

THE X-FILES

"The Field Where I Died"

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August 30, 1996

"The Field Where I Died"

CAST LIST

Agent Fox Mulder
Agent Dana Scully
A.D. Skinner
BATF Agent

(X)
Melissa Riedal-Ephesian (Sidney, Jobee, Sarah, Lily...)
Vernon Ephesian
Attorney
Therapist
Harbaugh
FBI Agent Riggins
A Mighty Man (X)

9 CONTINUED:

9

Mulder stands, weapon aimed at the group. He wipes the saliva from his cheek, angry...and yet, CAMERA SLOWLY PUSHES IN ON HIM as he looks at Melissa...somehow familiar.

Suddenly, the FRAME FLASHES WHITE, accompanied by the SOUND OF a CAMERA SHUTTER SNAPPING...

FLASH CUT TO:

10 INT. BRIEFING ROOM - DAY - CLOSE - MUG SHOT

10

FRAME IS FILLED by a still mug shot of Vernon Ephesian. Hold a beat, then, a rapid series of sad and pathetic mug shots follow, each preceded by a FLASH FRAME and the SOUND OF A CAMERA SHUTTER.

Meanwhile, O.S., a RECORDED TRANSMISSION plays, filtered. Cold. Eerie.

RIGGINS (V.Ö.)
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and
Firearms transmission received...

(X)

--BARBARA BENNETT-EPHESIAN, 17. Stringy hair. A runaway. FLASH:

--ANGELA MARTIN-EPHESIAN, 23. African-American. FLASH:

--PAMELA HUMPHRIES-EPHESIAN, 27. Dark circles under her eyes from drug abuse. FLASH:

RIGGINS (V.O.)
(continuing)
Zero-two-thirty hours. Five
November, ninety-six. Apison,
Tennessee...

(X)

--SUSAN GAYLE-EPHESIAN, 20. Heavy. Eyeglasses. FLASH:

--JO-ANNE CARNEY-EPHESIAN, 52. Defiant through the stress of being arrested. FLASH:

HOLD ON--MELISSA RIEDEL-EPHESIAN, 25. The most attractive of the group and yet the most sad. Her expression is blank. As if, at the moment the photo was taken, she was devoid of personality.

MULDER

holds the last photo, unable to take his eyes off Melissa...and unable to understand why.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

RIGGINS (V.O.)
(continuing)
Confirmed telephone trace from
within Seven Stars compound...

(X)

CLOSE - REEL TO REEL TAPE PLAYER

The wheels of magnetic tape turn quickly. A LEGEND APPEARS:
FEDERAL COMMAND CENTER. CHATTANOOGA COURT HOUSE. CHATTANOOGA,
TENNESSEE. 7:25 A.M.

HARBAUGH (V.O.)
BATF...this is Agent Kiley...

The next voice has a gravel texture and a deep tone. Hurried.
Scared. Whispering. Heavily FILTERED and over a phone, it sounds
like a male's voice. We'll learn it to be SIDNEY.

SIDNEY (V.O.):
Lookit...I...I'm not gonna talk
long, right? I can't believe I'm
even doin' this. Brilliant.
Lookit...Vernon...he's got
alotta good ideas. He's right
about alot of things. But...he's
doin' stuff to kids now
that...it ain't good...right?
And...I'm tellin' you... it's
not why I signed on.

WIDER

Skinner stands before a half dozen FBI and BATF agents as well
as local law enforcement. Mulder and Scully are at a table.
Before them are the mug shots of Ephesian and his wives and a
large file. Scully studies them while listening...

HARBAUGH (V.O.)
Okay...okay...easy. Can you tell
me your name, sir?

SIDNEY (V.O.)
(hesitation)
Um...call me Sidney. Now, like
I said...Vernon's hurtin' the
little kids around here. Bad. It
ain't right. And, man, the
guns...my God, we could beat the
whole Korean army here...

Mulder reacts to Sidney's mention of "the Korean Army."

