

DARKEST NIGHT

SEASON 3

EPISODE 2: Happy Hallow Farm

CHARACTERS

Katie Reed: Mid 20s. Impulsive and spontaneous. Quick learner who isn't afraid to speak her mind. Knows she's wrapped up in a larger conspiracy now, but has to keep that from Ricketts. Vivian Lobdow just told Katie that she needs her help.

Han Ziggler: Mid 40s. He is an agent for the NTK and Katie's new partner.

Leigh: 28 years old.

David: 30. He is Leigh's girlfriend.

LOCATIONS

1. NTK Nest
2. Gravel Road
3. Abandoned Farm house

Efx: Opening Door

Efx: Recording Device on

HAN ZIGGLER
We got another curious head today.

KATIE
And you're thinking this might be
related to...

HAN ZIGGLER
Katie, what did I tell you about
your useless commentary!

KATIE
Sorry, Agent Zigglar.

Efx: Rolling cart

HAN ZIGGLER
We have no have leads on the case.

KATIE
Uy yo yoy. Well I guess let's get
started.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Fine!

Efx: Wet popping noise.

EFX: Sound of scalpel cutting flesh, beeps.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Withdrawing blood from the optic
nerve and depositing it into the
box.

Efx: Wet popping noises

HAN ZIGGLER
(Continued)
NTK Assignment #002

KATIE
Time stamp is registering
correctly. Initiating playback in
3...
2...
1...
Initiate.

Efx: Project Cyclops Transition noise

EFX: Walking on a gravel road.

DAVID

I'm not angry, Leigh.

LEIGH

No, I'm fucking angry. At myself. I wasn't even checking the gauge, didn't look at it once.

DAVID

Could have happened to anybody.

LEIGH

Well it happened to us and we're in the middle of freakin' nowhere. What's worse, we can't even call Charlotte and let her know we'll be late for the wedding because there's no fucking cell service out here!

DAVID

I still think we should stay in the car overnight and figure it out in the morning. It's getting dark.

LEIGH

No, we need help and we've already walked too far. I had no frickin idea there'd be nothing out here. Cara didn't say how remote the venue was.

DAVID

(sigh)

Of course she didn't. You haven't slept in days because of all of Cara's 'last minute wedding emergencies'. It's no wonder you didn't notice the gas - you're exhausted.

LEIGH

Don't start, David. Cara is my best friend.

DAVID

But she treats you like-

LEIGH
(interrupting)
Look! Finally. Civilization.

NARRATOR
Leigh watched as David jogged to catch up with her. She pointed to a tall, wooden sign arching over an old dirt road. The paint was faded and the wood was rotted out but the words remained.

DAVID
Happy Hallow Farm. Looks abandoned.

LEIGH
We should check, though. There's nothing else out here.

DAVID
Yeah, we should check. It's getting dark and we can't sleep outside.

LEIGH
Can you open the gate?

DAVID
For you, baby, I can rope the moon.

LEIGH
Awww!

EFX: David kicks at the gate, grunting, until we hear it creak open.

NARRATOR
Leigh and David walked down a long, overgrown driveway. They paused at a bend in the road to consume the vista before them.

EFX: Harsh wind.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
They saw vast fields, crumbling stables, and a small, decrepit farmhouse. Clearly a once thriving farm now fading into the surrounding mountains. Leigh looked expectantly at David.

LEIGH
Well?

DAVID

I don't think anybody's lived here
in a century.

EFX: Leigh sighs

DAVID (CONT'D)

Come on. The farmhouse is our best
bet.

EFX: David shoving on the front door, a piece of furniture is
pushed back as the door opens.

LEIGH

Oh god.

NARRATOR

Leigh used the muted, orange light
of the sinking sun behind her to
study the old room. There wasn't
much left and what was there was
covered in a thick layer of dust.

EFX: scattering of insects and/or mice.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Indeterminate vermin scattered at
the new disturbance.

DAVID

There's no light in here. Why are
all the windows boarded over?

LEIGH

It looks like they were trying to
keep something out. There's
furniture piled against both doors.
David, I don't like this.

DAVID

Baby, this place hasn't been
touched in like eighty years or
more. If they were barricading the
house against somebody, that guy is
long dead.

EFX: Leigh Sighs

LEIGH

I guess that makes sense.

NARRATOR

As Leigh searched the great room for blankets, David went upstairs to check the second floor. Leigh could hear the groan of the floorboards as David explored the small area above her.

EFX: Squeaking and groaning of above wooden floor.

DAVID (YELLING FROM UPSTAIRS)

Oh my god, you have to see this.

LEIGH

I've seen enough.

