

O T H E O F I E S

"ICE"

Episode 7 (#1X07)



THE X FILES

"Ice"

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Episode 1X07
September 15, 1993

9/15/93

THE X-FILES

"ICE"

CAST

FOX MULDER
DANA SCULLY

RICHTER
DR. RANDY MURPHY
DR. LAWRENCE HODGE
DR. NANCY DASILVA
BEAR

9/15/93

THE X-FILES

"ICE"

SETS

EXTERIORS

ARCTIC COMPOUND (STOCK)
AIRFIELD
SKY (STOCK)

INTERIORS

MULDER'S OFFICE
HANGAR
ARCTIC COMPOUND
/MAIN BUILDING
/WORK ROOM
/LATRINE
/STORAGE/SUPPLY ROOM
/HALLWAY
/SCULLY'S ROOM
/MURPHY'S ROOM
/HODGE'S ROOM
/DASILVA'S ROOM
/MULDER'S ROOM
/TUNNEL

TEASER

1 EXT. ARCTIC COMPOUND - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING (STOCK)

It is morning. Here, however, the sun will not rise. There is only darkness. And cold. And isolation.

A compound consisting of a couple Quonset huts and a pair of prefab barracks all connected by aboveground tunnels is hammered by a bone shattering wind.

A legend appears: ARCTIC ICE CORE PROJECT. ICY CAPE, ALASKA. TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILES NORTH OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE. Inside the main building, a solitary light glows.

2 INT. MAIN BUILDING - NIGHT

A digital display clock reads "8:34 A.M." A thermometer readout indicates the external temperature as "-30 C." CAMERA BEGINS cautiously exploring the main building. It is lit by a single hanging bare lightbulb, slowly pulsating in intensity due to the generator dying out.

The area has been ransacked. A shorthaired dog sniffs at scientific equipment strewn on the counters and floor, rummaging for food. Furniture is trashed. The room appears to sweat from condensation. It is silent, except for the angry WIND.

CREEPING through the compound REVEALS a dead body on a desk, covered by a blanket. Another, hand frozen with rigor mortis, lies on a countertop. It is also covered with a sheet. A third man lies dead on the floor.

CAMERA proceeds into the darkness of an aboveground tunnel. Suddenly, a man STEPS INTO FRAME. A sliver of light falls upon his psychotic eyes. Hair and beard long, perspiration covers his face and body. Stepping forward REVEALS he wears no shirt. His chest is cut and bruised from recent violence. The man, RICHTER, is listening hard. His eyes searching. He carries a "kill or be killed" tension. He raises a handgun.

Richter takes a step forward. Pauses. The WIND HOWLS. Breathing hard, he takes another step.

From behind, Richter is GRABBED! A powerful arm wraps around his neck in a headlock. The attacker, CAMPBELL, bashes Richter's arm against the wall, causing the gun to drop. Campbell's wild expression matches Richter's as they ram violently into the wall.

Richter twists, then powerfully drives Campbell into the opposite wall. Campbell YELPS with pain as Richter struggles free.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

Campbell recovers and tackles his opponent, the two men CRASH into a metal storage shelf. GLASS SHATTERS.

The dog scuttles under a table to hide, WHIMPERING in fear.

They battle with a hyperintensity. Animal-like. Brutal. The pain doesn't register as the two combatants trade powerful punches. Richter manages to get Campbell on the ground, his hands like a vice around Campbell's throat. Campbell CHOKES, trying desperately to dislodge his attacker, but it's no use. Campbell loses consciousness, his eyes roll up in his head. Richter's arm trembles, his eyes fiery until assured that his enemy is indeed dead.

Out of breath, Richter retrieves his weapon, then staggers into the main building. He approaches a console and engages some switches.

A V.U. meter bounces to life. A red light indicates "SIGNAL TRANSMITTING." Richter moves to a small video camera and positions himself before it, dropping into a chair, exhausted. He breathes deep for air before leaning into the camera.

RICHTER

It goes no further than this...
It all stops right here. Right
now.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. ARCTIC COMPOUND - NIGHT (STOCK)

The wind has eased to an eerie whistle. Suddenly, a flash of light from inside the main building as a GUN FIRES! BAM!

As the generator dies, the light inside fades. The compound is all that remains in the morning darkness.

FADE OUT:

END TEASER

ACT ONE

4 INT. MULDER'S OFFICE - DAY - CLOSE - TV MONITOR

A blank screen flashes to life. Color bars and tone fill the raster. It is quickly replaced by graphics. "ARCTIC ICE CORE PROJECT - Transmission received OCTOBER 28, 1993. 5:15 P.M. AST."

A poor image appears, black and white, high contrast, ghostly from bad reception. Five MEN stand in the main room of the compound. Before them is a three foot long, five inch wide cylinder of ice in a cooled container. These men are elated, a team. The dog runs excitedly around them. Richter speaks to the camera, beaming proudly.

RICHTER

Team Captain, John Richter here. Well, it's been a couple of frustrating months, but after a great deal of "stick with it-ness"... um... we're very proud to report that about a half hour ago, we surpassed the previous mark for drilling down into an ice sheet.

The team erupts with victorious CHEERS. They exchange high fives and hugs.

RICHTER (CONT'D)

Three thousand two hundred meters! Nearly two miles down! Gentlemen, this is why you sent us here. You are looking at ice that's been preserved in the same state for a quarter of a million years!

The video tape is paused. The proud team freezes like the ice before them.

MULDER (V.O.)

This team of scientists made up the Arctic Ice Core Project.

MULDER & SCULLY

are before a TV monitor and VCR.

MULDER (CONT'D)

They were sent to Alaska by the D.O.D.'s Advanced Research Project Agency nearly a year ago to drill into the Arctic ice.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

MULDER (Cont'd)

The samples they removed contain trapped gases, chemicals and dust. Evidence that can reveal the structure of the Earth's climate back to the dawn of Man.

Scully studies the image.

MULDER (CONT'D)

Their work was a success. Nearly completed. No reports or indications of any problems. Then... this next transmission was received only a week later.

Mulder hits the play button.

MONITOR

A graphics card reads "ARCTIC ICE CORE PROJECT - Transmission received NOVEMBER 5, 1993. 8:30 A.M. AST."

Richter appears. Insane. This is the message he was sending in the Teaser. Drenched with sweat, he is too close to the camera. His image is half in and half out of FRAME.

RICHTER

It goes no further than this...
It all stops right here. Right now.

He pauses, seemingly engaged in an internal struggle to continue. He rubs the back of his neck.

RICHTER

Stay away. Forget us. We're not who we are. We're not who we are!

Richter raises the gun to his mouth. Mulder pauses the machine.

MULDER

You know the rest.

Scully takes in the horrifying image.

SCULLY

What happened up there? What about the other men?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

MULDER

That's what they want us to find out. So far, no one's been able to reach the compound because of the weather.

SCULLY

(incredulous)

And Chief Blevins asked you to head the investigation? Does he believe this is an X-file?

MULDER

He believes something unexplainable occurred. You should have seen him...

(smiles)

It was clearly uncomfortable for him to come to me.

Scully turns to the screen.

SCULLY

Could this be a severe manifestation of cabin fever?

MULDER

These were top geophysicists. They were screened and prepared in every way for this project, including psychological makeup.

Mulder produces a road map of Alaska, indicating the destination.

MULDER

We leave today for Nome. We're meeting three scientists familiar with the Ice Core Project, then head north to Icy Cape. The National Weather Service reports a three day window to get in and get out before the next Arctic storm. Bring your mittens.

Mulder folds the map and deposits it into his bag. Scully studies the man on screen at the brink of suicide.

SCULLY

Mulder... this project is Department of Defense... any chance Blevins knows something he's not telling? Do you trust him?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (3)

MULDER
(considers)
My feeling is he's at a total
loss.

Mulder picks up the VCR remote, aims it at the machine.

MULDER (CONT'D)
And so am I.

MONITOR

Richter's image SCANS backward, then plays.

RICHTER
We're not who we are. We're not
who we are.

5 EXT. AIRFIELD - DAY - ESTABLISHING

A small airfield. One hangar. A legend appears: JIMMY
DOOLITTLE AIRFIELD, COUNCIL, ALASKA.

