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# HOUSE

“Paternity”

EPISODE #4

Written by

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E#5503

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Yellow Revisions	August 24, 2004

# HOUSE

## Character List Episode 04 - Pink Revisions

Dr. Gregory House  
Dr. James Wilson  
Dr. Lisa Cuddy  
Dr. Allison Cameron  
Dr. Robert Chase  
Dr. Eric Foreman

Dan  
Andy  
Paula  
Funsten  
Jake  
Young Mother  
Defenseman  
Trainer

Voice (V.O. only)

# HOUSE

Location List  
Episode 04 - Pink Revisions

## **INTERIORS**

### Hospital

- Main Lobby & Elevator
- Front Entrance
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor / Patient's Floor
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Nurses' Station
- 4<sup>th</sup> Floor / Administration Floor
- Stairwell

### House's Office

- Outer Office
- Inner Office

### Clinic

- Reception
- Exam Room #1
- Exam Room #2

### Cuddy's Office

### Lab

- Dan's Hospital Room
- Radiology - MRI Room
- Morgue
- Operating Room

### House's Apartment

## **EXTERIORS**

- Hospital - Roof
- High School Lacrosse Field
- University Athletic Field
- Cafeteria

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL LACROSSE FIELD -- DAY (DAY 1) 1

CLOSE ON a standard lacrosse stick pocket as it catches a ball.

DAN

16, who just caught the ball, runs behind the back side of the goal, directing the offense, taunting a HUGE DEFENSEMAN who cruelly poke-checks his outstretched arm.

DAN'S POV - As he looks at the field, he sees double. Dan shakes his head to clear the webs. Field comes back into correct view.

DAN'S PARENTS, PAULA and ANDY, happy, loving, All-American, mid 40's, cheer their son from the PACKED STANDS.

The DEFENSEMAN covering Dan lunges. Dan takes advantage of the defenseman being off balance and darts to his left. The offense is now in motion.

DEFENSEMAN

Ball back right, ball back right!

Dan rockets the ball to his MIDDIE #1, JAKE, who's cutting from the top of the key. Jake catches the ball, then quick-sticks it back to Dan. A bullet.

DAN'S POV - SLOW MOTION: Two balls come right at him. He tries to focus, but there are definitely two balls. Which ball to catch? He picks the left ball.

As he catches the phantom ball, it vaporizes in his stick.

SAME TIME

The real ball hits Dan in the cage of his helmet and drops to the ground.

The crowd roars: "Oh!!!"

Dan, still on his feet, looks on the ground for the ball...

Time slows way down. We hear Dan's labored breathing and heartbeat as crowd noise and sounds of his teammates calling for Dan to get the ball all morph into one loud roaring sound.

VFX: ZOOM right into Dan's eye and into his brain, where we see a synaptic lightning storm of activity.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

As lightning flickers across the gray matter of his brain, a powerful and nasty-looking lightning bolt fires right through the core.

WE ZOOM OUT of his brain just in time for:

As time speeds back up to real time:

JAKE

Dan! On your left!

But he doesn't react and a huge defenseman lays Dan out with a bone-crushing, illegal crosscheck to the head. Dan's knocked back five yards. On his back -- helmet knocked off his head.

Another "Oh!" From the crowd. Dan's parents gasp.

The Referee quickly whistles the play dead. Motions for Dan's coach to come out.

The TRAINER rushes to Dan's side, quickly assesses the situation.

TRAINER

You okay? Dan... Talk to me.

\*

DAN'S POV - the trainer standing over him is barely visible or audible.

DAN (O.S.)

I... can't see you.

TRAINER

Get a doctor.

\*

As a sickening rushing sound gets louder and louder...

SMASH TO MAIN TITLES:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2 INT. CLINIC -- DAY (DAY 2)

2

Dan and his parents wait in the waiting area, anxious. The gash over his eye has almost healed, indicating it's been a few weeks since the game. Paula looks at her watch; they've been here for a while.

HOUSE approaches the reception desk and speaks to a nurse.

HOUSE  
Z-pak. Exam room 2. 4:01 p.m., Dr.  
House checks out. Please write that  
down.

House is about to exit when Andy catches him at the door, carrying an oversized file that contains X-Rays, CT scans.

ANDY  
Dr. House?

HOUSE  
Sorry, done for the day. Plenty of  
docs here to take care of you.

ANDY  
But we had an appointment.

HOUSE  
Nice try, but this is a walk-in  
clinic, which means there are no  
appointments. You walk in, sign the  
chart, and a doctor sees you. Just  
not me.

ANDY  
Your letter says we'd see you.

This stops House.

HOUSE  
Not a big letter writer...

Andy reaches into his file and hands House the letter.

ANDY  
Here.

House looks at the letter. CLOSE ON - House's signature.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

HOUSE (V.O.)  
When did my signature get so girly?

3 INT. HOUSE'S OFFICE -- DAY

3

CLOSE ON - the signature. CAMERON puts the letter down.

CAMERON  
I can explain.

House points at the letter G in his signature.

HOUSE  
See the G? See how it makes a big  
loop on top? Doesn't even look like  
my handwriting. Do you think I have  
something? What's the differential  
diagnosis for writing G's like a  
junior high school girl?

\*  
\*

CAMERON  
It's impossible for anyone to get to  
you through normal channels; they've  
written, e-mailed, called --

HOUSE  
-- Perseverance doesn't equal  
worthiness. Next time you want my  
attention, wear something fun. Low  
rider jeans are hot.

Frustrated, Cameron gives the facts:

CAMERON  
Sixteen year old male, sudden onset  
of double vision and night terrors  
without any apparent cause. The  
kid's been to two neurologists, an  
E.N.T. --

HOUSE  
-- Night terrors. As in big, scary  
monsters?

CAMERON  
Yes.

House starts to exit.

CAMERON (CONT'D)  
Where are you going?

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

HOUSE  
To talk to the family.

CAMERON  
You're going to examine him?

HOUSE  
Nine times out of ten, there's no reason to talk to the patient. But night terrors in a sixteen year old is a very good reason to talk to this family. Good work.

Cameron is touched by the compliment -- perhaps more than she'd like to admit.

CAMERON  
Thank you.

4 INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM #2 -- DAY

4

EXTREME CLOSE UP -- DAN'S EYE

A pinlight slides across the surface of the eye, side to side.

HOUSE (O.S.)  
Margins are fine, no lesions, color's good.

PULL OUT TO REVEAL House shining a light in Dan's left eye. A fundus exam. Cameron's also present, observing closely. Dan's parents watch nervously.

HOUSE (CONT'D)  
How long have you been having the night terrors?

DAN  
Three weeks.

ANDY  
He's afraid to go to bed. He's exhausted, can barely function.

House flicks his finger at Dan's eye -- a threat test. Dan blinks. Flicks again. Dan recoils.

PAULA  
What does that tell you?

HOUSE  
Nothing.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

HOUSE (CONT'D)

I just do that because it's fun to watch him blink.

(to Dan)

Name as many animals as you can that begin with the letter B. Go.

Dan's stumped. Five very long seconds pass. The parents are worried. Finally, Dan's got one:

DAN

...baby elephant?

HOUSE

Baby elephant... is actually a good answer. B's a bear of a letter.

ANDY

What does that tell you?

HOUSE

Proves two things - no neurological damage; and your son's never gonna make chief fry cook.

The parents are beginning to wonder what's up with this doctor.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

In teens, there are two likely causes of night terrors: post traumatic stress... any recent shootouts at your high school?

DAN

No.

HOUSE

Well, Dave --

CAMERON

Dan.

HOUSE

-- if there's no trauma, the other cause is sexual abuse.

House quickly searches their faces.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

So. Who's molesting you?

Dan and his parents look shocked. This line of questioning wasn't what Cameron was expecting either. \*

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

HOUSE (CONT'D) \*

Teacher? Extra friendly neighbor?  
I'd ask if either of you were  
involved, but you'd deny it.

ANDY

We'd never do anything to hurt Dan.

HOUSE

I say it here, it comes out there.  
(to Dan)  
This lack of response is consistent  
with abuse.

