

DARKEST NIGHT

SEASON 3

EPISODE 5: Frior Carlisle's

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.

Annabelle Afandy: Early 20s. She is a BuzzList reporter who decides that for once she is fighting for her principles.

Vick Dilbur: Late 30s. He is the head chef for Frior Carlisles. Very corporate, quirky and passionate about his work.

Natalie King: Late 40s. Cheif editor of Buzzlist magazine and a woman you don't want to cross if you want a career in media.

Sam: 20s. Vick's righthand man.

Ramsey: British Henchman.

LOCATIONS

1. NTK Nest
2. Annabelle Afandy's Car
3. The original Frior Carlisle's location.
4. Undisclosed Slaughter House.
5. Undisclosed Processing Plant.

Efx: Opening Door

Efx: Recording Device on

HAN ZIGGLER
How are you Katie?

KATIE
Considering the pressure of
integrating back into society and
the existential dread caused by
this job, I'd say pretty great.

HAN ZIGGLER
That's good to hear because we have
an equally harrowing head to look
at today.

KATIE
When are there not?

HAN ZIGGLER
Ugh.

Efx: Cart rolling over

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
NTK Assignment #005

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

EFX: Transition noise

Efx: Car driving through desert

GOOGLE MAPS (IN VIVIAN'S VOICE)
In 4.3 Miles take Exit 432 For
Stockard Road.

ANNABELLE AFANDY
I can't believe I have to drive
this far for another chain
restaurant's stab at veganism.
Typical.

NARRATOR
Annabelle Afandy was a young writer
rising the ranks at BuzzList. She
gained her popularity ranking new
trends and took great pride in
turning her readers onto healthy
new lifestyles. This was not one of
those moments.

Efx: phone ringing

ASSISTANT
I have Ms. King on the line for
you.

ANNABELLE AFANDY
Sounds good. Put her through.

NARRATOR
Natalie King was the Chief Editor
for Buzzlist and someone you just
don't want to cross...that is if
you wanted to work in the media
business.

NATALIE KING
Annabelle, I have a question?

ANNABELLE AFANDY
Yes?

NATALIE KING
Why the fuck are you writing me
about how this exclusive on Frior
Carlisle's new Animal Free product
is bad for our brand?

ANNABELLE AFANDY
You know Senator Jackson Carlisle
started that business! Have you not
seen him all over the news for
allegations regarding...

NATALIE KING

(Interrupting)

Enough! If you stopped for a minute to think, you'd remember that Prior Carlisle's is a subsidiary of American Restaurants Group which last year was bought by Smith holding group.. whoooo....

ANNABELLE AFANDY

(dissapointed)

Who own Buzzlist.

NATALIE KING

That's right. Life is not always fair, Afandy. I appreciate your yearning to fight for your beliefs but this battle just isn't worth jeopardizing the livelihoods of anyone on our team.

ANNABELLE AFANDY

(Unenthusiastic)

Right.

NATALIE KING

Annabelle, this piece must be posted by the end of day.

Efx: Car Parking

ANNABELLE AFANDY

(unconvincing)

Don't worry about it. Well, I just got here and..

NATALIE KING

(Interrupting)

I look forward to reading your article. I am sure it will handful.

Efx: Phone hang up

NARRATOR

Annabelle knew that her readers held her to a better standard than that. Corporate politics wouldn't stop her. What Ms. King did is supply Annabelle with just the right ammunition to make sure she was going to at least ask... the hard questions.

Efx: Car Parks, seat belt unfastened.

Efx: Turning recorder on.

Efx: Opening door and walking out of the car.

Efx: footsteps

Efx: Restaurant door swinging

Vick Dilbur
Hi Ms. Afandy, welcome to the
original Frior Carlisle's location!
We are so pleased to have you as
our guest!

ANNABELLE AFANDY
Aww! Thanks for having me. Can I
get you to state your name and
title for the record?

VICK DILBUR
Of course! My name is Vick Dilbur.
I'm the head chef of Frior
Carlisle's and your host for the
day! Every new menu item at Frior
Carlisle's is my personal
undertaking and am happy to answer
ANY questions you might have.

NARRATOR
Vick drew uncomfortably close to
Annabelle.

VICK DILBUR
(Left Ear and
creepy/excited)
Ms. King didn't tell you what this
is about did she?

ANNABELLE AFANDY
All I know is that you were going
to give us the exclusive on a new
animal free product.

Efx: Laughing

VICK DILBUR
Perfect! Follow me to this booth!

Efx: footsteps

Efx: Sitting down

VICK DILBUR

We are such huge fans of the work you are doing to help the everyday person live a healthier life!

