

How *Ellipsis* Was Supposed To End:

Long story short: The aliens that existed in my version of the XF universe were not actually aliens. They were humanity, evolved 2 *billion* years in the future. They would time-travel back to now to get needed...somethings. McGuffins, actually. This was touched upon a little in some of the XFBandit stories, *Renegade: Los Angeles* is one that kind of spells it out. The members of the consortium were DNA-marked in a way that allowed them to be "found" in the time continuum. Sort of like human beacons. Mulder would eventually eliminate all but the CSM, and since he was basically unkillable, would find out from him that there was a backup beacon on the dark side of the moon. Mulder, with Scully's help, and a few members of the UMBRA team, would (no kidding) hijack the space shuttle and take it to the moon. As messed-up as that sounds from a preposterous story standpoint, I did my research: Launched in the correct manner, at the correct time, and taking on fuel at the ISS (which, y'know, would be conveniently THERE in my story,), the SS could make a translunar journey. It would take a while (2 weeks as opposed to 4 days one way, as in Apollo,) and it would be, basically, a one-way trip. Since the shuttle couldn't land in the moon's atmosphere, Mulder was going to seemingly sacrifice his life and use a spacesuit w/maneuvering jets (forget the acronym) to gently descend to the surface of the moon and disable the beacon, thus saving humanity. This all would happen in the middle THIRD of the novel. Scully, alone in the shuttle, contemplates suicide, but decides to let fate take its course. She "sets sail" for home aboard the shuttle, sure that she'll run out of food and O2 long before she gets home.

Meanwhile, the US president has convinced Russia to launch one of their top-secret (at the time it was) shuttle to "meet" Scully's shuttle in the translunar space, dock with it, (using the universal docking collar that was designed just for this reason, believe it or not,) and bring her home.

Meanwhile, back on the moon, Mulder decides to go exploring after deactivating the alien beacon. He finds what amounts to a cave, which turns out to be the front door of what *he* thinks is an alien moonbase. He goes inside and is shocked to discover that there's O2 in there, in quantities that support human life! So he takes off his spacesuit and is also shocked to discover a few other things: First, that there's food and fresh water there, and alien thingamajobs that look like computers, use glyphs he can't understand, etc, etc. He is alive in there during the time of Scully's start back to Earth and her eventual rescue and her return home to a hero's welcome.

What he discovers in the two weeks is the big reveal: That the "aliens" the consortium had been dealing with all these years is...well, us. Just two billion years in the future. He discovers that time is a continuum, all of it existing simultaneously. The "aliens" have found ways to travel back in time. McGuffin needs inserted here. Mulder "sees" via a futuristic DVD-home-theatre thingie (heh) how humanity evolved from what you and I think as human to the Little Green Men. The millions of years of Earth history are here, along with a quasi-spiritual system that talks about how nothing is written in stone and we can still change the future for the better. Mulder slowly begins to realize two things: First, he has to get back to Earth to spread the word, and second, he has no way to do that.

On Earth, Scully is mourning Mulder. From the moment she was sure he was dead, she hadn't tried to use their psychic abilities to contact him. In pain, turmoil and longing, she "reaches out" to the universe, calling for Mulder.

He answers, shocked that they can communicate across 220,000 miles. Scully tries to convince Skinner and others that Mulder is alive and has found shelter on the Moon. Obviously, no one believes her, saying they of course would have detected such a thing. Scully points out that scientists have since 1960s been trying to explain the "masscons" or "massive concentrations of gravity." I was gonna hand-wave the science here and make it seem that the aliens (us) made it purposely hard to find on the moon by 1960s-200x era technology.

Scully gets more and more irate and strident about this, because of the moon's orbit she and Mulder can only communicate for about 4 days a month. Mulder is up there for about a year. (I tell this in time-forward expository technique.) Scully is eventually committed to an asylum. Mulder finally figures out how to work some of the "alien" technology and activates a transmitter and begins sending a "Hey!" message back to Earth. Unfortunately, it's on a frequency that no one regularly listens to. For six months, he broadcasts daily, hoping someone will hear him, until finally his signal is detected and analyzed, and then dismissed as a hoax by the original discoverer. FINALLY, the government takes notice, and the book ends with the President asking the head of NASA how many Saturn Vs we still have in stock. (3, but they're in museums, but still actually considered by NASA to be able to be made flight-worthy, given enough time.) They say that they'll have to have Mulder "ride shotgun" in the LM, and he says "NO PROBLEM!" from the Moon. Fini.