

fic I love

a few things:

- I am only putting fics on here I liked / enjoyed / appreciated. That doesn't mean I think every story here is perfect or unproblematic, but I'm not pointing out in detail what I *don't* like about them on this list because these writers are volunteers, and it's free, and I don't feel right about it. I'd prefer you decide for yourself. (If you want to discuss the stories more critically one-on-one informally, I'm glad to do it.)
- That said, as I started doing this, I did notice a TW/CW on an older story, so I did mark it because I hate people to be bothered unnecessarily. But it's likely I missed some. If you've read older stories on Gossamer before, you probably know how this goes, but I'll try to mark them going forward if I notice something.
- My categories are pretty arbitrary and based on my own brain and I'm sort of chaotic. Obviously some of these stories really are multi-category.
- This whole list is super random because I started it capriciously and I only remember to add to it, oh, every once and a while, so there are *definitely* stories I love I've forgotten to include. If your story isn't on here, please don't be offended, because it's very possible I just spaced out on including it.
- And by all means, if you want, please feel free to rec other stories to me, including your own!

marriage of convenience / M&S get married for reasons

I *never* want anyone to analyze why I love this trope so much because I'm sure it's totally problematic, but I do. I love them marrying for some marriage-of-convenience reason, or just ambiguous reason, and then working out the relationship. Love. It.

All that is Dark and Bright - Malibu Sunset

My favorite Malibu Sunset fic hands down. Mulder offers to marry Scully to help her get custody of Emily in an AU where Emily is less sick. Then our two heroes have to deal with the question of exactly *how* married they are. It's a ride. If this trope appeals to you at all, do not miss.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/1696331/chapters/3609242>

seaglass blue - Mel Forbes

This fic is much more melancholy than the previous one. Set during cancer arc, Scully is dying. Mulder asks her to marry him for somewhat ambiguous reasons, presumably just to give her a happy end and because he loves her, but of course they don't really discuss it and they're not entirely clear on one another's intentions. They go to the beach for their honeymoon, and it is all just gorgeously, heartbreakingly described. Warning: this is take-no-prisoners, go-for-the-jugular; you will sob.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/20034061/chapters/47440639>

Nuptiae Sub Rosa - Kishamaweezy & SisterSpooky1013

During season four, shortly after Terma, Mulder has the entirely practical idea that he and Scully ought to get married for purely bureaucratic reasons, in case they have to testify against each other or they need access to one another in the hospital. It's just a secret legal arrangement, see, and it doesn't change anything about their partnership. (Oh, well, it needs to be *consummated*, of course: legal reasons.) This story is clever and unique in that it plays nicely with canon and moves forward all the way into season 7 imagining this arrangement existed. Full disclosure: I beta-ed it, so some of those commas are mine, and I'm proud.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/34967677/chapters/87084937>

Pearl - Silhouette of a Cedar

As of the time I am writing this, it's a WIP, still in early stages, but I'm a Mulder and I believe. It also is set during the cancer arc; I suspect that it won't be as brutal as Seaglass Blue based on the author's other work, but listen, I don't know for sure, so don't quote me.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/32655025/chapters/81005551>

Paracelsus - Prufrock's Love

This is a weird category to put this fic in, but that is how much I love this trope. This is a classic historical AU set during the Civil War. Mulder is a haunted Union soldier who has a lot of family guilt; Scully is a war widow with newborn baby Emily. When he meets her randomly in the aftermath of the war, he offers to marry her in a gentlemanly bid to protect her (and because he thinks she is sorta hot, I am paraphrasing), but doesn't believe he *really* loves her. If you like historical fiction and this show, you should give this a try, at least, even if you're doubtful about period AUs. (If you have never read Prufrock's Love, that is a whole experience in itself.)

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/14875415/chapters/34444958>

M&S have sex for non-romantic reasons (but come on)

As in the category above, I will not be entertaining any analysis about this trope's appeal to me at this time. I am sure it's weird, and I don't want to know. The works in this category might end up being a little bit smutty with some character/ plot, but what is wrong with that?

The Leap, Landfall (its sequel) - Ambress

The premise here is that Scully has been given back some of her ova and is ovulating for the next 12 hours (the science honestly seems shaky to me, but go with it). And they're out of town. And she needs a willing baby daddy immediately if she's going to do this motherhood thing. You see where this is headed, right? Pure gold set-up. (No lie, I feel like I could read some more stories with this set-up, so where are they?)

<http://fluky.gossamer.org/display.php?Leap.Ambress>

<http://fluky.gossamer.org/display.php?LandFall.Ambress>

Impersonal - SilhouetteofaCedar

Scully gets Mulder into an impersonal once-a-week sex arrangement — not even a true friends with benefits deal, because they don't talk about it, and they refuse to acknowledge it at work. Obviously this works really well, and everyone is 100% happy. The third chapter of this is, like, a masterpiece, and ranks right up there as the fanfic scene I would most like to see enacted when we inevitably have creepy flawless deep fake technology with animated 1990s DD and GA enacting fanfic. (The part at the bar, not at the kitchen table, you perverts.)

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/29731167/chapters/73356048>

One Blue Line - Sarie_Fairy

Scully gets a negative pregnancy test (one blue line) during the IVF arc and wants to try the old-fashioned way — you know, just to make sure they are doing everything they can. This is

pretty much an extended, beautifully-written, outrageously hot sex scene, but this is definitely smut with feelings and characterization aplenty; the ending makes me cry. Note: it's written in second person, which often weirds me out, but I don't mind here at all.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/21209372/chapters/50492069>

Worth Breaking - Nerida Law

A classic, OG friends-with-benefits to lovers story. Mulder and Scully are ostensibly letting off stress with no major feelings and adopt lots of rules to make it work. Step by step they decide the rules are ... what the title says. Mulder is agonizing because he came up with the idea to try to win her over with sex and he feels her pulling away; Scully is agonizing because she thinks Mulder isn't interested in a relationship and it's killing her to do this halfway. Maybe the original of this genre? I couldn't say, but it's a classic for sure.

<https://xf-redux.com/archive/WorthBreaking-NLaw.txt>

Implications - Ann K.

Scully proposes that she and Mulder become sexually involved under very controlled conditions, thinking she will be able to limit the impact on them this way. Both are confused about whether love is a factor for the other. (Spoiler: it is.) This is nicely done, angsty and attentive to both characters' plights.