ANNABELLE AFANDY

Thanks.

VICK DILBUR

I know you might think it is strange and all being called out to write about a mystery animal free meal from us... After all Prior Carlisle's built our brand on being America's favorite fried chicken.

Efx: Annabelle laughs

ANNABELLE AFANDY

So how Coca Cola bought health products like Honest Tea and Odwalla, I am guessing you too have a special way to cash in on "the trend" of living a "healthy lifestyle"?

Efx: Vick slow laugh

VICK DILBUR

Ms. Anfandy, this isn't about cashing in on anything. It is about remaking it all together. Tonight, you will have the first taste of the greatest innovation to ever hit vegan cuisine.

ANNABELLE AFANDY

(Perplexed)

What do you mean?

VICK DILBUR

A meat substitute product that is like no other!

ANNABELLE AFANDY

But the substitute meat market is decades old and already valued at over 5 billion dollars. What are you doing here that is so unique and ground-breaking?

VICK DILBUR

Great point. The fact the genre ballooned with such mediocre products is astounding and a testament to the market's true untapped potential. Fried Tofu is nothing like fried chicken. These black bean burgers ain't burgers at all. The funny thing is no matter how close soo many of these "substitutes" get, they are still so far off for one simple reason!

ANNABELLE AFANDY

And that is?

VICK DILBUR

What humanity needs most from meat aside from the taste....is the sinuey consistency of flesh in our teeth and the droplets of blood on our tongues.

ANNABELLE AFANDY

What???

VICK DILBUR

(To side)

Sam, can you bring out... the implausible nuggets.

ANNABELLE AFANDY

The what nuggets?

Efx: Sam running

VICK DILBUR

The implausible is a new product that we created that has the taste, consistency, and even bleeds like flesh.

Efx: plops on the table

VICK DILBUR

If you can tell the difference between this and our line of regular chicken nuggets, I'd be shocked.

NARRATOR

Annabelle grabbed a piece cautiously and began to chew.

EFX: Slowly chewing

NARRATOR

It was crispy on the outside and fleshy on the inside. When she bit down on each new nugget, she got the slight salty after taste of chicken grease. A flavor she hadn't tasted in years but instantly brought her back to her childhood.

ANNABELLE AFANDY

Holy fuck! How did you do this?

VICK DILBUR

We have working on this recipe for over seven years and finally achieved... *the implausible!*

ANNABELLE AFANDY

What else can you do with this substance? How does it hold and maintain in different cooking environments?

VICK DILBUR

The implausible will be able to hold any desired form and specifications. We have already made implausible burgers, implausible fried chicken, and even implausible froie gras. Though, next month on November 5th, the Implausible Nuggets will be available at all 10,000 of our locations!

ANNABELLE AFANDY

Wow!

VICK DILBUR

A 10 piece of these implausible nuggets will be available only at Prior Carlisle's... for the implausibly low price of \$3.99.

ANNABELLE AFANDY

Wow. I didn't think fast food could be a catapult for veganism but this is an incredibly compelling offering. Is there any way for regular consumers to cook with the implausible meat at home?

VICK DILBUR

Not yet. Though, believe me there are HUGE plans for this line. We want help veganism become an option of the everyday person. Do you have any other questions? Maybe you just want to some more implausible nuggets to take home with you?

Efx: everyone in the room laughs

Efx: chairs pulling out

ANNABELLE AFANDY

Hmmmm! I'd love some to go for the drive back!

VICK DILBUR

Samuel, can you fetch Annabelle some more nuggets?

ANNABELLE AFANDY

What is this made of?

VICK DILBUR

(laughing)

Wouldn't Burger Queen like to know the answer to that.

Efx: Annabelle nervously laughs

ANNABELLE AFANDY

(begrudgingly)

Unfortunately, I do have to ask you one final question.

Beat.

ANNABELLE AFANDY

With such a large launch looming, are you at all worried that Senator Carlisle's scandal might overshadow the implausible?

Efx: Music tension building

VICK DILBUR

Hmmmm?

ANNABELLE AFANDY

The Pacific published a text message senator wrote to his Chief of Staff about a 17 year old intern saying...and I Quote..."I want to taste every inch of him. Can you bring him to my house tomorrow night?"

Beat.

VICK DILBUR

(More uncomfortable)

Unfortunately, I am not at liberty to comment on the unsubstantiated reports about our founder.

ANNABELLE AFANDY

Doesn't my readership have the right to know if they are patronizing an establishment founded by a predator.

