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HOUSE

"Damned If You Do"

EPISODE #5

Written by

Sara B. Cooper

E#5505

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Yellow Revisions	September 2, 2004
Full Green Revisions	September 3, 2004

HOUSE

Character List
Episode 05 - Green Revisions

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

Sister Augustine *
Sister Eucharist *
Sister Pius *
Mother Superior
Marvin Ringwald
Tech

HOUSE

Location List
Episode 05 - Green Revisions

INTERIORS

Princeton Plainsboro Teaching Hospital

1st Floor Atrium

Nurses' Station

2nd Floor Hallway

4th Floor Hallway

House's Office

Outer Office

Inner Office

Cuddy's Office

Ante Room

Clinic

Exam Room #1 *

Augustine's Hospital Room

Clean Room

Hallway Outside

Radiology

CT Scan Room

Observation Room

Hyperbaric Chamber Room

Chapel

Patient's Room

House's Apartment

Monastery of the Angels - Kitchen

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. CLINIC -- DAY (DAY 1)

1

HOLIDAY MUSIC PLAYS softly in the b.g. Nurses wear Santa caps. There are poinsettias and holly plants on the counter. A small Christmas tree in the lobby. It's Christmas in Princeton Plainsboro Teaching Hospital (and we will see evidence of this throughout the episode). WILSON sits at the Nurses' station, signing a chart. Next to him sits 6 charts, each with a sticky note on top. A TINY YELLOW PAPERWAD hits Wilson in the chin.

HOUSE (O.S.)

We are condemned to useless labor.

WILSON

(calmly)

The fourth circle of hell? Charting goes a lot quicker when you eliminate all classic poetry.

*
*
*

Wilson closes his chart and reaches for the next. Another YELLOW PAPERWAD hits Wilson on the forehead. Wilson looks up to see HOUSE lurking behind his foot-high pile of charts. House is wadding a sticky note.

*

HOUSE

Writing down what we already know, to be read by nobody. I'm pretty sure Dante would agree that qualifies as useless.

*
*
*
*
*

WILSON

You're over two weeks behind.

*
*

House flicks the paperwad, Wilson ducks and the paperwad hits DR. LISA CUDDY who stands behind Wilson.

HOUSE

(sarcasm)

Oops. I missed.

CUDDY

What are you? Eight?

*

HOUSE

(offended)

Could an eight year old do this?

*
*

House makes an extremely juvenile face.

*

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

CUDDY

Stop or it'll stick that way.

(hands him a file)

You've got a patient in room 1.

*
*
*

She walks away. House gets up...

*

HOUSE

Melancholy without hope. Which circle
is that?

WILSON

First?

HOUSE

Is first better or worse than the
fourth?

WILSON

Better.

HOUSE

Thank God.

*

He walks to the examining room and...

*

2 INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM #1 -- CONTINUOUS

2 *

House finds himself staring at three NUNS in full nun garb.
SISTER EUCHARIST (45, every parochial school boy's nightmare)
stands sternly beside SISTER PIUS (late 20's, impressionable).
SISTER AUGUSTINE (40's, sweet) sits on the exam table, looking
miserable. She hides her hands in her sleeves. She seems
in pain.

*
*
*

House reaches in his pocket, pops some Vicodin.

*

HOUSE

I'm Dr. House. What seems to be the
problem?

EUCHARIST

Show him your hands, Augustine.

Augustine proffers her hands to House. They are red, swollen,
cracked. In the middle of the palms, the skin is peeled and
bleeding. Almost as if it was...

PIUS

It looks like... stigmata?

*

EUCHARIST

Shush Pius.

*

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

As House examines the hands -- *

HOUSE

(to Augustine)

You must be all the talk around the holy water cooler. Been washing a lot of dishes recently?

AUGUSTINE

I help out in the kitchen. *

HOUSE

Anything new in the kitchen? *

PIUS

We just got a donation of sauce pans and pots this week. *

AUGUSTINE

I unpacked and washed them. *

HOUSE

You should have spent your time saving souls. It's easier on the hands. This is allergic contact dermatitis; you're allergic to dish soap.

EUCCHARIST

Nonsense. We've always used that soap. Why is there a problem now?

HOUSE

I've been a doctor for years; why do I have to keep assuring people I know what I'm doing? A person can become allergic to substances that they've had prolonged and repeated exposure to. I know, talk about mysterious ways. The good news is... free samples!

House reaches into a drawer and pulls out several sample packages of pills, handing them to Augustine.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

(to Augustine)

Diphenhydramine. It's an antihistamine; it'll stop the allergic reaction. Take one every eight hours. It might make you a little sleepy. And get some over the counter cortisone cream.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

AUGUSTINE

Thank you, Doctor.
 (to Pius, re: pills)
 Could I have some tea?

HOUSE

Relax for a few minutes; the stuff
 works pretty quick.

*
*
*

House exits as Pius pours Augustine some tea from a thermos
 and Augustine takes the pills.

3 INT. CLINIC -- MOMENTS LATER

3

Wilson is finishing his last chart - a pile remains for House.
 House grabs a chart and a pen as Eucharist exits the exam
 room and approaches.

*
*
*

EUCCHARIST

Doctor. I want to thank you for
 your patience.

*
*

WILSON

Is she talking to you?

*
*

EUCCHARIST

It's good to get a secular diagnosis.
 The sisters tend to interpret their
 illnesses as divine intervention.

*

HOUSE

And you don't? Then you're wearing
 an awfully funny hat.

*
*

EUCCHARIST

If I break my leg, I believe it
 happened for a reason, I believe God
 wanted me to break my leg, I also
 believe he wants me to get a cast
 put on it.

*
*
*
*
*
*

House smiles, likes her attitude. Suddenly, Pius bursts
 from the room...

*
*

PIUS

Doctor, something's wrong.

*

House and Eucharist hurry back to...

*

4 INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM #1 -- CONTINUOUS

4

House enters and sees that Augustine is sitting on the table,
 grabbing her throat, fighting to breathe.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

He grabs a stethoscope, all business, and moves quickly to Augustine as Eucharist and Pius watch, worried. House unceremoniously unbuttons Augustine's habit, opens her shirt and listens to her chest.

HOUSE

It's okay. You're having an acute asthma attack.

*

He quickly goes to a drawer, opens it and grabs one of several syringes from among the medical paraphernalia inside.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

This is epinephrine. It'll open your lungs and help you breathe.

*

He injects Augustine's arm with the drug.

VFX: Camera follows the epinephrine through the bevel of the needle into the blood stream and to the lung. Lung and bronchial tissue which were previously swollen shut begin to open up. A clear breath is taken.

Move to the heart. It starts BEATING QUICKLY. We HEAR the beating steadily increase. (NOTE: For the rest of the scene, in the b.g. We will HEAR Augustine's heart beat increasing in speed.)

House finishes his injection and tosses the needle into a sharps container. Augustine is breathing easier.

EUCCHARIST

What happened?

HOUSE

Probably an allergic reaction to the antihistamine.

PIUS

She's allergic to an anti-allergy medicine?

*

*

*

HOUSE

You figure somebody's out to get her?

*

*

*

(to Augustine)

*

How are you doing?

AUGUSTINE

Better.

HOUSE

I'll put you on some steroids instead.

(CONTINUED)

4

CONTINUED: (2)

4

AUGUSTINE

Is my heart supposed to be feeling
so funny?

We HEAR her heartbeat speeding up a little.

HOUSE

It's called adrenaline. It makes
your heart beat fast.

