

## = The X @-@ Files Mythology , Volume 1 ? Abduction =

Volume 1 of The X @-@ Files Mythology collection is a DVD release containing selected episodes from the first to the third seasons of the American science fiction television series The X @-@ Files . The episodes collected in the release form the beginning of the series ' mythology , and are centred on alien abduction at the hands of " colonists " . Several of the elements introduced in the collected episodes arose through necessity during production , as working around the pregnancy of lead actress Gillian Anderson led to both the creation of unifying plot thread and the introduction of several recurring characters .

The episodes in the collection follow the investigations of paranormal @-@ related cases , or X @-@ Files , by FBI Special Agents Fox Mulder ( David Duchovny ) and Dana Scully ( Anderson ) . Mulder is a believer in the paranormal , while the skeptical Scully has been assigned to debunk his work . Events covered in the episodes include the meeting of Mulder and Scully , the introduction and assassination of a secretive informant , the apparent return of Mulder 's lost sister , and the abduction and return of Scully .

The collection contains the first episodes in the series ' mythology , or fictional story arcs . When the series began , Chris Carter did not think of creating a " mythology " for the episodes focusing on extraterrestrial life , because he felt that " they were just stories we wanted to tell " . Eventually , however , the writers saw that the most " personal " episodes were those based on the government conspiracy , and , as such , developed more stories based around the conceit . Jerry Hardin , William B. Davis , Mitch Pileggi , Tom Braidwood , Dean Haglund and Bruce Harwood all play supporting roles in the collection . Released on June 7 , 2005 , the collection received generally positive reviews from critics .

## = = Plot summary = =

FBI Special Agent Fox Mulder ( David Duchovny ) has made a name for himself working on X @-@ Files ? unexplained cases which may be paranormal in origin . He is appointed a partner in these investigations ? Dana Scully ( Gillian Anderson ) ? with his superiors hoping that she will be able to debunk and discredit his work . Their first case together is the investigation of possible abductions in Oregon , which falters when their evidence is destroyed in a fire . A later case , involving the disappearance of a United States Air Force test pilot , sees the introduction of secretive informant Deep Throat ( Jerry Hardin ) , who continues to provide the agents sensitive information . This help is supplemented by conspiracy theorist group The Lone Gunmen , who are contacted for help in a further abduction case . Deep Throat is soon killed , however , when he helps the agents uncover details of a government human cloning program , and the X @-@ Files unit is closed shortly thereafter .

Unable to continue his work with Scully , Mulder obtains information about possible extraterrestrial contact in Puerto Rico , finding that the SETI program at the Arecibo Observatory is being forcibly closed . Although the pair are later allowed to resume their work , Scully is later kidnapped by an unhinged multiple alien abductee , Duane Barry . Barry takes Scully to a hilltop where she is then abducted , presumably by aliens . She is found comatose at a later date , having mysteriously arrived at a hospital , and recovers several days later .

Mulder receives a call from his father , finding out that his sister Samantha ( Megan Leitch ) , who had been abducted as a child , has returned . Samantha is being pursued by a shapeshifting bounty hunter , who is assassinating human clones . Samantha is killed , although it is revealed that she was simply one of a number of clones , produced using alien tissue to create an alien @-@ human hybrid .

The Lone Gunmen contact Mulder and Scully about a successful attempt by a friend of theirs to hack the United States Department of Defense computer system . The hacker , Kenneth Soona ( Bernie Coulson ) , is able to give Mulder the downloaded information on a digital cassette . However , Soona is later assassinated , and the downloaded files are found to be written in Navajo . Contacting Albert Hosteen ( Floyd Red Crow Westerman ) ? a Navajo man capable of translating

the files ? Mulder is shown a box @-@ car full of what appear to be alien corpses . He is trapped in the box @-@ car by the series ' antagonist , The Smoking Man ( William B. Davis ) , and left for dead after it is destroyed . He is later found and nursed back to health by Hosteen . Meanwhile , Scully investigates the possible involvement of the smallpox eradication program in human genetic experimentation , discovering that a Nazi scientist who defected during Operation Paperclip has been conducting human experimentation to create alien @-@ human hybrids . Her sister Melissa ( Melinda McGraw ) , however , is shot by assassins who mistake her for Dana , and dies in hospital that night .

