

X-FILES

SCENE 2

FBI HEADQUARTERS - X FILES OFFICE

Mulder is sitting at his desk. Scully opens the door and peers inside. There's an awkward silence as she comes in, exchange a look at Mulder and sits.)

SCULLY: Mulder—

MULDER: Don't. (He cuts her off and points his finger at her) Don't even start with me. (He crinkles up a piece of paper and throws it across the room to the trash can. He misses, walks over and kicks the hell out of the can. Scully watches him. He stops jamming a foot down on the can and walks over to the desk.) I know what I saw.

SCULLY: Skinner wants our report in one hour. What are you going to tell him?

MULDER: What do you mean what am I going to tell him? I'm going to tell him exactly what I saw. What are you going to tell him?

SCULLY: All right.

SCULLY: I'll tell him exactly what I saw.

MULDER: Now, how is that different? (She gives him a look that's mildly exasperated) Look, Scully, I'm the one who may wind up going to prison here. I got to know if you're going to back me up or what.

SCULLY: First of all, if the family of Ronnie Strickland does indeed decide to sue the FBI for -- I think the figure is \$446 million -- then you and I both will most certainly be co-defendants and second of all ... I don't even have a second of all, Mulder. \$446 million. I'm in this as deep as you are and I'm not even the one that overreacted. I didn't do the ... (She makes a stabbing motion) with the thing.

MULDER: I did not overreact. Ronnie Strickland was a vampire.

SCULLY: Where is your proof?

MULDER: You're my proof. You were there. (She heavily exhales) OK, now you're scaring me. I wanna know exactly what you're gonna tell Skinner.

SCULLY: Oh, you want our stories straight.

MULDER: No, no, no, I didn't say that. I just want to hear it the way you saw it.

SCULLY: I don't feel comfortable with that.

MULDER: Prison, Scully. Your cell mate's nickname is going to be Large Marge. She's going to read a lot of Gertrude Stein.

(She puts her hand to her face and smiles)

SCULLY: All right.

MULDER: All right, start at the beginning.

SCULLY: The very beginning? (Mulder returns to his desk and takes a micro tape recorder from the drawer and turns it on.) Fine. (she slowly stands up and starts to pace as she talks) Yesterday morning ... when I arrived at work, you were, uh ... characteristically exuberant.