Efx: Bass drop

VICK DILBUR

(Growing Angry)

You are making a lot of assumptions and I am not going to engage in this conversation any further. Good day, Ms. Afandy!

Efx: foot steps away

EFX: Music tension builds

Efx: Door closes

Efx: Recorder stops.

BEAT of Pure Silence.

NARRATOR

Annabelle rushed to a nearby cafe, published her interview independently, and resigned from BuzzList in the span of the next 2 hours. She felt exuberant to be free of her corporate vestige and to set the truth free!

Efx: Car driving on highway

NARRATOR

Her announcement tweet and the following article garnered over 100,000 shares and went trending. Annabelle felt support from places she didn't even imagine and for a second... everything seemed like it would be ok.

Efx: Strange sound in the distance slowly approaching

Efx: Phone ringing

ANNABELLE AFANDY

Hello?

RAMSEY

(over right ear)

Annabelle Afandy. Your illusion of free will has come to an end.

ANNABELLE AFANDY

(Nervous)

What? Who the fuck are you?

Efx: Strange sounds growing nearer, multiplying and building around the listener.

RAMSEY

(over car speakers
speakers)

You judge, jury, and executioner.

EFX: Heart rate growing

Beat of silence.

Efx: Crash

Out of world warp sound

Efx: Music primal drums

EFX: Hundreds of humans screaming in pain and rattling dividers.

NARRATOR

Annabelle had no idea where she was. She was stripped of all her clothes and the room was pitchblack. She began hearing the muffled voices around her.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
They were beckoning, pleading, and
wishing that anyone would save
them.

EFX: Pulsating sound

EFX: Humans begin eating

NARRATOR
She couldn't move. Wherever
Annabelle was felt like it had the
pleasantries of prison with the
personal space of the L train
during rush hour.

ANNABELLE AFANDY
Where are we?

Efx: Humans chewing

Efx: Skin rubbing up against skin

NARRATOR
She could feel the raw skin of
everyone rushing past her to feed
on the troff behind. Almost every
person had roughly half their body
covered in rashes and many couldn't
even walk properly. She could hear
hopping all around her. At first,
she thought it was just because
many here were so ill they lost
their physical ability to walk.
Annabelle was sorely mistaken.

Efx: Annabelle tripping and falling

ANNABELLE AFANDY
(screamng)
AHHHHHHHH!

NARRATOR
She tripped on what she assumed was
someone's misplaced belongings.

EFX: Running hands through mud

NARRATOR
Facedown next to it, she realized
this was no bag at all. She ran her
hands against it to reveal the
sticky remains of a rotting human
corpse. When she took a deep breath
in in to calm down...

Efx: Deep breath in and out.

NARRATOR

The stench was so pungent the room could have been littered with thousands of bodies just like this one.

Efx: Annabelle Gag

ANNABELLE AFANDY

(whispering)

Oh god.

Room goes silent.

NARRATOR

If only Annabelle had a chance to touch the corpse's head, she would have realized that using your voice here had consequences.

EFX: touching flesh and screws

NARRATOR

Its jaw was screwed in place removing it's ability to speak. A metal straw protruded 4 inches from where it's face once remained. Clearly that straw was its only means of survival but that didn't mean it worked.

Efx: Annabelle Getting Up

Efx: Annabelle Turning Around

Efx: Slithering the left

RAMSEY

(Whispering in Right Ear)

I'm sorry usually people stay here 7 weeks before they are transferred.

ANNABELLE AFANDY

What the fuck?

RAMSEY

(whispering in left ear)

We want to make sure the product is the right weight before being taken into processing.

(MORE)

RAMSEY (CONT'D)
But, your the special one. The *only*
rush order ever requested.

EFX: Chains being hoisted

EFX: Slow treadmill like warped sound effect warped

NARRATOR
The floor began moving. Before she
knew it, Annabelle and those in her
area were shuffled into a truck.

EFX: Cracking bones.

NARRATOR
Some of her neighbors were so
overweight and sickly that the
shifting floor underneath them
caused their bones to snap.

RAMSEY
(Laughing)
All aboard!

Efx: Vehicle departs

NARRATOR
Annabelle looked at the faces
besides hers. They were so numb to
their existence of the last 7 weeks
that they couldn't even hold eye
contact in what most likely would
be the last moments of their life.

Efx: chains rattling

NARRATOR
Annabelle tried looking anywhere to
hide, run or escape.

Efx: Truck stopping

NARRATOR
Her hands and feet were too small
for the bounds. Not having endured
the entire 7 weeks on the floor
afforded Annabelle the smallest
opportunity to escape. Maybe just
maybe she could wiggle out of her
chains and break them.