<https://whispersofx.net/whispersofx/stories/Implications.txt>

Wallowa Lake - I_Meet_Evil

I came across this author's very first XF fic, and it just so happens to be one of my favorite tropes. M & S have a sexual encounter in an enclosed space while hiding from a dangerous cryptid because Mulder is having a physical reaction. So they have to take care of it. Because it's just dangerous, you know, not to have blood flowing to your brain and all that. It's a *safety* issue. This is so good: hot, yes, and delightfully tropey, but also ... kind of emotionally intense. And there's a casefile!

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/59902711/chapters/152818669>

Casual - SisterSpooky1013

This is not quite the trope, but it *kind of* fits, and I love it, so I'm putting it here. It's short, and you should read it and you'll see what I mean. (Mostly it's just awwwwwwww.)

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/32358325>

Riffs and variations on canon

I made this category up, and there might be something better or more precise to call it. But I think of this kind of story as an exploration of some significant element based in, like, a whole season of canon. But the story is somehow expanding on or transforming what's canonical in precise, intentional ways. I know it seems like I'm just saying "fanfiction" here, but I guess I want to say these are stories that both take canon seriously but make strategic choices about how they are riffing on it.

Universal Invariants - Syntax6

This is a very, very good fic, a clever casefile that is also a riff on season 1 (and 2) with significant canon deviations. The biggest change here? We have cutting-room floor Scully boyfriend Ethan around for the long haul, which is more fun than it sounds. But yes, that does mean Scully/other; really, it's *fine*, I promise. (And actually, there's another big change, but I won't spoil that.) There's also a sequel you'll want to read next, Laws of Motion, which riffs similarly on season 5, getting into some Emily drama.

<http://www.omniscscribe.com/universal.html>

<http://www.omniscscribe.com/motion.html>

The Way Things Are - Sukie Tawdry

Another variation on season 1 and 2. The big change here is that the timeline of GA's real-life pregnancy is written into the timeline of the show as an actual pregnancy for Scully. It's accomplished like this: M&S have a drunken one-night stand six months into their partnership that has consequences, and things go AU from there, but with attention to canon all along. This is fun and builds gradually, using elements of season one and two mytharc to build suspense.

<https://tooms.gossamer.org/author/15942-1.html>

Triptych - iconicscullyoutfits

This is a lovely, image-rich retelling of Mulder and Scully's unfolding relationship seasons 1-7. It has so many beautiful lines; this author's style is really something special. This fic is canon-compliant but with one significant tweak: Mulder is married to Diana at the beginning of the partnership. It's a nice little angst generator that fits better into canon than you would think. (It explains the length of UST, you know?) But there is also the most sympathetic portrayal of Diana I think I've ever read here.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/26383369/chapters/64264681>

Snakebitten - onpaperfirst

This is a riff on season 5 written with great skill and subtlety: beautiful, minimalistic, poetic writing. It's very close to canon and follows the path of season five episodes, but it seeds the Pine Bluff Variant / New Spartans storyline back earlier in the season and has a little more RST. Not as long as many of the others I've recommended here, if you're looking for a shorter fic.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/14153682>

Vox Mulder: Wired and Fired - DarwinXF

This is a hard story to categorize, but I am convinced I can put it here because it was envisioned as a redo of the Sixth Extinction / Amor Fati trilogy, and it is firmly a season 6/7 operation. It definitely fits into this category at the start, when we see late season 6 Mulder and Scully, including Mulder trying to donate sperm at the fertility clinic and getting stage fright and calling Scully. The discussions between Mulder and Scully on the phone while he is at the clinic? *Genius*. I think about them all the time, especially Mulder's description of his need to have "soft eyes" to see the world properly, which fits beautifully with Duchovny's writing of Mulder as needing to watch Plan 9 from Outer Space in order to quiet the cognitive center of his brain so he can make connections. The story veers more AU (and off to Hawaii!), but you won't mind. It's a deep character study. And there is smut aplenty, too. It's so good. I love this.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/14457993>

Age Cannot Withers - ML

This fic is canon divergent after Requiem, but it draws on elements of canon in a wholly original way. Without giving too much away, this weaves together Scully's immortality and the Requiem cliffhanger. It has a melancholy taste but it's also unabashedly romantic, almost like a fairy tale. Just absolutely lovely.

<http://fluky.gossamer.org/display.php?AgeCannotWithers.ML>

You may also want to read the slightly more hardrending sequel, Nor Custom State.

<http://fluky.gossamer.org/display.php?NorCustomState.ML>

In case you need the author page to make Gossamer links work:

<http://fluky.gossamer.org/author/10133-1.html>

DeadAlive AU - markwatneyandensemble

This is called DeadAlive AU, but I'd argue it's not really about DeadAlive and it's really not an AU. It's really more Three Words Canon Divergence or something, which the author alludes to in the tags, too. Canon is altered here in two big ways: when Mulder wakes up, Scully is not visibly pregnant yet, and Mulder has a kind of amnesia that only allows him to remember up to 1996. So he not only doesn't know about the pregnancy, he doesn't know they have the kind of relationship that could have led to pregnancy. This is very well done, a favorite of mine.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/18055286/chapters/42670670>

Snow in April - Skuls

A post-DeadAlive casefile. I could put this in the casefile section, but I think it's more specifically about riffing on the DeadAlive / season 8 canon. When recently-undead Mulder is drawn to investigate strange deaths in a small North Carolina town, it forces him and Scully to deal with their relationship baggage, too. This fic ends up being both scary (like, creepy, chills down your spine scary) and tender.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/10899432/chapters/24229644>

Gerber Daisies - DiscordantWords

This is a late season 8 riff, a Mulder POV casefile that fits into the parameters of season 8 canon without too much stretch. Mulder is dealing with his PTSD from being abducted and recently dead when Mrs. Scully asks him to check in on Charlie, and it turns out Charlie has a bit of a nightmare situation going on with his college friends. There is careful attention to the painful Mulder and Scully season 8 tension and awkwardness, and a nice little arc here.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/3674175/chapters/8123772>

The Unfinished Universe - Revely

This is a more canon-divergent riff on season 8, a classic started (I believe) before season 8 was complete. We're on a lovely, awkward road trip with Scully, William and Mulder. William was born before Mulder was returned, and Scully has been a single mom. After Mulder shows up alive in Oregon, Scully (with William) has driven to pick him up and bring him home. The story starts in an Oregon motel at the beginning of the trip home, as Mulder is trying to get to know this unfamiliar baby, Scully is trying to manage her anxiety, and they are trying to reconnect with each other. So beautiful.