House takes her pulse.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

(beat, concerned)

But not this fast.

(to Pius)

Get the Nurse.

(to Augustine)

Let's lie you down.

He helps Augustine down as Pius opens the door. Calling:

PIUS

Help. Somebody help us.

Augustine grabs her chest and the HEARTBEAT STOPS. House
quickly begins compressions.

HOUSE

(calling out, urgent)

Who the hell doesn't come running
when a Nun asks for help? Somebody
get in here!

A beat later, a Nurse appears at the door.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

(to Nurse)

Call a code and charge up the
defibrillator. She's got no pulse.

As the Sisters look on in horror.

SMASH CUT TO CREDITS.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 INT. HOSPITAL/AUGUSTINE'S ROOM -- DAY 5

Augustine lies awake in bed, a little scared. She's hooked up to a heart monitor and on oxygen. Pius and Eucharist sit by her bedside, praying.

6 INT. CUDDY'S OFFICE -- DAY 6

House and Cuddy are deep into it. There's a spent menorah on Cuddy's desk, Christmas cards hang from her bookshelf, an ear of corn beside them (a Kwanzaa tradition).

CUDDY

(reviewing notes)

So you made the diagnosis of allergies and prescribed an antihistamine. Then she went into respiratory distress and you injected her with one cc of epinephrine --

HOUSE

-- Point one cc. That is the standard dose. That is what I gave her.

CUDDY

People don't go into cardiac arrest from point one cc of epinephrine.

HOUSE

Healthy people don't. She must have a preexisting heart condition that got exacerbated by the epinephrine.

CUDDY

Too bad you didn't make a notation in the chart.

HOUSE

I can make it up right now.

CUDDY

The drawer has syringes with both dosages. It would've been easy to reach for the wrong --

HOUSE

-- But I didn't.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

CUDDY

Everyone makes mistakes. That's why doctors pay through the nose for malpractice insurance. *

HOUSE

Relax, they're not going to sue, worst they'd do is whack my hand with a ruler. *

CUDDY

And the Discipline Board? Are they going to whack your hand to? *

HOUSE

You're going to report me? *

CUDDY

What choice do I have? *

HOUSE

Hmm, how about... Not report me. *

CUDDY

Why? You flaunt the fact that you use drugs. *

HOUSE

If you make my leg stop hurting, I'll stop taking pain killers.

CUDDY

Your records suck, you're on drugs and you're an ass. Why would you expect anybody to give you the benefit of the doubt? *

He knows it's true.

CUDDY (CONT'D)

(gives him the benefit of the doubt)

...I can justify keeping her here for a twenty-four hour observation. If you haven't found an underlying cause for the cardiac arrest by then, I'll have to notify our attorneys.

House leaves. Hold on Cuddy, wishing she wasn't so uncertain.

7 INT. HALLWAY - 4TH FLOOR -- DAY

7

House walks with FOREMAN, CHASE and CAMERON who is dressed in a festive sweater.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

CAMERON

Her hands were red and swollen.
 Maybe it's a skin infection --
 cellulitis. That can manifest with
 tachycardia.

FOREMAN

There's no history of fever. Results
 from the CBC didn't indicate an infection.

CAMERON

The eosinophils are mildly elevated.
 Sed rate is up a bit. Could we be
 looking at a systemic allergenic
 response?

HOUSE

It's not allergic. Allergies don't
 cause cardiac arrests like this.
 (considering)
 Could be inflammation of the blood
 vessels.

FOREMAN

Vasculitis? That wouldn't give you
 an elevated eosinophil count.

HOUSE

Churg Strauss vasculitis would.
 (explains)
 The blood vessels of the heart, lungs
 and skin become inflamed causing
 asthma, rash and heart problems.
 Covers all her symptoms.

CAMERON

(pleased)
 We'd need a biopsy for diagnosis.

CHASE

Chest CT will be quicker.

They enter into:

8 INT. HOUSE'S OUTER OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

8

On the table is a holiday bowl filled with candy canes.
 Foreman can now speak candidly.

FOREMAN

The lady just came in with a rash.

HOUSE

What the hell are those?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

CAMERON

Candy canes.

HOUSE

Candy canes. Are you trying to mock me?

CAMERON

(falters)

No. I... it's Christmas.

HOUSE

Relax. It's a joke. *

FOREMAN

Isn't the prognosis of Churg Strauss
a bit grim?

CAMERON

Untreated, only thirty-three percent
of patients survive after a year.
Treated, they survive five years.Foreman looks at Cameron with an "Are you going along with
this" look.

HOUSE

Then I definitely suggest treatment.

FOREMAN

If it was any other attending doctor,
I'd say he made a mistake and gave
her too much epinephrine.

HOUSE

Saying you wouldn't say it was my
mistake is saying it was my mistake.

FOREMAN

"Everyone screws up." Your rule. I
think you fit within the subset of
everyone.

HOUSE

(beat, then)

I didn't screw up. Order a chest CT
and start the Sister on Prednisone
40 mg TID.

CHASE

The Sister?

HOUSE

Oh, didn't I mention? The patient's
a nun. Sister Augustine. *

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

CHASE

I hate nuns.

HOUSE

Who doesn't?

Foreman and Cameron give Chase a look as they leave. Off House.

9 INT. AUGUSTINE'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

9

Cameron, Chase and Foreman enter to find Augustine and Pius raptly watching television. Augustine's hands are bandaged, but you can see the swelling and redness peeking out at the edges. She has a slight wheeze when she breathes, but she seems more at peace than in the Teaser. Pius guiltily turns off the television as the doctors enter.

CAMERON

Sister Augustine?

*

AUGUSTINE

We weren't watching.

PIUS

We were trying to figure out if this is the bed control.

Cameron points out the bed controls on the railing.

CAMERON

This is the bed control.

(takes the remote)

This is for the television. I'm Dr. Cameron and these are Drs. Foreman and Chase.

AUGUSTINE

(guilty)

I haven't seen television in over twenty years.

CHASE

Do you consider it the work of the devil or do you just not get cable where you live?

They give him a look, but Foreman steps in:

FOREMAN

(to Augustine)

How are you feeling, Sister?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

AUGUSTINE

I seem to be a little better. They gave me some medication.

CHASE

Prednisone. It's a steroid to help with the inflammation.

AUGUSTINE

Has Dr. House figured out what I have? Will I be alright?

CAMERON

We're not sure yet what's wrong. You're going to have a CT scan this afternoon to help us with the diagnosis.

PIUS

Dr. House is giving her medication and he doesn't know what she has yet?

Before Foreman can respond in the affirmative.

AUGUSTINE

Trust, Sister Pius.

(Pius falters)

It all happens for a reason.

*

*

Cameron smiles but she can't meet the Sister's eyes.

FOREMAN (V.O.)

He doesn't know what he's doing --

10 INT. HALLWAY - 2ND FLOOR -- DAY

10

Cameron and Foreman and Chase walk and talk.

FOREMAN

-- The only problem that woman has is that House grabbed the wrong syringe.

CAMERON

You don't trust him?

FOREMAN

I don't trust a man who won't admit that he might be wrong. I noticed you weren't so quick to tell her she's got Churg Strauss and only has a couple years to live.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

CAMERON

I don't tell patients bad news until it's conclusive.

FOREMAN

Because you know he might be wrong.

CAMERON

About Churg Strauss; not about what happened in the clinic.

FOREMAN

What about you, Chase? You think he's infallible, too?

CHASE

All I know is, if House didn't make a mistake and Sister Augustine has Churg Strauss, he'll be self satisfied and our lives will be good for a few weeks. If House did make a mistake, he'll be upset and our lives will be miserable for months.