DAN

No one. I swear. There was trauma;  
I got hit in the head during a  
lacrosse game.

HOUSE

Lacrosse game?  
(to Cameron)  
Did you know he got hit in the head?

CAMERON

They didn't mention it, no.

HOUSE

Yeah, why bother?  
(to Cameron)  
Have I taught you nothing? \*

And he heads for the exit.

5 INT. CLINIC -- DAY

5

House exits Exam Room #2. But Andy stubbornly, and  
desperately, follows House. Paula, Dan and Cameron are close  
behind.

ANDY

No. We went to the ER after the  
game. They scanned him and tested  
him; they said he was fine; no  
concussion. It's gotta be something  
else.

HOUSE

You hound me for my opinion then  
question my diagnosis...  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

HOUSE (CONT'D)  
 (thinks about that)  
 Cool. The E.R. obviously screwed  
 up; kid's got a concussion.

DAN  
 I had double vision before I was  
 hit.

HOUSE  
 (stops)  
 Well that changes everything. You  
 need glasses. That's why you had  
 double vision, which is why you got  
 hit, which is why you have a  
concussion which is why you have  
 night terrors. You need to see an  
 ophthalmologist; which I am not.

House hurries away. Cameron chases after House as he exits.

6 INT. HOSPITAL - MAIN LOBBY -- CONTINUOUS

6

Cameron stops him just outside the doors to the clinic.  
 They're pretty much alone.

CAMERON  
 You enjoyed that.

House and Cameron are positioned so that we see Dan in the  
 background, leaning against the desk in the clinic, next to  
 his mom, while his dad talks to a nurse at reception.

CAMERON (CONT'D)  
 I brought a reasonable case to your  
 attention which you shoved in my  
 face to humiliate me.

House realizes something.

HOUSE  
 You're an only child aren't you.

This question hits Cameron far more than it should have.

CAMERON  
 Why did you say that?

HOUSE  
 Because everything is about you.  
 This may seem incredibly  
 controversial, but I think sexual  
 abuse is bad. I wanted to make sure  
 he wasn't getting diddled by daddy.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

HOUSE (CONT'D)  
Or mommy. Humiliating you is just a  
bonus.

\*  
\*

CAMERON  
...I'm not an only child.

HOUSE  
Interesting.

ANGLE ON - DAN - SLOW MOTION

Suddenly Dan's leg quickly tenses, shoots out. It's a very subtle move. No one would notice it even if they were looking for it. Except House.

PUSH IN on House, watching Dan through the window. He blows past Cameron and quickly re-enters the clinic.

7 INT. CLINIC -- CONTINUOUS

7

House approaches Dan.

HOUSE  
(to Dan)  
Don't move.

Cameron follows.

HOUSE (CONT'D)  
Did I bore you in there?

DAN  
What? Not really --

ANDY  
What's going on?

HOUSE  
(to Dan)  
Are you tired?

DAN  
Sometimes.

ANDY  
He never sleeps; of course he's --

HOUSE  
(exasperated)  
-- Now. This moment. Are you tired  
right now?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

DAN

No.

HOUSE

Your leg. That twitch. Did you feel that?

With each question, the parents' anxiety level rises.

DAN

Didn't hurt.

ANDY

His leg twitched, I don't get why that's --

HOUSE

It's called a myoclonic jerk. Very common when you're falling asleep. Respiration rate slows down and sometimes the brain interprets this as the body dying -- so it sends a pulse to wake it up.

ANDY

So?

HOUSE

So he's not asleep. He's awake.  
(to Cameron)  
Admit him.

House walks away. Off the family, shocked and scared, none of this is what they were expecting. Andy puts his arm reassuringly around his son's shoulders.

8 INT. HOUSE'S OFFICE -- DAY

8

ON A WHITE BOARD as Cameron finishes writing "night terror." It's the last of a vertical list of symptoms including double vision and myoclonic jerk. House is at his desk. Also present are FOREMAN and CHASE.

HOUSE

I recognize that loopy 'g'. What's the jerk tell us? \*

Cameron resists the obvious straight line. \*

FOREMAN

Nothing good. The brain's losing control of the body. Can't order the eyes to focus, regulate sleep patterns, or control muscles.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

HOUSE  
 (all bad news)  
 A movement disorder or degenerative  
 brain disease.

CHASE  
 Maybe not that bad. Could be an  
 infection.

HOUSE  
 You wish. No fever, no white count.

CAMERON  
 Way too young for Alzheimer's.

Their reactions tell the story -- all of these possibilities  
 are awful. \*

HOUSE \*

Anyone think this differential  
 diagnosis might be compromised because  
 we don't have an accurate family  
 history?

CAMERON  
 I took an *accurate* family history.

HOUSE  
 You didn't even take an accurate  
*family*. His father's not his father.

CHASE  
 Why would you say that?

HOUSE  
 Thirty percent of all dads out there  
 don't know they're raising someone  
 else's kid.

FOREMAN  
 From what I've read, false paternity's  
 more like ten percent.

HOUSE  
 That's what our moms would like us  
 to believe.

(CONTINUED)

CAMERON

Who cares? If he got this from his parents, they'd both be dead by now. Can we get back to the differential diagnosis?

HOUSE

(to Foreman)

Fifty bucks I'm right.

FOREMAN

I'll take your money.

CAMERON

(back to business)

Sydenham's Chorea --

HOUSE

(to Foreman)

Hit a nerve? Don't worry, Foreman, I'm sure the guy that tucked you in at night was your daddy.

FOREMAN

Make it a hundred.

CAMERON

Leukoencephalopathy.

(definitely bad news)

In a sixteen year old...

That brings Foreman and House back to the case. But Chase is still not convinced they're on the right road.

CHASE

Doesn't necessarily have to be that bad.

HOUSE

Exactly, he can still pick up his diploma in diapers and a walker. Dad'll be so proud.

CHASE

But if we exclude the night terrors, it could be something systemic: his liver, kidneys, something outside the brain.

HOUSE

Yes, feel free to exclude any symptom if you think that'll make your job easier.

\*

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (3)

8

CHASE

Night terrors were anecdotal.  
 Could've been a bad dream.

CAMERON

No. Parents said Dan was conscious  
 during the event, but had no memory  
 of it afterward. That's a night  
 terror.

\*

\*

CHASE

"Parents said"?

HOUSE

Good point. Before we condemn this  
 kid, maybe we should entertain Dr.  
 Chase's skepticism. I want a detailed  
 polysomnograph. If he's having night  
 terrors, I want to see it.

\*

9 INT. DAN'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- NIGHT

9

Dan is strapped down in his hospital bed wearing a SIX-POINT RESTRAINT SYSTEM. There are twelve wires with metal leads attached to his head -- the EEG. There are also leads attached above and below his eyes and chin; strap around his chest; a respirator in his nose; a neck microphone; a digital camera recording his every move all hooked up to an EDENTRACE polysomnograph.

House enters. Tightens the straps on Dan's chest, thighs, ankles and wrists.

DAN

I usually don't move during night  
 terrors.

HOUSE

I'm not restraining you for them.

House wheels a surgical tray to Dan's feet.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

EEG revealed abnormalities in your  
 brain which caused some nerve damage  
 in your toes.

House pricks Dan's big toe with his pen.

DAN

Ow.

House gives him a look: see?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

Snaps on a pair of surgical gloves. Wipes the feet down in betadyne. Uses a surgical marker and draws a circle around the big toe.

DAN (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

House picks up a pair of bone cutters.

HOUSE

Fixing it.

DAN

Can I talk to my parents?

HOUSE

They know all about this...

House encircles the big toe with the cutters. Gets a good grip. A tracing of blood appears around the big toe. House has a really menacing look in his face.

DAN

Please -- I'd really like them here.

HOUSE

This might sting a little, Dan. \*

With all House's might, House snaps the bone cutters closed. *Crunch.* Dan screams.