6 INT. HANGAR - DAY

At the open end of the hangar, mountains and trees in the
distance, sits a man on a duffel bag. At 30, DR. RANDY MURPHY
appears young for a PhD. He's dressed for a trip to the far
North, including a San Diego Charger's baseball cap that hasn't
left his head in years. He listens, through earphones, to a
game on his walkman and is intensely into it.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
(through earphones)
Fouts looks over the Raiders'
defense. Here's the snap.
Raiders' blitz! Fouts dumps it
across the middle to Winslow.

Murphy responds. Stands. Eyes closed, envisioning the game.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
He's at the fifteen! Ten!
Touchdown San Diego!

MURPHY
Touchdown! FOUTS IS GOD!

He raises his hands above his head and begins to perform an end
zone shuffle. It should be endearing and not obnoxious.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

As he celebrates, Mulder and Scully approach with their gear. They watch, amused, until Murphy realizes he has an audience. He blushes.

MURPHY
Sorry, my team just scored.

SCULLY
There's no football on Wednesday.

MULDER
And Fouts is retired.

MURPHY
No, this is just a tape I have of my favorite all time plays. You want to hear a couple?

SCULLY
Maybe on the plane.

MURPHY
Are you the F.B.I.?

MULDER
Agents Scully and Mulder. You are?

MURPHY
Randy Murphy. I'm a Doctor of Geology at U.C. San Diego.

MULDER
San Diego? Do you get much of a chance to study ice?

MURPHY
Just what's around the keg.

They smile. The exchange is interrupted by the approach of two others. Doctor LAWRENCE HODGE M.D., wheels a large cart, packed with equipment. He is in his mid-thirties. Hodge is filled with self-importance, but is savvy enough to cover this undesirable trait with overgeniality.

Beside him is the toxicologist, Doctor NANCY DASILVA, 30. She's quite pretty, and as a scientist, her appearance actually makes her uncomfortable. In her struggle to be taken seriously, Nancy overcompensates with a seriousness that borders on bitchy.

SCULLY
Doctor Hodge? Doctor DaSilva?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

HODGE
Sorry we're late.

SCULLY
I'm agent Scully. This is agent
Mulder. Dr. Murphy.

HODGE
(polite)
May I see some identification?

An awkward pause. Hodge is aware of this and as a sign of good faith, produces his wallet and shows his I.D.

HODGE
Just want make sure we are who we
say we are.

A bizarre moment plays as everyone displays their wallets and gives the others a cursory exam. Scully and Mulder express their irritation with a look as they put away their badges.

HODGE
So... now that we know who we
are, anyone care to guess as to
why we're going?

Silence, as no one will commit to expressing a theory.

SCULLY
I assume you all saw the tape...

Hodge and DaSilva exchange a look of distrust of the agents. Mulder picks up on this.

MULDER
Something wrong?

DASILVA
Come on, you're F.B.I. You have
to know more than we do.

MULDER
Yes... about fingerprinting
suspects, but in this regard,
we're on equal footing.

Beat. Murphy tries to further ease the tension.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (3)

6

MURPHY

(pointing it out)

Look, we have two agents, a geologist, a medical doctor, and a toxicologist. That ought to give us some idea of what they're thinking.

HODGE

Agent Mulder, I did some checking. I understand you mainly investigate reports of UFO's.

Mulder wishes that information had not come up, but nods.

MURPHY

No way? You chase flying saucers?

HODGE

You can't believe those men were abducted?

Before Mulder can answer, a muddy and worn 4X4 truck ROARS into the hangar. A large, rugged man jumps out of the cab. He is a dangerous man in appearance. Known as BEAR, his voice is as loud as one.

BEAR

You folks the ones going up to Icy Cape?

MULDER

Yes.

BEAR

Then I'm the one flyin' ya. My name's Bear. Plane's across the way. Provisions are loaded. Grab your gear.

HODGE

May I see some credentials?

Bear pauses, wondering if he's being jerked around. He eyes Mulder who shrugs. Bear suddenly nods, smiles.

BEAR

Sure. You can see my "credentials."

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (4)

He removes his wallet which is chained to his belt. Bear holds open the billfold with a deliberate middle finger. Bear brings it close to Hodge.

BEAR
Make sure you read the fine
print.

Hodge burns. Murphy chuckles. Bear approaches Hodge's cart.

BEAR
This your gear?

HODGE
This is essential scientific
equipment...

BEAR
Everyone brings one bag. You can
take this here.

He pulls a small bag off the cart, then eyes Hodge with disdain. Bear turns to DaSilva and turns on the charm.

BEAR
Can I give you a hand there,
ma'am?

He takes her gear and leads the way out. Bear turns to Scully.

BEAR
How about you? Need a hand,
little lady?

SCULLY
I'm not your "little lady."

BEAR
Read you loud and clear.

As the investigative team exits the hangar...

7 EXT. SKY - DAY (STOCK)

A prop plane equipped with landing skis flies North over the snowcapped Baird mountains. The sun is low and pale. It will not rise above the horizon.

SLOW DISSOLVE TO:

8 INT. ARCTIC COMPOUND - NIGHT

Darkness covers the silent room. Cold blue moonlight intensifies the macabre qualities of the dead bodies. CAMERA CREEPS through the room until PAUSING at the main entrance.

Beat. Silence... then a CRACK rings out. An O.S. crowbar works on the door. After a moment, the door opens. Flashlight beams flood into the room. Other beams backlight the people standing before them. The investigative team enters cautiously.

Mulder walks into a CLOSE UP. The light from his torch floods eerily upon his face. He directs his beam around the room.

MULDER'S POV - MAIN BUILDING

A setting of chaos and disarray. Lit only by the flashlight beams, the macabre tunnel vision finds Richter slumped against the chair.

RETURN

Everyone was mentally prepared for this, yet that doesn't ease the shock.

MULDER

Bear, could you try and fire up the generator?

BEAR

Anything to get outta here.

Bear exits. The others take in the room. Mulder moves forward.

SCULLY

(overwhelmed)

My God, where do we start?

HODGE

Body bags are in the plane.

MULDER

We need to thoroughly photograph their positions before moving them.

Mulder reaches a large freezer marked "ICE CORES - 3,175 - 3,250." He opens the door and aims his flashlight inside. The ice core is melting. Drip. Drip.

MULDER

A quarter of a million years, melting away in a couple of hours.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

MURPHY

I have to preserve samples before
it's too late.

He removes some containers from his bag and begins work by
flashlight. Scully readies a camera. She positions herself
over a body.

SCULLY

Flash.

She snaps a photo. The brightness is intense in the dark room.
Scully tags Richter's gun placing it in a box of evidence.

Mulder continues down the tunnel. Scully's photo flashes are
an odd visual metronome. DaSilva follows Mulder.

They proceed to the living quarters. Five tiny rooms, all
trashed. O.S., a RUMBLING. The compound shakes. DaSilva
grabs Mulder's arm, scared.

MULDER

It's the generator.

DaSilva sighs, relieved. They continue...

MURPHY

is at the freezer. He wears rubber gloves as he collects the
dripping ice core. Behind him, Scully's FLASHES continue.

CAMERA PUSHES IN to the freezer, past Murphy, hinting at a
secret within the ice.

9 INT. WORK ROOM - COMPOUND - NIGHT

Mulder and DaSilva enter. He moves left to check out an area
while she aims her light in the opposite direction.

DASILVA'S FLASHLIGHT BEAM

As it PANS the room, two yellow eyes flash.

WIDER

DaSilva begins to back up, terrified, breathless.

DASILVA

Mulder...

Mulder remains focused forward. Behind him, the eyes prepare
for attack.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

The lights come to life. The shorthaired dog SNARLS, then leaps on Mulder's back. He falls. The dog's teeth flash as Mulder rolls and crawls away. The dog GROWLS, otherworldly.

10 INT. MAIN BUILDING - NIGHT

Hearing the dog, Scully turns. Bear steps in from outside. The lights are on, but many are broken, leaving much of the room in darkness. The team members look at one another, then race off toward the sound. Hodge brings his medical bag. Murphy pulls up the rear.