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

SIDNEY (V.O.)

(continuing)

It's getting away from the message, you know? And I'm afraid...real afraid... he's gonna have us do something "crazy". Real soon.

HARBAUGH (V.O.)

"Crazy?"

SIDNEY (V.O.)

Dangerous. Like, attack somebody, or somethin'. Real soon. Oh, God...I can't talk no more...I gotta...

A scared CLICK, then a DIAL TONE. Turning off the reel to reel, Skinner's tone is commanding and urgent.

SKINNER

This call capped off an eighteen month BATF investigation of the Temple of the Seven Stars led by Vernon Ephesian. The "Sidney" call convinced the Attorney General to give the go ahead for this morning's raid.

An FBI AGENT turns to the BATF agents, accusingly.

RIGGINS

The ATF intelligence reports were weak. I mean, our man Spooky found Ephesian in a bunker that ATF didn't even know was there.

(X)

Rivalries flare up amongst the federal agents...

MULDER AND SCULLY

Scully looks to Mulder, whispers...

SCULLY

How did you know?

ATF AGENT (O.S.)

The Bureau was responsible for coordinating and confirming the data prior to the raid!

Eyes down, Mulder shakes his head and shrugs "I don't know."

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (3)

10

SCULLY
You must've subconsciously
heard their voices sooner
than you realized.

RIGGINS (O.S.) (X)
Hey, garbage in, garbage
out, you know what I'm
sayin'!

Mulder doubts this, but again simply shrugs. Scully senses the answer is more than simply just puzzling to Mulder.

SKINNER (V.O.)
ALRIGHT KNOCK IT OFF!

As the agents cease their infighting, Scully looks to Skinner.

WIDER

Skinner stands before the room.

SKINNER (CONT'D)
(loud)
The reports are valid. Illegal
activities were going on at the
Seven Stars. Somehow, they were
alerted in time to hide the
evidence.

The room is silent. Skinner gathers himself.

SKINNER (CONT'D)
We are sitting on top of a major
embarrassment, people. And we
are under the gun. We have
nothing to hold most of the
Temple members. They'll be out
in less than 24 hours if we
cannot charge them.

He eyes the room to make certain everyone feels the heat.

SKINNER (CONT'D)
Ephesian and his wives are being
held on, frankly, b.s. charges
of possession of dangerous
chemicals and you know their
attorneys will be pushing for
quick arraignment. And then
they're out of here.

(beat)
And probably... we are some of us.

This message is read loud and clear.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

SCULLY

Just for a little ride.

Melissa freezes. CAMERA PUSHES IN CLOSE TO HER, cigarette inches from her lips. After a beat, her eyes slowly turns to it in an expression of total puzzlement as if "how did that get there?"

MULDER

notes this, realizes her personality has altered. He reaches for the cigarette.

MULDER

How did you get my cigarette?

He takes it from her.

WIDER

Melissa's tone assumes the manner of a four year old girl. She fires a finger at Mulder as Scully watches, fascinated.

MELISSA

You gotta get that nasty habit
outta your mind!

She pulls the cigarette out of his hand and snubs it on the ground.

Melissa bounces off. Scully takes off after her guiding Melissa toward the car, checking over her torn sweater.

SCULLY

Melissa, are you warm enough? We
have a jacket in the car.

MELISSA

Noooooooo! I wanna wear my bea-uh-
tiful sweater.

SCULLY

Beautiful. Right.

MELISSA

It's pink! Girls like pink! And
some boys like it too!

Mulder moves to the driver's side of the car. Scully opens up the back door for Melissa who resists like a four year old.

MELISSA

I wanna ride with you.

(CONTINUED)

34 INT. WORSHIP HALL - MORNING

34

Ephesian stands at his floor level pulpit, with a bible in his hands, sweating profusely. The 50 Temple members are brought inside. The Mighty Men guard the doors.

EPHESIAN

Marvel not, my brethren, if the
world hate you...