*

FOREMAN

...There is that.

And they walk on.

11 INT. CLINIC -- DAY

11

House walks with Wilson past Cuddy's office towards the clinic. House carries a patient's file.

HOUSE

Cuddy thinks I made a mistake; the least she could do is suspend me from clinic duty.

*
*
*

WILSON

She doesn't confuse making a mistake with being incompetent.

HOUSE

Here we go; lesson time.

*

Wilson gives him a look.

*

HOUSE (CONT'D)

I recognize confidence is not my short suit, but I also recognize that I am human and therefore capable of error.

*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

WILSON

So you might have screwed this up?

HOUSE

No.

WILSON

So it's merely a theoretical capacity
for error.

HOUSE

Good point. Maybe there isn't one.
(thinks)
Maybe that's my error.

WILSON

You know most people who think as
much of themselves as you do, like
to talk about themselves.

HOUSE

And most people don't want to hear
it. So what's wrong with you?House walks into an exam room. Wilson watches House go,
concerned.

12 INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM #1 -- DAY

12

MARVIN RINGWALD (40's, bloated), wears Santa pants. House
enters, chart in hand, stops, sniffs.

HOUSE

Let me guess, irritable bowel.

MARVIN

Wow, yeah. Is it that bad?

HOUSE

Yes. But it's also written in the
chart.

(reading from chart)

Diarrhea, gas, nausea. Changed your
diet, took bulking agents and it
didn't work.

MARVIN

Right. And then I took --

HOUSE

-- Imodium with a mild tranquilizer
next. Meditation...

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

MARVIN

... they say it works for some people.

HOUSE

But not you. Bentyl, Paxl, Zoloft
amitriptyline.

(flips through pages)

I'm impressed.

MARVIN

By my medical history?

HOUSE

At how well your last doctor charted.

MARVIN

(his stomach sloshes)

It's one thing having to go to the
bathroom every hour. But when the
kids sit on my lap...

(growing desperation)

The store's sent me home; they're
gonna fire me. Can you put me back
on bentyl? Maybe it'll work this
time.

HOUSE

Not likely. But I do have a
prescription for you.

House begins to write.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

It's cheap. Which is good because
your insurance company will refuse
to pay for it.

House hands the prescription to Marvin who reads it.

MARVIN

Cogaritis?

HOUSE

Cigarettes. One twice a day. No
more, no less. Get the kind with
organic tobacco and unbleached paper.
And don't smoke in the Santa suit or
they'll complain about that smell.

MARVIN

Are you kidding me?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

HOUSE

Studies show that cigarette smoking is one of the most effective ways of controlling irritable bowel. Plus it's been well established that you look 30% cooler.

MARVIN

Are you kidding me?

HOUSE

About looking cooler, yeah. The rest is true.

MARVIN

Isn't it addictive and dangerous?

HOUSE

Pretty much all drugs I prescribe are addictive and dangerous. The only difference is that this one is completely legal.

House exits.

13 INT. HALLWAY - 2ND FLOOR -- DAY

13

Chase wheels Augustine to the CT scan.

AUGUSTINE

I was talking to the nurse, Arsenio. Do you know him?

CHASE

Not really.

AUGUSTINE

He can take pictures with his phone.

CHASE

(where are you from?)
Cool.

AUGUSTINE

That woman from the lab was interesting too. She studied astrophysics before she became a nurse.

CHASE

You know the staff better than I do.

AUGUSTINE

Well, I love to hear all about people.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

CHASE

Yet you live in a monastery. *

AUGUSTINE

That's where I serve Our Lord and the world the best.

CHASE

The Lord, maybe... The world on the other hand would probably get more out of feeding the homeless or -- *

AUGUSTINE

-- Healing the sick? *

CHASE

As an example, yeah. *

AUGUSTINE

Did you always want to be a doctor? *

CHASE

(none of your business)
Always. Did you always want to be a Nun? *

AUGUSTINE

My parents died when I was six and I was brought up in a foster home run by the Church. When I was eighteen, I went to the monastery where they let me take my vows. I've known no other life and haven't wanted to. It's where I belong. A calling is something you're born with, isn't it?

Chase contemplates this notion as they enter...

14 INT. RADIOLOGY - CT SCAN ROOM -- DAY

14

Cameron, Foreman, Chase and a TECH watch Augustine who lies on the CT table. Through the microphone.

FOREMAN

Okay, Sister, we need you to lie as still as possible. If you get scared, just let us know.

AUGUSTINE

(crossing herself)
As Jonah said, "When I had lost all hope, I turned my thoughts to the Lord."

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

The table slides into the CT Scanner. Our guys watch the monitors.

FOREMAN

At least she's got God on her side. *

CAMERON

I don't believe in God.

FOREMAN

You're not even a little agnostic?

AUGUSTINE

(through the CT mic)

Is it supposed to smell funny?

TECH

Someone ralphed in there this morning.
We cleaned it up but --

CAMERON

(into microphone)

-- It's normal, Sister. Just a few more minutes.

(turns off mic)

I believe there's a higher order that's in control of the way things happen. But not one anthropomorphic entity called God that's concerned with the everyday workings of you and me.

FOREMAN

What else is there to control but the everyday workings of you and me?

CAMERON

It's always about you, Foreman.

FOREMAN

So, are you talking about trees? Fish? Should they be the ones that think it's all about them?

(then)

You believe in God, Chase?

CHASE

(intent on the monitor)

I believe... Sister Augustine has no vascular pathology. Which means no Churg Strauss. *

FOREMAN

Which means House made a mistake.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

CAMERON

Not necessarily. Maybe it's something else. Thyrotoxicosis or carcinoid --

FOREMAN

I don't get you. You don't believe in God but you're willing to put complete faith in one man.

Suddenly, Augustine calls through the microphone.

AUGUSTINE

Please. The smell.

FOREMAN

Can we get her out of there?

Foreman, Chase, and Cameron move into the room as the table slides out. Augustine is upset, anxious, tries to sit up, unsteady.

AUGUSTINE

It's bad. I'm going to be sick.

CAMERON

There's no smell, Sister.

Cameron tries to calm her, get her to lie down but Augustine pushes her away.

AUGUSTINE

(looking up)

It's Jesus. He's coming for me.
He's burning me with his touch.

FOREMAN

Let's get her on some Ativan. *

Chase goes to grab a syringe as Foreman continues. *

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

Smells and religious visions are
symptomatic of temporal lobe swelling. *
We don't want her to -- *

Augustine falls back in a seizure. Foreman grabs her to prevent her from falling off the table.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

She's seizing. Jaw block. *

As Foreman tries to restrain Augustine, Cameron grabs a towel and gently places it in Augustine's mouth. Chase injects Augustine.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (3)

14

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

Help me get her on her side.

Chase, Foreman and Cameron ease Augustine on her side as her seizures slowly come to a stop, leaving her unconscious.

CHASE

(can't believe this)

Religious visions?

*
*
*

FOREMAN

And next comes...

*

Foreman realizes the next symptom is going to be bad. He lifts her gown to expose her side.

*

VFX: A blistering rash breaks out on her side before our eyes. (NOTE: This should be like the scene in the Exorcist where the words "Help Me" appear -- except don't have the words.)

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

15 INT. HOUSE'S OUTER OFFICE -- DAY (DAY 2)

15*

The Team sits with House who has written the symptoms on a white board. Cuddy paces.

FOREMAN

Patient tested positive for herpetic encephalitis.