11 INT. WORK ROOM - NIGHT

Mulder, backed against the wall, has a three foot square piece of plywood between himself and the attacking dog. Bear enters, wrestling the dog away from Mulder. The dog turns and bites into Bear's thick jacket at the arm.

Hodge quickly opens his bag and produces a syringe.

Bear tries to shake off the vicious attack. Mulder and Scully grab the dog, attempting to pull it away from Bear.

Hodge finishes filling the syringe with a sedative. He moves to the dog and jams in the needle. The dog feels no pain. After a few moments, the attack eases. Finally, the tranquilized dog slumps to the floor.

SCULLY
(to Mulder)
Are you alright?

MULDER
(out of breath)
I think so. Doesn't feel like it broke the skin. What about you, Bear?

BEAR
Nope. He got me. Bit through the jacket. There's blood.

Hodge grabs his medical bag.

HODGE
Take off the jacket.

BEAR
I'll do it. Just gimme the stuff.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

Hodge hands Bear some gauze and antiseptic.

DASILVA
Is it rabies?

BEAR
I've seen a lot of rabid
animals... this... this is
somethin' different.

He walks out with the medical equipment.

Scully pulls on some latex gloves, as do Mulder and Hodge.
They move to the dog and begin an external exam. DaSilva and
Murphy stand over them, watching.

CLOSE - DOG

CAMERA MOVES over the dog's fur as the team parts the hair with
rubber gloved hands. Hodge examines the teeth.

HODGE (V.O.)
I don't see any indication of
glottal spasm or tetany. I don't
believe it is rabid.

WIDER

MURPHY
Can dogs get cabin fever?

Mulder looks to Scully. No one knows.

MULDER
Good question.

SCULLY
Look at this.

Beneath the joint where the leg meets the body are several
green and black spots.

SCULLY
Black nodules. Swollen lymph
nodes.

DASILVA
Symptoms of Bubonic Plague.

Everyone pauses, scared.

MULDER
Let's not panic.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

HODGE

I'll do a blood test and we'll go from there.

Mulder and Scully look to one another. Hodge produces a clean syringe from his bag. As he lowers it onto the dog's flesh...

SCULLY

Look at this! Look at this!

Everyone quickly looks at the dog's neck area.

CLOSE - DOG

With the fur pulled aside, a worm-like form squirms beneath the skin. It then disappears deeper into the neck.

WIDER

The investigators look to one another with shock.

MURPHY

(slowly, dry)

What the hell was that?

12 INT. LATRINE - NIGHT

12

Bear, sleeves rolled up, finishes wrapping his arm in gauze. He cuts the strip and begins to apply tape.

Suddenly, he becomes dizzy and pale. He winces in pain. His face wrinkles with puzzled concern. Bear quickly unbuttons his shirt. He sits on the toilet, his legs weak.

Bear removes his shirt and feels beneath his arm in the armpit. He becomes breathless with fear. Bear raises his arm to the mirror to REVEAL several of the same nodules the dog possesses.

The man breathes deeply, then considers his options. He chooses to put his clothes back on his body. To not tell anyone. To keep his secret.

FADE OUT:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

13 INT. MAIN BUILDING - NIGHT - CLOSE - A BODY BAG

is zipped closed. Bear leans over and gets a grip on each side of the bag. He pauses, hoping he's not looking at his future. He wipes the cold sweat from his brow.

WIDER

The investigative team is at work. Scully, near the body bag, finishes notes on the autopsies. Mulder is in the back at a desk. Murphy is preparing slides from drops of the ice core, headphones over his ears. Scully turns to them.

SCULLY

They definitely killed each other. None of them had the same black nodules the dog has. But I reexamined the dog in the cage, and the nodules have disappeared.

HODGE

Just because the dog had them doesn't mean the men ever did.

SCULLY

True, but I found tissue damage due to fever, which leads me to believe these men were ill.

MULDER

The spots may be an early stage symptom that disappears as the disease progresses.

Scared, not wanting to hear this, Bear picks up the body.

BEAR

You done with this?

Scully nods. Bear pulls the bag off the table and into the tunnel toward the work area. She moves near the microscope to show Hodge her notes.

DaSilva sets aside Scully's box of collected evidence, including Richter's gun, to get at a file of the previous team's data. She begins to take notes on their findings of collected dust particles in the ice.

Mulder turns back to his desk and a collection of data gathered by the previous team. Most unsettling is a notepad on which "We're not who we are" is scribbled repeatedly.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

Mulder looks over some radar false color images. He gathers this data and approaches Murphy. The man is lost in his recorded game. Mulder waves to get his attention. Randy CLICKS off the cassette.

MURPHY

That was the play-off game
against Miami in '82.

(beat)

It usually helps get my mind off
things.

Mulder lays the data before him.

MULDER

Randy, my interpretation of radar
topography is a little rusty.

MURPHY

Well, this is a satellite image
of Icy Cape. It approximates the
depth of the ice sheet at about
three thousand meters thick.

Mulder holds a series of computer printouts.

MULDER

I found this data. If I'm
reading this correctly, the team
actually found the ice sheet to
be twice that deep.

Murphy checks the material, nods.

MURPHY

You'd make a good geophysicist.

MULDER

After baseball, it's my favorite
past time.

MURPHY

The numbers indicate the
topography to be concave. Looks
like they were drilling into a
strike zone.

MULDER

"Strike zone?" You mean a meteor
crater?

Murphy nods. He notes Mulder's piqued interest. Murphy looks at the others, then leans in, lowering his voice.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

MURPHY

What are you thinking?

Mulder eyes him, not divulging a thing.

MULDER

(shrugs)

Just that a meteor hit this area during the first ice age...

They eye one another challengingly for a moment, until...

HODGE (O.S.)

(forcefully)

No, you're wrong! That's impossible!

Mulder moves away from Murphy who watches him go, suspicious.

AT THE MICROSCOPE

Scully and Hodge look over the notes as Mulder approaches.

SCULLY

I double checked.

MULDER

What did you find, Scully?

SCULLY

Richter's blood sample. There seems to be a presence of liquid Ammonium Hydroxide.

Mulder reacts as if another piece of the puzzle falls into place. DaSilva approaches, listening.

HODGE

Ammonia would vaporize at a human's body temperature.

DASILVA

I've checked all the air filtration systems. I've found no trace of any such toxins.

MURPHY

I have.

They all turn to him. Beat.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

In the ice... and that's not all that's there.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (3)

13

Murphy gestures to his microscope. Everyone moves to him as Bear returns from the work room. Bear does not look well, however, rather than being lethargic, he seems even more intense.

Mulder sits before Murphy's microscope.

MURPHY

I found a high ratio of Ammonia to water in the ice core. The Earth's atmosphere could never have produced such levels of Ammonia, even a quarter of a million years ago.

MULDER

Unless a foreign object was introduced into that environment.

Murphy nods. The others appear skeptical.

MURPHY

Look into the scope.

Mulder looks into the tube.

MICROSCOPE MATTE

If a single celled creature could appear mean and vicious, this is it. Protective spikes encircle the undulating membrane. A whip-like flagellum propels the creature in an excited state.

MURPHY (O.S.)

Tell me that's not a foreign object.

WIDER

Mulder pulls away. Scully looks into the tube. What she sees seems to take her breath away. Scully looks to Mulder.

SCULLY

The same thing is in Richter's blood.

Everyone tenses. She gestures to her work area. Mulder moves to the other microscope. Bear watches intently, nervous, as Mulder peers into the tube.

MICROSCOPE MATTE

Indeed, the same kind of creature is moving about.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (4)

MULDER & SCULLY

He pulls away.

SCULLY

I'm not on the cutting edge of microbiology, but I've never seen that before.

(beat)

Look in the upper left of the field.

Mulder returns to the microscope.

MICROSCOPE MATTE

In the upper left of the slide is a transparent worm-like sheath.

SCULLY (O.S.)

An organism has shed its skin, like parasitic worms.

WIDER

Mulder pulls up from the scope. Scully turns to the others.

SCULLY

That single celled organism could be the larval stage of a larger animal.