Efx: Door opening.

NARRATOR

She waited...Analyzing what could be her best chance at survival. Her fellow prey were waddling out of the truck slowly in waves of 5.

EFX: People waddling

NARRATOR

After the third wave, she still couldn't see the voice. Was it worth bolting? Could she find an exit and out run her captor?

ANNABELLE AFANDY

(Whispering)

I don't. Too Risky.

Efx: Annabelle Gasp

Efx: Fourth Wave of people exiting

NARRATOR

She decided to wait two more waves and then walk with them. She stood composed and upright as she pretended to remain in chains.

Efx: Sixth Wave of people exiting

Efx: Annabelle breathing heavier

Efx: Fifth wave

Efx: Annabelle walking

NARRATOR

Twenty yards from Annabelle's right was a three foot wide air vent on the floor. She knew it could be her only chance to slip under the radar... and she took it.

Efx: opening and closing vent discreetly.

ANNABELLE AFANDY

Phew!

NARRATOR

She was safe.

Efx: Annabelle breath a sigh of relief

RAMSEY
(over load speakers)
Welcome to processing.

EFX: Machines turn on.

NARRATOR
Annabelle gazed through the vent as
a gaggle of robotic devices
emerged. They plucked each human
and placed them upside down on a
conveyer belt.

RAMSEY
(over load speakers)
Feel that rub bar against your
chest? Doesn't that feel nice? haha

Efx: Humans moaning in mild comfort

RAMSEY
(over load speakers)
In a few seconds, you'll be readied
unconscious so you won't feel a
thing.

Efx: Ramsey sinister laughing

EFX: Stunning.

RAMSEY
You have some happy mouths to feed.

Efx: Hacking of throats

ANNABELLE AFANDY
(Whisper)
What the fuck?

Efx: wheels moving closer.

Efx: Annabelle breathing

Efx: wheels moving away.

Efx: Annabelle exhales a sigh of relief

RAMSEY
(Left Ear)
It was a nice try but I already
told you...

NATALIE KING
(Right Ear)
That it wasn't worth the price.

ANNABELLE AFANDY
Natalie???? What is this fucking
slaughterhouse?

NATALIE KING
It seems as though you answered
your own question. It is a
slaughterhouse. The second you
wrote that article, Carlisle
decided he wanted a piece of you.

ANNABELLE AFANDY
What????

NATALIE KING
You wanted to know what he was
referring to in that text about the
17 year old intern? I'll just let
him explain it himself.

ANNABELLE AFANDY
Oh god!!!

Efx: hands rubbing alongside grate

SENATOR CARLISLE
(Creepy)
Annnnnabelle.

EFX: Annabelle breaths heavily.

ANNABELLE AFANDY
Don't you dare try anything on me
against my will?

SENATOR CARLISLE
(laughing creepily)
Annabelle, Annabelle, Annabelle.
You of all people should know what
an awful faux faux it is... to fuck
your food.

ANNABELLE AFANDY
What?

SENATOR CARLISLE
Natalie, start the vent blenders.

Efx: Annabelle Screams.

Efx: Blender stuck

SENATOR CARLISLE
Damn, this old machine.
What did I tell you about
the Vent Blenders?!

Efx: unscrewing vent

ANNABELLE AFANDY
I think I might be able to...

EFX: Vents blending Annabelle to pieces.

Efx: As she is hacked to pieces we can also hear her choking
on her liquid sludgy remains.

Efx: Project Cyclops Transition noise

KATIE
Didn't EZL report that Annabelle
Afany died in a drunk driving
accident?

HAN ZIGGLER
The public required a diversion. I
knew we were dealing with a growing
cannibal black market but I didn't
know that demand had soared to the
point where humans were being
factory farmed on US soil!

KATIE
Senator Carlisle how is he able to
do this? Something has got to be
done!

HAN ZIGGLER
We can't compromise the
investigation Katie. Our job is to
run Project Cyclops and pass that
information on to the necessary
party in NTK.

KATIE
Did you see what Senator Carlisle
did to his aide?

HAN ZIGGLER
He has been at this for a while.

KATIE

How is that possible? This is
literally a cannibal serving in an
elected office.

HAN ZIGGLER

Considering how who president is
in, how can this moderately
surprising? It's simply just par
for the course.

KATIE

Jesus. I just wonder if this has
anything to do with any of the
other heads we have seen.

HAN ZIGGLER

It is still far too early to jump
to conclusions. Get some rest and
I'll see you tomorrow at 9 AM for
our next assignment.

Efx: Door Closing