*

HOUSE

What's that tell us?

*

CAMERON

Her immune system is severely compromised.

CUDDY

(hello)

Hey, I know. Prednisone compromises the immune system. Isn't that the medicine you gave her to treat that thing she doesn't have?

*

*

*

*

HOUSE

I'm thinking that's a trick question.

*

*

CAMERON

Her immune system is severely compromised. Two doses of prednisone wouldn't do that.

*

*

*

*

CUDDY

(to House)

You're hanging your diagnosis on an adverb?

*

HOUSE

In ten seconds I'm going to announce that I gave her the wrong dose in the clinic.

*

CUDDY

You're going to admit negligence?

HOUSE

Unless you leave the room. You stay, you'll have to testify. Five more seconds.

Cuddy shoots House an angry look as he counts down. She goes to the door.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Four... three... two...

Cuddy exits. House turns to the Team who looks at him uncertainly.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

What are our options for compromised immune system?

He turns back to the board.

CHASE

Mixed connective tissue disease.

CAMERON

It would explain why she was feeling better on the prednisone. *

FOREMAN

Yes, she was feeling better right up to the moment it almost killed her. *

HOUSE

On the other hand, it would explain the... symptoms. Swollen hands, pulmonary problems, cardiac problems. It all fits. *

FOREMAN

Except her ANA was normal. *

CAMERON

It might not show up at first.

HOUSE

Redraw the blood.

FOREMAN

But the treatment is corticosteroids. Prednisone. And we can't go there because of the encephalitis.

HOUSE

Three times you deny me, Foreman? Then we'll treat with something that modulates the immune system but doesn't suppress it. The hyperbaric oxygen chamber. *

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

FOREMAN

(enough)

There's no protocol for putting a patient in a high pressure oxygen room to treat autoimmune problems.

HOUSE

There have been experimental trials using hyperbaric medicine on myasthenia gravis, and they've used it on mice with lupus.

FOREMAN

Mice with lupus? Why not go with leech therapy? That's been shown to be effective on snails with Parkinsons.

*
*
*

HOUSE

Prep the patient, discontinue the prednisone.

House turns to wipe off the White Board as Cameron and Chase file out. Foreman stays. House knows why...

*

HOUSE (CONT'D)

I both admire and am annoyed by the fact that you think I should be less stubborn than you are.

*
*
*

FOREMAN

Hyperbaric treatments could cause oxygen toxicity. Lung and eye damage.

*
*

HOUSE

Every treatment has its dangers.

*

FOREMAN

Which is why we only treat if we're convinced the patient absolutely needs that treatment.

HOUSE

I'm convinced. You're not.

They both sit on that stalemate for a moment.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

The question is, what are you going to do about it?

House turns to continue erasing the board, leaving Foreman to consider his options...

16 INT. CUDDY'S OFFICE -- DAY

16

Cuddy is on the phone.

CUDDY

I've got an opening on Thursday at
three. Do you have a fourth?

(beat)

Is he any good?

She sees Foreman in the doorway. On the phone.

CUDDY (CONT'D)

I'll call you back.

She hangs up. Off Foreman's look.

17 INT. HYPERBARIC CHAMBER ROOM -- DAY

17

Chase and Cameron prepping Augustine. The chamber itself is small with thick metal walls. Augustine is weaker, paler. Her breathing is beginning to become labored and her voice is weak.

CHASE

The hyperbaric chamber is pressurized and will supply you with pure oxygen. The pressure will force the oxygen into your system, saturate your blood. It will enhance your white cell activity, reduce the inflammation --

AUGUSTINE

And that will help this mixed connective tissue disease?

CHASE

(unwilling to be
definitive)

We'll be doing about ten treatments and then we'll reevaluate.

AUGUSTINE

(gently)

The last treatment with prednisone caused the seizures, right? How confident is Dr. House about this?

Chase glances to Cameron who doesn't hesitate...

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

CAMERON

That you reacted so strongly to the prednisone let us know that there was an underlying problem with your immune system.

AUGUSTINE

Then I guess it was a blessing of sorts.

Off Chase's look.

18 INT. HOSPITAL CHAPEL -- DAY

18

A small multi-faith chapel. Banners with symbols of various religions hang from the walls. Several pews lead to a central altar where there is a light and a candle. Sister Eucharist enters, crossing herself. She starts to walk towards the altar when she's surprised to see House sitting in a pew, his head bent in prayer. *

She approaches, only to find that House isn't praying... he's watching a mini television. He looks up to see her.

EUCCHARIST

This is a chapel. A house of prayer.

HOUSE

(rising to exit)

Explains the good reception. And why nobody is ever here. *

She's blocking his exit just by being there. *

EUCCHARIST

I need to talk with you, Dr. House. I think you might have made a serious mistake. *

HOUSE

Take a number. *

He tries to squeeze by her. *

EUCCHARIST

Sister Augustine believes things that aren't real. *

Okay, that stops House.

HOUSE

I thought that was a job requirement for you people.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

EUCCHARIST

(lets it go)

She's been known to lie.

Another look from House as she sits down.

EUCCHARIST (CONT'D)

To get sympathy. She's a
hypochondriac.House looks at her. She's clearly not going anywhere and he
can't get out of the pew while she's there. He sits and
pulls out a chocolate bar.

HOUSE

(heard this before)

So you're warning me I may be treating
a non-existent ailment?

EUCCHARIST

Sore throats, joint pain, there's
always something wrong and there's
never a reason. Mother Superior
plays right into it. Lets Augustine
off work duties. Treating her as
fragile. Special.

HOUSE

That must make you angry.

EUCCHARIST

It bothers me. It's not really in
Sister Augustine's best interest.*
*

He notes Eucharist eyeing the bar.

HOUSE

Want some?

EUCCHARIST

I shouldn't.

He holds out the bar and she takes the whole bar.

HOUSE

I guess you've gotta be good at
reading people to be a good
Infirmarian, huh?

EUCCHARIST

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

HOUSE

So we've got pride, anger, envy...
 (takes the candy bar
 back)

Gluttony. Four out of seven deadly
 sins in under two minutes. Do you
 people keep records of those things?
 Is there a "cath-lympics"?

Eucharist realizes House has been playing her. But she
 remains unaffected.

EUCCHARIST

They say you have a gift.

HOUSE

They like to talk.

EUCCHARIST

You hide behind your intelligence --

HOUSE

-- Yeah, that's pretty stupid.

EUCCHARIST

You make jokes because you're afraid
 to take anything seriously. Because
 if you take things seriously, they
 matter. And if things matter --

HOUSE

-- Then when they don't work out,
 I'm going to get hurt. I'm not tough;
 I'm vulnerable; too vulnerable to
 risk getting hurt.

(then, no stop)

Do you even know my first name?

No, she doesn't. But Eucharist is only thrown for a beat.

EUCCHARIST

You're right. I barely know you. I
 don't know if I'm right. I just hope
 I am.

(off his reaction)

Because the alternative is you really
 are as miserable as you seem to be.

Beat. House absorbs this. Then:

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (3)

18

HOUSE

You know, from the way you're looking at me right now, I think you hit number five. And I'm not talking about greed or sloth, am I Sister?

Unperturbed, she smiles in acceptance. She's lost many battles before and knows this won't be the last. She rises and leaves. House puts his TV back on and takes a bite of his chocolate.

