

= Cigarette Smoking Man =

Cigarette Smoking Man (abbreviated CSM or C @-@ Man ; sometimes referred to as Cancer Man or the Smoking Man) is a fictional character and the primary antagonist of the Fox science fiction @-@ supernatural television series The X @-@ Files , at least from the second to seventh series , and again in the tenth . He serves as the arch @-@ nemesis of FBI Special Agent Fox Mulder . In the show 's sixth season , his name is said to be C.G.B. Spender , but Dana Scully suggests this is one of " hundreds of aliases " ; the show 's characters and fans continue to refer to him by variations of " the Smoking Man " because he is almost always seen chain @-@ smoking Morley cigarettes .

Although he utters only four audible words in the entire first season of the show , the Smoking Man eventually develops into the series ' primary antagonist . In his early appearances , he is seen in the offices of Section Chief Scott Blevins and Assistant Director Walter Skinner , Mulder and his partner Dana Scully 's supervisors . An influential man working for the powers that be , he is a key member in a government conspiracy known only as the Syndicate , who are hiding the truth of alien existence and their plan to colonize Earth . His power and influence remained strong , even after most of the Syndicate was destroyed .

The Smoking Man is portrayed by Canadian actor William B. Davis . When Davis first received the role , the character was written as an extra for the pilot episode . He returned for small cameo appearances during the first season , making increasingly more appearances in the seasons that followed . Davis never received an award for his portrayal alone , but he was nominated for ensemble awards .

TV Guide included him in their 2013 list of The 60 Nastiest Villains of All Time .

= = Character arc = =

The birth date , birthplace , and most of the history of the Smoking Man is never categorically confirmed . One possible version of his past is provided during the fourth season episode " Musings of a Cigarette Smoking Man " , where the conspiracy theorists known as The Lone Gunmen claim Smoking Man was born in Baton Rouge , Louisiana , on August 20 , 1940 . In the same episode , he is claimed to have a long history in black ops and American intelligence , was involved in the training of Cuban rebels in the Bay of Pigs , and was the assassin of both John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King , Jr . However , X @-@ Files writer , Frank Spotnitz , has stated that this version of events is only one possibility and is not accepted canon .

In his first appearance in the series , he oversees FBI agent Dana Scully 's (Gillian Anderson) briefing and debriefing , and later disposes of evidence Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Scully had brought back from their investigation of an alien abduction . With the Smoking Man hiding truth from the public , Mulder seeks to reveal it to the public and the truth about the disappearance of his sister , Samantha . This leads to a rivalry that lasts until the end of the series .

In later seasons , it is revealed that he is a member of a group known as the Syndicate , a shadowy organization within the United States government . The episode " Two Fathers " reveals his birthname or alias as C.G.B. Spender , and that he was formerly married to Cassandra Spender , with whom he had a son , Jeffrey Spender . He recruits FBI Special Agent Diana Fowley to be a subordinate of his because she has a close relationship with Mulder . In " One Son " , Jeffrey finds out that his father , the Smoking Man , forced his mother Cassandra to undergo medical treatments that led to several nervous breakdowns during his childhood years . When the Smoking Man finds out , he seemingly kills Jeffrey . Knowing of the colonization plan , the Alien rebels return to Earth to try to persuade the Syndicate to join their side against their war with the Colonists . Not believing in the strength of the Alien rebels , the Syndicate members meet at El Rico Air Base to be transported to a spaceship to survive the colonization . However , the rebels appear instead of the Colonists and kill all remaining chief members of the Syndicate . Together with Fowley , the Smoking Man escapes the destruction of the Syndicate . Later in the sixth season , there is more evidence that suggested that the Smoking Man is Mulder 's biological father . Eventually in " The Sixth Extinction II : Amor Fati " , Fowley comes in disagreement with him . Because of his plans to kill Mulder , Fowley helps

Scully in her investigation to locate Mulder , which leads to her death . After the destruction of the Syndicate , the Smoking Man starts to operate as he wishes . However , his cancer resurfaces , and he begins using a wheelchair . In the end , Alex Krycek and Marita Covarrubias betray him in the episode " Requiem " , throwing him down a flight of stairs , where they presume him to be dead .

Until the ninth season episode " William " , the Smoking Man is presumed dead . It is learned that his attempted murder of his son failed , which led him to subject his son to terrible experiments . In the series finale , " The Truth " , Mulder and Scully travel through remote New Mexico and reach a pueblo where a " wise man " reputedly lives : he is , in fact , the Smoking Man . His condition has worsened since his disappearance , and he lives a primitive life in hiding from the " New " Syndicate . After taunting Mulder and Scully , he reveals to Scully what Mulder already knew , that the alien re @-@ colonization of Earth is set for December 22 , 2012 . Shortly after , Smoking Man is again apparently killed by a rocket shot from a helicopter ordered by Knowle Rohrer .

For the next 14 years , he is presumed dead . However , he appears again at the end of " My Struggle " (2016) , the first episode of The X @-@ Files miniseries , stating that the X @-@ Files have been reopened . He is still smoking , even though he has had a tracheotomy . In the season finale , " My Struggle II " , the Smoking Man puts into motion the conspiracy he had been working on all these years , releasing chemtrails into the atmosphere which trigger immune system breakdowns throughout the American population , which had been infected by the Spartan virus through mandatory flu vaccinations . Out of fondness for Mulder , he offers him the cure to the disease , but is rebuffed . The United States is thrown into chaos as the Syndicate plan for depopulation gets underway . The series ends on a cliffhanger .