The guards begins to shut the doors. SLAM! SLAM! The Mighty Men (X)
turn, armed with automatic handguns the SLIDES RESONATE ACROSS
THE ROOM.

MELISSA

although frightened, appears resigned.

CUT TO:

35 INT. BRIEFING ROOM - MORNING

35

The BATF LEADER TURNS INTO FRAME, angrily toward Skinner. Mulder
and Scully are in the room, irritated with the BATF leader.

HARBAUGH

(X)

No, I will not remove our
people. We're close to finding
the weapons.

SKINNER

I'm just asking for a cooling
off period...

AN FBI agent, Riggins enters with a cassette, he moves to a tape
player by the reel to reel.

RIGGINS

Ephesian's gathered all the
temple members in the worship
hall. A parabolic mike we have
aimed at the compound just
picked this up...

EPHESIAN (V.O.)

(filtered)

Marvel not, my brethren, if the
world hate you.

TEMPLE MEMBERS (V.O.)

(in agreement)

NO! AMEN!

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

EPHESIAN (CONT'D)
...AND WHOSOEVER LOVETH AND
MAKETH A LIE!

As he passes Melissa, "Sidney" tightly purses her lips, as she raises the cup, feigning drinking...

CUT TO:

44 EXT. COMPOUND - DAY

44

BATF agents take cover. Others tend to the wounded agent. Mulder and Scully's car speeds into the area. In the distance, other Federal vehicles approach the area. Mulder stops his car and gets out.

MULDER
Is there contact with the Temple?

The ATF agent gestures to his wounded comrade.

ATF AGENT (X)
If you call that contact.

MULDER
Any shots exchanged in the last
few minutes?

ATF AGENT (X)
(shakes head)
Been quiet. Too quiet.

Without a second thought, Mulder removes his sidearm and hands it to Scully. He begins toward the compound.

SCULLY
MULDER! NO! YOU'RE DEAD!

Mulder defiantly removes a white handkerchief, raises his arms and continues toward the entrance of the compound.

CUT TO:

45 INT. TEMPLE WORSHIP HALL - DAY

45

The room is silent, appearing empty. AS CAMERA CRANES TO THE FLOOR, however, a sea of lifeless bodies is REVEALED. Temple members lie upon one another. The Mighty Men guards are slumped against the doors, weapons still in hand.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

CAMERA MOVES EERILY ABOUT the tragic scene, passing the dead temple members and MOVING toward the position of Ephesian's wives. CAMERA CREEPS PAST until HOLDING on Melissa, eyes closed.

Then, as CAMERA INCHES TOWARD HER, an eye opens.

CUT TO:

45A EXT. COMPOUND - DAY

(X) 45A

Mulder opens the front door.

(X)

46 INT. COMPOUND - HALLWAY - MORNING

46

Mulder proceeds to the door. Locked. He BANGS against it.

CLOSE - DOOR FRAME

Mulder BANGS against the door, the frame CRACKS.

47 INT. TEMPLE WORSHIP HALL - DAY - MELISSA

47

lies amongst the dead, frightened. She waits, listens. It is totally silent. After summoning the courage, she rises. CAMERA HOLDS on her, ADJUSTING to REVEAL Ephesian standing behind her. He has been waiting, holding two cups of poison. With an edge of heartbroken sarcasm...

EPHESIAN
"Behold, I am ALIVE for
evermore!"

Melissa turns, startled. Ephesian drops to his knees, grabbing her hair, pushing the cup to her hands.

CUT TO:

48 INT. COMPOUND - HALLWAY - MORNING

48

The door BREAKS OPEN! Mulder races inside.

49 INT. TEMPLE WORSHIP HALL - DAY

49

Horrified, Melissa looks into the red liquid. Ephesian stands behind her. Melissa looks up and notices something O.S.

50 EXT. THE FIELD - DAY - MELISSA'S POV

50

Rays of morning sunlight stream upon the field. The eternal breeze wisps through the grass.