

the mi(X)take files

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X

a nit-picker's guide to the x-files

this book is unofficial and has not been authorised
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Summersdale

"You can
trust all
of us."

**The Cigarette-Smoking Man
(a.k.a. Cancer Man)
3X16: 'Apocrypha'**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I first must thank the CompuServe X-Philes in the second Science Fiction Forum who all unintentionally contributed to this book in some way, as I lurked in the shadows taking notes. **Your craziness has not gone unnoticed :-)**

Chris Carter, Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny deserve a mention (along with the rest of the X-Files crew, past and present). To the people who got me (and millions of others) hooked after the first episode, thank you for such brilliant television.

Finally, but most importantly, thank you to my family and friends, who didn't seem to mind me re-watching episodes over and over and over...

INTRODUCTION

Welcome, fellow nit-pickers, to the ultimate nit-picker's guide to The X-Files. May I take this short moment to warn you that contrary to popular belief, nit-picking is not the petty criticism of minor details and it is, in fact, an art form. Yes, that way of noticing the "little things" is not to be frowned upon, and such words against the art are merely disinformation by the government, who are hoping that it does not become addictive.

This book is not designed as a criticism of the brilliant television show The X-Files, its crew, actors and anyone else involved in the process of making it. If there is any criticism, it is meant in a constructive way. The last thing I'd want is to upset the people who put together these great stories in a matter of days.

Okay, so far, the most innovative show on television has seventy-three episodes of non-stop quality under its belt and it's about time we started paying attention, real attention. It's time to get out the video collection of episodes one through seventy-three and watch those episodes for the scenes where Scully's hair is miraculously

changed by unknown beings or when Mulder's computer goes missing, with nothing but a keyboard left to show it existed.

The nit-picks in this book follow a fairly basic pattern - they point out mistakes. Yes, I said mistakes. Although it is hard to believe that such an amazing show could be flawed, there is always the problem that little things can slip past the intelligent people that produce it and this is what this guide does (well it points out the mistakes, it doesn't create them). The nit's however, very rarely attack the basis of an episode, as all the plot lines in The X-Files always seem to fit together nicely. The nit's point out the humorous things, the bloopers and the great moments.

Each entry in this guide has at least five sections out of seven. The sections are the following: Episode Production Number and Title, Summary, and Episode Nit-Picks, followed by Recurring Actors, Best Line, Scenes, and Title Explanation. Some of these are self explanatory, some are not, so the descriptions below tell you what is in each.

Episode Production Number and Title

The production number is simply the record number designated by the production company, Ten Thirteen, to each particular episode. The first digit in the number corresponds to the season the episode originates from, the “X” tells the production company it is an episode of The X-Files, and the final number corresponds to the episode number of the particular season. An example is production number 3X22, which is episode number twenty-two from season three of The X-Files.

The episode title is the name designated to the episode by the writer, which refers to some aspect of the show. The titles themselves are unfortunately not given in the episodes’ credits, and are also sometimes quite cryptic, hence the inclusion of the “Title Explanation” section (see below).

Episode Summary

The summary is a short description of what the episode is about, and is not a synopsis of the episode, for two reasons. Firstly, some fans may not have seen a particular episode or episodes so reading the brief description, which does not contain spoilers, will let them know as to whether or not they have seen the episode. If they haven’t, they can choose to skip the nit-pick section of the entry. Secondly, some readers, including myself, find that complete synopses take up valuable book space and can always be found in another guide relating to The X-Files (not mentioning any names).

Episode Nit-picks

The nit-picks are the main point to this guide and vary in length for each particular episode, some having a long list of nit-picks, other having a short listing. The list itself is in full chronological order for that particular episode, so this can be used as an accompaniment to the particular episode.

The nit-picks themselves all point out various mistakes in the episode, be it in continuity, a plot discrepancy, or in the episode subject matter. The type of nit-pick is given at the end of each paragraph. As music has turned up quite frequently in the show I have included the Music Moment nit-pick also, which gives the name of a song that features in an episode and who performs it.

Recurring Actors

I don't know about you, but I have often watched an episode and wondered "Wasn't he/she that person from that other episode?" (It's never usually that vague, mind you.) It is a regular occurrence in The X-Files that actors are simply reused or recycled as different characters due to their skill and the fact that they live in Vancouver, meaning they can get to filming easier than other US-based actors. A lot of the time they have key roles or noticeable roles.

That is where this section comes in. Almost every entry has this section and contains a list of names which varies in number for each episode. At the back of this book, you will find the complete recurring actor listing which gives character names and episode titles, you can use this list to cross-reference with the names in each entry and find out what episodes the actor had appeared in previously.

Best Line

As the title suggests, this section gives the best line out of an entire episode, sometimes two are given, or a passage of dialogue is shown. The lines are either funny and/or very well known sayings from the show.

Scenes

This section can contain three types of scene reference. The first are scenes that may have been eventually cut from the episode (usually seen in the scripts but not in the final edit), the second are the most memorable scenes from the episode, and the third is any 'out-take' or 'bloop-er' that may have occurred during filming of the episode. This section may contain all, one, or none of these types of scene reference.