DAVID

Leigh, get your cute butt up here.

NARRATOR

Leigh sighed and climbed the few steps to the landing, then turned and continued up the rest of the way. At the top of the staircase, a door stood cracked slightly open. Leigh pushed her way inside. The windows were again heavily boarded but a few small holes in the side of the old house lit the dingy room enough for Leigh to see what had caught David's interest: A worn, dusty mannequin.

LEIGH

What the hell is that?

DAVID

It's a scarecrow.

LEIGH

That's not like any scarecrow I've ever seen.

NARRATOR

And indeed it wasn't. Standing propped against the wall was a grotesque human-shaped spectacle of wood and straw. The doll was ugly, indecent, and seemed to be covered in a thin leather layer underneath it's faded, nondescript clothing. But that was not the worst of it, not by far.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The scarecrow's head was made of a burlap sack with a single line drawn into a smile that reached past its worn, leather ears. A simple riding hat adorned the doll but it was the eyes that made Leigh shudder. It's eyes were just empty, shadowed sockets. What lay deep within the pockets was anybody's guess.

LEIGH

That leather is probably human skin.

DAVID

(laughing)

It's pig's skin. Look at the ears, clearly pig ears. But still, this thing is bizarre. I mean why leave it up here? Shouldn't it be out in the field?

LEIGH

The fields are empty. Everything's dead.

DAVID

Hmm. My guess is that there was a drought or something, crops died, and the family left the homestead.

EFX: We hear the patter of rain against the roof as rain starts to fall outside.

LEIGH

(unconvincingly)

Sure!

DAVID

Don't know why they left this guy behind, though.

LEIGH

(sarcastic)

Yeah, what a mystery. Are his fingers made of fucking bones?!

DAVID

Damn, they really went all out.

NARRATOR

David raised the doll's limp arm.
He pulled the leather apart and
inspected the wood and bone hidden
within the straw.

DAVID

Parts of the skeletal structure are
made of bone and parts of it are
made of wood. What the hell is this
thing?

LEIGH

I don't know but I don't want
anything to do with it. It's
bizarre and now it's raining so our
luck is really an embarrassment of
riches. Come on! Close the door
when you come back down.

NARRATOR

Leigh left David to follow her.
Once down the stairs, she started
to make a pallet of musty blankets
on the floor. David appeared
moments later.

LEIGH

Did you shut the door?

DAVID

It's shut, Leigh. Don't worry.

LEIGH

I don't think I'm gonna be able to
sleep here. Should we check out the
bunkhouse?

DAVID

Babe, all the other buildings are
crumbling. It's not safe. We'll be
fine in here.

LEIGH

I'd rather sleep outside.

DAVID

Babe, it's raining. And you'll be
able to sleep just fine, it's been
a long day.

LEIGH

I want it on record that I don't
like this.

DAVID

Duly noted.

NARRATOR

As the last light of day was swallowed by the misty horizon, David and Leigh found themselves in near pitch black darkness. With nothing else to do, they laid down to sleep, hoping the morning would bring better luck. But there would be no dawn for either of them.

EFX: Creaking

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Leigh wasn't sure what awakened her hours later. She reached over to assure herself she wasn't alone but the space beside her was empty.

LEIGH

David?

NARRATOR

Leigh looked around in confusion. The rain was coming down violently and the sound was almost deafening on the old, thin panels of the house.

LEIGH

(louder)

David?

NARRATOR

But it was not loud enough to mask the groan of a floorboard above her.

EFX: Floorboards groan upstairs.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Though Leigh was near blind in the darkness, she could hear someone moving upstairs. It seemed to walk one way, stop, and then continue in a new direction, aimlessly. Leigh knew it was David and he had to be fucking with her.

LEIGH

David, I swear to god, if you don't
come downstairs right now, I will
leave you here.

EFX: The sound of steps stops entirely. Suddenly, it runs
across the room upstairs. Leigh gasps.

NARRATOR

Leigh listened for the squeak of
the door opening but there was only
silence. Until she heard something
on the stairs.

EFX: A THUMP on the stairs.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

He was at the top.

EFX: A THUMP on the stairs.

NARRATOR (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

He was descending.

EFX: A THUMP on the stairs.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

He was coming down the stairs.
Leigh wanted to believe it was
David, she had to believe that.
There was no one else for miles.
She closed her eyes and covered her
ears like a child. It couldn't be.
It wasn't. But at the end of the
day, they didn't know who the house
was fortified against...or what.

LEIGH

(whispering to self)

Your ok. David's just messing with
you.

NARRATOR

Leigh snapped her eyes open after a
minute. No. She was an adult. A
teacher, for God's sake.