SMASH TO:

10 INT. DAN'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- NIGHT

10

Everything we just saw was a night terror. Dan is in his hospital bed, awake, his eyes open, peaceful, breathing normally -- but not blinking. He's in the exact same bed, in the exact same room, with the exact same equipment - except for the restraint system. The EEG is now making horrible scratching noises as it moves.

EXTREME CLOSE UP on EEG pen, making marks.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

REVEAL Foreman and Chase. Foreman looks at the graph paper of the EEG. He circles something. Shows Chase.

CHASE

That's a night terror.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11 INT. RADIOLOGY - MRI ROOM -- DAY (DAY 3) 11

Dan lies inside the MRI machine.

IN TECHNICIAN'S SECTION

We see the MRI image forming on a screen...

FOREMAN (V.O.)

We did a CT, MRI, CBC, Chem 7 and a chest X-Ray.

MATCH CUT TO:

12 INT. HOUSE'S INNER OFFICE -- DAY 12

House is looking at Dan's MRI. Cameron, Chase and Foreman are nearby.

FOREMAN

All the tests came back normal. There's nothing to explain his symptoms.

HOUSE

Okay. But let's pretend it's something and go from there...

CHASE

Focal torsion dystonia?

CAMERON

What about Neurodegeneration with Brain Iron Accumulation?

HOUSE

(hasn't heard of it)  
What?

CHASE

(translating)  
Hallervorden-Spatz.

CAMERON

There's a movement to change the name.

HOUSE

Why?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Hallervorden-Spatz is a beautiful name. Lyrical. Evocative of springtime in the cerebellum.

CAMERON

Dr. Hallervorden gassed almost a hundred thousand mentally ill patients during World War Two.

HOUSE

Jonas Salk killed his grandparents.

FOREMAN

No he didn't.

HOUSE

Might have. What difference does it make? It's a name, not a prize. And it's not the name of a puppy; it's the name of a disease - that kills people. Naming it after a murderer seems like a good idea actually. Who sees something on the MRI?

The others take a closer look...

CAMERON

No lesions in the white matter.

FOREMAN

No structural abnormalities.

CAMERON

No space-occupying tumors.

HOUSE

He's sixteen, so he should have an absolutely pristine brain. The smallest thing is abnormal.

They look some more, even more closely, but nothing until --

CHASE

Meningeal enhancement.

House looks to Chase - really; you see that?

CHASE (CONT'D)

My bet is viral meningitis.

(CONTINUED)

HOUSE

Excellent.

(to the others)

You see what he did there? He took a small clue that there's a neurological problem and wasn't afraid to run with it.

FOREMAN

There's no evidence of meningitis on that MRI.

HOUSE

No, there's not. He's completely wrong.

CAMERON

So what clue are you talking about?

HOUSE

He knew I saw something on the MRI, so he figured there must be something there and he took a guess.

House looks to Chase who responds sheepishly - House is right.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Clever. But also pathetic.

CHASE

So what did you find?

HOUSE

Look closely at the corpus callosum.

Foreman, Chase and Cameron stare at the MRI.

CHASE

Looks okay...

HOUSE

Are we all looking at the same thing? The big white thing, 200 million interhemispheric nerve fibers, the George Washington Bridge between the right and left side of the brain? It's subtle.

CHASE

There's some bowing.

Chase points to a spot in the middle of the MRI which shows the corpus callosum - a large curved white thing which runs along the center of the brain.

(CONTINUED)

CHASE (CONT'D)

(points)

There. An upward arch...

HOUSE

Are you guessing?

CHASE

(beat, considers)

...Yes.

HOUSE

Too bad. You're right.

FOREMAN

(still thinks it's  
nothing)

He probably just moved; nobody stays perfectly still for their entire MRI.

HOUSE

Right. He got restless and shifted one hemisphere of his brain to a more comfortable position. Something's pushing on it.

FOREMAN

If there was a bowing, could be a tumor.

HOUSE

Do you see a tumor on this MRI?

FOREMAN

No, but I don't see any bowing either.

HOUSE

There's no tumor; there's just blockage causing pressure; causing the symptoms. Today night terrors, tomorrow he's bleeding out of his ears. Give him a radionuclide cisternogram. I promise you'll see blockage.

FOREMAN

On the offchance that the invisible cause of the invisible damage isn't really there, do you want us to test for anything else?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (4)

12

HOUSE

Yes, test his knowledge of animals  
that begin with the letters C through  
K.

13 INT. DAN'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

13

With his father sitting on a stool beside the bed, Dan lies  
in a kind of relaxed fetal position, feet crossed, hips and  
shoulders aligned on a vertical plane.

Foreman injects 2 cc's of xylocaine from a very short needle  
to anesthetize the inner tissues of Dan's back.

FOREMAN

Painless, right? Two-inch putt. A  
gimme.

DAN

(been briefed)  
That was the anesthetic, right?

Foreman picks up a big nasty-looking needle -- very long.  
And gets ready to insert it into the vertebrae.

FOREMAN

Yup. Now I've got to use my driver  
to get into the spine. You set?

Dan sets himself. Foreman presses the needle into the skin.  
Foreman finds what he's looking for in his spine. Tight  
space; big needle. He exerts quite a bit of muscle to advance  
the needle. It hurts.

ANDY

(awful to see his son  
in pain; to Dan)  
Doing great.

Foreman's eyes check Dan's vitals, his body position...

FOREMAN

I'm injecting a material that's tagged  
with a radioisotope.

Foreman removes the stylet and begins to inject a  
radioisotope.

Foreman looks at Dan's face. Then Andy's.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

It's going to enter your spine and travel up into your brain where it'll make you able to think deep thoughts and run a hundred miles an hour.

As he talks, we FOLLOW Foreman's eyes: Dan's eyebrows - Andy's eyebrows. Dan's nose - Andy's nose (nasal fossae, vertical septum). Dan's lips - Andy's lips (the philtrum, the vermilion border). Ears (helix, lobe). ZOOM TO Dan's eye which has a rust-colored fleck in the iris. ZOOM to Andy's -- the same fleck.

14 INT. LAB -- DAY

14

A RHISA scan that shows the radioisotope trapped in the aqueduct of Sylvius. Foreman and Chase have been here a while discussing other matters.

FOREMAN

The eyes aren't the same color but that fleck in the eyes; that's maybe a one in ten chance if they're not related.

CHASE

House isn't gonna pay you based on that.

FOREMAN

(knows it's true)

Any excuse we can give the folks to justify DNA tests?

CHASE

(doesn't mean it)

We could tell them he's got Huntington's -- whole family should be tested or they'll all die.

House enters. Foreman stands up -- goes to the RHISA scan. Points.

FOREMAN

There's a lot of blockage.

CHASE

I've scheduled him for surgery.

(MORE)

\*

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

CHASE (CONT'D)

We're gonna put a shunt into one of the ventricles, give the cerebrospinal fluid an out.

FOREMAN

No more pressure; everything goes back to normal.

HOUSE

He's lucky to have you as his doctors.

15 INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM #1 -- DAY (DAY 4)

15

House looks at the cutest, fat-faced 8-month old INFANT dressed in an adorable fluffy robe-thing. The infant's hempish but naturally pretty YOUNG MOTHER talks more to the baby than to House.

YOUNG MOTHER

No formula, just mommy's healthy, natural breast-milk.

HOUSE

Yummie.

House isn't talking to the baby. He's talking to the hot mommy...

YOUNG MOTHER

Her whole face got swollen like this overnight.

House feels the kid's glands.

HOUSE

No fever... glands normal...

Checks the kid's booklet that details hospital visits and vaccinations -- free gifts from the pharmaceutical companies.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Missing her vaccination dates.

YOUNG MOTHER

We're not vaccinating.

This stops House. The Young Mother holds a green stuffed frog in front of the baby, which makes the baby giggle.

YOUNG MOTHER (CONT'D)

Gribbet. Gribbet.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

HOUSE

Don't think they work?

YOUNG MOTHER

I think some multi-national  
pharmaceutical company wants me to  
think they work; pad their bottom  
line.

HOUSE

(re: frog)

May I?

Young Mother hands House the frog. He squeezes it a couple  
of times.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

(to Mom)

Gribbet.