<http://hiraeth.mimicsmusings.com/universe.txt>

Ghosts - Anjou

I thought about putting this in the next category (family fic) because it's also that, but this work is so canon respectful and so careful about weaving in mytharc and bouncing off plot from the show that I think it works better here. This story picks up post-season nine, when the agents are on the run, and serves as an AU for what might have happened post-original series, no IWTB. Mulder can see ghosts (which, if you recall the season 9 finale, has a canon basis) and has a vague psychic power related to his resurrection. A ghostly visitor gives them a tip that baby William might be in danger, and they're off to find and save him. This is gentle and very well-integrated with the story from the show. Frankly, it's the kind of follow up on the William story arc I think many hoped for.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/4740707>

Strangers and the Strange Dead - Kipler

A haunting little myth arc piece about returning abductees that is written from the POV of an outsider, a bright coffee shop employee observing the events. Canon divergent somewhere in season 8, but takes place later. This piece is a moving angsty little gem, if you haven't had the pleasure.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20000530003404/http://members.aol.com/kipler/strangers.html>

domestic fiction / family fics

I like complicated or plot-driven family fic, and I enjoy it if it springboards from canon in interesting ways or includes lots of angst.

Song of Innocence - Christy

This story is one of my fave fave *favorites*. The premise here is that we veer from canon basically the first episode of season 9. Mulder left to protect Scully and William, but then he disappeared, and he didn't return for seven years. Scully has raised William and has hoped Mulder is alive, but doesn't know for sure. Mulder returns and all have to adjust to what that means. This is told from Scully, William, and Mulder POV, and the William POV just *kills* you. Saddest use of X-Cops ever.

<http://gilliand.narod.ru/reunion/SongofInnocence.txt>

There is also a sequel, Song of Experience, which you will also probably want to read, but be warned the sequel is more suspenseful and less family fiction:

<http://gilliand.narod.ru/reunion/SongofExperience.txt>

Terra Firma series - Malibu Sunset

This has many parts in the series and is mostly a domestic drama and occasional light thriller, about Mulder and Scully negotiating family life and having super hot marital sex. This series is a lot of people's comfort food, and it is very sweet, a well-developed world with original characters and locations. It's so long and spans so much time that you really feel immersed in this author's story. Some parts are darker than others; the last part is *a lot* darker, so brace yourself. But while it's not fluffy, this one really isn't going to hurt you that badly. (Some might disagree, but really, I say it won't.) If you just watched season 9 for the first time and you need fanfic comfort, read this.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/9333764/chapters/21149687> (first part)

Hurricane Season - beduini and rah

There is a Scully family reunion on the Outer Banks of North Carolina and a hurricane is incoming. Mulder and Scully are there with baby William (whom they call Wim), and their relationship is undefined, which they are uneasy about and the family doesn't fail to notice. The whole Scully crew is present, Charlie and his new girlfriend included. This is a character study, primarily, and it's a good one.

<http://fic.atspace.com/fic/hurricane/HurricaneDisclaimer.html>

A Boy and His Fox - 6hoursgirl

This could potentially also go in riffs and variations on canon, but I'm putting it here because it's definitely focused on the family angle. This is a gentle, moving, but surprisingly un-sappy take on what would have happened if the IVF attempt had worked. The relationship here is a very slow burn, but it's here, and we see Will (the IVF baby is Will, which isn't a given) grow up a little, too.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/6314524/chapters/14466673>

Al Dente - Spookey246

This is a canon divergent post-season 8 portrait of Mulder and Scully home with newborn Will. I like this because it's almost unbearably tense in a realistic way, with Scully going through some postpartum doubts and Mulder struggling to find his role. Both are behaving entirely in character, hurting one another, and yet you feel sympathy for both of them, too. It ends sweetly, so don't be afraid of too much angst.

http://web.archive.org/web/20020611192018/http://www.geocities.com/spokey_247/a_d.html

Under Construction - Maybe Amanda

The end of season 9 that we remember was some kind of coma dream of Mulder's; in reality Scully was raising William for two years while he was gone. In this domestic piece, he has returned, and he's desperately trying to make sense of where he might fit in. I'm making it sound more like a canon divergent focused fic than it is; really it is domestic fic. Extremely well written.

https://maybeamanda.xffics.com/maybe_aa/under_construction_0.html

Fairies, Skip Hence - SlippinMickey

This is another story about Mulder & Scully finding their relationship's rhythm within the greater Scully family. This one is set much earlier in the relationship – only literally weeks – and set at Christmas. Mulder comes to spend the holiday with the family, and everyone handles it surprisingly well except for Scully. Well observed domestic writing, lovely details, beautiful take on the M&S dynamic. A shorter read than the others.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/21880393>

shadow demon - skuls

This is a bit of an AU Ghoul, a way Mulder and Scully could have met Jackson on a case that I rather prefer. It's really a casefile, too, and so attentive to character and family dynamics. It's sweet and moving, but not in a saccharine way at all.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/12568740/chapters/28667248#workskin>

casefile

I enjoy casefiles most when they *heavily* involve Mulder/Scully character stuff. I'm not a big mystery novel reader myself, so the genre alone isn't enough to grip me; it has to really, really involve character, too. (This is generally true of episodes of the show, too.)

You He Did Not Fail - extraordinarily_ordinary

This is a really outstanding casefile by a first-time author who has written only this long, long novel-length gem and nothing else. It has an interesting set-up: Scully left Mulder abruptly during season 5 when they were in the midst of an established relationship, suddenly moving to California (with no explanation) and beginning a new life working for the LA field office. Two years have passed. Mulder is sent in to consult as a profiler on a case. They have to work on

the case, discuss why Scully left, deal with Scully's new boyfriend, etc. This is wonderful, rich, sensitively written, with well-developed original characters, too. There is some Scully/other, but it doesn't dominate, and it's going to be okay in the end, I promise.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/25717768/chapters/62446291>

Dreaming Sea - Revely

This casefile has a well-developed sense of place, a strange magical tone, and ultimately very original plot. One observation about this one: it is explicitly about our two agents wanting (even craving) family without being kidfic (well, not in the traditional sense), which I think is sort of interesting. This is an unusually manageable length for a casefile, too.