HODGE

That's a big leap, Scully.

SCULLY

The evidence is there.

MURPHY

Maybe the thing in the ice core somehow got into the men.

HODGE

More likely, the other way around. They contaminated the ice samples.

DASILVA

Besides, nothing can survive in subzero temperatures for a quarter of a million years.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (5)

13

MULDER

Unless that was the organism's natural state.

Hodge scoffs. The others don't know how to react to Mulder's bomb. Bear stands, levelheaded.

BEAR

Lookit, I don't see why you're squabbling over some bug. You said it yourself, Scully. Your autopsy found those men killed each other. You have your answer. So let's go.

HODGE

I agree. We'll have the bodies transferred to a facility with a top calibre pathologist. Just in case you missed something, Dana.

MULDER

If the bodies are infected with an unknown organism... we can't take them back.

(pause)

We can't go back. Not without quarantine precautions.

BEAR

The hell we can't.

SCULLY

There are five people dead in the other room. With indications of disease. We have to be certain we're not releasing the next plague.

BEAR

Why didn't the others report a virus or parasite?

MURPHY

They weren't looking for it.

MULDER

It might have a rapid growth rate. The intervals between the two transmissions was just a week. They never knew what hit them.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (6)

13

BEAR

Let's say you're right, they came down with something. We haven't. Let's get outta here before we do.

HODGE

I think it's safe to go back. I don't believe we are infected. How could we be?

DASILVA

The dog bit Bear.

Bear stands, eyes fiery. He's frightening.

BEAR

It jumped Mulder, too.

All eyes turn to Mulder. He maintains composure.

SCULLY

There's only one way to proceed.

(to Hodge)

A doctor eliminates every possibility, beginning with the most severe. First, determine if any of us is infected.

Bear studies the group reaction and is unnerved to see no dissension. In fact, Hodge nods in agreement.

HODGE

Alright, parasite diagnostic procedure requires each of us to provide a blood and stool sample.

BEAR

A "stool" sample?

MURPHY

Wow... this kind of travel always makes that kind of tough.

MULDER

Any one have the morning Sports section handy?

Scully passes around some beakers and jars. Bear is nervous, his secret is in danger of being exposed.

BEAR

I ain't takin' a dump in a mayonnaise jar!

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (7)

13

He hurls it across the room. It SHATTERS. The others tense. CAMERA PUSHES INTO Bear, his eyes crazed, breaths rapid.

BEAR

What I'm doing is getting my gear, getting my plane and flying the hell outta here.

MULDER

You can't.

Bear shoves Mulder hard. He flies into a counter.

BEAR

I got paid to fly you up and back. No one told me this might be part of the deal. So the deal's over.

He walks off into the tunnel. The others quickly huddle, speaking in quick, tense whispers.

MURPHY

He has the same look in his eyes the dog has.

HODGE

You're making a diagnosis based on the "look in his eyes?"

SCULLY

We can't let him leave until he's been checked.

DASILVA

He has the right not to stay.

MULDER

Not if there's the risk of infecting the population when it could be held in check right here.

DASILVA

If he gets on that plane, I'm going to be on it with him.

SCULLY

We don't have any more time to argue.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (8)

13

MULDER

Take a vote. If you believe we should confine him until he agrees to an examination, raise a finger.

A beat. Mulder and Scully raise a finger. After a moment, so does Murphy. Three to two in favor of confinement.

Bear returns with his gear. He starts out the exit. Mulder draws his weapon. Bear eyes him, hard.

MULDER

All we want is to check you out. If there's no trace of parasite or virus, we all go.

Bear eyes the others who have moved into a position surrounding him. He considers the situation, then drops his gear.

BEAR

Alright.
(beat)
Get me a damn jar.

Mulder holsters his weapon and hands a beaker to the pilot. Bear takes the beaker, then violently SMASHES it against Mulder's head. Glass and blood fly.

Bear whirls, driving an elbow into Murphy's chest. Murphy doubles over before Bear shoves him out of the way and starts toward the door.

DaSilva pushes a moving cart into Bear's path, KNOCKING him off balance. Before he can regain his equilibrium, Scully tackles him. They go down in a heap. Hodge opts to stay out of the action.

MULDER

Stands, dazed, but aware that Scully is in trouble. He moves quickly to them and twists Bear's arm behind his back.

MULDER

Murphy, get a rope!

Scully helps with the other arm. The agents struggle to pin both arms behind the powerful man.

Bear tries to wrestle free, but the agents manage to drive him toward a waist-high counter which doubles him over. Bear is face down on the counter.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (9)

13

Murphy hustles up with a nylon rope, wrapping it around Bear's hands.

Suddenly, the pilot begins to convulse. His large body heaving on the counter. The others sense this is not derived from his attempt to escape. He GROANS deeply.

Mulder and Scully ease off. Hodge, Murphy and DaSilva move close. CAMERA MOVES IN above the group.

DaSilva points to the back of Bear's neck.

DASILVA

Oh my God...

CAMERA PUSHES PAST the group and in CLOSE ON the back of Bear's neck. Beneath the flesh, along the spine, a creature slithers and squirms.

WIDER

A moment of shock, then Hodge pinches the skin on Bear's neck, pinning whatever lies beneath the flesh. Everyone is panicked and intense.

HODGE

GET MY BAG!

DaSilva hustles off.

SCULLY

What are you going to do?

The toxicologist returns with the bag.

HODGE

I'm cutting it out!

MULDER

We don't know enough about it!

Hodge removes a scalpel from his bag.

HODGE

I KNOW THAT IT'S KILLING HIM!
Scully, hold his skin!!

Scully pinches Bear's flesh. Hodge readies the scalpel.

LOW ANGLE

Bear, face down, lies in the foreground. Hodge and Scully are over him. The others stand behind them.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (10)

13

HODGE
Hold still, Bear!

Hodge makes a small incision at the base of the neck. Bear
MOANS.

HODGE
FORCEPS!

DaSilva digs in the bag and hands them to Hodge. He digs at
the skin then begins to slowly remove a foot-long white blood
and mucus-covered worm. Bear SCREAMS with pain. The worm
wiggles angrily in the forcep's grasp.

Blood from Bear dots Scully and Hodge.

MULDER

hustles for a glass container and brings it to Hodge. The worm
is not quite extracted as Hodge takes the container.

HODGE
One more second.

BEAR
It's okay. The pain is gone.
The pain is gone.

Then, as Hodge pulls out the last bit of the parasite, the
animal secretes a black liquid. It trickles down Bear's back.

Everyone is repulsed, yet too stunned to look away.

Mulder moves to the radio. CAMERA FOLLOWS him, away from the
others as he powers on the transmitter.

MULDER
This is the A.I.C.P.
investigative team calling
Council Air Field. Come in.

RADIO (V.O.)
C.A.F. responding.

MULDER
This is agent Mulder. We have a
serious biological hazard.
Request an air pick up with
quarantine procedures. Over.

RADIO (V.O.)
We copy, Agent Mulder. This area
is under a heavy storm.
(more)

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (11)

13

RADIO (Cont'd)

No aircraft can get out for the next day. You could fly to Kotzebue. The military is equipped to quarantine your party and the plane. Over.

Mulder appears a bit relieved.

MULDER

Could you put them under alert?
Over.

RADIO (V.O.)

Affirmative. We advise you to be airborne within the next hour as a strong arctic storm is bearing in your direction. Over.

MULDER

We were told we'd have three days of clear weather. Over.

RADIO (V.O.)

Welcome to the top of the world, sir. Over.

MULDER

Copy. Mulder out.

He considers, then moves toward the others.

MULDER

The military is setting up a quarantine at Kotzebue. Is Bear in any condition to fly? If we don't get out in an hour, we don't get out for days.

Mulder knows the answer simply from the expression on the faces of the people around him.

SCULLY

He's dead.

The dark reality of the situation hangs over the investigative party. CAMERA CRANES DOWN from them, to Bear's frozen expression, to the worm in the glass container, wriggling angrily.

FADE OUT:

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

14 EXT. ARCTIC COMPOUND - NIGHT

Tremendous winds POUND the structure in the darkness.