19 INT. HYPERBARIC CHAMBER ROOM -- DAY

19

Chase unpressurizes the door to the Hyperbaric Chamber. There is the slight sound of pressure release as the door opens. Inside, Sister Augustine lies on the table. Although her swelling and redness are less, she is looking more and more pale. Chase helps her off the table. He is very gentle with her. *

CHASE

How are you feeling?

AUGUSTINE

A little weak.

CHASE

That's from the oxygen.

AUGUSTINE

And my mouth is dry.

CHASE

You can have some of your tea.

Cuddy enters and approaches as Chase pours tea from a thermos.

CUDDY

(as she looks at the chart)

Sister Augustine. I'm Dr. Lisa Cuddy. How are you feeling? *

Off Cuddy reviewing the patient's status...

20 INT. HALLWAY - 4TH FLOOR -- DAY

20

House walks toward his office. Cuddy catches up to him.

CUDDY

Mixed connective tissue disease? Her ANA is barely elevated.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

HOUSE

Thanks for checking up on her; it's
good to know you've got me covered.

*
*

CUDDY

O2 sats are down to 83. She just
came from the hyperbaric chamber.
They should be through the roof.

HOUSE

She's only had --

*

CUDDY

-- three sessions, yes. Apparently
not enough to help but more than
enough to cause pulmonary problems,
breathing problems.

*
*
*
*

HOUSE

Irritation from the oxygen is typical --

*

CUDDY

-- First she comes in with a rash
and you put her in cardiac arrest.

HOUSE

That well just never goes dry, does
it? If there wasn't an underlying
problem, why is she still having the
rapid heart rate?

*
*

CUDDY

Maybe from the herpetic encephalitis
caused by your giving her prednisone.

HOUSE

(growing frustration)
Her reaction is a symptom, not an
error.

*

CUDDY

There's always an explanation, isn't
there?

HOUSE

Yes. And if this one doesn't work,
we'll find another one.

*
*

CUDDY

But not one involving you screwing
up.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

HOUSE

One that fits all the facts. Look
 we obviously have a difference of
 opinion. Which is fine. But
 unfortunately I've used up all the
 time I budgeted today for banging my
 head against a wall.

*
*
*
*
*

He moves to exit into his office. As far as he's concerned
 this conversation is over. But she stops him. This isn't
 easy, but it has to be done...

*
*

CUDDY

I'm going to do you the biggest favor
 one doctor can do another. I'm going
 to stop you from killing your patient.
 You're off the case.

She knows she's right. But she can't face him. She walks
 away. House looks into his outer office where Foreman sits,
 alone, watching.

*

House calmly taps his own cheek as if to say to Foreman,
 "give me a little kiss, Judas."

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

21 INT. CUDDY'S OFFICE -- DAY (DAY 3)

21

Cuddy sits with Cameron, Chase and Foreman. Cameron and Chase eye Foreman, wondering if he was responsible for the turn of events.

CUDDY

We're going to treat the symptoms.

CAMERON

Not the underlying condition?

CUDDY

There is no underlying condition.
What's her status?

CHASE

The Sister's breathing is labored.

CUDDY

Pneumonitis from the hyperbaric chamber. Put her on 40% oxygen until her O2 sats increase. And let's get her on a long lasting beta agonist.

CHASE

BUN and creatinine's rising. ALT and AST twice the normal range.

CUDDY

Kidney and liver involvement. Could be from the hypotensive episode. Let's follow them with labs.

FOREMAN

And she still has the rash and joint pain she came in with.

CUDDY

Order a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory -- ibuprofen.

CAMERON

When we were looking at differential diagnosis with Dr. House, we were considering --

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

CUDDY

-- I don't need to hear what Dr. House was considering. All of this woman's symptoms can be traced to Dr. House's considerations.
 (no one disagrees)
 Okay. Let's get this patient healthy. I want her going out the front door and not the back.

They know what she means.

22 INT. CLINIC -- DAY

22

Chase, Foreman and Cameron exit from Cuddy's office. They walk for a bit in silence. Then:

FOREMAN

It's not like I betrayed him. Cuddy would have found out about the hyperbaric treatments eventually.

CAMERON

(right)
 You did what you felt you had to.

They walk on.

23 INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM #1 -- DAY

23

House, alone, looks into the drawer. There are four syringes. He picks up two -- one containing one cc of epinephrine. One containing point one cc. He compares them.

WILSON (O.S.)

Can't get enough of this place, huh?

House looks up to see Wilson, then grabs his stethoscope.

HOUSE

Just left my stethoscope.

WILSON

So I shouldn't read too much into the fact that you're looking for it in the drawer with the epinephrine syringes.

HOUSE

(busted)
 Okay, yeah. I'd like to clear my reputation.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

WILSON

Right. I forgot how much you care about what people think. Prescribing cigarettes for irritable bowel disease? They cause lung cancer, you know.

House closes the drawer and exits. Wilson follows.

23A INT. CLINIC -- CONTINUOUS

23A

House walks towards Cuddy's office. Wilson dogs him.

HOUSE

Do you know why they have ribbons for breast cancer, colorectal cancer, and prostate cancer and no ribbons for lung cancer?

WILSON

They ran out of colors?

HOUSE

It's because people *blame* lung cancer patients. They smoke, they screwed up, they deserve to die. The reason people die from lung cancer is guilt.

Is this an admission? House enters Cuddy's ante room. Wilson follows.

23B INT. CUDDY'S OFFICE - ANTE ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

23B

House opens the filing cabinet and starts rifling through as Wilson watches.

WILSON

(with some significance)
Guilt does a lot of damage.

HOUSE

You said that with great significance.

WILSON

(recapping)
You're not here for your stethoscope.
You're not here to clear your
reputation.

*

(his conclusion)

You're here because you're having
doubts. You might have screwed up.

*

*

*

*

(CONTINUED)

23B CONTINUED:

23B

HOUSE

I'm here because if I'm right, Cuddy
is killing that patient.

House pulls a file that reads INVENTORY STATS. He opens it
and starts reading.

WILSON

And if you're wrong?

HOUSE

...Then she's saving her.

Wilson watches House search - knows it's futile.

WILSON

(re: the records)

You're going to have to go through
every record of every patient who's
been in this clinic for the last two
days. And you're going to hope the
records can be trusted. Which yours
can't.

Beat. House shoves the file back in the drawer and shuts
it. He pops a pill, then gets out his cell phone and dials...

24 INT. AUGUSTINE'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

24

Augustine arms are now red and swollen, her face pale, sunken.
She is on oxygen, IV's and has a catheter. Her heart is
being monitored -- it's not a strong rhythm. Chase hands
Augustine some pills.

CHASE

These pills will help your kidneys
function a little better, Sister.

She takes the pills, smiles gratefully as he takes her pulse.

AUGUSTINE

What's it at?

CHASE

One oh four.

AUGUSTINE

Is that good?

CHASE

It's fine.

AUGUSTINE

You're a lousy liar, Dr. Chase.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

Chase looks at her; she smiles. He can't help but smile back.

The moment, such as it is, is interrupted by Chase being beeped. He's surprised by the message. "YOUR MOTHER IS HERE."

CHASE

I've got to get this.

Chase exits.

25 INT. HOUSE'S OFFICE -- DAY

25

Chase enters to find House.

CHASE

My mother's been dead for ten years.

HOUSE

But she's always with you in spirit.
What do you know about the nun?

CHASE

Which one?

HOUSE

The cute one; I think she likes me.
The sick one obviously.

CHASE

Her parents died and she moved into
the monastery when she was six.

House thinks about that.

HOUSE

What's she lying about?

CHASE

Why do you say that?

HOUSE

Because I always say that. And the
old nun thinks the sick nun is a big
fat nun liar.