(looks at label)

All natural. No dyes. Good business --  
all-natural children's toys. Toy  
companies don't arbitrarily mark-up  
their frogs. Don't cheat the elderly.  
Don't lie about how much they spend  
on "research and development." Worst  
a toy company can be accused of is  
making a bad frog.

(in baby's face)

Gribbet-Gribbet-Gribbet.

The baby giggles at House.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Know another really good business?  
Teeny tiny baby coffins.

\*

Mother's demeanor instantly changes.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

You can get them in frog green, fire  
engine red. Really.

The mother's too stunned to respond.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

The antibodies in yummy mummy's milk  
only protect the kid for six months.  
Which is why these big companies  
think they can gouge you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

HOUSE (CONT'D)

They think you'll spend whatever they ask to keep your kid alive. You want to change things? Prove them wrong. A few hundred parents like you decide they'd rather let their kids die than cough up forty or fifty bucks for a vaccination, believe me, prices'll drop really fast.

(to baby)

Gribbet.

\*  
\*

YOUNG MOTHER

(frightened)

Tell me what she has.

HOUSE

A cold.

16 INT. HOSPITAL - MAIN LOBBY -- DAY

16

House emerges from the clinic and is immediately joined by his team.

CAMERON

There's a problem.

HOUSE

Complications in surgery?

FOREMAN

Surgery went fine. He's in recovery. But we took a vial of CSF and tested it.

HOUSE

Really?

He hands the tests results to House (looks like a photocopy of the familiar DNA bands).

FOREMAN

Turns out the bowing wasn't the cause of his problems. It was a symptom.

CHASE

(pointing)

Oligoclonal bands and increased intrathecal IgG.

HOUSE

Means Multiple Sclerosis. Reason it takes three of you to tell me this?

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

CAMERON

We have some disagreement whether or not it is M.S. \*

CHASE

No lesions on the MRI.

FOREMAN

It's early. He's had the disease for maybe two weeks.

CAMERON

McDonald Criteria requires six months to make a definitive diagnosis. \*

HOUSE

Who cares about MacPhearson? I hear he tortured kittens.

FOREMAN

McDonald.

HOUSE

Oh, McDonald. Wonderful doctor. Loved kittens.

FOREMAN

The VEP indicates slowing of the brain.

CAMERON

But without the lesions we can't be sure.

HOUSE

(to Cameron)

If it is, it's gone from zero to sixty in three weeks. Which would indicate Rapidly Progressive M.S. Not the fun M.S. with the bike rides and balloons for cripples in wheelchairs.

CAMERON

We should wait for --

HOUSE

-- We start treating him now maybe he can walk for an extra couple of years, maybe he can live an extra five.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

HOUSE (CONT'D)  
(then, to Chase)  
Break the news to the family. I'm  
going home.

House disappears among the blur of patients, doctors and  
nurses.

17 INT. DAN'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

17

Chase sits with Dan and the parents who are understandably shaken. Dan has a thin bandage around his head. Paula holds Dan's hand.

CHASE

(to Dan)

It'll take months for a definitive diagnosis but we think it's important that you start treatment right away.

Dan asks the one question all patients ask:

DAN

What will happen to me?

CHASE

M.S. is an incredibly variable disease. It's different for everyone.

ANDY

What do you think is going to happen?

\*

CHASE

There are some medications to manage the symptoms, but as the disease progresses the problems will become more severe: bowel and bladder dysfunction, cognitive function, pain -- not much to do about those.

DAN

It's going to hurt?

CHASE

(nods)

The brain's like a big jumble of wires; M.S. strips them of their insulation and the nerves die -- brain interprets it as pain.

Andy holds Paula who can't hold her emotion in check anymore.

CHASE (CONT'D)

But by starting treatment we're going to prevent that for as long as possible. We're looking into a couple of specialists and until we get you squared away you'll stay here, okay?

Dan is obviously and understandably frightened.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

As Chase continues to discuss treatment and prognosis with the family, the sounds dim till ALL IS SILENT and we PULL OUT AND UP and...

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2) 17

Chase fades and disappears...

The parents fade and disappear...

Day dissolves to night...

Time has passed. Dan is alone, in bed, unable to sleep, just staring up at the camera...

18 INT. HALLWAY - 2ND FLOOR/PATIENT ROOMS -- NIGHT 18

Contrary to the way we saw the hospital during the day, at night, it's very different. It's almost empty. Only essential personnel are there.

At the Nurses' Station, instead of the normal buzz of activity, there's only one night nurse who's responsible for the entire floor. The phone doesn't ring. Bells don't go off. Elevator doors don't open. It's quiet.

An ORDERLY exits a patient room with a cart laden with finished dinner trays, she heads for Dan's room.

19 INT. DAN'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS 19

She enters and stops.

REVEAL the bed we just saw, where Dan couldn't sleep, is now empty...

The Orderly runs to the bed and presses a red button on the bed. An alarm sounds through the quiet...

20 INT. HALLWAY - 2ND FLOOR - NURSES' STATION -- NIGHT 20

Foreman runs up to Cameron, who hangs up the phone.

CAMERON

Security reviewed videotape from all perimeter cameras. He's gotta still be inside the hospital. \*

FOREMAN

Where's Chase? \*

CAMERON

Basement.

FOREMAN

You take the cafeteria and library. I'll hit the research annex and work my way back to you.

21 INT. 4TH FLOOR/ADMINISTRATION -- NIGHT 21

Cameron pokes her head in and out of rooms as she hurries down the empty hallway.

She hears something. Pauses. Nothing. She looks over her shoulder. Looks left, right. Nothing. She continues on...

22 INT. CLINIC -- NIGHT 22

Chase has a Security Guard unlock the closed clinic.

Chase checks the pharmacy and the exam rooms. It's eerie when no one's around.

23 INT. HOSPITAL - MORGUE -- NIGHT 23

Cameron enters to see a female body under a white sheet on the surgical table. This place freaks her out.

No Dan anywhere...

24 INT. HOUSE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT 24

House is watching TV: Fox's Best Damned Sports Show. The phone rings. Rings. House's eyes pivot to the phone.

25 INT. HOSPITAL - FRONT ENTRANCE -- NIGHT 25

House is on his way in, just as CUDDY, wearing a tennis outfit and carrying a tennis racquet, exits.

HOUSE

Great outfit. Bet you're killer at the net.

CUDDY

What are you doing back here? Patient?

HOUSE

No, hooker went to my office instead of my home.

House hobbles away. Cuddy watches him go.

26 INT. HOUSE'S OUTER OFFICE -- NIGHT 26

Foreman enters House's office. Sees House, waiting.

FOREMAN

Dan's missing.

(CONTINUED)

HOUSE

I got that part from the message.  
You said I was needed immediately.

FOREMAN

He shouldn't move after a lumbar  
puncture.

HOUSE

I agree, he's going to have a nasty  
headache. That would also be my  
opinion if consulted tomorrow morning.

FOREMAN

We wanted to keep you informed. He  
heard some pretty heavy news.

HOUSE

This isn't a toddler wandering around  
a scary hospital. He's sixteen.  
You'll find him. I'm going home. \*

FOREMAN

So when you say call me if we need  
anything, that means don't call me.

HOUSE

No. It means call me if I can do  
anything. I'm bad at search parties  
and I'm bad at sitting around, doing  
nothing, looking nervous. \*

He heads for the door.

FOREMAN

What about his parents? Should we  
call them?

HOUSE

Why? Do you think they're hiding him?

As he walks away... Foreman: what an asshole.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Make sure someone checks the roof.  
Some of the orderlies keep the  
emergency door propped open so they  
can grab a smoke.

26 CONTINUED: (2) 26  
Off Foreman.

SMASH CUT TO:

27 INT. STAIRWELL -- NIGHT 27

Foreman and Cameron take two at a time up the staircase. CLOSE ON their feet going up. Rhythmic. Both are obviously in great shape. Up, up, up, they don't stop until they reach a landing where a DOOR is kept propped open a few inches by a piece of wood.