14

15 INT. MAIN BUILDING - NIGHT - CLOSE - REFRIGERATOR

The worm swims in a glass container marked "NH3." It is lit from below by the freezer light, underlining its eerie quality.

15

HODGE (V.O.)

It's... similar... to a tape worm. It has a scolex with suckers and hooks.

The door closes. Hodge stands at the refrigerator reporting to Mulder, Murphy and DaSilva.

MURPHY

(hopeful)

So, it is familiar. Something we can deal with?

Hodge has difficulty answering.

MULDER

What?

HODGE

No. It's very different from any organism, at least that I know.

MULDER

Have you determined how it's transmitted?

HODGE

Exchange of fluids? Touch? Air? All of the above? I don't know.

Scully returns to the room from down the hall, she holds a beaker with another live worm.

SCULLY

All the other dead bodies had the worm. Only the one in Richter was still alive, probably because he was the last to die.

Scully pours some Ammonia into the beaker with the worm and sets it inside the refrigerator on a shelf below the first worm and closes the door.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

MULDER

They were all in the spine?

SCULLY

Usually, worms attach to the intestines. These parasites attached to the hypothalamus gland, deep in the brain.

Hodge looks up from his notes.

HODGE

I know why. When humans become angry, the hypothalamus releases acetylcholine, it sends signals between cells, coordinating aggression and attack.

(beat)

This worm feeds on acetylcholine. Thus flooding our capacity to control violent behavior.

SCULLY

A parasite shouldn't want to kill its host.

HODGE

This won't kill you, unless you try to extract it. Then it releases a poison. That was the black fluid that killed Bear.

MULDER

You're saying this worm makes you want to kill others. That explains what happened to the previous team.

SCULLY

Then why did Richter kill himself?

HODGE

Everyone's reaction to this parasite would be different. The actions of Jeffrey Dahmer differ from those of urban rioters, but either way, it's violence. Who knows what Richter did before he killed himself.

The wind HOWLS. Everyone listens with an increasing fear.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

HODGE

Personality. Background. Prior experience with aggression. These are all factors. Bottom line is, no one knows how they'll react until they get it.

An icy silence, except for the SCREAMING wind outside.

DISSOLVE TO:

16 INT. STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

16

The six body bags lie side by side on the floor of the back room. It is cold in this room. Dark, except for a lone lantern. Scully kneels near one of the corpses. The bag is zipped open. She examines the body again, then makes a quick, somewhat desperate note in her notebook.

Mulder appears in the doorway. She looks up, startled.

He gazes upon her, trying to be comforting. She appreciates this, but must look away. She cannot be comforted. Mulder tries the light, it doesn't work.

SCULLY

I'm double checking to see if I've missed anything.

MULDER

Just some sleep.

SCULLY

Sleep? Not only would that be impossible, but I don't want to waste a second trying to find a way to kill this thing.

MULDER

I don't know if we should kill it.

Scully looks up, stunned. Mulder checks to see if anyone is nearby, then moves to Scully. They speak in whispers.

MULDER

(listing)

This area of the ice sheet is formed over a meteor crater. The worm lives in Ammonia. It survived subzero temperatures.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

SCULLY

If we don't kill it... we kill each other.

Mulder doesn't pause, he picks up speed.

MULDER (CONT'D)

The Earth is a water supported life system. Theorists in alternative life designs believe in an Ammonia supported life system, on planets with freezing temperatures.

Scully doesn't want to hear this. She raises her voice.

SCULLY

No.

MULDER

The meteor that hit a quarter of a million years ago may have carried that type of life to Earth.

SCULLY

(louder)

No!

MULDER

That microbe... that worm... may be the first contact with extraterrestrial life.

SCULLY

It would be the only contact. Because there'd be no one left.

Mulder pauses, doesn't follow.

SCULLY

Mulder. Bear developed surface symptoms... in minutes... after contact. In a few hours, the parasite had total control. No matter what it is, or where it originated, if this is ever introduced into the population... I estimate an area the size of New York would be infested within days.

MULDER

How can you be so certain?

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

SCULLY

Mulder, you were the one who wouldn't let Bear leave. What's making you change your mind so drastically?

Her question alarms her as she hears it aloud. She's afraid of the answer that rings in her head. Mulder reads this.

MULDER

(pause)

Don't worry, I'm not infected. I'm aware of the responsibility to keep this from spreading into the population. But there's also a responsibility to keep it alive, if at all possible.

17 INT. MAIN BUILDING - NIGHT

17

Scully and Mulder's voices can be heard, but not clearly made out. It's obvious they are arguing.

CAMERA CREEPS toward Murphy, eyes red, tired, perspiring. He's hunched over his research near the microscope but his paranoid stare is locked in the direction of the voices. He looks over his shoulder at Hodge and DaSilva in the corner of the room.

MURPHY POV - HODGE & DASILVA

With their backs to Murphy, they are seemingly unaware of Mulder and Scully's argument.

RETURN

Murphy returns his focus to the voices in the other room as CAMERA LEAVES him, MOVING toward the two scientists in the corner working with their microscope.

CAMERA SWINGS AROUND to REVEAL Hodge and DaSilva's tired and stressed expressions. They are perspiring. DaSilva dabs her forehead.

DASILVA

Please tell me it's warm in here.

HODGE

You don't have a fever. The heating system is malfunctioning. Outside it's forty below and in here we're sweltering.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

An uneasy paranoid moment filled by the heated VOICES of Scully and Mulder.

DASILVA

Can you hear what they are arguing about?

HODGE

I'm sure they're discussing their little government secrets.

DASILVA

Do you think they knew what was up here before we arrived?

HODGE

I'm sure of it.

Scully's VOICE rises, angry. Hodge and DaSilva look toward the aboveground tunnel, listen.

HODGE

Bear's infected blood, it got on Scully.

Point made, he returns to the scope. DaSilva eyes him, then...

DASILVA

It also got on you.

SCULLY (O.S.)

No, Mulder. End of discussion!

Hodge POUNDS his fist onto the counter, as much a reaction to DaSilva's accusation as annoyance at the two agents. He plays out the latter, marching toward the back room. DaSilva follows.

Once they are gone, Murphy moves to their microscope and quickly reads over Hodge's notes.

18 INT. STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

18

Mulder and Scully's heated discussion continues.

MULDER

How do you know it can't be contained?

SCULLY

It can. By extermination!

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

MULDER

We could at least preserve the
dead worms extracted from these
bodies.

SCULLY

(furious)

We should take these bodies,
worms and all, outside and
incinerate them!

Hodge appears in the doorway. The lantern light creating
macabre shadows that fall on his face. DaSilva is behind him.
Scully and Mulder stop, turn dead silent.

HODGE

Anything we should know about?

They don't answer. Murphy appears behind Hodge, tense.

MURPHY

What's wrong?

No answer. The tension is thick.

HODGE

Agent Scully, you seem a bit...
aggressive.

The accusation rings out like a shot. Scully, still pumped
from the argument, steps toward Hodge.

SCULLY

What the hell are you trying to
say?

The others look at each other, suspicious of Scully. Mulder
reads this and gently restrains Scully by the arm. She's
scared by the paranoid attention.

MULDER

Everyone settle down. It's been
a long day. We're all tired...
and scared.

The tension remains.

MULDER

Let's not turn on one another.

HODGE

At least without good reason.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

MULDER

We should all get some sleep.

They start out.

HODGE

Wait. I couldn't sleep, unless
I know...

The paranoia intensifies. Hodge looks around him.

HODGE

I say we check for the spots.
And... if anyone has them, that
person or persons should be
confined. Agreed?

Everyone does.

DASILVA

Are you going to do the exam?

SCULLY

No. We do it in front of
everyone. No secrets.

As fear shoots through every member of the party...

CUT TO:

19 INT. MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

19

The five people stand in a circle facing one another with the level of tension found in a game of Russian roulette.

CAMERA SLOWLY CIRCLES behind them, as Mulder reaches for the top button of his shirt. The others follow suit, all proceeding at the same speed. Each tries to remain composed and professional, but clearly they are equally scared, perspiring.

