Writing for The New York Times , Joyce Millman described Reyes and her partner Doggett as " the Diet Coke of Mulder and Scully " , referring to their secondary standing . Fellow New York Times writer Caryn James felt that Reyes and Doggett were " colorless " , and " a shadow " of their predecessors , noting that " where Scully and Mulder 's muted sexual attraction linked them to reality , Doggett and Reyes 's chemistry was nonexistent , even as platonic partners " .