They explode through the door which leads onto the roof.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL LACROSSE FIELD -- NIGHT 28

In his hospital gown, Dan stands behind the goal, eyeing the empty field. He takes another step onto the back line.

CHASE (O.S.)

Dan. You okay?

REVEAL CHASE, approaching from the sideline, the good doctor to talk some sense into a scared kid.

CHASE (CONT'D)

There are experimental treatments;  
ongoing research.

But all is not as it seems... in fact, it's a whole lot worse:

29 EXT. HOSPITAL - ROOF - NIGHT -- CONTINUOUS 29

Everything we just saw was a hallucination. Dan and Chase are in the exact same positions we just saw - relative to each other - but they're actually on the roof. They're just a few feet apart but Dan is one step from stepping off the ledge and falling twenty floors to his death.

CHASE

Who knows what they'll discover in  
the next year or two?

Foreman and Cameron are about ten feet away.

DAN

(to Chase)  
This is where I dropped the ball.

CAMERON

He doesn't know where he is.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

Foreman takes a step closer to Dan -- but Chase subtly waves him off. Chase advances... tries to get through to him.

CHASE

Dan? I'm right here. Dan, we're standing on the roof of the hospital.

Dan begins to pretend to cradle the ball (lacrosse style), pivoting, like he's going to throw, he's in the game, moving around...

CHASE (CONT'D)

Dan. You're not on the field.

Dan steps forward - straight toward the edge of the roof; just inches from the edge. Pump fakes. Another step forward and --

CAMERON

Dan --!

\*

Chase is in a dead sprint from the side to save him. Dives. Just as Dan starts off the ledge he's blindsided by Chase -- knocking him back, tackling him.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

30 INT. HOSPITAL - MAIN LOBBY / ELEVATOR -- DAY (DAY 5) 30

A new day. House approaches the elevator, pushes the button and waits. Foreman, haggard, comes down the stairs. House notices Foreman before Foreman notices House.

HOUSE

Dr. Foreman.

Foreman stops.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

I assume you found the kid?

FOREMAN

Almost walked off the roof.

HOUSE

Suicidal?

FOREMAN

No, thought he was on his lacrosse field. I was just gonna run home, shower and change --

HOUSE

(intrigued)

-- Conscious?

FOREMAN

Yes.

HOUSE

How'd you talk him down?

FOREMAN

Actually, Chase tackled him.

HOUSE

How come you didn't do it? \*

FOREMAN

(annoyed at the question) \*

Right. I am black but he was closer. \*

The elevator arrives. As House steps in.

HOUSE

Come on, you can ride up with me.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: 30

It wasn't an optional thing - Foreman reluctantly enters.

31 INT. HOUSE'S OUTER OFFICE -- DAY 31

House enters with Foreman. Cameron works at the computer.

HOUSE

Where's Dr. Chase? Finding a phone booth to change back into civvies?

CAMERON

He's getting a stitch in his arm.

HOUSE

Anybody tell the family their boy almost stepped off a roof? They must be thrilled.

CAMERON

(thinks he's being  
sarcastic)

They're not suing; I think because Chase asked them --

HOUSE

-- Why does everybody always think I'm being sarcastic? This is great news.

\*  
\*

As Chase enters, House continues, excited.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

He doesn't have M.S. The parents should be thrilled. Well, mom anyway. Of course dad probably doesn't know he's not dad so --

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

FOREMAN

-- Why doesn't he have M.S.

\*  
\*

HOUSE

He was on the roof thinking he was on a lacrosse field. Conscious, therefore not a night terror. He was in an *acute confusional state*. Which doesn't fit with a demyleninating disease like M.S.

\*

FOREMAN

But the oligoclonal bands --

HOUSE

-- Were real.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

HOUSE (CONT'D)

They just mean something other than  
M.S. So what are they telling us?

CHASE

That the immune system is working.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

HOUSE  
(right)  
It's an infection. In his brain.

CAMERON  
What about sex?

HOUSE  
Might get complicated. We work  
together. I'm older certainly.  
Maybe you like that. Is it my money --

CAMERON  
I mean maybe he has neurosyphillis.

HOUSE  
(winks at her)  
Nice cover.

\*  
\*  
\*

CHASE  
Sorry, RPR was negative.

HOUSE  
We don't need a definitive test to  
confirm this.

CAMERON  
Sure. You didn't need it to confirm  
M.S.

HOUSE  
Okay, let's wait for you to run titers  
on fourteen hundred viruses while  
this kid's brain turns to mush.

FOREMAN  
So... the fact that it's not M.S.,  
that's not really good news after  
all, is it?

HOUSE  
It is if it's neurosyphillis.  
(then)  
Likelihood of a false negative on an  
RPR test is thirty percent.  
Likelihood of a 16 year old having  
sex is roughly one hundred and twenty  
percent.

\*

CAMERON  
I'll start him on IV penicillin.

\*

HOUSE  
No. We're not waiting for that.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (3)

31

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Most effective way to deliver the drug is right into his brain via his spine.

FOREMAN

You can't. In a cramped space like the brain, increased intracranial pressure from a high volume drug like Penicillin could herniate his brain stem. Kill him. No neurologist in his right mind would ever recommend that.

HOUSE

Show of hands: who thinks I'm not in my right mind?

(surprisingly, no hands)

Who thinks I forgot a fairly basic neurological fact?

(still no hands)

Who thinks there's a third option?

\*

Beat. Then Chase raises his hand.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Very good. What's the third choice?

CHASE

No idea. You asked if I thought there was one.

FOREMAN

(realizes)

The patient has a shunt in his brain. There will be no increased pressure. We can put as much Penicillin into his body as we want.

HOUSE

Excellent. Inject him through a lumbar puncture.

32 INT. DAN'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

32

Dan is yet again on his side, holding his knees with one hand, with the other he holds his father's hand. Andy wears sweats (both parents have been sleeping at the hospital). Foreman is behind Dan with a large needle. He swabs the back with betadyne then alcohol.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

FOREMAN

One of us is going to do this to you  
twice a day for the next two weeks.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

Picks his spot. Then places a very large needle at L5.  
This looks really nasty. Dan doesn't need to be prompted.  
He takes a deep breath.

DAN

Ready.

Foreman sets himself, uses a lot of strength to advance the  
needle into Dan's spine.

ANDY

He could get syphilis? Even if he's  
not sexually active?

Foreman glances to Dan whose eyes plead for the right answer.

FOREMAN

It's unusual. But possible.  
(to Dan)

You're doing great. Ten more minutes.

Foreman has the needle where he wants it, pushes it even  
farther. Then he starts to inject the Penicillin.

33 INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM #2 -- DAY

33

JOHN FUNSTEN, 40, overly friendly, holds his baggy pants up  
to reveal a very swollen and pus-filled knee. He's in quite  
a bit of pain. House examines it - actually, he looks at it  
from across the room. \*

HOUSE

It's infected.

FUNSTEN

(duh)  
Uh huh.

HOUSE

With a really big hole in the center  
like you stuck a nail into it to  
relieve the pressure.

FUNSTEN

...I wouldn't do that.

HOUSE

(peers in)  
Actually, the wound's irregular.  
Not cylindrical. Shaped like a  
triangle. Not a nail... Steak knife?

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

FUNSTEN  
 (admits)  
 Wife's nail file.

House is pissed he missed it.

HOUSE  
 Pain'll make you do stupid things.  
 (offers a pill)  
 Something to take the edge off?

FUNSTEN  
 (hesitates, confused)  
 ...Thank you.

Funsten takes one; House takes one himself. Funsten looks for water...

HOUSE  
 Cheers.

House just downs his. Funsten does the same thing.

HOUSE (CONT'D)  
 You got family here in Princeton?

FUNSTEN  
 No.

HOUSE  
 Here on work?

FUNSTEN  
 No. Why are you --

HOUSE  
 -- Penis hurt?

FUNSTEN  
 What? No. Should it?

HOUSE  
 No. Just thought I'd toss you a really inappropriate question. Your lawyer will love it.

FUNSTEN  
 Why would I want to sue you? I want you to treat me.