They remove a sleeve and hold up an arm, exposing the arm pits. Nothing. No apparent symptoms. They all breath a sigh of relief.

20 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

20

Five doorways in the hall lead to five private quarters. The investigative team, each with their gear, moves to the rooms. They seem more relaxed and yet an uncertainty remains.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

Everyone bids the others good night before heading into a room. Mulder and Scully pause before moving into their rooms. They eye each other apologetically, then smile briefly before once again being wracked with tension. In their voices is an attempt to comfort.

SCULLY
Good night, Mulder.

MULDER
Good night.

SCULLY
At least everyone is okay.

MULDER
Unless someone's infection has progressed beyond the spots.

Scully watches as Mulder disappears into his room. Beat, before she enters hers. The hallway is vacant.

21 INT. SCULLY'S ROOM - NIGHT

21

A tiny, claustrophobic room. Pinups on the wall from the old crew. Scully turns on the small desk lamp. On the desk are family photos and memories of a life that once was... far away from here.

She sadly studies the photos, until they take on an unsettling quality. She turns all the photos face down, then moves to the cot, dragging it to the door.

Scully folds it and jams it beneath the door handle, affording herself an iota of security. She sits on the floor. Wide, wide awake.

DISSOLVE TO:

22 INT. MURPHY'S ROOM - NIGHT

22

The same color and dimension as Scully's. In fact, all these rooms are the same except for the posters and personal photos.

Murphy sits on the cot, backed up in the corner. His headphones are on over his ears as he clutches his walkman.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Fouts begins this drive deep in his own territory...

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

Murphy's eyes are locked with fear on the door.

DISSOLVE TO:

23 INT. HODGE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Hodge scribbles in a notebook. As he writes... CAMERA CREEPS over his shoulder.

In the notebook is written... "Mulder - attacked by the dog. Scully - exposed to infected blood. Murphy - exposed to liquified ice core."

He continues writing, far too exhausted to sleep.

DISSOLVE TO:

24 INT. DASILVA'S ROOM - NIGHT

She lies in her cot. CAMERA MOVES ACROSS the room to find her trying to cry herself to sleep... but all she can manage to do is cry.

DISSOLVE TO:

25 INT. MULDER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Outside the arctic wind HOWLS like furious ghosts. Mulder, sweating, once again removes his shirt and moves to a small hanging mirror on the wall. He feels his lymph nodes under his arms. He checks for spots. His hand reaches to the back of his neck. Nothing.

No more relieved, he unbuckles his holster and looks to the gun in his hand, wondering in what manner it will be used.

His eyes are locked on the door. CAMERA PUSHES into these eyes. Red and tired. Scared and distrustful.

FADE TO BLACK:

26 INT. MULDER'S ROOM - NIGHT

The wind ROARS outside. Mulder pops awake. He's had a bad nightmare and it takes him a moment to get his bearings. He breathes hard, then stops as he HEARS, O.S., one of the other doors gently CLOSE. Mulder listens, checks his watch and gets off the cot. Grabbing a flashlight, he moves to the door and slowly turns the handle so as to not make a sound. He slips into the hallway.

27 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

27

One of the doors is open. It is Murphy's room. Mulder eases to the room and finds Randy gone. The walkman sits on the cot.

The compound is dark and quiet. Mulder proceeds down the hall, guided by the flashlight beam.

28 INT. STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

28

Mulder passes the room housing the corpses. He opens the door, shines the light. Finding nothing, he moves along.

29 INT. WORK ROOM - NIGHT

29

The beam enters before Mulder. O.S., a RUSTLING. Mulder pulls his weapon. He whips the light about the room.

MULDER'S POV - FLASHLIGHT BEAM

The dog flashes it's teeth, confined in the cage.

MULDER

Eases a bit. Determining that nothing is here, he moves along.

30 INT. MAIN BUILDING - NIGHT

30

Mulder moves out of the aboveground tunnel and into the room. It is empty. Puzzled, he moves toward Murphy's work area and goes over his notes. No sign of where he may be.

Mulder scans the area and notices water dripping out of the refrigerator. He opens the refrigerator door.

Murphy's dead body tumbles onto Mulder. The low angled lighting doubles the ghastly effect. On two shelves in the refrigerator, swim the worms in the containers. Mulder CRASHES back into a table with the body.

31 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

31

The three remaining rooms open as Scully, Hodge and DaSilva run out. Scully wears her holstered automatic.

DASILVA
What's going on?!

32 INT. MAIN BUILDING - NIGHT

32

Mulder entangled with the dead body, makes a lasting "smoking gun" impression on the others who stop dead in their tracks.

Scully raises her weapon, frightened at the idea of Mulder being infected. Mulder pushes the dead man away. The following should be played at a rocket's pace and intensity.

MULDER

Put it down, Scully. One of you killed him.

HODGE

You're the one in front of a dead body.

SCULLY

Mulder, did you see who?

MULDER

No. But it was one of you. I heard one of the doors close.

DASILVA

It could have been you and you just don't know it.

MULDER

I have none of the symptoms.

HODGE

Then turn around so we can examine your neck.

The stress is getting to Mulder, he's getting aggressive.

MULDER

I'm not turning my back on anyone. And no one touches me.

HODGE

Then we'll assume you're infected.

MULDER

Scully, get that gun off of me!

Scully is torn in half.

SCULLY

You have to understand!

MULDER

PUT IT DOWN!

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

SCULLY
YOU PUT IT DOWN FIRST!

MULDER
Scully, for Christ's sake, it's
me.

SCULLY
Mulder... you may not be who you
are.

This line pierces and scares everyone.

Mulder raises his gun. Scully tenses. He releases the ammo
clip, removes it and slides his weapon away.

MULDER
Now give me your clip. It'll
even things out for whoever is
not infected.

Scully eases. She removes her clip and holds it out to Mulder.
Hodge and DaSilva step back as Mulder takes the clip.

Leaving the empty shell of the gun on the floor, he takes the
clips and moves toward the front entrance.

CAMERA FOLLOWS him. Mulder yanks open the locks and handle.
He opens the door and hurls the clips out into the snow.

He closes the door. As he turns back around, CAMERA PUSHES IN
on his stunned reaction to...

MULDER'S POV - SCULLY, HODGE & DASILVA

Hodge and DaSilva raise a finger, outvoting Scully. The
majority wishes to confine Mulder.

WIDER

Mulder is furious.

MULDER
Go ahead, Scully. Vote your
conscience.

SCULLY
Mulder... here, under these
conditions... I can't be sure.
Let us examine you.

MULDER
"Us?" Is that where we're at?

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

DaSilva charges Mulder with the nylon rope. Hodge tackles Mulder around the legs. They tumble to the floor.

Mulder is stronger and better trained at fighting, but outnumbered. DaSilva winds the rope around Mulder's arms. Scully charges in, pushing them away.

SCULLY
Stop it! Stop it!

She looks at Mulder.

SCULLY
Mulder... don't do this. Just go along.

He recaptures his breath. He gets up. They start toward the tunnel.

33 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

33

Mulder is escorted to the supply room, like a prisoner. He steps inside, cooperating. Scully stands before him, framed in the doorway.

MULDER
Be careful. I'll be safer than you.

SCULLY
For your sake. I hope you're right.

Scully agonizes as she closes the door. As the padlock CLICKS shut...

FADE OUT:

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

34 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT - CLOSE - PADLOCK

34

Mulder is locked away behind the door. He remains out of sight and silent. The wind outside SNARLS fiercely.

CAMERA MOVES AWAY from the lock into the darkness where Scully stands, staring at the lock. Guilty. Paranoid. Afraid. She moves off down the hallway toward the main building.

35 INT. MAIN BUILDING - NIGHT

35

Scully pauses at the tunnel exit, hiding in the darkness. She studies the two others.

SCULLY'S POV - HODGE & DASILVA

Hodge is asleep at a desk, his head resting on folded hands. DaSilva sits at a table, also asleep. Her forehead rests on her interlocked fingers.

SCULLY

Quietly moves toward DaSilva, who is closer. She stands over the girl. DaSilva's hair hangs over the back of her neck. Scully tries to see movement in DaSilva's neck area, but the hair covers it. Scully gently attempts to move the hair aside, careful not to awaken the girl. As she leans in for a closer look...

A hand lands on Scully's shoulder. She startles, spins. Hodge stands before her, stern.

HODGE

What are you doing?

DaSilva awakens, confused and scared. She backs away. Scully stands before them, embarrassed and flustered.

SCULLY

(confessional)

You know what I was doing.

Dasilva reaches for the back of her neck.

DASILVA

Did you see something?

Perspiring, Scully and Hodge glare at one another. Hodge is full of distrust.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

HODGE

You're okay, Nancy. We're all okay. Now is not the time for the three of us to break down and turn on each other.

SCULLY

There's four of us.

HODGE

Mulder's not one of us... anymore.

Scully turns angry by this.

SCULLY

If Mulder is infected, it's not his fault. We can't turn our backs on him. He needs us to help him!

She drives her fist onto the table for emphasis. Hodge and DaSilva eye one another, commenting on her violent action. Scully reads this and regrets her aggressive behavior, but not the words behind it.

Everyone is tense, until...

DASILVA

She's right.

Scully and Hodge look to the girl.

DASILVA

Who knows what prolonged exposure to the parasite will do to him? It could damage him to the point of permanent psychosis.

Scully nods. As she moves away, Hodge grabs her arm, tight.

HODGE

But if he is infected. He doesn't go back. I won't risk the possibilities...

Scully glares at Hodge, neither confirming nor denying. She pulls her arm away and moves off toward the radio console. She sits before the microphone and engages some switches.

SCULLY

This is A.I.C.P. to Doolittle Airfield. Come in.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

She releases the switch only to be met by ERUPTING STATIC. Scully adjusts some dials.

SCULLY
This is the Arctic Ice Core
Project sending a general
distress call. Please respond.

A BURST of angry, eerie STATIC. No one responds. She kills the radio. The O.S. wind HOWLS mockingly as the storm continues. Scully sits at the radio, considering...

DISSOLVE TO:

36 INT. MAIN BUILDING - NIGHT - FREEZER

The two worms swim in the Ammonia solutions. Forceps remove one worm from its beaker. It wriggles angrily.

The parasite is placed in another container. DaSilva holds the forceps while Hodge, wearing rubber gloves, milks the black fluid out of the worm and into the container. As the fluid oozes...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCULLY

CAMERA MOVES AROUND her at a desk, going over the previous team's records and research.

CLOSE - PAPERS (MACRO)

CAMERA FLOATS over research, searching for clues. On it are charted molecules and chemical equations.

DISSOLVE TO:

ANOTHER AREA OF THE ROOM

Scully, rubber tube around her bicep, awaits the needle held by Dr. Hodge. He turns around for an alcohol swab. Scully takes the opportunity to subtly examine him.

SCULLY'S POV - HODGE

The back of the neck is exposed. Scully looks for any sign of movement. But Hodge turns back too quickly for Scully to be sure.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

RETURN

Holding the needle, he looks up with a subtle glint of sadism. Of course, this could merely be Scully's paranoid state.

HODGE

We'll use your blood as the control. You have small veins. This could hurt.

Scully nods. He moves to insert the needle. She winces.

CLOSE - SYRINGE

Blood flows into the syringe. As we go WIDE, expecting to SEE Hodge, we REVEAL WE'VE...

CUT TO:

37 INT. STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

Scully is extracting a blood sample from Bear inside a body bag. She completes the procedure, then zips up the bag. As she holds onto the bag, afraid...

DISSOLVE TO:

38 INT. MAIN BUILDING - NIGHT - MICROSCOPE MATTE

The single cell larvae moves about the field.

WIDER

Hodge pulls back from the microscope. His forehead is beaded with sweat. He rubs his eyes, before scribbling some notes. On the counter are three tubes of blood, each clearly marked. "Infected - Richter." "Infected - Bear." "Control - Scully."

HODGE

Nancy, place a drop of uninfected blood onto the slide of the blood drawn from Bear.

Nearby, DaSilva is tired as well. She seems to not have clearly understood.

DASILVA

Run that by me again.

Hodge snaps, impatient.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

HODGE

Put uninfected blood on the
infected blood.

His tone only flusters her more. He returns to his notes.

SCULLY

watches their flare-up. Tense.

DASILVA

grabs a tube of blood then squeezes a drop onto the slide.

HODGE

Turns and sees her. He ignites with anger.

HODGE

No. Dammit! What did I tell
you?!

He holds up the tube, it's marked "Infected - Richter."

HODGE

You've infected already infected
blood. Now we have to start
over!

Hodge grabs his clipboard and BANGS it against the counter so
hard it breaks in two. DaSilva jumps, startled.

SCULLY

Reacts to the violent act. She moves toward them.

WIDER

DaSilva moves away from the microscope, defensive.

DASILVA

I made a mistake. Don't scream
at me.

HODGE

You ruined hours of work!

As the argument continues, Scully looks curiously into the
microscope at the effect of tainted blood on tainted blood.
CAMERA PUSHES IN on her stunned reaction.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (2)

38

MICROSCOPE MATTE

The two single celled creatures violently attack one another. With a burst of motion, the two cells, using their flagella, stab one another then no longer move, seemingly dead.

RETURN

Scully pops up from the microscope.

SCULLY

Hodge.

The others turn to her. Hodge moves to the scope, looks.

SCULLY

The larvae from two different worms killed each other.

Hodge moves away from the scope, uncertain. Scully moves excitedly to the refrigerator. She takes one beaker containing a live worm and sets it next to the other one.

SCULLY

An individual worm will not tolerate another invading its host.

CLOSE - BEAKERS

The worms react like Siamese Fighting fish. They are drawn to the edge of the beakers, pecking at the image of one another angrily.

SCULLY (O.S.)

It does to the invader what it does to humans... makes them kill.

WIDER

This apparent breakthrough is met with caution by Hodge.

HODGE

It doesn't make sense that a species will kill its own. It needs another just to procreate.

DASILVA

Worms can be hermaphroditic. It can reproduce itself.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (3)

38

SCULLY

Look at the evidence in the microscope. This thing does not like company.

A long pause, as Hodge considers.

HODGE

Are you saying the way to kill it is by introducing another worm into an already infected body?

As scientists, they aren't completely accepting of the hypothesis, but they clearly have no other options.

39 INT. WORK ROOM - NIGHT - CLOSE - DOG

39

SNARLING. Crazed behind the wires of the cage.

WIDER

Scully, Hodge and DaSilva stand over the cage. Hodge moves behind the dog, grabs a fold of skin and injects the animal with sedative. In a moment, the dog loses consciousness. They open the cage door.

Scully grabs one of the worms with a forcep. Hodge and DaSilva hold the dog's head, folding back one of its ears. Scully brings the worm to the ear canal. It wriggles grotesquely, until contact is made with the potential host. The worm quickly disappears into the dog's ear.

Hodge releases the dog's head and eases it to the floor where it remains motionless. Scully closes the cage door.

CLOSE - DOG

CAMERA BOOMS away from the dog and over the shoulders of Scully, Hodge and DaSilva who watch... waiting... CAMERA SETTLES into a WIDE SHOT of the room. Then...

CLOSE - DOG'S PAW

spasms.

DOG'S HEAD

The dog trembles, reacting as when dogs dream.

SCULLY, HODGE & DASILVA

Freeze, eyes glued to the convulsing dog.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

THE DOG

Jerks and flinches violently. A fierce internal struggle seems to be underway. The psychotic reaction continues... until... suddenly, the dog turns still.

WIDER

Scully, Hodge and DaSilva's hopes fall. They look at one another, thinking they've killed the animal... Then... the dog's eyes open, it lifts its head, then stands. It WHINES, peaceful. All aggressive behavior is gone. The three team members breathe a momentary sigh of relief. Yet the tension is not gone.

40 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT - CLOSE - PADLOCK

CAMERA PULLS BACK to find Scully to the left of the door with Hodge and DaSilva on the right. DaSilva holds a container with the remaining live worm. Hodge has a syringe palmed in his hand.

SCULLY

I want to talk to him first. Try to make this voluntary.

Hodge and DaSilva are hesitant, suspicious.

HODGE

You can't go in alone.

SCULLY

If anything happens, you come in.

They nod. She unlocks the padlock. The key remains in the keyhole. She pauses...

SCULLY

I owe him this much.

She opens the door and heads inside. Hodge and DaSilva tense.

41 INT. SUPPLY ROOM - NIGHT

Mulder is back against the corner, cautious, distrustful. Scully carefully moves into the room.

MULDER

Where are the others?

SCULLY

Outside.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

MULDER
It's one of them.

SCULLY
No one has been killed since
you've been in here.

Mulder tenses. She senses it.

SCULLY
We did find a way to kill it.

Mulder remains silent.

SCULLY
Two worms in one host will kill
each other.

Mulder considers then realizes what she's saying.

MULDER
You give me one worm, you'll
infect me.

SCULLY
If that's true, why wouldn't you
let us examine you before?

MULDER
I don't trust them. I want to
trust you.

SCULLY
Okay... so now they're not here.
Prove it.

With a beat of hesitation, he turns his back. Scully reaches up to his neck. On her touch, he flinches, then relaxes as her fingers probe his neck.

He turns around to face her. She nods, as if "you're okay." As she turns to head toward the door, suddenly, he clasps the back of her neck. She jerks away. He looks at her. She looks at him, then realizes it's her turn to be checked. As he gently reaches out and curls his fingers around the back of her neck...

42 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

42

Hodge and DaSilva anxiously wait...

DASILVA
She won't let us give it to him.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

Hodge eyes her.

DASILVA
She voted against us to confine
him.

HODGE
She has no choice if he's
infected.

DASILVA
He'll convince her somehow. I
don't trust them.

43 INT. SUPPLY ROOM - NIGHT

Scully opens the door. Hodge and DaSilva step away from the
threshold. Mulder moves out from behind Scully.

44 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

All are wound tight. Ready to snap.

SCULLY
I just examined him. He's
uninfected.

MULDER
So is she.

Hodge and DaSilva exchange a glance.

SCULLY
It's one of you.

After a tense beat, Hodge nods. His throat is dry.

HODGE
Alright... let's go into the main
building. I want to make sure,
then he can examine both of us.

No dissent.

HODGE
Lead the way, Mulder.

Mulder steps out and starts down the hall.

(CONTINUED)

42

43

44

44 CONTINUED:

DASILVA

steps forward and powerfully shoves Scully back into the supply room, sending the agent CRASHING into the supply boxes. DaSilva SLAMS the door shut. She SNAPS the padlock closed.

HODGE & MULDER

The doctor locks his arms around Mulder from behind, pinning the agent's arms to his side. Mulder struggles to get away.

DaSilva produces the needle. Mulder twists his body and KNOCKS Hodge against DaSilva, causing her to drop the syringe.

SYRINGE

As DaSilva reaches for it, Mulder kicks it away.

45 INT. SUPPLY ROOM - NIGHT

Scully YANKS hard on the handle, but she's locked in.

46 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Hodge whips a leg against Mulder. The two men fall to the floor. Hodge has his dead weight atop Mulder whose face is crushed against the floor. Hodge screams to DaSilva who moves for the sedative.

HODGE

Forget it. Get the worm! Get the worm!

MULDER

jerks his head up, horrified. His attempt to wrestle free intensifies. His eyes look up toward DaSilva.

DASILVA - LOW ANGLE

Backlit. She's a nightmarish form as she uses the forceps to bring the worm down toward Mulder.

MULDER

The agent kicks and squirms, trying to get away. The worm ENTERS FRAME. Mulder turns his head.

47 INT. STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

47

Scully finds a spare part for the ice drill and desperately tries to use it to break down the door. WHAM!

48 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

48

Hodge manages to pin Mulder's arms behind his back, then straddles Mulder's hips. DaSilva gets on her knees, bending low as she tries to steady Mulder's head with her free hand.

Mulder jerks his head as the worm moves near his ear.

DASILVA

As she readies to insert the worm, she drops her head. Her hair falls down over her shoulders and off her neck.

HODGE

looking at her, his eyes freeze with shock.

HODGE

Oh my God...

DASILVA

Beneath the skin of her neck, a parasite squirms.

WIDER

Hodge releases Mulder and shoves DaSilva to the floor.

The worm falls on the ground, wriggling frantically.

Mulder jerks free, confused. Hodge stands on the other side with DaSilva at the apex of the triangle.

HODGE

MULDER IT'S HER! I SAW IT!

DaSilva appears like another person, strong and aggressive. CRACK, wood SPLINTERS from Scully's exertion on the door. Using that split second distraction, DaSilva charges past Hodge, KNOCKING him to the floor.

DaSilva disappears into the main building. Mulder moves to the padlock and releases Scully. Hodge retrieves the worm, returning it to the beaker.

49 INT. MAIN BUILDING - NIGHT

49

DaSilva prowls into the room, frantically searching for a weapon. She tosses aside and SMASHES anything that's of no use to her.

50 INT. TUNNEL TO MAIN BUILDING - NIGHT

50

Mulder and Scully are crouched low as they hustle in the darkness toward the main building. Hodge is behind them. Mulder gestures for him to stay back as he peeks around the tunnel opening.

51 INT. MAIN BUILDING - NIGHT

51

DaSilva moves to the box of collected evidence. She produces Richter's gun. She COCKS the hammer.

MULDER & SCULLY

rush Dasilva.

DASILVA

Spins.

WIDER

Mulder hits her low, Scully knock's DaSilva's arm upward. The gun FIRES! Scully rips the gun from her hands. Mulder tackles DaSilva to the ground. She POUNDS powerfully against him. Scully tries to restrain DaSilva's arms.

SCULLY
Hodge!! NOW!!

DaSilva struggles as Hodge moves in with the beaker. Hodge pulls the worm from the container with the forceps. DaSilva SCREAMS.

Mulder looks to Scully.

SCULLY
After this, there won't be any
left. They'll all be dead.

DaSilva continues to struggle.

MULDER
Do it.

As Hodge moves in CAMERA PULLS BACK and RISES. The parasite insertion cannot be seen. Mulder and Scully restrain the girl for her own safety.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

She SCREAMS and begins to convulse, reacting in the same manner as the dog.

CAMERA is WIDE and HIGH as the convulsing ceases and DaSilva GASPS for breath. She rests as Scully strokes the woman's sweat soaked hair.

SCULLY

You're going to be alright...
it's all over... it all stops
right here.

DISSOLVE TO:

52 INT. HANGAR - DOOLITTLE AIRFIELD - DAY

52

Nancy DaSilva lies on a stretcher being wheeled toward an ambulance. Precautions have been taken as she is dressed in a biological safe suit. The stretcher moves past Mulder and Scully who turn and watch, concerned. Hodge steps out of the ambulance as DaSilva is placed inside.

As Mulder and Scully move to Hodge, the ambulance drives off.

HODGE

She's going to be placed in
quarantine until we're certain
her contact cannot infect the
population.

Mulder nods.

HODGE

Since our tests came back normal,
we've been released. There's a
plane ready... it'll take you as
far away from the ice as you want
to go.

MULDER

No, I'm going back to the site.
This time fully prepared with the
proper equipment. There's a
great deal of research still to
be done... on it's origin...
it's genetic structure...

HODGE

(cuts him off)

Mulder... you really don't know?

MULDER

What?

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

HODGE

Forty-five minutes after they evacuated us... they torched the place. There's nothing left.

Scully and Mulder are stunned.

SCULLY

Who did that?

HODGE

(shrugs)

The military. The Center for Disease Control. You should know... they're your people.

Hodge walks away, leaving with as much suspicion and detest for them as when he arrived. Mulder is clearly angry. Scully sees this and sighs.

MULDER

(defiant)

It is still there, Scully. Two hundred thousand years down. In the ice.

Beat, as she makes certain he's listening.

SCULLY

Leave it there.

Mulder looks to her. He knows she's right. She picks up her gear, as does he. Together, they walk out of the hangar toward the setting sun on the far horizon.

FADE OUT:

THE END

1

2

3