EFX: Phone clicks

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

She grabbed her cellphone from the
floor next to her and stood,
turning on the flashlight app.

EFX: Leigh Sighing

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Feigning an indignance she didn't feel, Leigh climbed to the landing, took a deep breath, and then aimed her light upstairs. The door was shut. She climbed up whilst calling David every name in the book.

LEIGH

You're an asshole. Do you know that? I can't believe you'd think this is funny.

NARRATOR

When she reached the top, Leigh flung the door open in anger, cracking her phone against the wood. The light flashed twice and then died.

EFX: Sound of door being thrown open.

LEIGH

Goddamn it, David! You made me break my fucking phone.

NARRATOR

As her eyes adjusted to the pitch black room Leigh saw something that made her heart drop into her stomach. There, against the wall - where she knew the scarecrow stood - were small twin, white lights set apart just where it's eyes would be.

LEIGH

(breathlessly)
David?

NARRATOR

The small lights suddenly went out, almost as if the thing had turned off.

EFX: Leigh yelps, surprised.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Leigh hit the screen of her phone against her palm in a panicked gesture.

LEIGH
Fuck. Fuck. Fuck.

NARRATOR
It illuminated. Leigh aimed the light at the scarecrow across the room, but where it had been was now an empty space.

EFX: Creaking floor board. Maybe half the room away from her.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
She heard it, across the room to her left. Leigh screamed as she dropped her phone.

EFX: Leigh Scream

EFX: Phone falling onto the floor.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
The light went out. She listened, her breath a loud, ragged slice through the otherwise empty silence.

EFX: 7-8 or so seconds of Leigh's harsh breathing. Then a sudden series of hurried, running steps running toward her, getting very loud, stopping abruptly.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
It had run right toward her. Leigh backed up and fumbled for the doorknob behind her, total hysteria controlling her every move. Silence descended again on the room, pulled tight and tense, like a guitar string about to snap.

LEIGH
(pleading)
David. Please.

EFX: Silence. Then the groan of a floorboard on Leigh's right, right next to her ear. LOUD.

NARRATOR
It was there, not more than a foot away from her. Leigh's hand found purchase and she twisted the doorknob, practically spraining her wrist to get it open.
(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
She spun back to slam the door
behind her and saw the white lights
of its eyes only feet from her.
Unmoving. Watching.

EFX: Leigh Screams

EFX: The slam of the door.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Leigh tore down the steps,
screaming.

LEIGH
David! David!

EFX: Door being thrown open, rain gets louder.

NARRATOR
The front door crashed open just as
Leigh tripped down the landing.
David came toward her and she
launched herself into his arms.

LEIGH
It's there! It's there, it's there,
it's up there!

DAVID
What? What is up there?

LEIGH
That- that fucking thing! I heard
it, it moved.

DAVID
Baby, calm down. What did you see?

LEIGH
That doll, scarecrow, whatever it
is, it moves! Come on, we gotta get
out of here!

!AVID
Wait, wait. You saw it move?

LEIGH
No. I heard it move. It has eyes,
white eyes.

DAVID
Okay, Leigh, just calm down.

LEIGH

No. No, David. I don't think they fortified this place to keep something out. I think they were keeping that thing in.

DAVID

Leigh-

LEIGH

And where were you?! You left me alone with it!

DAVID

I was just peeing, christ!

LEIGH

We have to leave right now.

DAVID

Listen to me. I'm going up there to check it out.

LEIGH

No!

DAVID

Baby, there is no where else to go. We would drown outside, trust me, it's pouring. I'll be right back.

LEIGH

David, no! Don't be the stupid asshole who gets killed in the beginning of the fucking horror movie!

DAVID

Just chill. Breathe.

NARRATOR

David used his flashlight to guide him up the stairs. Leigh shifted from foot to foot below, one hand on the front doorknob, ready to run. The cadence of David's sure, familiar footsteps calmed her and by the time he reappeared Leigh had released her death grip on the knob, though still lingered close.

LEIGH

Well?

NARRATOR

David approached Leigh as if she were a skittish animal and held something out to her. It was her phone.

LEIGH

It's broken.

DAVID

(laughing)

I can see that.

NARRATOR

He reached around her to lock the door.

EFX: Sound of several locks engaging.

LEIGH

Why did you do that?

DAVID

Because we're staying. Everything is exactly as it was before. The doll is right where we left it.

LEIGH

David!

DAVID

I know you're freaking yourself out, but baby, running this many days without sleep thing is messing with your mind.

LEIGH

No, don't you dare. Don't ask me to stay here.

DAVID

Why don't you lie down with me for a minute and try to calm your breathing. If you still feel freaked out in a few minutes, then we'll go.