HOUSE  
 (checks the file)  
 You live in Maplewood, New Jersey, right?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

HOUSE (CONT'D)

(yes...)

Why would you drive seventy miles to get treatment for a condition that a nine year old could diagnose? The free flowing pus is the tip off.

FUNSTEN

I was in town...

HOUSE

(no you weren't)

Not for family; not for work. You drove seventy miles to a walk-in clinic; you passed two hospitals on the road. Either you've got a problem with those hospitals or they've got a problem with you. My guess is you've sued half the doctors in Maplewood and the rest are now refusing to help you. Ironic isn't it? Sort of like the boy who sued wolf.

(thought occurs to him)

I bet we've got a doctor here named Wolfe. How perfect would that be? I'm going to page him.

FUNSTEN

(rising)

Okay, thank you. I'm going to go find a doctor to take care of this.

HOUSE

I didn't say I wouldn't treat you. We'll drain your knee, get some lab work done. Fix you right up.

FUNSTEN

Why would you do that?

HOUSE

I'm a people person.

34 INT. CLINIC - RECEPTION / HOSPITAL LOBBY -- DAY

34

House heads for the exit with WILSON.

WILSON

You actually treated him?

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

HOUSE

All I know is he sued some doctors;  
 who am I to assume they didn't have  
 it coming --

Cuddy exits her office. House continues without missing a  
 beat, as if he doesn't notice her.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

-- cutest little tennis outfit; my  
 God, I thought I'd have a heart attack --  
 (pretends to notice  
 her)  
 -- Oh my, I didn't see you. That's  
 embarrassing.

CUDDY

How's your hooker doing?

HOUSE

It's sweet of you to ask. Funny  
 story, she was going to be a hospital  
 administrator, but just hated having  
 to screw people like that.

CUDDY

Heard you found her up on the roof.

HOUSE

(beat, then:)  
 You have very acute hearing.

CUDDY

Did you notify the parents?

HOUSE

In due course, of course.

CUDDY

And is there a paternity bet on your  
 patient's father?

House looks to Wilson...

HOUSE

Doesn't sound like me.

WILSON

It'd be illegal.

CUDDY

I saw the parents in the lobby.  
 Smart money's obviously on the father.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

HOUSE

I know a guy, who knows a guy, who  
can get you in for fifty bucks.

CUDDY

Fine. Tell your guy, if I win, you  
attend the Faculty Symposium and you  
wear a tie.

They're now standing outside the clinic entrance.

HOUSE

If I win, no clinic hours for a week.

CUDDY

(nods)

My guy'll call your guy.

She walks on. House opens the clinic door and exits with  
Wilson.

WILSON

She's very good at her job.

35 INT. DAN'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY (DAY 6)

35

Chase stands behind Dan as he finishes inserting the long  
needle into Dan's back. Dan's a little groggy from  
medication, but not exhibiting any dementia like before.

Cameron holds Dan's hands tightly.

CHASE

You know the drill, huh Dan?

Dan looks at her eyes. Cameron smiles. Chase starts to  
inject Penicillin into Dan's spine.

CHASE (CONT'D)

The treatment should start helping  
soon. Let us know if it's easier to  
focus on things, remember stuff...

Cameron holds his hands tightly -- she feels for this kid  
and as we come around, we see that his eyes are watering  
from the pain.

Chase reads Cameron's look -- knows Dan is suffering. Chase  
whispers in Dan's ear.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Isn't Dr. Cameron's necklace  
beautiful?

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

With a free hand, she reaches down and instinctively touches her necklace.

DAN'S POV

Cameron's necklace; and her cleavage...

BACK TO SCENE

CHASE (CONT'D)

Something South American, I think.

CAMERON

Guatemalan.

DAN

Cool beads.

Cameron looks down at her necklace and sees why Chase suggested this: so Dan could look down her shirt.

CAMERON

(sharp)

Thank you so much.

CHASE

(smiles)

The kid's in pain...

DAN'S POV

He looks away from her cleavage as a low roaring increases in volume. The room starts to vibrate.

VOICE

I control you.

BACK TO SCENE

There is nothing vibrating in this room. No earthquake. Everything is normal.

DAN

-- No.

CHASE

No, what? Dan, you okay?

CAMERON

Dan?

DAN'S POV

The roaring sound blasts.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

Dan convulses violently on the table. If his head could spin around it would. Blood drips on his pillow around his eyes. Drip. Drip. Faster.

VOICE

I am going to eat your brain.

BACK TO SCENE

Contrary to Dan's POV, Dan's body is not convulsing. There is no blood on his pillow. And there is no roaring sound. Just Chase injecting him in the back and Cameron holding his hands.

Dan's staring off into space -- not connecting to Cameron.

DAN

Leave me alone.

CAMERON

He's hearing voices.

CHASE

Push two milligrams IV Atavan stat.

DAN

(screams)

Get out of my head!

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

36 INT. HOUSE'S OUTER OFFICE -- DAY

36

Foreman, Chase and Cameron with House. They're stumped.

CAMERON

Auditory hallucination shows further  
brain degeneration.

CHASE

Penicillin's not working.

HOUSE

So either it's a bad batch of  
penicillin or our diagnosis was wrong.  
Square one. "Midnight."

He writes 'MIDNIT' vertically on the white board. As he  
mentions a group, he circles the letter.

FOREMAN

LFT's, BUN and creatinine all normal.  
Diabetes is out. And no GAP.

House draws a line through M.

HOUSE

There goes Metabolic.

CAMERON

MRA ruled out vasculitis.

HOUSE

No Inflammation.

House crosses out the first I.

CHASE

He's too young for anything  
degenerative --

HOUSE

D, see ya'.

House crosses out the D.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

N for neoplastic.

CHASE

MRI was clean.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

House crosses out the N.

HOUSE  
Next. I for inflammation.

CAMERON  
We already did that.

House reacts, looks at board, realizes.

HOUSE  
Stupid to put two I's in one mnemonic.  
What's the other one?

FOREMAN  
Infection.

CAMERON  
The oligoclonal bands still mean  
something.

FOREMAN  
But no fevers. White count, elevated,  
but within range.

CHASE  
And we've tested for anything remotely  
possible; everything's negative.

House crosses out the second I.

CAMERON  
CT scan ruled out subdural.

HOUSE  
Trauma, later-much.

House crosses out the T. No more letters. He looks at the  
board; they're clearly screwed.

HOUSE (CONT'D)  
(thoughtful)  
...I think I know the problem.  
Midnight is actually spelled with a  
g and an h. If we can just figure  
out what those letters stand for.

They sit on this frustrating situation for a beat...

HOUSE (CONT'D)  
It's a sick brain, having fun,  
torturing him, talking to him, scaring  
the hell out of him.

\*  
\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

36

The others react to this odd description...

\*

HOUSE (CONT'D)

\*

Get him an EEG with left and right  
EOG, esophageal microphones. If  
this thing wants to talk, let's  
listen.

\*

37 EXT. CAFETERIA -- DAY

37

House and Wilson sit quietly eating cheeseburgers and French  
fries. House dips a fry into a plastic cup of ketchup.  
Eats it.

\*

HOUSE

We're missing something. This is  
screwed up.

WILSON

That's why you went for the 'brain  
talking to a virus' thing.

HOUSE

I panicked. Sounded cool though.  
They bought it.

(then)

Oh crap.

He sees Paula and Andy from a distance, heading their way.  
He turns his head, trying to avoid being noticed. But they  
do and as they approach:

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Another reason I don't like meeting  
patients. If they don't know what  
you look like, they can't yell at  
you. Here we go...

PAULA

How can you just sit there?

House looks up. There are Dan's parents, Paula and Andy --  
distraught -- holding finished lunch trays.

HOUSE

When I eat standing up, I spill.

Wilson shoots him a look.

(CONTINUED)

ANDY

Our son is dying and you could care less. We're going through hell and you're doing nothing.

HOUSE

I'm sorry, you need to vent, I understand.

ANDY

Don't be condescending. You haven't checked in on him once.