Title Explanation

As mentioned previously, some of the episode titles are very cryptic and require explanation. All entries have a brief sentence or two at the end of each to explain the meaning of the title.

Also, throughout this guide you will see various pages devoted to certain aspects of the show that fans would love emphasised or discussed. There are a few scattered around, focusing on various elements of the show.

So, the truth is not here in these pages, but some good fun is...

ALIEN TALLY BOARD

Extra-terrestrials are the first thing associated with The X-Files, but has anyone actually stood back to look at the show itself and realised how many types we've seen in the show? The list is huge! Not only are there very different types, but the series also suggests that there are hybrids of these life-forms.

It seems so far that there are at least seven types visiting or inhabiting various areas of this planet, so don't you think the Earth is getting pretty crowded now?
It's quite a list, so I've put each type into similar categories.

Don't you think
the Earth is get-
ting pretty
crowded now?

LIST OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIALS

1. Shape-Shifters: Seen on various occasions in the show, most notably the Bounty Hunter sent to destroy the clone colonies [**Colony**", **End Game**", and **Talitha Cumi**"], and Jeremiah Smith [**Talitha Cumi**"]. It's also suggested that these aliens have the ability to heal wounds. If they're so powerful, why haven't they wiped out all the other species of alien in the course of universal domination? (And I don't think these are peace loving...)

Of course, we mustn't forget the sex-changing group from **GenderBender**", who also (sort of) come under this category.

2. Greys: This is the standard and common alien type, but they aren't as important as the Shape-shifters - which bleed that dangerous green blood - if you ask me. We've seen them in **The Erlenmeyer Flask**" (fetus form), **Little Green Men**", **Duane Barry**", **Anasazi**", **Nisei**" and **731**". You must remember though, that it is suggested that the bodies seen from **Anasazi**" onwards are hybrids of the human/grey variety or are not even aliens at all and are covert government project side-effects.

3. Infestations: well it seems that any type of lower extra-terrestrial life form, not displaying any higher intelligence, is on this planet. So far we've had killer worms that may have been carried here by a meteor (did they pilot it to Earth?) as seen in **Ice**". There are the killer cockroaches, identified in **War of the Coprophages**". And there's also the spores from **Firewalker**", although the origin of the spores is not fully explained, could be alien, could have an earth-based origin.

4 Oil Based: We can't forget the slippery body snatching life-form which leaves that oily black liquid everywhere, from **Piper Maru**" and **Apocrypha**".

5. Then there's the **radioactive** ones from **Fallen Angel**".

6. There are the **ghostly spirits** from **Space**".

7. And finally the aliens that apparently abducted Samantha Mulder and set up clone colonies on this planet (although they may be shape-shifters).

Little Green Men

Season One

The X-Files: Pilot

A forensics medicine expert for the FBI, Doctor and Special Agent Dana Scully, is assigned to work with Special Agent Fox “Spooky” Mulder to debunk and analyze his work on the FBI’s “X-files”. Their first case deals with abductions of some kind in a group of high school friends, and as a small-town conspiracy is exposed, an even larger one, in the government, continues unknown to Scully and Mulder.

✂ When Scully first enters Mulder’s office, the camera pans across the room, showing us what is pinned to the wall, and we see that he has a poster on the wall which reads, “I Want To Believe” and depicts a photo from a UFO sighting. Initially we are able to see the poster in its entirety. The shot then cuts to Scully, the poster is still visible behind her, but this time the bottom of the poster is partly obscured by a stack of papers.

Continuity

✂ This nit-pick comes from the very first question Mulder asks Scully: “Do you believe in the existence of extra-terrestrials?” By definition extra-terrestrial means something that is not of this planet and therefore alien. Scully replies by saying, “Logically, I would have to say no.” It seems, so far, that Scully is talking about a disbelief in life other than that on our planet, but she goes on by saying “Given the distances needed to travel from the far reaches of space, the energy requirements would exceed a spacecraft’s capabilities.” It seems that Scully misunderstood the question, Mulder did not ask if she believed in UFO’s or extra-terrestrials actually visiting this planet.

Continuity

Recurring Actors: Doug Abrahams, J.B. Bivens, Lesley Exen, Kata Gardener, Stephen E. Miller, Rick Reid, Malcolm Stewart

Best Line: This episode is one of the greatest examples of the differences in belief between Mulder and Scully:

Scully: "Time just can't disappear, it's a universal invariant!"

Mulder: "Not in this zip-code!"

Scenes: I have been told that the episode was originally supposed to start with a scene with Scully being requested, by the Cigarette-Smoking Man, to speak with the FBI superiors. My guess for its disappearance is that starting the episode with the viewer not knowing what was taking place, with Scully just entering the FBI building and keeping the viewer guessing, was considered to make a more interesting episode by Chris Carter and/or the production staff. The episode was also set to include a boyfriend for Scully, but the idea was cut at the last moment.

Title Explanation: This episode's name was originally **The X-Files**", but when it was granted a season of episodes, it was re-named **Pilot**" as it was the pilot episode to the series.

Do you believe in
extra-terrestrials?

Deep Throat"

The bizarre behaviour and disappearance of an Air Force test pilot leads Mulder and Scully to Ellens Air Force Base in Idaho, where Mulder believes UFO experimentation with US test craft is taking place. However, Mulder is warned by an unknown figure that this case should be avoided at all costs...

✂ At one point in the episode, Mulder and Scully witness a UFO flying in a way that would be impossible for normal aircraft. Shortly before this, the craft flying overhead flies at such a speed that it causes their car's rear window to smash into the car. After seeing the UFO, and having spoken with Emil and Zoë (the kids Mulder and Scully found sneaking out of the air base), Mulder and Scully are driving the same car but the rear window is now miraculously fixed.

Continuity

✂ Later in the episode, Mulder and Scully are confronted by Men In Black who destroy Mulder's evidence and photos of the UFO's and search the other files Scully and he have. They also take away Scully's gun and remove the magazine from it. You can see that there are no bullets in the magazine, because you can see through a large gap in the middle. Being an FBI agent, wouldn't she be expected to have some ammunition in her gun at all times in case of emergency? And where did all the bullets go anyway?

Continuity

✂ When Scully and Mulder are run off the road, there is a quick external shot (before Scully turns to see the car behind them) that shows what is supposed to be them being jolted as the car comes to a halt. The figures in the car are obviously not Gillian Anderson or David Duchovny, but are

stunt men, one of whom is wearing a very bad (not to mention big) wig.

Continuity

✂ Why is it that whenever a UFO appears in The X-Files, it is suddenly night-time? As the action flicked between Scully and Mulder at the Air Base, the time of day changed, night-time for Mulder, day-time for Scully. Did Scully spend the whole night waiting around in her motel room, and then get all worked up over his disappearance? (Obviously not, after the missing scenes reported below.)

Continuity

Recurring Actors: Andrew Johnston, Michael Puttonen, Gabrielle Rose

Best Line: “You didn’t come to raid my mini-bar did you?”- Mulder has a one-liner for every occasion. Also: “Do you think if maybe we ignore him, he’ll go away?”- one of Mulder’s suggestions as an imposing Man in Black stands outside the car.

Scene: This episode originally contained quite a few scenes and lines that were eventually cut from the final episode. The most notable scenes were Scully at the FBI research library encountering Section Chief Blevins who classes Mulder’s work on the X-files a waste of Bureau time and money. The other scene is where Scully, frantic to find Mulder, and without a car, runs to find Emil and Zoë to see if they have seen Mulder.

Title Explanation: The episode is named after the informant encountered by Mulder in this episode, and although he is not named in the episode, the script classes him as Deep Throat (during his final appearance). The name is taken from the Watergate scandal.

'Squeeze'

A friend of Scully's asks for help from her and Mulder on a case of some bizarre deaths. All these deaths have no obvious point of entry, no witnesses, and each victim has had their liver removed. During the uneasy help he gives, Mulder manages to find links to this case and other X-files which date all the way back to 1903.

X If Eugene Tooms was able to stretch his body to unimaginable lengths, why didn't he squeeze his way out of the handcuffs and escape when he was arrested? **Plot Discrepancy**

Recurring Actors: Gary Hetherington, Kevin McNulty

Best Line: "Do you think I'm 'spooky'?" - Mulder to Scully after the insults from Colton and co.

Scenes: Initially, Mulder was supposed to have thrown a trash-can through the window to get inside Scully's house, but it was changed as she is supposed to live on a high floor (apartment number 35), so he just came in through the door.

Title Explanation: Eugene Tooms was able to stretch his body to extraordinary lengths, and fit through small spaces, but still found many a squeeze(!).

Do you think
I'm 'spooky'?

'Conduit'

Mulder drags Scully into a case where a young girl was abducted during a camping trip. Evidence from the girl's brother and mother indicates UFO involvement, and as Mulder and Scully try to find the girl, Scully believes that Mulder is paralleling this case with that of his sister's abduction.

∞ If Samantha Mulder was abducted twenty-one years ago, it would set this episode on August 24th 1994, that's during Scully's abduction.

Continuity

∞ It is impossible to gain such a large amount of information from such a small amount of binary code as Kevin wrote out. And Mulder only took a few pages of the code Kevin was writing, so how they managed to decipher a sonnet, satellite transmission or any one of those other items mentioned from that small amount of data is anyone's guess.

Subject Matter

∞ When Ruby is found, Scully says she is alive - but unconscious - and begins to give her CPR! The girl was alive, fine, she would probably regain consciousness later, no point choking her, as giving CPR to a living person would.

Subject Matter

Recurring Actors: Joel Palmer, Don Thompson

Best Line: "C'mon!... How could an eight-year old boy who can barely multiply be a threat to national security?... And people call me paranoid." Mulder to the government agents who class Kevin as a national security risk.