<http://legendarycreatures.xpfilefic.com/DreamingSea.txt>

The Summoning of Nikola Price - alienqueequ

Casefile might be the wrong category for this. Maybe this is actually horror, but it's *technically* a case for them. I love this scary-ass story. It is sincerely very creepy, like if you're a scaredy cat like me and you read it by yourself you might get sort of freaked out. Mulder and Scully attend a seance in a quite effed-up haunted house with many disturbing historical deaths. The author makes great use of UST / MSR as part of the plot, and there is excellent characterization throughout. Very atmospheric, too.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/21094025/chapters/50188604>

Overnight Sensation - Syntax6

This is a straight-up creepy serial killer procedural with an interesting Scully-and-Mulder-fake-couple side plot. Set in season 6, Scully goes to Boston to be on a task force for a case that has similar vibes to the Zodiac killer. She also hopes to get space from Mulder and Diana, who both promptly follow her. Syntax6, who is now a pro crime novelist, is a plotting *master* -- and not too shabby at the heart-tugging MSR either. There is a big cast of original characters, all nicely developed. We get a sprinkle of Diana angst / jealous Scully as well as some jealous Mulder, too. And it is a nice long story if you need something substantive to read for a trip or something.

<http://www.omniscscribe.com/overnight.html>

The Gift - spooky_nerd

This is a tightly written, sweet little casefile about folk magic in Kentucky with a heavy MSR element. I think many people don't know this author very well, and (I believe) they're newer. I'm a fan.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/33299818>

Tine Rue - Menagerie

Sometimes I think there could be more "Phoebe returns" stories. We know less about her than Diana, so there are lots of ways her story could go, which is interesting. This is a solid one. Phoebe's return is wound up in a sincerely interesting international case file. Although there's a dash of jealous Scully, I would say it's not the main emphasis of this fic, which has caught M&S in some kind of season 7 "about to consummate" status. Phoebe isn't a serious threat to the MSR, but she does raise emotional complications for both agents, as well as just complications, period. Attention-grabbing and well-plotted.

<https://xf-redux.com/archive/TineRua-Menagerie.txt>

This House is Burning - Tesla

This fic is made up of three fics that are really one extended story, primarily about a serial killer investigation that requires Mulder and Scully to go undercover at a ski resort. The fic is angsty as all hell, in part because the case itself is dark (the serial killer is a Ted Bundy-like murderer of redheaded women) and because Mulder is going through his typical profiler angst, but also because M&S are awkwardly making forays into first time RST but misunderstanding one another's feelings terribly in their own special ways. Point of view switches between the three stories, and the second involves another case, too.

<https://x-libris.xf-redux.com/book/this-house-is-burning/>

Antidote - Rachel Howard and Karen Rasch

Our agents go to investigate a whole town gone dead in Colorado, and it becomes clear it's a mysterious viral outbreak. Oh, also: they're in love. Maybe it's COVID-related trauma, but I find the don't-get-infected tension of this fic to be almost unbearably anxious, and I was frustrated with Mulder and Scully half the time for not being more careful about this, Jesus. But there is a high stakes, poignant situation at the end that is both suspenseful and heartbreaking.

<http://www.keyofx.org/fiction/Karen-Rasch-Antidote.txt>

Genius - Kipler

This provides an experience more like actually watching an episode than most others I can think of. It has such a clever story that weaves Mulder's Samantha angst together beautifully with the casefile, which involves another young girl who was taken from her family (but returned). And what a wallop of an ending. Because it was originally written in 1995 (!!!), it has an early season vibe with very subtle UST (but the MSR is there.)

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/4707005/chapters/10749068>

Behind the Looking Glass - Wendiaae

This serial killer procedural set in Boston is a Never Again post ep, so we get all the fun misunderstanding, angst and jealous layers that implies. It has undercover Scully (and

eventually Mulder, too) and Mulder as profiler, for those who enjoy those tropes. And not to spoil it too much, but it has this really electric, tense scene where undercover M&S are having a hot-and-heavy jealous lovers' argument ostensibly for a voyeur killer's benefit – but you know, the truth is getting out there.

<https://xf-redux.com/archive/BehindTheLookingGlass-Wendiaae.txt>

Two Agents, Presumed Dead - Bohoartist, Pieces of Scully

This is an amaaaaaazing multimedia transformative work that asks the reader to participate in solving the case of what happened to Mulder and Scully. It's extremely clever, created with obvious skill, and truly unique. And yes, it really is a casefile, I would say.

https://archiveofourown.org/works/31872835/chapters/78917776?view_adult=true

Nice minimalist MSR writing

This is just a particular style interest of mine. Sometimes I encounter fanfic authors who I think do this especially well. I almost never remember to write them down, but sometimes I do.

How to fake an orgasm - sab, punk

I really admire this because it is MSR written in such a lean, spare way. Sometimes fanfic (my own included) is overwritten like we just don't trust our readers to get it without us *spelling it out in a million images and in a million ways*, and this just doesn't. These authors trust us to know these characters and to be smart enough to read between the lines and connect the dots ourselves, and it's delightful to read. Warning: this is a Mulder/other story, and it does hurt a little, but it will be okay, it's worth it, just ride it out. Mulder decides to start dating and meets a nice girl and has an actual normal girlfriend. Scully's reaction here is so subtle! And restrained! And in character! It's heartbreaking, but I love it. Side note: I admit I don't understand the title and its relevance to this particular story, but that's probably me not connecting the dots in this case.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/4582/chapters/5746>

Slow Returns - o666666

This is a very different kind of spare writing — a Three Words fixit story, not very long. I have read essentially every Three Words fixit fic I can find out there, and I think this is among my favorites, if not my very favorite. Damaged Scully, eventually tender Mulder. I just think this story is terribly well done.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/22762129>

Colonization / sci-fi

I used to read this genre a lot more back in the day, but I haven't read it as much lately, even though I would count myself as a dystopia / sci-fi fan in general. I don't know; I can't handle super, super dark stuff any more. I would be open to more recs in this area though if they weren't going to make me have to take time to recover afterwards.

Blinded by White Light - DashaKay

This is a classic. I actually read this one when the show was on. It's always acclaimed, and it's very clever, deeply romantic (but also painful) dystopian MSR. I won't say too much about it. You should read it.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/15838/chapters/20202>

All the Mulders by Alloway

This is another classic, straight-up sci-fi story a la Twilight Zone or something, but it's also MSR. Which is to say, it's an incredibly messed-up mind-fucker, but it's kind of amazing. It's not long, so it's not investing in a ton of pain like reading longer grim post-colonization work. I think you can handle it. (I could.)