HOUSE

Blood pressure is 110 over 70; His shunt is patent, well placed in the right lateral ventricle. EKG shows a normal QRS but with deep wave inversions throughout both limb and precordial leads. LFT's are elevated but only twice the normal range. Oh yeah, and he's hearing voices.

They're stunned into silence.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Go hold his hand.

(beat)

Go on. I'll bus your trays.

The parents exit, leaving their half eaten lunches. House zeros in on the parents' styrofoam coffee cups.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

(to Wilson)

You have any sample bags on you?

WILSON

I don't believe you. You're going to run DNA tests?

HOUSE

Their kid is deathly ill, I know it's terrible. The fact is, if I don't keep busy with trivial things like this, I'm afraid I'll start to cry.

WILSON

You're an ass.

HOUSE

Yeah? Want to double the bet?

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2) 37  
 Off Wilson, considering...

38 INT. LAB -- DAY 38  
 CLOSE ON - DAN \*

Hooked up to the EEG and polysomnograph, leads secured to every part of his body. He sleeps -- restlessly. This is a kid with plenty to be worried about. \*

PULL OUT TO REVEAL \*

We're in the lab, watching Dan on a MONITOR. \*

House enters holding two styrofoam cups side by side in one hand - one with "MOMMY" written on it; one with "DADDY???" written on it. \*

HOUSE \*

(re: Dan's monitor)

General Hospital's on channel six. \*

FOREMAN \*

Dan's brain's not showing channel six right now, only mush. \*

HOUSE

(confirming)

No epilepti-form activity.

Foreman shakes his head no.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

(to Cameron)

What are you doing?

CAMERON

Waiting for the CBC and Chem seven --

HOUSE

-- Good, run DNA on these.

CAMERON

What is this?

HOUSE

Parents' coffee cups.

CAMERON

I can't believe you --

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

HOUSE  
-- I've already had this conversation  
once. If you've got something else  
to do, do it. Otherwise, do this.

And he leaves.

39 INT. 4TH FLOOR/ADMINISTRATION -- DAY

39

House returns to his office from the lab.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

Sitting in the hall waiting for him is Funsten (the 'patient who sued wolf'). He's pleased - like he's got a surprise.

FUNSTEN

Dr. House?

They walk together.

HOUSE

Hey, Funsten, I was wondering when you'd be back. Got some papers for me?

Well that certainly spoiled the surprise.

FUNSTEN

You caused me considerable mental distress.

HOUSE

I hope so.

Funsten hands House a legal document.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Too cheap to get your lawyer to serve it for you or just more fun this way?

FUNSTEN

I'm obviously prepared to consider a settlement.

HOUSE

You've got gonorrhoea.

FUNSTEN

(beat, huh?)

No, I don't.

HOUSE

Maybe you're right. But I've got a lab result that says you do. Could be a false positive and normally I'd run a second test but since you're here, I'll just go with the first one.

FUNSTEN

You're just trying to scare me.

HOUSE

It's reportable you know? Public health issue.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (2)

39

FUNSTEN

I'll be sure to let my wife know.

No way in hell he's telling her.

HOUSE

No need to bother yourself. The state'll call her for you.

(then)

Look, if you're clean I'm sure it'll all blow over, no big deal. And there's an easy way to find out. Just get one of your doctors to run a test.

Funsten stops. House looks at him. Funsten reaches out to grab the legal papers back. House won't let him.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

No. These are mine now.

It's a small tug of war. House wins and walks away.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

See you in court.

40 INT. LAB -- DAY

40

Foreman and Chase scan lab reports.

FOREMAN

West Nile negative. Not surprising since not too many mosquitos passing through Jersey in December.

CHASE

No Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

Cameron looks at the PCR test results. She sees something that rocks her.

CAMERON

You're not going to believe this.

CHASE

What's that?

CAMERON

House was right. Father's not the father.

FOREMAN

Dude doubled up on me.

\*

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

Chase looks at the other test results.

CHASE

You're not going to believe this.  
 You picked up the wrong report.  
 (off their looks)  
 The mother's not the mother either.

41 INT. CUDDY'S OFFICE -- DAY

41

Paula and Andy meet with Cuddy.

CUDDY

It's not a good idea to move your  
 son in his condition.

PAULA

We just want a second opinion.

ANDY

We need an answer.

Before Cuddy can respond, House charges in, furious.

HOUSE

You idiots. You lied to me.

ANDY

We didn't lie about anything. You,  
 on the other hand, accused us of  
 molesting our son --

CUDDY

(sotto)  
 -- Perfect.

HOUSE

Can we get off my screw-up and focus  
 on their's. Theirs is bigger. You're  
 not Dan's parents.

PAULA

We're his parents.

ANDY

He's adopted. He doesn't need to  
 know.

HOUSE

I do.

ANDY

Adoption makes us just as much his --

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

HOUSE

-- When we were taking his medical history, were you confused? Did you think we were looking for a genetic clue to his condition or did you think we were trying to ascertain who loves him the most in the whole wide world?

CUDDY

How did you find out about this?

HOUSE

I sampled their DNA.

ANDY

We didn't give you any DNA.

HOUSE

Your coffee cups from the cafeteria.

CUDDY

You can't do that.

HOUSE

Again, why are we getting hung up on what I did? Your medical history is useless.

ANDY

No. We gave you a detailed family history of Dan's biological mother.

PAULA

We thoroughly screened the biological mother, her parents, her medical history. Non-smoker. Good health; low cholesterol, no blood pressure problems --

ANDY

-- Dan was adopted two weeks after he was born. You have his history. There's nothing you need to know that we didn't tell you.

House is stymied (or else he's thoughtful, not really sure). It looks like they've got him. It looks like this is a dead end.

CUDDY

Sounds reasonable.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

CUDDY (CONT'D)  
 (to the parents)  
 If you want to transfer your boy,  
 that's your choice. I still --

HOUSE  
 -- Was she vaccinated?

PUSH IN on House. He's got it.

HOUSE (CONT'D)  
 The biological mother; when she was  
 a baby, did she get her vaccinations?

Beat. They don't know.

ANDY  
Dan was vaccinated. At six months.

HOUSE  
 You know why kids get vaccinated at  
six months? Because they're protected  
 for that long by the biological  
 mother's immune system. So, was she  
 vaccinated? \*

Paula and Andy exchange a look; they have no idea...

42 OMITTED

42

AND

AND

43

43

44 INT. HOUSE'S OUTER OFFICE -- DAY

44

House is with Foreman, Chase and Cameron.

HOUSE  
 A kid picks up a regular old measles  
 virus, he gets a rash. \*

CUT TO VFX: A magnified view of a VIRUS. We get closer and  
 closer until it looks like DARTH VADER'S DEATH-STAR, EXCEPT  
 WITH TEETH.

HOUSE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 He's extremely uncomfortable and has  
 a wicked fever, but he lives. But  
 here's the kicker. Once every million  
 or so times, the virus mutates.

VFX: We go in EVEN CLOSER on the virus - down to the molecular  
 level. The familiar double-helix DNA structure -- this DNA  
 is measles. But the outside of one of the rungs viciously  
 snaps.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

HOUSE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Instead of Dan having a fever and a  
 rash --

BACK TO SCENE

HOUSE (CONT'D)  
 -- the virus travels to his brain.  
 And hides. Like a time bomb. In  
 this case, for sixteen years.

FOREMAN  
 Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis. \*

CHASE  
 Missed it on my boards.

HOUSE  
 I know. Only been twenty cases of  
 SSPE in the United States in the  
 last thirty years.

FOREMAN  
 Suppose you could make an argument  
 the kid's still in Stage One. But  
 once SSPE moves into Stage Two --

HOUSE  
 -- Boom. Stage Two is universally  
 fatal.

CAMERON  
 I assume it's impossible to know  
 when he might move into Stage Two.

HOUSE  
 He's already showing symptoms. Could  
 be next month, could be tonight.

CAMERON  
 Can we treat it?

FOREMAN  
 Intraventricular interferon.

CHASE  
 Not going to shove a spike into his  
 brain and drip interferon without  
 confirming this diagnosis.