(then)

You know nuns. Do you believe her?

CHASE

I don't know nuns.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

HOUSE

You hate nuns. You can't hate someone unless you know them.

CHASE

Know any Nazis? Maybe I hate them on principle.

HOUSE

I have a theory about what makes good boys good. It's not because of some moral imperative. Good boys have the fear of God put into them. The Catholic church specializes in that kind of training. To make good boys who are afraid of divine retribution so they do what their daddies tell them; like going into medical school when that's the last thing they want to do.

Chase composes his face, unwilling to let House see how close this hits home.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

What do you think?

CHASE

I think if she does have a secret, her boss would know.

HOUSE

God?

CHASE

...No.

26 INT. MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS - KITCHEN -- DAY

26

House finishes looking in a cabinet as MOTHER SUPERIOR (60's calm demeanor) talks to him while she makes tea. The new copper pots hang from their pegs.

HOUSE

Did you paint recently or put in new carpets?

MOTHER SUPERIOR

No.

HOUSE

Is there any way she can get access to drugs?

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

MOTHER SUPERIOR

We lock all medications in the infirmary and don't carry prescription drugs.

(beat)

Why haven't you asked Sister Augustine directly about her past? *

HOUSE

I've found that if you want to know the truth about someone, that person is probably the last person you should ask.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

And have you been talking with Sister Eucharist? *

House is surprised and impressed with her astuteness. *

HOUSE

She ratted out her fellow sister pretty quickly. If I were you, I'd have her repeat a year at Nun school.

Mother Superior smiles.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Becoming a Nun doesn't make you a saint.

HOUSE

Becoming a doctor doesn't make you a healer.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

And just because we live in a monastery and spend most of our time in prayer doesn't mean we don't find time for drama.

HOUSE

What is the sick one's drama?

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Sister Augustine lived in Catholic foster care until she came to us. Tea? *

HOUSE

(as she pours)

Sure. Do all of you lie?

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

Mother Superior stops, shocked. He gestures for her to keep pouring.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Good strategy, though. It's simpler when you all use the same lie. But she hasn't lived her entire life as a good Catholic.

(off her look)

When she went into cardiac arrest, I had to open her blouse to do CPR. I learned two things. Nuns can have nice breasts. And she has a tattoo on her shoulder. Of a skunk. Maybe it was the sacred skunk of Joseph, but as far as I know, Catholic foster care and monasteries don't keep tattoo parlors in their refectories.

Mother Superior considers. Then:

MOTHER SUPERIOR

We consider that our life starts when we put on our habit and take our vows. What happens before that --

HOUSE

-- Is irrelevant to you. But it's relevant to me.

Mother Superior appreciates the significance of what he's saying.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Sister Augustine went into foster care when she was six. But she left when she was twelve. Lived on the streets, got into drugs. She got pregnant when she was fifteen. Tried to self abort, lost the child and got ill. We took her in when she came back.

(beat)

If we thought it was medically relevant, we would have told you.

Beat. Unfortunately...

HOUSE

It's not.

He's hit a dead end. House takes a sip of the tea. Then...

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (3)

26

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Mmmmm. This tea is delicious. Local herbs?

*
*
*

Off House's pleased look...

27 INT. HALLWAY - NURSES' STATION -- DAY

27

Cuddy and the Team huddle around the station, looking at Augustine's recent lab work.

CUDDY

Any change with the medication?

CHASE

Yeah. She's getting worse. Lung functions deteriorating. BUN and creatinine continuing to rise. She's starting to run a fever and the rash is spreading. At this rate, she's not going to make Christmas.

CAMERON

Maybe House was right. Maybe there's an underlying condition. Something else causing these symptoms. Something we haven't considered.

CUDDY

Like what?

CAMERON

Maybe it's a metabolic disorder...?

CUDDY

Specifically?

CAMERON

It could be something genetic...?

CUDDY

Specifically?

CAMERON

I'm just saying --

CUDDY

-- You're just saying you think House is right.

CAMERON

Might be right.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

CUDDY

Of course he might be right. It might be the hand of God at work. Don't say it's something else unless you've got something concrete to offer. Well?

Suddenly, a dry tea bag is tossed onto the lab results. They all look up to see House standing by them, smiling.

HOUSE

(to Cuddy)

I'm going to do you the biggest favor one doctor can do another. I'm going to stop you from killing your patient.

CUDDY

(re: tea bag)

What is this? Hemlock?

HOUSE

-- Actually, it's figwort tea. Great for giving you that little pick-me-up we're all looking for in the morning. Opens the lungs, increases blood pressure, stimulates the heart. Unfortunately, one of the side effects is if you drink it and get injected with point one cc of epinephrine, you've got instant cardiac arrest.

CUDDY

Sister Augustine...?

HOUSE

Has been drinking it religiously, so to speak.

FOREMAN

(realizes)

And if you take the cardiac arrest out of the equation --

HOUSE

-- all the rest of the symptoms can be explained by a severe long term allergic reaction.

FOREMAN

That's what Cameron said in the beginning.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

HOUSE

Yes she did. Well done.
(to Cameron)

But your unwillingness to stick to
your diagnosis almost killed this
woman. Take a lesson from Foreman.
Stand up for what you believe.

(walking away)

Come on. Let's go figure out how to
save a Nun.

CHASE

(sotto to Foreman)

Damned if you do, damned if you don't.

But they follow House, away from Cuddy.

28 INT. HALLWAY - 4TH FLOOR -- MOMENTS LATER

28*

House is once again back with his team: Foreman, Chase and
Cameron. They walk and talk. *

HOUSE

Alright. Because it's been untreated
for so long, it's gone from a simple
watery eyes scratchy throat allergy
to a whopping "I'm going to kick
your ass" allergy compromising her
immune system, diminishing her ability
to heal and breaking down her organ
systems. What's the source?

CHASE

The dish soap.

HOUSE

No. Her symptoms persisted days
beyond her dish washing episode. It
has to be something she's been exposed
to here in the hospital as well as
in the monastery.

FOREMAN

The tea? It caused her arrhythmia.

HOUSE

Could be. But not definitive.

CHASE

We'll skin test for allergens.

CAMERON

Not now. Her body's too reactive.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

CAMERON (CONT'D)

She'll test positive to everything.
We need to stabilize her -- isolate
her from all possible allergens and
give her system a rest.

CHASE

Get her in a clean room.

HOUSE

Then we slowly introduce allergens
and see how she responds. When she
reacts to something, we know that's
what's killing her.

House exits into his office. The team goes off to work... *

29 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE CLEAN ROOM -- NIGHT

29

Plus and Eucharist look through a window into the Clean Room,
watching Cameron and Chase help Augustine onto her bed.
There is an entryway where people put on gowns, gloves and
caps. (NOTE: All the medical personnel who attend to
Augustine in the clean room wear gowns, gloves and caps.)

30 INT. CLEAN ROOM -- NIGHT

30

There are air filters and dehumidifiers in this room.
Augustine, looking like a shell of her former self, has lost
her confidence. Chase hooks up her nasal cannula and Foreman
adjusts the IVs.

FOREMAN

There you go. No television, no
books...

AUGUSTINE

Not even a Bible?

FOREMAN

I'm afraid not. This room has
filtered air. Filtered water. You
even have silk sheets. Very decadent.
And hypoallergenic. You should be
feeling better here.

CHASE

We'll be back to check on you in a
little while.

Augustine weakly grabs Chase's arm.

(CONTINUED)

AUGUSTINE

Can the other sisters come in and pray with me?