= = Background = =

When the series began , Chris Carter did not think of creating a " mythology " for the episodes focusing on extraterrestrial life , because he felt that " they were just stories we wanted to tell " . Eventually , however , the writers saw that the most " personal " episodes were those based on the government conspiracy . Another reason for the development of an ongoing mythology was that the producers were afraid of not creating a thread between the episodes centering on the conspiracy , feeling that it would be pretentious not to do so .

According to Carter , the mythology " sprung from " the series ' pilot and its follow up , " Deep Throat " , which set up the idea that aliens had been on Earth for many years . Carter sees the final scene of " Deep Throat " as the " launching moment for the entire mythology " . The main theme for the series , stemming from these episodes , is Fox Mulder 's quest to find " the truth " about his sister , Samantha Mulder , who had been abducted as a child . This quest drove the character to investigate the paranormal , setting the framework for the series .

After several stand @-@ alone episodes featuring UFOs and extraterrestrials early in the first season , the show 's mythology developed largely based on the pregnancy of actress Gillian Anderson , who became pregnant midway through production of the first season . Executive producer Frank Spotnitz described it as " the best thing that ever happened to the series " , noting that the mythology " really ended up running through the life of the series , all because Gillian Anderson became pregnant " . Although there were initially thoughts about Anderson 's character Scully giving birth to an alien child , ultimately the writers decided to work around Anderson 's pregnancy . The writers decided on closing the X @-@ Files at the end of the season to separate Mulder and Scully from one another , and have Scully abducted , reappearing comatose several episodes later . In addition to the creation of the storyline concerning Scully 's abduction , Anderson 's reduced role in the first half of the second season permitted the writers to develop some of the other characters in the show including Assistant Director Walter Skinner ( Mitch Pileggi ) , The Smoking Man ( William B. Davis ) and X ( Steven Williams ) , and resulted in the introduction of the character Alex Krycek ( Nicholas Lea ) . Krycek , who was initially created by writer Howard Gordon to temporarily replace Scully as Mulder 's partner for three episodes eventually grew into a character that lasted seven seasons on the show .

Prior to the second season episode " One Breath " , The Smoking Man mostly " lurked around in the shadows " , providing a " forbidding " presence . The Smoking Man uttered only four audible words in the entire first season of the show , all of them being in " Tooms " . Producer and director R.W. Goodwin did not have faith in William B. Davis ' ability to take on the role of the series ' chief antagonist . It was later revealed to the producers that Davis was running an acting school , and teaching such actors as ninth season guest star Lucy Lawless .

In the two @-@ part story of " Colony " and " End Game " , Carter and Spotnitz , along with Duchovny , created what would become a recurring character in the alien bounty hunter . According to Carter , Duchovny came to him and said " it be great if we had like an alien bounty hunter " , an idea of which Carter approved . Spotnitz has noted that the actor cast for the role , Brian Thompson , was chosen because he had a very " distinctive look " about him , most notably his face and mouth .

= = Reception = =

Released on June 7 , 2005 , the collection has received generally positive reviews from critics . Slant Magazine 's Keith Uhlich rated it three stars out of five , praising the quality of the episodes included in the set , but ultimately finding that they were best viewed in the context of the " standalone " episodes which were omitted ? singling out " Conduit " and " The Jersey Devil " as episodes which would aid the series ' " dual character study " . Writing for IGN , Dan Iverson rated the collection eight out of ten , finding that the mythology @-@ based episodes formed the basis of the relationship between the characters of Mulder and Scully . Making reference to the first season episode " Squeeze " , not included in the collection , he added that " even though people watched the series to see little green men and liver @-@ eating elastic monsters , it was the relationship between the two which made the series a total success " . However , he found that the set 's extra features material was sparse , describing it has being just enough " to keep us from complaining " . Writing for DVD Talk , Jeffrey Robinson was impressed with the collection , finding that the featured episodes worked well together without losing cohesion , and stating that " whether you are a casual viewer or a fan who already owns the season sets , owning The X @-@ Files Mythology , Volume 1 : Abduction is a must " . Exclaim ! ' s Monica S. Kuebler felt negatively about the collection , noting that anyone who would be interested in it would be likely to already own the collected episodes through other releases , and asking " should you buy Abduction ? It all depends on how much five commentaries and a doc are worth to you , because chances are , if you love the X @-@ Files ... you 've probably already bought the episodes included here at least once " .

= = Episodes = =

= = Special features = =