HOUSE  
 Tap him.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: (2)

44

FOREMAN

Nope. Won't get a reliable result for measles antibodies in his CSF. Not after everything we've given him.

HOUSE

So the wrong treatment killed any hopes of the right diagnosis. Why do people lie to me?

CHASE

Brain biopsy will confirm it.

HOUSE

Which could kill him. Your ball, Foreman. Tell me I don't have to biopsy his brain.

All eyes on Foreman.

FOREMAN

...There is one other way.

SMASH CUT TO:

45 INT. OPERATING ROOM -- DAY

45

EXTREME CLOSE-UP -- DAN'S EYE

The pupil is dilated. A long, thin needle attached to a surgical arm is poised to go into Dan's eye.

FOREMAN (O.S.)

The retinal nerve at the back of the eye. It will contain measles antibodies too.

PULL OUT TO REVEAL Dan is on a surgical gurney. His head has been bolted into place. A very thin needle is about to go into his eye.

Dan's parents are beside themselves with anxiety.

DAN

(petrified)

You sure this isn't going to hurt?

FOREMAN

Yes. It's just scary as hell.

Cameron thumbs her necklace. There's nothing for Dan to look at this time. Foreman nods to a retinal surgeon who uses a computer to help guide the needle into Dan's eye.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

Ready?

The retinal surgeon taps out some commands on his keyboard.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

Here we go.

Foreman nods to the surgeon, the parents turn away, can't watch and...

VFX: NEEDLE POV. We dive into Dan's eye. Pierce the thin clear bubble of the cornea -- watch the colored iris come rushing up at us as we dive through the pupil which is black. We burst through the other side to the lens. Push through the clear, jelly-like vitreous humor to the retina. Here we start to magnify -- there are 120 million rods and 7 million cones. We blast through a forest of black and red cones and rods to the base of the retina where we find what we saw earlier: Darth Vader's death-star with teeth; the measles virus magnified 10,000 times. The needle sucks it up.

46 INT. DAN'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

46

CLOSE ON - Parental Consent Form. Pages upon pages. Foreman is going over it.

FOREMAN (O.S.)

We've confirmed that the problem is this mutated virus.

Foreman sits with Paula, Andy and Dan. Dan's sleeping.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

The treatment for SSPE is intraventricular interferon. We implant an Ommaya Reservoir under the scalp which is connected to a ventricular catheter that delivers the antiviral directly into the left hemisphere --

\*

\*

ANDY

-- You want us to consent to this? I don't even understand what you're talking about.

FOREMAN

The anti-viral agents...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

(reads their looks,  
this is futile)

Look, I'm sorry, I'll explain it as best I can but the notion that you're going to fully understand your son's treatment and make an informed decision is kind of insane.

(then)

Here's what you need to know: it's dangerous; it could kill him; you should do it.

(off their looks)

What it really boils down to is: do you trust Dr. House?

Beat. Do they? He's abrupt and insane and rude but do they trust him? They look to each other... Then Andy picks up the paperwork...

47 INT. OPERATING ROOM -- DAY

47

CLOSE ON - A DRILL

Boring into Dan's head. Surgical nurses sponge the blood.

REVEAL

Dan on the operating table. There is a steel cage around his head, securing it. Surgeons insert a ventricular catheter into Dan's brain. This'll look weird and cool: the surgeon pushes the catheter deeper and deeper into Dan's brain.

48 INT. CUDDY'S OFFICE -- DAY

48

House enters. Cuddy's behind her desk.

CUDDY

You can't order a thirty-two hundred dollar DNA test to win a fifty dollar bet.

HOUSE

It's not an actual cost. Don't know if you know this, but...

(a secret)

The hospital owns the sequencing machine.

CUDDY

I'm serious.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

HOUSE

Tell the parents to submit the bill  
to insurance.

CUDDY

Insurance company isn't going to pay  
for a bet. \*

HOUSE

It's not? Should. We don't make  
that bet, the kid dies. \*

(off Cuddy)

If not for the paternity bet, I never  
would have taken their DNA. Without  
their DNA, we never would have  
discovered that Dan was adopted --  
which was the key to this case. You  
just don't want to pay your end...  
Big mistake; my guy knows a guy --  
rough.

CUDDY

Fine. I'll let you out of clinic  
duty. After you pay the thirty-two  
hundred for the PCR test.

Beat. Well that sucks. Finally, House takes out his wallet.  
Takes out a huge wad of cash. Starts organizing it by  
hundreds and fifties.

HOUSE

Here's a hundred I won from Cameron.  
This is the two hundred I took from  
Foreman. This six hundred was from  
Wilson -- very bitter.

49 INT. DAN'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY (DAY 7)

49

Foreman checks Dan's EEG tracings from a recent  
polysomnograph. No crazy-looking spikes, etc. He nods  
confidently at Cameron. Dan wakes up -- smiles at Cameron.

CAMERON

Good morning.

FOREMAN

Good news on your EEG. Treatment  
appears to be working.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

CAMERON

And your immune system is responding.

Foreman shines a light in Dan's eyes.

FOREMAN

Know it's early. Let's see what this brain of yours can do. Name as many animals as you can that start with the letter O. Go.

DAN

Ostrich, ox...

As they wait for another one, Foreman shoots a look at Cameron. Dan's searching...

DAN (CONT'D)

(smiles)

...old elephant.

CAMERON

It's two better than last time.

(then)

How you doing with the whole adoption thing?

DAN

I knew since fifth grade.

FOREMAN

What? How's that?

DAN

Cleft chin. I have one, my dad doesn't. Looked it up on the Internet. It's one of those trait things.

Foreman feels dirty, abused and stupid. And a little poorer.

FOREMAN

That's right. It's autosomal dominant. Since neither of your parents have cleft chins, it's highly unlikely you're biologically related.

[Note: neither Andy and Paula have cleft chins, but Dan does.]

CAMERON

Of course, the fact that he's not your biological father...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED: (2)

49

CAMERON (CONT'D)

(delicate)

That doesn't necessarily mean you  
were adopted.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED: (3)

49

Dan has thought about this for years...

DAN

I've got no problem with being adopted.

The alternative on the other hand, he does have a problem with.

DAN (CONT'D)

I love my parents.

Cameron understands the significance of this and respects his choice.

Paula and Andy enter. Give a hopeful look to the doctors.

CAMERON

He's a smart kid. And he's going to be fine.

Paula and Andy rush to Dan -- hugging their son.

50 EXT. UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC FIELD -- DAY

50

Two great lacrosse teams battle it out. Music up: something thoughtful like Bill Evans "Peace Piece."

SLOW MOTION. At the midline, two defenseman race up the sideline passing the ball back and forth, finally clearing it over the line to a MIDDIE who dekes outside, then beats his man and charges inside towards the goal with the ball.

REVEAL HOUSE -- off to the side of the stands... not in the crowd, but not a casual bystander.

ON THE MIDDIE, #26, his legs churning. Clumps of dirt being kicked up by his spikes into the air. This guy has serious speed as he pulls away from his defender.

HOUSE

HOUSE

(watching #26 run)

Wheels, two-six, wheels!

ON THE FIELD. Midstride, the middie brings back his stick to shoot: sidearm.

HOUSE holds his cane below the top -- like a lacrosse stick. He mimics the middie EVER SO SUBTLY.

SLOW MOTION: The middie winds up. House grips his cane. Middie shoots.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

HOUSE makes the tiniest of movements. Did House just shoot?

FOLLOW THE BALL as it rockets over the right shoulder of the goalie into the top left corner of the goal. The ball makes a loud SMACK as it hits the tape. Goal! The middie leaps into the arms of his teammates to celebrate.

HOUSE shows no reaction -- looks at the stands going crazy -- a great goal. No one for House to celebrate with. PUSH IN on House. We see this game was once very dear to him. Thumbs the top of his cane. This is his lacrosse stick now.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL - the game ended a long time ago. Stands are empty. It's just House, standing there, watching an empty field.

And then there's House. Alone. Who hobbles away. With his stick.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW