

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. JEFFERSONIAN / BASEMENT CORRIDOR - MORNING

A dimly-lit, long hallway with exposed pipes, cinder block walls and a cement gray floor. Overhead, the emergency lights FLICKER and an alarm SCREAMS.

CAMERA finds TWO JANITORS in "Jeffersonian Institute" coveralls - NICK, 26, wiry and anxious, and PHIL, 55, overweight - racing toward the incinerator at the far end of the hall. Black smoke billows from a vent above the locked incinerator door, three feet by three feet of heavy steel built into the wall (*think: an industrial oven*).

START →

> NICK

...Smoke was coming out of the vent into the first floor break-room. I was about to call you when the alarm triggered.

PHIL

You sure you turned the flame down last night?

> NICK

Right before my cruller. Alarm's gone off before, but the smoke was always gray.

PHIL

Couple years back, a possum got stuck in the shaft. Smoke was black.

> NICK

(offers a theory)

Dr. Addy was conducting an experiment on a pig yesterday.

PHIL

There you go. A pig'd burn black. And it does kinda smell like roasted pork.

> NICK

I told all of them guys not to toss dead animals down the incinerator shaft.

PHIL

Since when do they listen to us?

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Phil finds a KEY on his overflowing KEY RING. Inserts it into a lock in the incinerator door.

He tugs the door open. A puff of black smoke billows out. At first, we DO NOT see what they see. But we do see their faces as they REACT in HORROR -

NICK

Holy crap.

PHIL

That's not pork.

Now, the camera 180's so we can see what they see.

REVEAL - A CHARRED HUMAN SKELETON - the face is burned beyond recognition. (Note: The skeleton lays on the incinerator floor, essentially a grill.) As the low flames continue to lick the black bones, we 180 again TO FIND:

TIME/MATCH CUT TO:

STOP

INT. JEFFERSONIAN / BASEMENT - DAY

The Janitors have been replaced by BRENNAN and CAM. The flames have been turned off.

BRENNAN

..At 400 degrees, bone chars in six hours, it turns to ash in eight.

CAM

We've got charring but no ash. So, six to eight hours?

BRENNAN

Pelvic bone is definitely female. And based on the cranial sutures, I'd say early to mid-twenties though expansion due to heat could affect that.

Cam regards her watch. Does the math -

CAM

She was dumped into the incinerator between midnight and two AM.

BOOTH (O.S.)

Was she alive or dead when she was dumped?

They turn to find BOOTH who's just arrived on scene. He carries a computer print-out -

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