LEIGH

No. You can stay! I'm leaving.

DAVID

It was a dream. You're on 6 hours of sleep over 4 days. Just lay down with me for five minutes, ok?

LEIGH

No. Maybe... oh god, maybe it was just exhaustion. I don't know, I'm so confused.

DAVID

I've got you. I've got you. I love you.

LEIGH

I love you, too. Five minutes, okay?

DAVID

Okay. Five minutes and then if you still want to go, we'll go.

LEIGH

And you promise not to leave me again?

DAVID

I promise.

NARRATOR

But he must have lied because when Leigh awoke again the blankets beside her were empty and cold. She reached out into the consuming darkness, groggy and confused.

LEIGH

David?

NARRATOR

Leigh sat up and looked around the room but there was nothing to see. As Leigh's mind cleared and her eyes adjusted to the darkness, it was there. She blinked - twice - but they remained. There, on the landing, peaking around the corner, the white lights glowed in the blackness. It was looking at her. It was in the room.

EFX: Leigh screams.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The white lights went out. Leigh leapt to her feet and ran toward the door, feeling her way in the dark.

LEIGH
(sobbing)
David! Please, please, where are
you. Oh go!

EFX: The floor creaked.

NARRATOR
Leigh found the doorknob just as
she heard it. The thing had come
down from the stairs.

LEIGH
No, no, no, no, no.

EFX: Leigh messing with the locks.

LEIGH (CONT'D)
Come on! Come on!

NARRATOR
Leigh couldn't remember how the
locks worked or how many there
were. All she knew was that she had
to get them open before it reached
her.

EFX: A floorboard creaks. Louder. Closer.

LEIGH
No! Stay away from me! No! David!

EFX: A floorboard creaks. Even louder. Even closer. It's
behind her. Finally, the turn of a lock.

NARRATOR
She could hear it grow ever closer
as she finally pried the lock open.

LEIGH
Yes! Yes, fuck you!

EFX: Sound of a door being thrown open. The sound of steps,
the creature is running. It gets closer. And closer.

EFX: Sound of Leigh screaming and a horrifying BANG.

NARRATOR
Leigh awoke to a terrible
revelation. David never broke his
promise. He had never left her.
He'd been taken from her. Leigh
knew that because she was looking
right at what was left of him.

Leigh lay on the floor, mere feet from the man she'd loved. His skin had been torn off. Most of his back and much of David's right thigh were simply exposed muscle. His left leg was completely gone, amputated at the groin. And there was blood. So...much...blood.

LEIGH

David...no.

NARRATOR

Leigh watched the scarecrow, now fully animated in the light of a small lantern nearby. It sat in the middle of the room, legs stretched out on either side of David's corpse tirelessly stripping his right leg of the muscle and connective tissue. When nothing was left but a wet bone, the scarecrow threw the pile of viscera into the corner and split open a seam of its well-worn skin.

It reached into the straw of its own leg and then yanked out a long piece of wood. Then it replaced the part with David's femur... Leigh moaned in horror.

EFX: Leigh moaning.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The creature's head jerked up at the noise, pieces of straw falling out of its neck. Its eyes were vacant of the white glowing lights. The scarecrow pulled itself to its feet and tested out its new leg. Seemingly satisfied, it walked over to David's body and jerked his head around so that Leigh could finally see David's face. She watched in horror as the creature used the boney fingers of its hand - now so obviously human bones - to pluck out each of David's eyeballs from his sockets.

EFX: Wet plucking sound?

LEIGH

What are you? What are you going to do to me?

EFX: breathing soon

NARRATOR

How had they thought its bones were from a pig? Or even its old, leathery skin? Leigh realized now those parts had likely been donated by the residents of Happy Hallow Farm decades before.

LEIGH

Jesus Christ!

NARRATOR

The creature shoved the eyeballs into the empty cavities in its face. Leigh whimpered as she saw the eyes she'd loved so much, for so many years, in the grotesque head of the monster. It didn't blink. It couldn't. It turned toward her - those wide, lidless eyes looking right into her soul.

LEIGH

(sobbing)

Please.

EFX: The flapping of wings.

NARRATOR

Leigh rolled her head at the unmistakable sound of two crows. They hopped down from the pigeon holes in the walls and landed onto David's mangled corpse.

EFX: Pecking sounds through to the end.

LEIGH

Stop! Stop! Get away from him! He's not dead! He's not...he's not.