CHASE

It would be better if you don't have visitors. Once we isolate what's causing your allergy, then we can be a little more lax.

Augustine nods, understands, but is quite frightened. Foreman leaves. Chase follows him out then stops, turning back to Augustine; she begins to quietly cry. He makes a decision.

CHASE (CONT'D)

...I'll pray with you.

AUGUSTINE

I try praying, but I'm so scared. I know I shouldn't be, that I should trust the Lord...

(beat, a confession)

I don't want to die. Why has He left me?

Chase hesitates, then pulls a chair up to her.

CHASE

I was in seminary school.

(she reacts, a little surprised)

They asked us once what our favorite passage was. I chose First Peter, 1:7. "These trials only test your faith to see whether or not it is strong and pure. It is being tested... as fire tests gold and purifies it..."

AUGUSTINE

"...and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold. So if your faith remains strong after being tested, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day of his return."

CHASE

He hasn't left you. The only thing in the way of you knowing He's here is your fear. You have a choice. Faith or fear? That's the test.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

AUGUSTINE

(crying)

Choosing faith doesn't mean I won't die.

CHASE

No, it doesn't. But it will affect how you experience your death. And your life. It's up to you.

Augustine thinks for a moment, then...

AUGUSTINE

...I wish I'd had someone like you to talk to 25 years ago.

This woman has serious regrets. Chase knows this and knows not to pry. But he also knows...

CHASE

You wouldn't have listened.

Chase gets up to go but Augustine still has his hand.

AUGUSTINE

Why did you leave seminary school?

CHASE

That test... You passed, I didn't.

31 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE CLEAN ROOM -- DAY

31

Cameron and Foreman talk with Eucharist and Pius, who is crying.

CAMERON

We'll call you if there's any change.

PIUS

Will she be alright?

FOREMAN

As long as she's not exposed to anything that can aggravate her allergy, she'll be fine.

A BANG on the window causes them to turn and see Chase, gesturing to them as he assists Augustine who chokes for breath.

CHASE

I need help in here.

Foreman and Cameron rush into:

32 INT. CLEAN ROOM -- DAY

32

Foreman and Cameron rush into the ante-room, but before they can start gowning:

CHASE
Screw the procedure. She's in
anaphylactic shock.

Chase grabs a syringe from the crash cart.

FOREMAN
No way. She's in a damn clean room.

CHASE
(you're arguing?)
Are you kidding me?

Foreman and Cameron rush into the room. Cameron grabs the CPR tube and ambu bag as Chase injects Augustine.

CHASE (CONT'D)
Point one cc of epi.

FOREMAN
We've got to intubate.

CAMERON
I'm on it. Ready with ambu bag?

FOREMAN
Got it.

Cameron moves in to intubate.

CAMERON
I'm in.

Foreman hooks up the ambu bag and they start CPR.

Pius and Eucharist look on from outside, horrified.

CAMERON (CONT'D)
Breathing stabilized.

Chase falls back, spent.

CHASE
(can't believe it)
It's a clean room.

They share a look. What the hell happened? Off Augustine --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

33 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE CLEAN ROOM -- DAY (DAY 4) 33

Chase checks Augustine's vitals as Augustine lies in bed on a ventilator. Her heart monitor indicates it's weak and erratic.

CAMERA MOVES TO REVEAL Sisters Pius and Eucharist in the hallway, praying. *

CAMERA MOVES TO REVEAL House down the hallway. He holds his own vigil, staring at the nuns. Wilson is with him.

HOUSE

How do you get an allergic reaction in a clean room?

WILSON

Maybe it was the preservatives in the IV.

HOUSE

Checked that.

WILSON

Latex tubing?

HOUSE

Checked that.

WILSON

Breach in protocol.

HOUSE

We checked everything. Checked and rechecked.

WILSON

(beat)

It could be mast cell leukemia. It can cause anaphylaxis.

HOUSE

We checked the blood levels.

(frustrated)

And it's not eosinophilia. Or idiopathic anaphylaxis.

WILSON

(out of ideas)

...Maybe it's just Divine Will.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

HOUSE
It's not my will.

WILSON
You do realize if you're wrong...
About the big picture, that is, you're
going to burn, right?

HOUSE
What do you want me to do? Just
accept it and pack it in?

WILSON
Yeah. I want you to accept that
sometimes patients die against all
reason. And sometimes they get better
against all reason.

HOUSE
No they don't. We just don't know
the reason.

WILSON
...I think the Nuns would agree with
you on that.

And as the Nuns continue to pray and House continues to
think...

34 INT. HOUSE'S INNER OFFICE -- DAY

34

House continues to think as Cameron enters...

CAMERON
I just wanted to say... I know you
did everything you could.

HOUSE
Why did you want to say that?

CAMERON
(do I really need a
reason?)
Because... well...

HOUSE
I don't need verification from you
to know that I'm doing my job well.
That's your problem, not mine.

CAMERON
I was just being nice.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

HOUSE

Yeah. You don't need to always do that.

She hesitates, then reaches in her pocket and hands House a present.

CAMERON

Merry Christmas.

House takes it, awkward. Chase enters.

CHASE

Sister Augustine's been extubated. *

HOUSE

Good.

CHASE

(no, it's not)

She's requested to check out against medical advice. She wants to go back to the monastery.

HOUSE

Talk her out of it.

CHASE

(not sure)

I think I may have talked her into it.

HOUSE

Then you can definitely talk her out of it.

CHASE

...I don't want to.

This surprises both House and Cameron. House smiles.

HOUSE

So you are a believer.

CHASE

No. But I know that not believing is a lot more painful.

House nods. Then gets up and heads for the door...

35 INT. CLEAN ROOM -- DAY

35

Gowned and gloved, House enters to find Augustine praying. She is looking pretty bad. She's breathing weakly.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

The rash on her arms is peeling.

HOUSE

The room's paid up for the rest of the week. You might as well stick around.

AUGUSTINE

This illness -- it's a test of my faith. If it's His will to take me, it won't matter where I am. I can accept that.

HOUSE

(beat, then)

Does anybody believe anything you say?

(off her look)

You're not accepting. You're running away. Just like you always do. You ran away from the monastery to get laid. You ran away from the real world when getting laid didn't work out so good. And now things aren't working out again, so off you go.

AUGUSTINE

Why is it so difficult for you to believe in God?

HOUSE

What I have difficulty with is the whole concept of "belief". Faith isn't based on logic, on experience.

AUGUSTINE

I experience God on a daily basis. In the miracles of life all around. The miracle of birth, the miracle of love. He's always with me. Inside of me, inside all of us, He's everywhere.

HOUSE

Yes. But this is where he keeps his medical equipment.

(then, frustrated)

Where is the miracle in delivering a crack addicted baby; watching her mother abandon her because she needs another score? Miracle of love? You know what the stats on marriages are?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HOUSE (CONT'D)

How about this one: you're over twice as likely to be killed by the person you love than by a stranger.

AUGUSTINE

Are you trying to talk me out of my faith?

HOUSE

I'm saying have faith all you want in spirits and the afterlife and heaven and hell. But when it comes to this world - don't be an idiot. Because you can tell me you trust God to get you through your day, but when it comes time to cross the road, I know you look both ways.

(then)

You want to live, you've got a much better shot betting on me than on Him.

As Augustine delivers this speech, she starts quietly, but as she becomes present to her faith, her voice becomes stronger.

