

THE X-FILES X-MAS SPECIAL



REGULAR COVER
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SUBSCRIPTION COVER
Photo

Previously on The X-Files... For years, FBI agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully toiled in the X-Files Unit, a one-office division of the Bureau dealing with cases deemed unsolvable and related to unexplained phenomena. Eventually, both agents left the FBI and began a new life together in peaceful anonymity. However, recent events prompted them to return to the Bureau and the X-Files.

Since then, Mulder has seen his work with the FBI discredited and has found himself a fugitive from the U.S. government—all thanks to the machinations of a former ally, Gibson Praise, who now wields powers far beyond even what Mulder can imagine. Meanwhile, Scully remains at the FBI under the watchful eye of Gibson, as she works to prevent the government from falling further into his clutches and to clear her partner's name.

Mulder has been apprehended, but now finds himself in the middle of a struggle between Gibson and another faction that has resurfaced—the so-called faceless alien rebels...

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THE HOLIDAYS TEND TO BE A CURIOUS TIME FOR *PEOPLE*, I HAVE GATHERED.

CHESTERFUSS, ILLINOIS 5:37 A.M.

OVER THE COURSE OF EACH YEAR, THEY ENDURE AN *ASTOUNDING* AMOUNT OF SELF-INFLICTED STRESS AND UNNECESSARY HARM.

MUCH OF THIS SEEMS AVOIDABLE, BUT THESE *HOLIDAY BARGAIN SHOPPERS* AND MATERIALISTIC *WISHLIST WRITERS* ARE SELDOM WILLING TO *LEARN* FROM THEIR MISTAKES.

RATHER, THEY *ENDURE*

YEAR AFTER YEAR.

COUNTING DOWN THE *SHOPPING DAYS* BETWEEN THE PASSING OF ONE SEASON...

HEY, WHO THE HELL IS *OUT-*

...AND THE ADVENT OF THE ALWAYS-*LOOMING NEXT ONE.*

-HERE?



SOMEONE JUST LEFT THIS OUTSIDE THE VAN.
NO CARD ATTACHED. NO NAMETAG.

LET ME SEE THAT?



HEY, WHAT IF IT'S SOME KIND OF REVENGE PRESENT?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, LANGLEY?

YOU KNOW, LIKE YOU MAKE SOMEBODY THINK THEY'VE GOT A SECRET ADMIRER, BUT IT TURNS OUT THE BOUQUET OF FLOWERS THEY GET ARE FERTILIZED WITH HUMAN WASTE.

OR SO I'VE HEARD.



ON THE INTERNET, SOMEWHERE.

MAYBE THIS IS FOR YOU, ACTUALLY, FROHIKE.

DON'T LOOK AT ME...



THIS SHOPPING-MALL SANTA CLAUS HAS A DOUBLE SHIFT WORTH OF OPEN-MOUTHED, FLU-SPEWING BRATS ASKING FOR MORE CRAP THEY DON'T DESERVE...

...AND THEIR HIPSTER 'RENDS ENJOYING THE IRONY AROUND THE MUNDANE LIVES THEY DIDN'T EXPECT.



I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

MAYBE IF A 4-YEAR-OLD PISSED DOWN YOUR KNEE AFTER YOU ASKED HIM WHAT HE WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS, YOU'D SHOW A LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR THE BREADWINNER AROUND HERE!



THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

HOLY MOTHER OF CHRISTMAS MIRACLES.



A COMMANDER CRUNCH SPACE WHISTLE!

THESE PRECIOUS LITTLE PLASTIC PUPPIES WERE GIVEN AWAY AS CEREAL-BOX PRIZES BEFORE THE FEDS REALIZED PHREAKERS WERE USING THEM TO HACK THE PHONE COMPANY WITH THE TONE IT GENERATED.

THE GOVERNMENT SUPPOSEDLY ROUNDED THESE UP BEFORE THE SWITCHOVER TO DIGITAL SYSTEMS.



A FORMER FCC NARC LIKE BYERS PROBABLY OVERSAW THE WHOLE THING!

THAT ANTIQUE MUST BE OVER 40 YEARS OLD.



HANG ON A SECOND...

...IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, THE TONE THESE THINGS EMITTED TENDED TO FLUTTER BETWEEN 2600HZ AND 2700HZ.



IT'S MISSING JUST ENOUGH OF THE SIGNAL TO MAKE RE-CREATION BEYOND MY POWERS.

AND I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH A REASONABLE STOPGAP NO MATTER HOW MUCH ANALYSIS I DO.

BUT THAT CLIP AT THE TOP OF THE WAVEFORM—RIGHT THERE, YOU SEE IT?

GO ON, RUDOLPH...

THIS IS THE WAVEFORM FROM THE TRANSMISSION FRAGMENT MULDER SALVAGED FROM THE MEDICI-3 SATELLITE...

...I COPIED IT BEFORE HE LEFT WITH THE SALVAGED HARDWARE.



IT'S INCOMPLETE, RIGHT?

IT'S CONSISTENTLY MISSING FROM THE BROADCAST, NO MATTER HOW I MODEL IT AND ATTEMPT TO RECREATE IT.

IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH THE SATELLITE REDACTED SOME OF ITS OWN MEMORY BEFORE CRASHING TO EARTH.



BUT IT'S ALSO WITHIN THE FLUTTER RANGE OF OUR LITTLE MYSTERY WHISTLE HERE!



I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T THINK OF THIS BEFORE, BUT IF WE USE THE WHISTLE...

...WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE FRAGMENT.

KINDA.



IF I MIGHT INJECT A VOICE OF REASON INTO THIS FIERCE DEBATE BEFORE ONE OR BOTH OF YOU DECIDE TO TRANSMIT SOME COSMIC MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE... WE DON'T KNOW WHO LEFT THAT THING OUTSIDE.

AND WE REALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHO'S LISTENING FOR WHATEVER THIS TRANSMISSION MIGHT COMPRISE.



JUST LIKE A NARC TO GET ALL GRINCHY DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

IF THIS THEORY OF MINE IS CORRECT—

YOUR THEORY?!

I WON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO RUGRAT BEDWETTERS TELL ME WHAT THEY WANT FOR CHRISTMAS JUST SO WE CAN PAY THE FREIGHT.

WE'LL BLOW THE LID RIGHT OFF THIS MEDICI SCAM—WHATEVER IT IS—AND SPEND NEXT CHRISTMAS ON THE BEACH IN WAIKIKI!



DON'T YOU MEAN, HELP MULDER WITH HIS—

SAME DIFFERENCE.



THEY PROVE A *FASCINATING* SPECIES, ALMOST REGULARLY.

EVEN ON THE MOST AVERAGE OF DAYS AND IN THE MOST MUNDANE SITUATIONS, THEY POSSES THE ABILITY TO *SURPRISE*.



IT'S WORKING!

THE TONE IS FILLING IN THE MISSING SECTION OF THE SIGNAL!



BUT THESE SURPRISES CAN GO IN ANY *NUMBER* OF DIRECTIONS.



THAT'S IT?

MAYBE YOU NEED TO GIVE IT ANOTHER HUFF AND—

KREEAK

WHAT THE FUH—?

AND HOW *SIMPLE* THEY TRULY ARE, IS REAFFIRMED SOON ENOUGH.