<http://fluky.gossamer.org/display.php?AllTheMulders>

Things Outside - Tabulaxrasa

A newer work in this genre. A weird beautiful little story of Mulder and Scully in house arrest? purgatory? a false reality? This is an AU taking place in late season 7. There's heavy suggestion that we are in a post-colonization situation, although I do think other interpretations are possible.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/73368#main>

X-Tropy by Deadcanons

This is a wholly original fic, something really special. Scully is immortal because of the events of Tithonus, and we see the implications of what that means for her unfold over a century or so. Mulder eventually dies, but of course he's not going to *leave* her or anything. He just has to figure out a way to stay in regular touch. Through detailed, careful worldbuilding, this fic imagines a future that isn't quite post-apocalyptic but still has some quite grim aspects, and yet also has some elements that are better than our present, I would say. Excellent original characters. It's also very romantic, moving MSR.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/57949732/chapters/147519184>

A Show of Strength by Meredith

This fic is told from the point of view of two women in a post colonization society. This is incredibly romantic MSR, and it isn't as tear-your-heart out bleak as some post-colonization fics... although it will deliver the angst.

https://www.keyofx.org/fiction_meredith_show%20of%20strength.txt

travel in time, space or alternate dimensions

This is a genre I always, always live for, just like a big nerd. I have a big multipart story in this genre, [The Boy on the Beach](#).

Times Colliding - Onlythelneveitable

Still a WIP at the time of writing, but this story is a really wonderful use of time travel as a mechanism for character and relationship development, which is *goals*. We have revival era Mulder waking up in 1998 to deal with still-"platonic"-partner 1998 Scully, and we have 1998 Mulder waking up in revival era to deal with pregnant revival MILF Scully in bed with him. So the story is split between the two theaters of action: 1998 and revival era, with our heroes mismatched. It's hard to say which half of the story you like better — honestly, I am deeply invested in both — and what's fun is that you're really seeing the progression of two relationships, the 1998 relationship and the revival relationship. Clever and engaging.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/15951221/chapters/37199171>

Eleventh Hour - Rachel Anton.

This is maybe the first piece of fanfiction that really shook me, and I read it back in 1999. Mulder (through a very angsty frame story) time travels back into his own college-age body in the early 1980s. From Scully's POV this plays out almost like a college AU, but from Mulder's, it's *lots* of angst as he has all this guilt about being aware of their history / future lives while she, young and fresh and innocent, isn't. I admit I don't have the same uncomplicated love I once had for this (would elaborate privately), but I still do think it's very original and moving and grippy and interesting and worth a read. Rachel Anton knew what she was about.

<https://x-libris.xf-redux.com/book/the-eleventh-hour/>

<https://xf-redux.com/archive/TheEleventhHour.txt>

You Send Me - spooky_nerd

Mulder finds himself suddenly faced with randomly opening portals that take him to Scully's apartment. This is a shorter piece, but very witty, smart, and so deeply romantic. It's also just funny! I don't think this author gets enough attention, so I am sort of their unofficial cheerleader.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/33623563>

Cubed - Louise Marin.

A mysterious cube sends Scully into a parallel universe in which she and Mulder are married. At the same time, the married Scully from that universe is sent to hang out with our Mulder. This is a potentially goofy premise that is handled seriously and gracefully here. This story is very sensitive to character development and is so moving and sweet for such a high-concept plot.

<https://www.angelfire.com/la/xspot/cubed.txt>

Glass Walls - Skuls

Mulder and Scully are abducted by Them (aliens, we assume) from their apartments and find themselves in cells separated by a glass wall. They can see one another, but they can't touch or speak. This is an intense existential love story, absolutely riveting.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/15353682/chapters/35627235>

The Birds and the Bees - ChaneenW

An AU time loop story set in the middle of Fight the Future. Mulder and Scully unwittingly replay the same stretch of time again and again, until they gradually grow to remember a little more about the previous iterations. This is original and clever, a cathartic in-universe way of dramatizing fan frustrations about the hallway scene.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/8379604/chapters/19196707/>

survival

Apparently I like this genre, so I could probably stand to build this section up some.

Four Days on the 63rd Parallel - FrostbitePanda.

This here is a little FTF Antarctica survival MSR gem I just really love, because (1) it imagines the practical details of surviving in a Snowcat in a plausible way (I mean, I guess, why would I say that, WTF do I know?); (2) it is sneaking in the snowed-in trope in a slick, canon-friendly way. I'm sure there are lots of FTF Antarctica survival stories (?), but I actually haven't read that many of them for whatever reason, so this one also plays a nice little missing scene role.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/30266532/chapters/74592330>

Terra Australis - SisterSpooky1013

Now would y'all believe that SisterSpooky wrote this little treasure for me because I said I liked the story above and the whole FTF Antarctica survival genre? It's true. This is *delightful*. It's got

a little hurt/comfort, naked bodies generating heat, base stations in Antarctica, bunk bed love, / *mean*, I don't think I can oversell this. Again, FTF is the best because it gave us snowed-in canonically (just like Arcadia gave us fake married and Rain King gave us one bed and Triangle gave us historical AU, so these writers knew what they were doing season 6, come on.)

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/36397954/chapters/90748624>

Certitude - Justin Glasser

In yet another Antarctica fic (I love them!), after Mulder rescues Scully from the spaceship in Antarctica, they end up in a military hospital in quarantine. Good, right? Maybe not. The hospital is not perhaps what it *should* be. A suspenseful adventure plot, and also, very sweet MSR.

<https://agentsinperil.xphilefic.com/certitude.txt>

Tempest - Missy Pennington

Mulder and Scully are on a case when their plane crashes and they have to do a little survival business in the mountains. There is some one bed stuff, and Mulder gives Scully a shot of Demerol to great effect, and there is a casefile at play, too. (This is an old story, so old that at one point Scully mentions Mulder's "type" and only references Phoebe, not Diana.) <http://www.whispersofx.net/whispersofx/stories/tempest.txt>

(TW/CW: I should say that in one of the sequels, included directly at the end, there is a short paragraph where Scully has some anxiety about her sex life and uses some dated language that seems to demean asexuality, as well as perhaps misunderstands what being in the closet is? Story is from 1997 and I think this reflects the author's lack of awareness, but FYI, if you care to avoid altogether.)

Complicity - Promise64

This is an angsty case file / relationship study that turns into a survival story. Set season 6, Mulder and Scully are in a super dark place individually and in terms of their relationship. Mulder is profiling on a grim case (and you know how that tends to go, poor haunted Profiler Mulder) and he and Scully make a mistake when he needs comfort one night. The survival part at the end is kind of a symbol for the survival of their relationship. TW/CW for dubcon.

<https://xf-redux.com/archive/Complicity.txt>

A Path of Salt - Analise

After their first time, Mulder loses it and ditches Scully spectacularly, abruptly leaving to help a high school friend find her missing husband in the Canyonlands National Park.

