

= Mulder and Scully (song) =

" Mulder and Scully " is a song by Catatonia , released as a single from their 1998 album , International Velvet . The song makes direct reference to fictional FBI special agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) , the two main characters of the popular sci @-@ fi TV series The X @-@ Files who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files . In an interview Cerys Matthews , co @-@ writer of the song , explained that while she was not a serious fan of the show , the basic premise of the series matched the conceit of what she was trying to express .

" Mulder and Scully " was released as the second single from the band 's album International Velvet . Originally , it was supposed to be the first single , but was delayed due to circumstances beyond the band 's control . The song was Catatonia 's first single in the United States . " Mulder and Scully " became the group 's break @-@ out hit and received a mixed to positive from the music press ; many critics felt that , musically , the song was well played , but that the track 's pop culture references were out of place .

A music video was released that featured the band performing the track while Mulder and Scully , played by look @-@ alike , search the concert venue with torches . It was popular in both the United Kingdom and the United States . The song reached number three in the UK Singles Chart , making it Catatonia 's highest UK charting song . It also charted in Ireland , peaking at number 17 .

= = Lyrics and composition = =

The song makes direct reference to FBI special agents Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) , the two main characters of the popular sci @-@ fi TV series The X @-@ Files who work on cases linked to the paranormal , called X @-@ Files . Although the title and refrain reference the popular show , the song has little to do with the two characters . The use of Mulder and Scully are used to represent a metaphor for a relationship being so " strange " that it could be " a case for Mulder and Scully " , a reference to the paranormal cases ? the titular X @-@ Files ? the two investigate on the show . Cerys Matthews , the co @-@ writer of the song , explained that the conceit of the song was " about asking Mulder and Scully to figure out this thing called love . I like the idea of two people going round the planet investigating odd phenomena , in this case love " .

Matthews later admitted that she was not a serious fan of the show , but that she only used the line because it adequately described the type of relationship she was singing about . In an interview with the Daily Record , she explained , " I 'm not a big fan of [The X @-@ Files] but I got the line about things getting strange for Mulder and Scully from watching the odd episode " . After questioning , she later said that she would " prefer to go out for a night on the town with Gazza and Chris Evans than meet [The X @-@ Files] stars Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny " . Matthews also related that " I 'm sure loads of people bought the record by mistake , but who cares ? They should be flattered we wrote a song about [The X @-@ Files] anyway " .

= = Release and acclaim = =

The song was met with mixed to positive reviews from critics ; many reviewers lauded the band 's musical composition , but maligned the track for its heavy reliance on pop culture references . The Sunday Mirror wrote positively of the song and called it " hard rockin ' " . Ben Myers from the now @-@ defunct music magazine Melody Maker named the song the " Single of the Week " and called it " fantastic " . He noted that " they 've damn near written a perfect pop song . The first best single of the year " . Jerry Rubino , host of the popular radio show " Left of Center " , named the song one of his favorite " Brit Things " . A review from PopMatters noted that the song was built around " somewhat silly X @-@ Files references " , but that it possessed " hooks to die for " . Stephen Thomas Erlewine , from AllMusic gave the song a relatively positive review and singled it out as an " AllMusic Pick " . He also praised the song 's " terrific [hook] " but was slightly critical of the " self

@-@ conscious pop culture references ". Despite this , he noted the band was successfully able to " bring memorable melodies to the [song] ". A subsequent review by AllMusic awarded the single , by itself , two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five . NME called the song " little more than fodder for nostalgia TV " , written by a " lazy television researcher 's imagination " .

Cerys Matthews and the band were extremely pleased with the final product , calling it a " better song " than " All Around the World " by Oasis , the single 's main competitor at the time . Matthews later said that the lyrics for " Mulder and Scully " were " good , top to bottom " . Catatonia later released the song as part of their 2002 greatest hits album , And the song was later included on various Britpop compilations , including the Common People : The Britpop Story album , and the 100 Hits of the 90s album , released by the BBC .

= = Chart performance = =

Originally , Catatonia wished to release " Mulder and Scully " during the summer of 1997 . However , due to complications , these plans were scrapped and the song " I Am the Mob " was released instead . " Mulder and Scully " was eventually released in January 1998 and , due to heavy promotion via BBC Radio 1 , soon became the band 's break @-@ out hit , propelling them " into the limelight [?] numerous interviews and television appearances " . The band 's record label , Blanco y Negro Records , promoted the single with a press release that described the song as " [s] pooky but spiky " and a " clever grower of a track " . The song debuted on the United Kingdom chart on 31 January 1998 and made its last appearance on 4 April 1998 . During its first week of release , the single performed exceptionally well . Music stores reported that the physical release of " Mulder and Scully " was selling slightly fewer copies than Usher 's single " You Make Me Wanna ... " . Cerys Matthews later told Melody Maker that the single out @-@ sold Oasis " for two days " . During its first week , " Mulder and Scully " peaked on the chart at number three and spent a total of 10 weeks on the chart . The song also charted on the Irish Singles Chart , entering the charts on 2 May 1998 . It peaked at number 17 and spent five weeks charting . Later , a Japanese EP was released under the name " Mulder and Scully EP " . It combined tracks from the title single , as well as the " I Am the Mob " and " Road Rage " singles .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Mulder and Scully " was directed by Gerald McMorrow and features the band performing at a venue intercut with scenes of life on a tour bus at night . All the while , Mulder and Scully ? played by look @-@ alike ? investigate the area around the concert with torches . Eventually , the agents begin passionately kissing while Catatonia plays their song on a stage . The video was filmed at T.J. ' s , a rock concert venue in Newport , Wales . A call was made for fans of the band to arrive and play the part of the audience . While actor Rhys Ifans , one year before his breakout performance in Notting Hill , features prominently . The entire video shoot took a full day to film . The video for " Mulder and Scully " was extremely popular ; according to Billboard magazine , the video for " Mulder and Scully " received " heavy rotation " and was played " 30 to 35 " times weekly in the United Kingdom . The video was heavily promoted in the United States , due in part to its direct allusion to The X @-@ Files , and it received decent airplay .

= = Track listing = =

UK CD single

" Mulder and Scully " ? 4 : 10

" No Stone Unturned " ? 3 : 28

" Mantra for the Lost " ? 2 : 47

" Mulder and Scully " (The Ex @-@ Files mix) ? 4 : 53

Japanese EP

" Mulder and Scully " (album version) ? 4 : 10

" Road Rage " (radio edit) ? 5 : 10
" Jump or Be Sane " ? 4 : 00
" No Stone Unturned " ? 3 : 28
" Mantra for the Lost " ? 2 : 47
" I 'm Cured " ? 2 : 55
" Blow the Millennium Pt.2 " ? 2 : 30
" I Am the Mob " (Luca Brasi mix) ? 3 : 41
" Mulder and Scully " (The Ex @-@ Files mix) ? 4 : 53
" Road Rage (Ghia) " ? 5 : 10

= = Charts = =

= = Personnel = =

Cerys Matthews ? Vocals
Mark Roberts ? Guitar
Paul Jones ? Bass
Owen Powell ? Guitar
Aled Richards ? Drums