AUGUSTINE

I was fifteen. I was on every kind of birth control known to man and I still got pregnant. I blamed God. I hated Him for ruining my life. But then I realized something. You can't be angry with God and not believe in Him. No one can. Not even you, Dr. House.

HOUSE

You're not listening to me. God is not going to save you.

AUGUSTINE

You're not listening to me. I don't believe He's inside me and is going to save me. I believe he's inside me whether I live or die. There is a difference.

House can't believe this. But he also knows he's never going to get through to her.

AUGUSTINE (CONT'D)

Thank you for your help. You'll be in my prayers.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (3) 35

Off House --

36 INT. HALLWAY - 2ND FLOOR -- DAY 36

House exits to find Wilson there. They walk and talk.

WILSON

How'd it go?

HOUSE

God's inside her. It would've been easier to deal with a tumor.

WILSON

Maybe she's allergic to God.

House thinks about it for a beat, then pulls out his phone and dials...

37 INT. HALLWAY - 4TH FLOOR -- DAY 37

House excitedly tells the team his theory as they walk toward his office.

HOUSE

We've looked everywhere for an allergen that could be causing this allergic reaction except one place. Inside her.

FOREMAN

On her medical history she didn't mention any surgeries or --

HOUSE

-- She had one.

CAMERON

Can we get the records? Which hospital did she have it at?

HOUSE

She didn't have it at a hospital.

Off their confused looks.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Order a full body scan.

CHASE

What if she refuses?

HOUSE

Tell her I'm looking for a miracle.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: 37

House exits into his office as the others move off to do their jobs.

38 INT. RADIOLOGY - CT SCAN ROOM & OBSERVATION ROOM -- DAY 38

Chase, Foreman and Cameron watch the monitor. In the CT ROOM, we can see Augustine in the scanner. On the monitor, we see the scan of Augustine's body starting at her head.

FOREMAN

(off the monitor)

No fillings, no piercings... no surgical pins in the arms. No implants --

CHASE

Clean as a whistle. What's House looking for?

The scan gets down to Augustine's waist. Foreman sees something.

FOREMAN

What's that?

CHASE

I don't know.

FOREMAN

Lock on it and get a 3D representation.

Cameron types into the keyboard of the monitor. On a second screen, a 3D model of Augustine's body appears layer by layer (going from top to bottom). Cameron points to the screen where the CT images are collated.

CAMERON

Oh my God.

There, in the midline of the body, lower abdomen, A CROSS.

39 INT. HOUSE'S INNER OFFICE -- DAY 39

The film of Augustine's abdomen displaying the cross is on the light board. House and his Team look at it.

HOUSE

The copper T. An IUD pulled off the market in the eighties. Pure copper. In med school I used to make earrings out of those things for my girlfriends.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

FOREMAN

So, she's allergic to copper?

HOUSE

Rare but it happens.

CHASE

Wouldn't she know if she had an IUD?

HOUSE

She had an abortion. The IUD must have been left in, imbedded in the endometrial tissue where it couldn't be detected.

CHASE

So all we have to do --

40 INT. CLEAN ROOM -- DAY

40

Chase shows the film to Augustine who traces the cross with her finger.

CHASE

-- is remove the IUD. Then the symptoms should subside.

AUGUSTINE

But I got that IUD when I was 15. It's been almost 30 years.

CHASE

The body can handle prolonged exposure to an allergen for just so long with minimal symptoms. All it needs is a last insult to cause a full blown reaction. It's kind of like a balloon filled with air. It only takes one last breath to cause it to explode.

AUGUSTINE

(it dawns on her)

When I first got the rash. It was from washing the copper cookware.

CHASE

And all your subsequent symptoms came from ingesting food prepared in it.

AUGUSTINE

(re: CT scan)

Dr. House found his miracle.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

CHASE

I doubt he'll interpret it that way.

Chase turns to go.

AUGUSTINE

You told me your favorite passage.
Would you like to hear mine?

(off Chase's look)

"Celebrate and be glad, because your
brother was dead and is alive again,
he was lost and is found."

CHASE

(recognizes it)

The prodigal son.

AUGUSTINE

God never turns his back on those
who have doubts. He'll be waiting
for you when you're ready. I know.
He was waiting for me.

CHASE

...We'll schedule your surgery
tomorrow.

And Chase leaves.

41 INT. CLINIC -- DAY

41

Back where it all started. But it's the end of the day, the
place is quiet, closing up. House regards a large pile of
charts in front of him. Wilson, carrying a tray with a
cruller and two cups, takes a seat next to House. Offering
a cup to House.

WILSON

The Sixth Circle of Hell?

*
*

HOUSE

Confined in a sweat box with a bloody
nose and all the tissues are soggy.

*
*
*

WILSON

I think that's the seventh.

*
*

HOUSE

Nope. Seventh is --

*
*

WILSON

-- You must be fun at parties.

*

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

HOUSE

I think we all know the flaw in that theory.

*
*
*

WILSON

How's the Sister doing?

*

HOUSE

Four hours after we took out the IUD her skin rash started clearing up. Heart rate is normal. Kidneys functioning. At this rate she'll be home for New Years. Barring an intervening rapture.

*
*

WILSON

Great.

HOUSE

I told you I didn't screw up.

Wilson looks at his friend - this is what it's all about?

WILSON

You screwed up.

HOUSE

I gave that nun point one cc of epinephrine.

WILSON

And you would have killed her; if Cuddy hadn't pulled you off the case.

House looks at him. He knows Wilson's right.

WILSON (CONT'D)

Want to come over for Christmas dinner?

HOUSE

You're Jewish.

WILSON

Hanukkah then, what do you care? It's dinner. With people.

HOUSE

No, thanks.

WILSON

Fine. Then I'll come over to your place.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

House gives a look.

HOUSE

Your wife doesn't mind being alone
on Christmas?

WILSON

I'm a doctor. She's used to being
alone.

House gives a look - something's up. *

WILSON (CONT'D) *

I don't want to talk about it. *

HOUSE *

Neither do I. *

Cuddy approaches from her office. *

CUDDY

You did good. With the nun.
Congratulations.

Wilson gives House a look. Well....?

HOUSE

Thank you.

CUDDY

Merry Christmas, Dr. House.

She leaves.

WILSON

That was sweet.

42 INT. HOUSE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT 42

M.O.S. House sits at the table eating take-out Chinese.
Wilson sits across from him. They're having a rather
animated, but friendly conversation...

43 INT. HOUSE'S APARTMENT -- LATER 43

House sits at his piano, picking out the notes for Silent
Night. His plunking turns into melodious playing.

MUSIC PLAYS OVER:

44 INT. HOSPITAL - 1ST FLOOR ATRIUM -- NIGHT 44

Foreman is dressed up as Santa handing out presents to kids.

45 INT. HOUSE'S OUTER OFFICE -- NIGHT 45

Cameron enters, her arms filled with charts. She goes to the computer and finds a gift on the chair with her name on the card. She opens the card and smiles.

45A INT. PATIENT'S ROOM -- NIGHT 45A

Cuddy checks the chart of a DYING MALE (70's) patient who lies in bed, his eyes closed. He doesn't look good. His WIFE (60's) sits next to him, holding his hand. Worried.

Cuddy goes over, sits down and begins to talk to them. You know it's going to be a long night. *

46 INT. HOSPITAL CHAPEL -- NIGHT 46

Sisters Pius, Eucharist and the Mother Superior sit beside Sister Augustine who is in a wheelchair. They pray in gratitude amongst several patients who sit with their families as a PRIEST does mass. *

After a while, Chase enters in the back. He watches, hesitates, then leaves...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW