#### Threads of the MythologySuper Soldiers

##### Time LineCirca June 2000 – WithoutThe Bounty Hunter takes on other forms to try to capture Gibson. In a struggle, Scully kills the Bounty Hunter. In the end, Scully and Skinner cannot rescue Mulder who remains aboard the ship.

[Desert.
Doggett: Agent Mulder! Stay there!
Mulder walks calmly backwards. Doggett starts running towards him. Mulder walks back over the edge, and falls.]

Frank Spotnitz:

Ironically, the mythology was never more vigorous than it was in Season 8 because of the terms under which we had David Duchovny.

[Bounty Hunter approach Mulder in the torture chair.]

Frank Spotnitz:

It was not practical to bring back David for a stand-alone episode. He was a missing character, so we had to bring him back for the mythology.

John Shiban:

Chris always felt that at some point we do have to open up and come clean. We have to let the audience in on what's going on, so we can lead to a satisfying conclusion and I think that may be why there are more mythology shows in the addition of the super soldiers which was a new wrinkle.

[Spinning metal vertebrae.]

John Shiban:

It also allowed us to invest our new characters in the mythology as well because the rise of the super soldiers in 'Within' and 'Without' was almost a direct reaction to bringing on the Doggett character.

[Doggett and Scully – first meeting.]

John Shiban:

It's a new wrinkle in the mythology that still fits and works and makes sense yet gives him an opponent.

[Super soldier squeezing Doggett's head.]

John Shiban:

You don't want David Duchovny to leave and to burden Robert Patrick's character with having to just be the new Mulder, the new battles and having to deal with the old battles and deal with what Mulder did. You can't replace him, so the trick is to add to the mythology in a way that allows it go forward yet gives your new character something new to deal with.

Robert Patrick
'Agent John Doggett'

I figured that the best way to introduce the character was exactly the way they did it, in a mythology episode. And I think it was important for Chris and Frank and my director, Kim Manners, to really establish who this guy was, John Doggett, and what he was supposed to be doing.

Kim Manners:

First day of shooting we're doing the scene where Scully throws a cup of water at Robert's face. (laughs) We rehearsed it, and rehearsed it, and rehearsed it, and Chris called and said, 'Before you shoot, let me know, I want to come down, I want to make sure the scene's right.' And it was a very special moment for Chris, for all of us, and it came that time for Gillian to stand up and hit Robert with the cup of water, and she did, and walked away – I think I dollied in or something – and Robert felt 'aaah', he exhaled - 'OK, it's over, I'm here, I am now John Doggett'. It was something about that scene that just solidified that character for Bob. I'll never forget it.

[Behind the scenes: Robert, Mitch and Kim having fun.]

Kim Manners:

Suddenly there's this new energy. There's this new life. The crew was reinvigorated. I was reinvigorated. Everybody had this new energy from Robert Patrick.

[Doggett: If you were to find him out here, or the ship, or this alien bounty hunter, what would you do then?
Scully: I know what Agent Mulder would do. He'd do whatever it took.
Doggett: You mean lie. Like you've been lying to me. And flout orders like you've done every step of the way on this thing. Is that what it takes, Agent Scully?
Scully: Give a little, get a little, Agent Doggett.
Doggett: You knew where the kid was, you knew where the kid was and you wouldn't tell me. Why?
Scully: What kid? I don't see any kid.
Doggett: You're lying to me again! Assistant Director Skinner took him from here to the hospital.]

##### Time LineMay 2001 – Three WordsHoward Salt, a census worker, is killed trying to deliver information to the president about an Alien Invasion. A fully recovered Mulder enlists the help of the Lone Gunmen to decrypt Salt's hard drive. Doggett approaches Knowle Rohrer who gives him information that sets Mulder up for a trap.

[Rohrer: You need me more than you know.
Doggett: I don't need someone using me to get another man killed.
Rohrer: You think this is about Mulder. It's about the truth, John.
Doggett: What truth?
Rohrer: You've got it all right in front of you. It's all in the X-Files. I'm just one man trying to point you in the right direction.
Doggett walks away. Then we see the bump in Rohrer's neck.]

Frank Spotnitz:

The super soldiers was a lie, basically. It was a way to account for these aliens who were appearing. And explain them away in a terrestrial, somewhat believable, fashion. The idea was that the Defense Department was developing genetically modified human beings. So that was sort of the non-alien explanation. That's not the truth, though. In fact these were aliens.

##### Time LineCirca February 2001 – This Is Not HappeningAgent Monica Reyes joins Scully and Doggett as they look into the reappearance of Teresa Hoese, a woman abducted at the same time as Mulder. Scully has a vision of a seemingly dead Mulder aboard the alien craft.

[Scully and Skinner meet Reyes for the first time.
Doggett: Agent Reyes.
She throws away her cigarette.
Doggett: Assistant Director Skinner, Agent Scully – Monica Reyes.
Reyes breathes out cigarette smoke.
Reyes: Hi.]

John Shiban:

It was a big challenge to deal with David Duchovny's departure in season 8, and in a way we sort of brought in both Doggett and Reyes to kind of get both sides of Mulder's personality. Of course, they're their own characters and the actors embodied them and actually brought things to them that were unexpected.

Annabeth Gish
'Agent Monica Reyes'

When I got the job, I took it upon myself to educate myself as much as I could just for my own information, even though the character of Monica wouldn't really know the mythology herself. So there was a part of me that tried to learn and tried not to learn too much so that I could keep Monica's perspective very clean and very fresh.

[Scully: You believe in extraterrestrials?
Reyes: Well, let's just say I don't not believe. As I said, I try to stay open.]

Harry V. Bring
Producer

It breathed fresh energy into the show and it allowed some new storylines, and get into their characters and where they came from. And they were both really real troupers, they came into it full force.

[Reyes, Doggett and Scully on the ship.]

John Shiban:

We had some fun with this new dynamic and with playing Scully has sort of a believer. I don't think she ever became Mulder but I think she realised over time that science can answer everything but science hasn't answered everything. And so she would become the expert in things paranormal with Reyes' help and Doggett got to be the realist.

Chris Carter:

And the mythology at a point, I think, had become somewhat complex and layered and a little bit maybe too difficult to continue to add more layers on to it. It made the show more interesting in certain ways and less interesting in other ways. I think for the long-time fans, they weren't used to seeing a Mulder-less show, so I think that they felt this show had changed in some way that they never forgave it, but I think that there were other people who loved these new characters and saw that we were telling interesting stories, just in a new way.

##### Time LineCirca February 2001 – DeadAliveAfter the 'dead' body of Billy Miles shows signs of life, he is put on life support. Later, Billy sheds his skin and emerges as a Super Soldier.

[Billy Miles on life support. He wakes up and pulls out his respirator tube.]

Frank Spotnitz:

It's the beginning of the phenomenon where you see the sort of molting aliens, where you see Billy Miles, found at sea and then he goes in the shower and the skin kind of sloughs off, and there he is Billy Miles, perfect again. Only he's not Billy Miles any more, he's an alien replica of Billy Miles.

##### Time LineCirca February 2001 – DeadAliveWhen Billy Miles shows signs of life, Skinner has Mulder's body exhumed and put on life support. In exchange for Mulder's cure, Krycek wants Skinner to make sure Scully's pregnancy doesn't come to term. Instead Skinner takes Mulder off life support, inadvertently halting the alien virus from transforming him.

[Skinner at Mulder's bedside. In the corridor, Doggett sees Scully.
Doggett: Where are you going?
Scully: Look, I don't have time to waste debating our differences, Agent Doggett. I strongly believe that Agent Mulder is infected with a virus.
Doggett: A virus?
Scully: A virus that seems to keep the body just alive enough to take it through a transformation.
Doggett: Into? Let me guess, an alien.
Scully: Agent Doggett, I don't have time to argue.
Doggett: I'm not arguing. And for what it's worth, that's what this guy that first found Mulder told me. This man that we put in prison, Absolom?
Scully: He told you this was a virus?
Doggett: No. He said the abductees were being returned and left for dead. That if he hadn't have found them and done his hocus-pocus, they would have been resurrected as aliens. It's all part of some big alien take-over of the world.
Scully: That's it.
Doggett: What's it?
Scully: How Billy Miles came back so perfectly. I stood there and watched his body go into seizure just moments before this happened. On the monitor there were two heart beats and I told the nurse that it was just a mechanical error.
Doggett: You think this kid has sloughed his skin and come back as an alien?
Scully: And it'll happen to Mulder if we don't stop it soon.
Doggett: Where are you going?
Scully: I need a surgical bay, a team of doctors. I have to keep Mulder's body stabilized in order to administer the vaccine.
Doggett: What vaccine?
Scully: The one I asked A.D. Skinner to get me.]

Frank Spotnitz:

I thought that was a very powerful episode that had a simple science fiction storyline and had a really good emotional dynamic between Scully, Doggett and Mulder. I think you really start to get the love triangle, that Doggett really did love Scully but Scully would never look at Doggett because obviously her heart belonged to Mulder. And Doggett, being too good a guy to fight that, having to respect that even though it was painful for him, clearly.

[Scully is sat by Mulder's bed, her head on his chest. She sees Doggett arrive at the doorway and just looks at him. Doggett quietly leaves, shutting the door.]

##### Time LineCirca May 2001 – ExistenceScully and Reyes travel to a secret location in Georgia to birth Scully's baby. Billy Miles and other replicants locate Scully but, strangely, they allow her to give birth and they leave soon after.

[Scully in labor.
Reyes: Push, Dana. Keep breathing.
Scully: Please don't let them take it.
The baby is born.]

John Shiban:

Essence and Existence, I think, are an amazing two-parter. Not just because it's in Existence where my son, Jerry, gets to play Scully's baby, which was just a terrific capper on my X-Files career, and he did a damn good job, that little guy.

[Mulder holding William.
Scully: I don't understand, Mulder. They came to take him from us, but they didn't.
Mulder: I don't quite understand that either. Except that maybe he isn't what they thought he was. That doesn't make him any less of a miracle, though, does it.]

John Shiban:

That was a nice moment and it was on the last night of shooting for David and Gillian together until David came back for the very end. So it was a very emotional night for everybody. I mean, I was just beaming and proud and smiling. David and Gillian were enjoying that and then they had their last shot together, and I know that was very touching for them.

[Mulder and Scully kiss.]

Frank Spotnitz:

Once the baby was born, what do you do with it? And what kinds of jeopardy are acceptable to put an infant child in. We found interesting things to do, like having that artifact fly through in Scully's apartment and hover above the crib, which I think was a great creepy image. But it was hard to figure out opportunities to dramatize the existence of that baby.

##### Time LineCirca May 2001 – Nothing Important Happened TodayDoggett assigns Reyes to the X-Files to help with his investigation of Kersh. Shannon McMahon tells Doggett about the Super Soldier program and how she was responsible for the deaths of two water reclamation workers.

[Shannon pulls Doggett down in the water.]

Frank Spotnitz:

By season 9, Scully had seen so much that a pretty far-out idea ended up being the real world possibility for what was going on, an alternate to the idea of there really being aliens. And that idea was that the government was creating a genetically altered army of super soldiers. And that was the direction the show was going in season 9 which ultimately ended up being our final season, and so that story line never kind of flowered as fully as it would have had there been a season 10, but that was the most convincing alternative we could think of to account for what Scully had seen.

[Doggett in bed. Shannon explains that she is a bio-engineered combat unit, that she has no weaknesses, doesn't sleep, can breathe under water, and that's how she saved his life.]

Frank Spotnitz:

It was Chris' idea to have that be the mislead, have that be the real world explanation for these incredible things that we were seeing. The idea of having aliens come in and replace us, I think we probably came up with together after season 7.

##### Time LineSpring 2002 – WilliamDoggett thinks a man with a disfigured face is Mulder, but DNA tests prove him to be Jeffrey Spender. Spender gives William an injection that will nullify his alien DNA. Desperate to protect William, Scully decides she has to give him up for adoption.

[Scully to Reyes: I don't have a choice about what he is or was. But I do have a choice about the life my son will have. And should I choose that he never have to be afraid of anyone or anything. And can I ever even promise him that?
Reyes: But who can?
Later, a social worker takes William to his adoptive parents.]

Frank Spotnitz:

Our intention was to resolve the baby story line, exit Mulder and Scully from the series. We knew we had Gillian only through season 9, if there'd be a season 10 there would be no Mulder or Scully in the X Files, and then move into a period where aliens were not the central focus of the series. I think we all felt that the alien story line, the mythology, the conspiracy, had really gone on long enough and played itself out, and that there was another type of ongoing story line to play involving Doggett, the forces that killed his son, and Reyes.

##### Time LineMay 2002 – The TruthMulder infiltrates a secret military base and seemingly kills Knowle Rohrer. Mulder is captured and forced to stand trial for Rohrer's death. Acting as Mulder's defense attorney, Skinner calls Scully, Jeffrey, Marita, Gibson, Doggett and Reyes to testify on Mulder's behalf.

[Rohrer chasing Mulder in the military base. He catches Mulder and tries to push him over a safety rail. Mulder manages to get a purchase with his foot, and throws Rohrer over the rail. Rohrer falls onto some live electrical wires.]

Frank Spotnitz:

We realized pretty quickly, once Chris decided to end the show, that the season finale was going to have to be a trial. Throughout the life of the series we'd taken delight in asking more questions than we answered, but knowing that the show was coming to an end, we knew we finally had to take the time to just answer questions, to try and resolve as much as we could.

[Kersh: Let's bring in the defendant. This proceeding is called to order.]

John Shiban:

I knew in my gut, I think Frank knew in his gut, and Chris did too, that it's the only way for us to really bring back all of the elements we wanted to bring back. We really wanted it to be a class reunion.

Kim Manners:

I think it worked pretty well. The courtroom setting to explain from everybody's point of view what had just happened over the last nine years and, to be honest with you, I don't know that any one of us really knew what happened. I think Chris Carter is the only one, I think it's all locked in his head.

Frank Spotnitz:

We brought back everybody we could and answered every question we could. And the problem became, even at two hours we couldn't answer everything. There was more we had, there was more that was on the cutting-room floor.

John Shiban:

In everyone's mind it was the end, so everything from Corey Kaplan's amazing sets in the desert, to the set pieces, just finding a location for the opening teaser, everyone wanted it to be awesome and memorable, and I think it was.

Michelle Maclaren
Executive Producer

Chris had told us in January, he had told everybody well in advance that this was going to be the last season, so there was quite a build-up for the last half of the season to this final episode and we all knew that we were part of something really really big.

Harry S. Bring:

It was great to bring back the Smoking Man, and have his decrepit and dying of cancer, smoking through his neck, in a cave, this Indian woman – it was just so bizarre.

[Helicopter hovering outside the cave. The missile is fired and CSM is incinerated. More missiles are fired and the buildings are destroyed.]

Frank Spotnitz:

We wrapped everything up as perfectly as you could, given the strange, unpredictable twists and turns of the journey we'd taken over those nine years. Certainly there was no way Chris, when he wrote the pilot to the X Files, could have imagined the phenomenon it was going to become, that it would go nine years let alone five, I think he hoped for five at the most, that there were be a feature film, that there would be cast changes, that Mulder, who really was the driving force behind the series, would be gone for two and a half of those nine years. I don't know how I would have done any of it differently, given what we knew at the time. I think that at every step we really killed ourselves to make the best possible decision we could, knowing what we knew.

[Mulder discovering the chamber where the EBE had been kept.]

John Shiban:

It could have just stayed a monster show, it could have just been Mulder chasing vampires and ghosts for the rest of it, but the mythology was an attempt to cast these characters against the real world or an imagined version of the real world and I think that started to strike a chord with a lot of people. I don't think the vast majority of our audience obviously doesn't necessarily believe in alien invasion but they would sure like to speculate about it and that's where the fun comes in. In fact there was one scene that was supposed to end the show, President Bush receiving the news, which in retrospect for a lot of reasons was a good cut because it's really where you want to leave, you really want to leave with Mulder and Scully, and I'm glad we did.

Chris Carter:

I always saw the show as a search for God in a way or a search for godlessness. There was a story that I read in the New Republic during the beginning of the show, or the course of the first couple of years of the show, and it was right around the time that Schindler's List came out, and it was an article on memory and how important memory is to action and to not just history but to the future, and so I think that idea played through the course of the X Files, the idea that you cannot bury the truth, you don't bury someone – you wouldn't bury someone alive – is the way we put it, and that's really how memory played into the story that was the really the through-line for the X Files.

Howard Gordon:

In the course of a 24 episode season, you'd have 6 or 7 or 8 episodes that really told the story that promised more and more, that answered itself as it went along but then asked even more questions, and that kid of twisted back on itself. I mean, sometimes perhaps one time too many, but it turned out to be a story that captured a lot of people's imagination and that sustained for a remarkably long time.

[Kim Manners directing a scene from 'The Truth'.]

Kim Manners:

The fondest memories of the X Files was the family, and we were a family, not only the cast but the crew.

Michelle Maclaren:

It was the combination of a huge, gigantic show that changed television and the way television was made, and we were so fortunate to push the limits of what you're allowed to do in television, just from the magnitude of what we did with the visual effects, with the practical effects, the things we built, the stories we got to tell.

Annabeth Gish:

You bled for this, you sweat a lot making this show but that is what translated it into... It came into people's living rooms and was a high-quality show with this whole arc, this whole mythology.

Harry S. Bring:

It was the best crew I ever worked with, still is to this day.

Tom Braidwood:

X Files changed the way TV looked. It had a huge effect on TV then and TV since.

Paul Rabwin:

I don't know that a viewer can watch this series and really understand what it means to invest your life creatively into something this magnificent but it was a crowning achievement and I will never, never forget that.

Chris Carter:

From the first episode of the X-Files you see this poster with a spaceship on it and it says 'I want to believe' and that really is Mulder's mantra. He doesn't believe, he wants to believe, he wants to find reason to believe and that's kind of for me the basis of faith is that you continue... faith is a struggle, it's an effort and Mulder's faith was a struggle and effort, the faith to find the truth about his sister. So that poster, I think, really sumps up so much of what became the mythology, that search.

Frank Spotnitz:

I think that Mulder and Scully getting together at the end of season 9, ending in a rainy motel room, is the perfect ending to the series. The watchwords of the series were 'The truth is out there' and I had felt for many years that, corny as it sounds, the biggest truth in the universe is love, it's this sort of non-physical truth. It's the bond that Mulder and Scully formed. And yet, because their partnership was based on this quest for the truth, they were kept from consummating that bond. It's like their battle kept them from being together and I felt finally allowing them to be together, however brief that moment was, but allowing them to be in that room, to be together and to feel their love for each other, was the simplest and most perfect way to end the show. I was really happy with the way it came to a close.

[Mulder: Maybe there's hope.]