= = Spin @-@ off media = =

Prior to the tenth televised series of The X @-@ Files in 2016 , Chris Carter worked with IDW Publishing in 2013 to produce a comic book continuation of the show . It hints that The Smoking Man is alive and indirectly feeding information to both Mulder and The Lone Gunmen . Carter later said that the story from these comics would be disregarded in future television productions .

= = Characterization = =

Kim Manners , a director of several X @-@ Files episodes , said that the Smoking Man was the show 's version of Darth Vader . Some X @-@ Files fans have categorized the Smoking Man as evil , making him out to be the villain . Series creator Chris Carter , on the other hand , once called him " the devil " , producing a mixed reaction among fans . Some fans , along with the portraying actor , see him as a hero , as he is forced to make choices others are not .

On the surface , it may seem that the Smoking Man merely tries to hide information from Mulder and Scully , but there is much more to him . He is involved in the Syndicate , a shadow organization which includes members of the United States government that exists to hide from the public the fact that aliens are planning to colonize Earth . The Smoking Man often ruthlessly protects the secrets of the conspiracy , and serves as the main antagonist to Mulder , who has an equally consuming devotion to reveal the truth in the first seven seasons . His stated justification is a desire to prevent the alien colonization for as long as possible ; in the episode " One Breath " , he tells Mulder that he is in the conspiracy (which he calls " the game ") because he believes that the secrets he keeps could , if publicly revealed , threaten the social order that preserves society : " If people were to know of the things that I know ... it would all fall apart " . He is at times shown working towards that goal , particularly in connection with developing a vaccine to protect people from the " black oil " , a parasitic agent which the alien Colonists use to propagate themselves .

= = Development = =

When first cast for the role , portraying actor William B. Davis thought a show about the paranormal would not last for long . Before joining The X @-@ Files cast , Davis had not smoked a cigarette in

twenty years . For the first two episodes he appeared in , he smoked " real " cigarettes , but later changed to herbal cigarettes , giving the reason that it was " dangerous " for his health . In at least one early script draft from the " Pilot " , a Special Agent named Lake Drazen is present at the meeting near the start of the episode , having chosen Scully for an assignment to evaluate the validity of Mulder 's work on the X @-@ Files . The scene was eventually deleted and replaced , and several crew members have hinted that Agent Drazen became the Smoking Man .

Kim Manners said that it seemed all the prominent pieces created for The X @-@ Files were created by " accident " . According to Manners , Davis was nothing more than an extra leaning on a shelf . At the start , the producers of the show were not sure about making the Smoking Man the main antagonist . Paul Rabwin commented once that he did not know if Davis could handle the role , because he was not sure if he was a " good enough " actor for the role . Manners later commented that Davis knew that the Smoking Man had two different characters , the first being the one played by Davis and the second was the cigarettes . He further stated that the cigarette smoke could tell a " whole story " by itself , thanks to Davis ' talent .

Fans of the series were active in debating if the Smoking Man was actually dead after the events of the season five premiere " Redux " . In his first response , Chris Carter said he had left clues in the episode , and he later officially announced that the character would appear in The X @-@ Files movie . In one of his last comments on the matter , he said , " Not that we haven 't brought deceased characters back before , in flashbacks or more paranormal ways . The great thing about The X @-@ Files is that anything can happen . "

The Smoking Man is the only character in the series , in addition to Mulder and Scully , to appear in both the first episode , " pilot " and the last , " The Truth " of the series . Portraying actor William B. Davis was listed as CIA Agent in the first season episode " Young at Heart " , instead of his usual character , the Smoking Man . Actor Chris Owens for a time portrayed the Smoking Man as a young man in flashbacks . He later plays his son , Jeffrey Spender . Young Cigarette Smoking Man was first played by Craig Warkentin , with Davis 's voice dubbed over in " Apocrypha " .

= = Reception = =

While not being nominated for any of his work alone on The X @-@ Files , William B. Davis and several other cast members were nominated in the category " Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series " by the Screen Actors Guild Awards in 1997 , 1998 and 1999 but did not win . The character was regularly voted " The Nastiest Villain " on television polls during the 90s . TV Guide listed Cigarette Smoking Man 20th in their " 25 Greatest TV Villains " list . According to the portraying actor , the character had garnered protest from " pro @-@ smokers " . Entertainment Weekly writer Jennifer Armstrong cited the character as an example of the old tradition of having only " bad guys " smoking on television .

Davis was included in Entertainment Weekly 's list of the 50 Biggest Emmy Snubs , the list 's author saying that the presence of the " Cigarette Smoking Man " was as important as " black oil , alien implants , and Scully 's skepticism " . The Malaysian newspaper the New Straits Times called the Smoking Man one of the most " intriguing " characters of the show . However , Christianity Today said that the mystery behind the Smoking Man had evaporated by the late season episodes . Likewise , Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly felt that " the monotonous evil of Cancer Man " had " become actively annoying " in later seasons of the show , being that his lurking presence did not seem as mysterious anymore . Salon reviewer Jeff Stark felt the show was at its best when you " didn 't exactly know the motivations of the Smoking Man " .