NARRATOR

But of course, he was. The scarecrow walked closer to her, limping, one leg now so much longer than the other. It leaned down.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

It didn't hesitate, didn't pause,
didn't give her a moment to wonder
before it used the sharp,
splintered wooden fingers of its
other hand to hook into her thigh.
She could feel the wood piercing,
pulling down, and peeling the skin
away from her body. Leigh screamed
as the creature skinned her leg,
then started on the next section,
cutting her flesh to ribbons.

EFX: Leigh screaming. Ripping sounds.

LEIGH

Please. Please.

EFX: Pecking sounds briefly stop as crows caw. Sounds as if
they're mocking Leigh's pleading.

NARRATOR

It must have taken hours. It felt
even longer. But the sun was still
not up and Leigh had only watched,
in a state of delirium, as the
scarecrow skinned her leg, chest,
and shoulders, tirelessly sewing
each strip into the old, leather
tapestry wrapped around its straw
body.

LEIGH

(delirious)

Kill me. Please kill me.

EFX: Pecking sounds briefly stop as crows caw. Sounds as if
they're mocking Leigh's pleas.

NARRATOR

The creature ignored her as if she
were an abandoned car it was
stripping down for parts. It
snapped the bones of her fingers,
pulling hard enough to rip the
severed digits from her hand.

EFX: Snapping sound.

LEIGH

No. You can't.

EFX: Pecking sounds briefly stop as crows caw. Sounds as if
they're mocking Leigh's pleas.

NARRATOR

It peeled back the flesh from her fingers, divesting it of everything but bone.

EFX: Peeling sound, if that is a thing.

LEIGH

No.

EFX: Pecking sounds briefly stop as crows caw. Sounds as if they're mocking Leigh's pleas.

NARRATOR

Leigh found the strength to turn away. She wouldn't watch. Wouldn't listen. She would die soon. She had to. How much trauma could a human body survive?

She felt a sudden, insistent tugging on her chest. She didn't look down. She was shaken, pulled, and sawed into. The creature was ripping her arm away from her body at the shoulder. Leigh was in shock. The jerking stopped and She knew the beast had it's prize.

EFX: Heavy tearing sound.

EFX: Scream

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Blood dribbled out of her mouth. She was choking on it, drowning in it. She didn't fight it. Begging it to together.

EFX: Wet cough.

LEIGH

Please.

NARRATOR

But the horrors weren't finished. Not yet. There was one more to go. One soo terrible to suffer, Leigh knew it would kill her.

The scarecrow approached. It took off its hat and pushed down on the soft give of its burlap head.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Then the human-like doll bent over her and maneuvered Leigh's head until she was looking directly up at it, into David's beautiful green eyes. She was paralyzed, couldn't move. She could only watch as the monster with her lover's eyes pushed the sliver of its finger into her forehead and pushed back, slowly and carefully pulling the skin away from her skull.

EFX: Leigh screaming, wet, peeling sound.

LEIGH

Stop it! Stop it!

EFX: Pecking sounds briefly stop as crows goes crazy. Sounds as if they're mocking Leigh's pleas.

NARRATOR

Leigh screamed as she was carefully scalped and the scarecrow added the fixture to it's own head. The doll who wanted to be a real boy finally realized his dream.

The scarecrow used his nimble, boney fingers to pluck the needle and thread off of the floor. He began to sew her scalp onto his burlap head, the tuck and pull of the thread absurd but sure.

EFX: Rain picking up.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The storm outside raged. The crows pecked at David's flesh. And Leigh knew the last thing she saw in this world would be this creature of horrors, sew, sew, sewing away. She'd see it in the afterlife. She'd see it as long as there was a her.

EFX: Violent burst of wind.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

A burst of wind through the holes in the wall suddenly snuffed out the light of the lantern. David disappeared. The sea of blood on the floor disappeared.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The stitching scarecrow disappeared, no more lights in his eyes to shine at her. But Leigh could still see him in her mind as the room melted away. The rain melted away. The pain melted away. And all that remained was him.

EFX: Rain quiets to the background and then goes silent. The pecking subsides as well. Sounds of stitching go through until the end.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

She could almost see him, still sewing. A lively silhouette against the wall.

EFX: A THUMP of her heartbeat.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Leigh closed her eyes as her life slipped away from her. She'd always see that stitching hand, the tuck and pull of the needle. He was hemmed into her soul even in death

EFX: Leigh Screams

EFX: Stab sound

Efx: Project Cyclops Transition noise

KATIE

Holy shit.

HAN ZIGGLER

You think this is somehow related to the murder of that family we saw yesterday?

KATIE

I don't know. The only similarity I can see is if there was some sort of supernatural element at play.

HAN ZIGGLER

Katie, you of all people should know that everything can be explained.

KATIE

But I also know that nothing is what it seems.

EFX: Door Close

EFX: Recorder off