

Jamestown's DARK WINTER

1 X 60 HD



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A team of archeologists digging at the site of an early American colony discovers a hidden world of horrors. Amid the death and disease, they find evidence of a shocking crime that took 400 years to uncover.

At its outset, the Jamestown settlement had the hope and optimism of any colonial enterprise. But life in the Jamestown settlement was primitive, difficult, and even dangerous. The colony did not have enough experienced farmers, the settlers were unprepared for the harsh summer weather, and their relations with the Powhatan Indians, who at first were helpful to the settlers, soon deteriorated.

By the winter of 1609, Jamestown colonists were facing the harshest of conditions—during this “Starving Time,” the settlers were ravaged by disease, malnutrition, exposure, and deadly attacks from the Powhatan tribe, leaving only 50 living colonists.

These conditions led to what remains to this day one of the darkest, most macabre, episodes in American history. With food scarce and nowhere else to go, the settlers resorted to eating horses, dogs, cats, and rats. And as disease spread even further, the remaining colonists were driven to the brink of insanity. They turned to an even more desperate measure: cannibalism. Letters from the colony’s governor, George Percy, have long told stories of the Jamestown cannibals, but they were often dismissed by historians as exaggerations, told by the settlers to draw sympathy and support from the British government.

In 2012, however, archaeologists in Jamestown uncovered the human skull and tibia of a 14-year-old girl they named “Jane,” dating back 400 years. As they began building her profile, forensic analysis suggested she had been cannibalized. But how exactly did she die? Was she murdered to be eaten, or had she died earlier? And, as women remain a little-known part of Jamestown’s history, who was Jane?

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CREDITS

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