Scully—somewhat miffed—comes after him. Which is good, as this turns out to be an X-file with Mulder in considerable peril. This fic involves both (1) survival in the desert and (2) dealing with MSR feelings.

<https://www.annex-files.com/annex/annex/stories/apathofsalt.txt>

little angsty stories

I know I am leaving tons out here. I started this category late, y'all. It's random!

Pilgrims creeping towards the dawn - softnow

If you like Diana angst, here you go. This one gives it to you pure and unfiltered. *Beautifully* written little heartbreaker. Ouchy ouch.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/15466698>

One Lonely Night - mldrgirl

This story isn't *really* that angsty. It ends sweet, and it contains lovely dialogue. It does cover some Diana-specific angst, though, so I'll include it here.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/5253857>

a resemblance of mercy - intrepidment

Say you've already read the two Diana stories above, and you'd still like more. This is more Diana angst from Scully's perspective, also very painful, with a little undercover one-bed plot thrown in, too. (They go undercover, they're furious at one another, and when they have to choose one another's undercover names? *the names they choose for one another?* Oof.) This has an ambiguous ending; I do think it's hopeful.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/25563001>

Manu Ad Cokus - admiralty

Beautifully, empathetically written Mulder POV on the events of Per Manum. This isn't kick-me-in-the-teeth angsty, but it's certainly sad. Poor Mulder. Poor Scully.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/16786801>

Cadence - Aloysia_Virgata

This is about what happens after All Things. It's only a smidge angsty. Nicely in character and not unbearably painful and ends not painfully at all.

https://archiveofourown.org/works/13940913?view_adult=true

throat, eye, and knucklebone - audries

I'm not sure if this is a "little" story or not, and it's technically a WIP, I think, although it's a character study that works as is. This is a melancholy (but sweet) fic about Scully going with Mulder post-Closure, post-his mother's autopsy, to the Chilmark house in Martha's Vineyard. Death, love, etc.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/13285188/chapters/30400626#workskin>

Sweet Nothings For The Numb - Amal Nahurriyeh

This is quite dark, so warning. Scully takes out her Emily and infertility grief/anger in a physical connection with Mulder. It's angsty and not especially romantic.

<https://amalnahurriyeh.livejournal.com/25216.html?page=2>

Cellphone - Marasmus

This is a clever little angst-fest with a twist. Oof.

<http://2close4comfort.xphilefic.com/Cellphone.txt>

And if I make my bed in Sheol - threeguesses

Warning, this is technically major character death (Mulder), but the premise is that he haunts Scully, so they don't separate. It's heartbreaking for somewhat unexpected reasons.

<https://threeguesses.livejournal.com/6674.html>

False Memories - Zuffy

Mulder never returned after season 9. Two years later, Scully sees a man who looks like him in a bar, and they make eye contact. This isn't terribly long, but it's taut with angst and tension the entire read. It's ultimately about MSR.

https://www.keyofx.org/fiction_zuffy_falsememories.txt

The Things She Carries - Edie_Rone

On a case in north Texas, Scully is tense and restless, and Mulder is jealous. The root of the problem seems to be a night Scully remembers three years ago when she had cancer. The "things Scully carries" finally explosively are brought to light. This piece includes both smut and satisfying emotional resolution.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/20543405/chapters/48763325>

Desire is Suffering - Darwin

This has an angsty premise, but it's not angsty in the end. Scully quits the X-files, leaving Mulder with a letter that gives him her ostensibly professional reasons. As they deal painfully with what it's like with Scully out of the basement, we learn her reasons weren't all so professional after all.

<https://leagueofbations.xphilefic.com/suffering.txt>

half-sick of shadows - pookie_mulder

When you read this, you'll think: this is awfully sweet and fluffy for the angsty story category. But it *is* an angsty story. Comforting Scully in her hospital bed during the cancer arc, Mulder suggests they get married when she recovers. They playfully (but really seriously) discuss their hypothetical wedding.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/63859222>

like a lonely house - yukla

Scully asks Mulder on a date, but he ruins it when he takes them out of town unexpectedly for a case. She takes this as evidence her interest is not reciprocated. This is an angsty fic that ends happy and includes some jealous Mulder for good measure.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/51734965>

Gardening in Tropical Climates - threeguesses

This is a masterpiece, in my opinion—a fic that starts off with one tone and mood and gradually unpeels until it becomes something else, a psychological horror story of sorts. It's MSR through

and through, so don't worry about that, but this is just a really gorgeous fic that I don't want to say too much else about for fear of spoiling it. Read it.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/23779876/>

little character studies with MSR

See above. Warning: I like character study more than smut, but I do like both.

far away to the west and south - audries

Exquisite little canon-compliant season 6 character study of Mulder, Scully and the Gunmen. Set at Thanksgiving. The writing on this, y'all.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/12805722>

Charm/Strange - SlippinMickey

This lovely story ticks lots of my boxes: hyper intelligent Mulder and Scully, intellectual relationship, lots of dialogue, sweet ending. Love this one.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/20931368>

The Fox Mulder Phonetic Alphabet - storybycorey

This clever little Mulder-in-love gem seems at first like disconnected vignettes themed around letters of the alphabet (A is for apple, etc). Slowly, you slowly realize the vignettes are telling one narrative and that it's canon-friendly. The ending is so, so beautiful here; it hit me rather unexpectedly. I teared up.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/20484707/chapters/48608906>

Normal Conversations - Soronia

A juicy little MSR character study about Mulder going to much-needed therapy.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/33952603/chapters/84436048>

a gold band - skuls

A super heart-tugging account of their impromptu decision to get married the morning after Je Souhaite. So moving. Sweet. Well done.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/17565875>

amor non recipiatus by thenautilusknoweth

Mulder and Scully come across a victim who has died from forget-me-nots growing in his lungs. When Mulder starts coughing soon after, they learn about the existence of (fictional) Hanahaki disease, in which the afflicted coughs up flowers when they are suffering from unrequited love. For it to be cured, it has to be requited. Sweet and original.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/18046262/chapters/42647816>

Charade - LibbyT

Mulder and Scully are undercover. Scully's task is to get a woman to talk, supposedly by using details close to her own life to build trust. Unexpectedly, Mulder is put in a position where he's overhearing what she says. This beautiful perfect little fic is exactly my jam. It's part of a series (The Work of an Instant) that is worth reading in its entirety.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/60827566/chapters/155363236/>

Not Dumb Animals - Alelou

Scully asks him to be the IVF donor, and Mulder unexpectedly raises the stakes dramatically, which upsets their dynamic. Very satisfying.

<http://fluky.gossamer.org/display.php?NotDumbAnimals.Alelou>

It Could Be a Heart-Shaped World, If She Let it, And If He Asked - mldrgrl

One bed and snowed-in trope, but with heart and brain. Our agents are stuck in a honeymoon suite in the Poconos. There's some character-revealing conversation.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/9072568>

Keep Christmas With You (All Through The Year) - leiascully

A not-really-Christmas story that uses Christmas as a metaphor. It's also got good juicy tropes (first time, snowed in, just one room) but this is especially sweet, hot and sensitively written. It's just so *atmospheric*. And there are some character choices that are surprising but in character, too. Mulder POV.

https://archiveofourown.org/works/58962214?view_adult=true

Radium - Spark_Writer

This is such a weird little Mulder-in-love story, which I mean in the best way. It ends smutty, but in a somewhat unexpected way. There is amazing writing and perfect little character details here.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/33056095>

Without Speaking, Confess - sixpences

This one describes itself as vignettes-on-a-string, and that makes sense to me. It's tiny moments in time when they "confess" feelings without speaking, starting cancer arc and moving forward. A nicely crafted and well-observed little story.

https://archiveofourown.org/works/13395?view_adult=true

Dividends - Suzanne Schramm

Scully comes into Mulder's motel room too wired to sleep; they drink some motel booze. This is a common set-up, yes, but this older story is sensitively written, with smart dialogue. I especially enjoy Mulder's gradual realizations here that Scully shares some of the same motivations as him.

<http://xplicitdisclosures.xffics.com/dividends.txt>

(at Gossamer, too)

The Third - Susanne Barringer

Mulder and Scully on a stakeout discussing all sorts of awkward topics with gentle reveals of feelings. This is a sweet season 6-era conversation fic of the sort I absolutely live for. It's Scully POV, and I especially enjoy how Scully seems to misread Mulder's reactions in this fic until it's clear he's being more serious than he first seems. What an ending, too.

https://m.fanfiction.net/s/4204/1/The-Third?_cf_chl_tk=8NbhY7AIsn7tS2w7ElyVfC4YqtHnnfm74s9akPXJEM-1683518278-0-gaNycGzNC9A

Perfect - Anjou

I struggled with whether to call this an angsty little story or not; I decided it's not, although it starts that way. This story is part of a longer series, but you don't need to read the series at all to understand the situation here. This takes place post-One Son. Mulder and Scully are very

estranged; the partnership is broken. Scully wakes up in the middle of the night to find Mulder in her apartment, and she's annoyed. This is the conversation that ensues. It's so sweet (and hot).
<https://tooms.gossamer.org/display.php?Perfect.Anjou>

Tiger Lily - Eleanore

This is such a cool little Gossamer find. It's a post-War of the Coprophages jealousy fic written just a few weeks after the episode aired in 1996. In this fic, Mulder remains smitten with Bambi, and Scully provides him with advice despite her own feelings. Understated angst and a sweet, moving ending that seems perfectly calibrated to season 3's low key UST vibe.
<http://fluky.gossamer.org/display.php?TigerLily>

Dust Mites - Jori (likebunnies) and mojober

This is one bed trope, but a particularly distinctive version of it. M&S are in a room that is literally falling apart around them. Extremely funny and extremely hot.
<https://archiveofourown.org/works/3359597>

Truth and Dare - Jamie Greco

This delightful fic is actually the third in a series (the notes will tell you the names of the first two), but I think it works fine on its own. All dialogue—masterful banter, really—and it's flirty and sometimes sweet and really quite funny.
<http://fluky.gossamer.org/display.php?TruthAndDare.Greco>

Jasper's Last Thought by MD1016

This is an unusual little story, one I enjoy because it feels like it goes in a more original direction than many. Scully has been abducted again and returned, but the story is really about how she turns to Mulder to recover and heal. Sweet and moving. Not a long read.
<http://fluky.gossamer.org/display.php?JaspersLastThought.MD1016>

Lacuna - Aloysia_Virgata

This is a Scully-centric piece that takes place post-Milagro and deals with Scully's fallout feelings from that in an unexpected way. This has some Scully/other that might trouble some, but it also has Scully getting the long way to her real feelings and some achingly subtle jealous sad Mulder. Gorgeous, well-observed writing.
<https://archiveofourown.org/works/3125246/chapters/6773159>

sherry baby! - wtfmulder

Revival Mulder takes Scully to a questionably haunted house ostensibly to investigate but really to make out. The house doesn't cooperate. Creepy, funny, atmospheric, and delightfully attentive to the emotional states of revival Mulder and Scully.
<https://archiveofourown.org/works/12493840>

I'm On Fire - spark_a_flame1013

A gorgeously well constructed first time story, this has some hot smut, yes, but it's the emotional beats that make it special for me. A pining Mulder impulsively asks Scully to go out for drinks on a Friday night, and to his surprise, she agrees.
<https://archiveofourown.org/works/53866669>

Dropped Call - Phillip_Padgett

This is a little smuttier than some of these recommendations, and it's also so, so good. It's a variation on Cinnamon Calling, which is an old Gossamer story where Scully impersonates

Mulder's 900 number girl. In this fic, it's more plausibly set up as a misunderstanding, and it's glorious.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/48933508>

Bedside Manner - Darwin_xf

Is it smut? Is it humor? Is it a smart character study? Is it a post-ep for Agua Mala? All and more? This one is a bit of a comfort read for me. It's technically a WIP, too, although I think the story does kind of resolve, and this work just seems to be evolving. It probably does not fit well into this category, but I don't know, y'all, I'm wildly inconsistent. If you haven't read it, let me sum it up in a way that will convince you: Mulder thinks he has a dangerous rash on his penis after the events of Agua Mala, and he can't get to a doctor. Oh, except one.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/15266034/chapters/80466331#workskin>

light and fun and good times

not necessarily fluff per se, but maybe, and definitely fun

Waiting for Agent Right - Kel

Mulder has too much to drink in the first class lounge of an airport and suggests that he and Scully get married. Clever banter and in-character dialogue. Sincerely funny.

https://www.keyofx.org/fiction_kel_waitingforagentright.txt

The Newlywed Game - OnlythelInevitable

Our agents agree to play a newlywed game at a restaurant to win free pie. So yes, kids, we have a heightened public fake couples trope situation. This is just an exceptionally good time. Humor and revelations and in character. This author has a nice touch for sidestepping silly to go straight into delightful and playful.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/18985135/chapters/45080572>

Other Activities - Defnotmeyo

How Skinner finds out about MSR. Also, a very spot on Scully character study. In 700 words from Mulder POV.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/62358625>

Cherry and Vanilla - Baroness_Blixen

Scully changes her perfume, and Mulder has a full out meltdown worried about what that might portend. This is sweet, smart humor. This super talented author has taken fluff to its highest form, so that you might not even consider it fluff any more, and you could select almost any one of her fics to make you feel better about life at any point in time.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/18090512>

The Haunting - Skinfull

This author is more known for their angsty, plotty and/or smutty work, which I also enjoy very much, but I'm very fond of this funny little MSR piece about the Gunmen coming to Scully when they think their place is haunted. This is charming.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/34278340>

Girltalk - Amy Clanton and Ryo Sen (although this link uses their older pen names) Mulder is late meeting Scully at a bar, and she ends up having drinks with two tipsy female friends out for a girls' night. This is funny, includes some indirect MSR, and it's just a pleasure to see Scully having fun.

<http://fluky.gossamer.org/display.php?Girtalk.mult>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20001211231600/http://chroniclex.simplenet.com/stories/girtalk.txt>

adventure

this is kind of a broad category, but these stories involve lots of action, travel or excitement but aren't survival stories exactly. They sometimes do have casefiles, but they're also often about M&S personal stuff.

Five Years and One Night - Shalimar

I would categorize this as both an adventure and a follow-up to the Emily storyline. It involves a bit of kidfic, but not in a domestic fiction way. Mulder and Scully are separated, but not really for long. There is a trip to Singapore, which is exciting. This story was apparently written originally as a post-ep for Kitsunegari and then kept having parts added to it by request in 1998 as readers kept asking for more.

<https://x-libris.xf-redux.com/book/five-years-and-one-night/>

Tam Lin - Pequod

This is an interesting travel fic with a fanciful casefile based in folklore. Our agents go to Scotland to help out an Oxford friend of Mulder's, and we learn the legend of Tam Lin. There are picturesque locations and a ball with a party dress and mild jealousy and agents in peril, and of course the case's magic here involves true love. This is fun, especially if you like fairy tales and Scottish whimsy (and obviously MSR).

<https://x-libris.xf-redux.com/book/tam-lin/>

Miracle / Mystery - Tesla

In this, Scully and Mulder go on an ill-advised, Skinner-approved trip to a country similar to Uzbekistan to check out a spring that supposedly makes infertile women able to have children. It's Scully who wants to go, and Mulder who makes the sensible argument this time, pointing out they don't know the language, it's dangerous, etc. They end up relying on C.I.A. help, and they have to travel as a married couple in a conservative culture. This is interesting and exciting, and yes, it has MSR. I actually really love Mulder's attitude towards the MSR in this story. There are actually two stories, and the first one is PG, and the second one is R, so, you know.

https://web.archive.org/web/20071220075322/http://www.geocities.com/tesla_321/miracle.html

https://web.archive.org/web/20081006173237/http://www.geocities.com/tesla_321/mystery.html

good MSR I can't make fit into another category yet

chaos! chaos! maybe I can sort these great stories in some better way later

Love In All The Wrong Places - SisterSpooky1013

There's really no better way to sum this up than this: it's You've Got Mail but with Mulder and Scully, and it's so, so, so well done, with most of the story done in an old style chat room style. But just in case you have been denied the pleasure of seeing You've Got Mail, I'll briefly summarize: Mulder and Scully both, on their own, go on to online dating chat rooms under assumed names. They meet lots of strange and off putting people, but eventually start having conversations with one another, not realizing who it is. This leads to all kinds of unwitting confessions and... it's just so good. Read this.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/37714555/chapters/94156435>

The Rains of Bimini - SlippinMickey

This is about what is (perhaps) Mulder and Scully's last X-file. It's tagged as "septuagenarian love," but it's also about their whole partnership, their whole relationship, and maybe specifically its origins. A moving, gorgeously written story that contains sensitive character work (both Mulder and Scully POV) and a little whimsical "case" of sorts.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/35753056/chapters/89153404>

Au Cafe Pequod - sunflowerseedandscience

A historical AU set in 1944 France. Scully, a French woman (whose father had been an American sailor) runs a popular cafe in a small town in occupied France. Mulder has been conscripted into the German (Nazi) military and is part of the occupying forces. This is both sweet (in terms of their star-crossed romance) and dark (Nazis). There are more stories within the universe I haven't dug into as deeply.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/16096256/chapters/37594742>

Seventeen - scapegrace74

This is an unusual longer Mulder-centric character study that tells the story of his lifelong sexual experiences / relationships leading up to / including his relationship with Scully. It takes seriously that he's been traumatized both by his family history and his relationship with Phoebe, and I really found it thought-provoking. I think it puts the slow development of MSR in a different light. The ending (which is MSR, have no fear) is also just very moving.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/16069883/chapters/37522451>

12 Rites of Passage - Anne Haynes

Delightful mytharc and MSR. A very compelling read that truly sucks you in. This is an oldie, written early enough that the author didn't know some of the later season plotlines (or Mrs.

Mulder or Pendrell's canonical first names), but I actually find that kind of fascinating, because it's like a whole other direction the show could have gone in. If you enjoy seeing a lot of the moms (Mrs. Scully and Mrs. Mulder), we get a great deal of them, plus we get father angst from both agents, too.

http://generalprofound.faithweb.com/XF-FF/stories/12Rites_1.htm

Seraphim - Chekcough

Mulder and Scully have an established happy relationship for a year, until Mulder unexpectedly dies, apparently suicide. Turns out, it was a deep undercover mission gone wrong—and he shows up still alive two years later to a broken, angry Scully, who must seriously grapple with adjusting to his aliveness again. This angst masterpiece is beautifully crafted, both in how it is structured (flashbacks weaving throughout the main action) and in its lovely, lovely prose. It will make you cry, but it won't ultimately destroy you, so don't be too scared.

<https://archiveofourown.org/works/21718681/chapters/51806269>

By the Wind Grieved - Karen Rasch

You could view this as an alternate season 8 fic — a world without Doggett, as it were. Mulder returns six months after his abduction with complete amnesia. Scully is eager to help him remember who he is, but for noble / misguided reasons conceals the nature of their relationship and his connection to her visible pregnancy. All this and they have a snowy Christmas in a safe house. Fun times; lots of tension / angst.

<http://gilliand.narod.ru/conspiracy/BytheWindGrieved.txt>