

STRANGER THINGS
EPISODE 2B:
SINS OF THE MOTHER

by
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(StrangerThings.tv)

Sixth Draft



This file contains additional director's notes concerning the evolution of the script from page to frame.

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EMPTINESS

Out of the hollow darkness, a young woman's voice: SARAH.

SARAH
I almost killed a person today.

Her voice is a numb confession. The opening credits, slow and deliberate, fade in and out.

SARAH (CONT'D)
An old lady, a grandma.

Another voice, a young man's voice: DAVID.

DAVID
How?

SARAH
I was so tired...I'm never tired in the mornings, but this last week...have you ever fallen asleep when you're driving?

DAVID
No.

SARAH
It's so scary, because you think you're awake. You believe it. But you're not. You're nodding off, and then...

HONK HONK HONK HONK AS A TRUCK NEARLY MISSES US!



Return to black.

Fade up title: "Sins of the Mother".

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. EXAM ROOM - DAY

Sarah is a pretty white girl in her early twenties, seated on the exam table. David is the black doctor leaning opposite her.



DAVID
Did anybody get hurt?

SARAH
No. ...I don't think so.

David sets down his clipboard and approaches her.

SARAH (CONT'D)

I took a taxi to get here. I was too scared I'd hit something, like a car or a person, or a dog or something...

He begins swabbing her finger with alcohol.

DAVID

You did the right thing. I'll run some tests. We'll figure this out.

He pops her finger with a diabetic-type lancet, and dabs the blood onto a plastic slide.

SARAH

Thank you.

He pushes the slide into a small plastic Device.

DAVID

I'll be right back.

TERMINAL ROOM - DAY

This room is the opposite of the exam room. Nothing pretty, nothing comfortable. One hundred percent drab.

A simple, almost beaten up computer sits on a desk near to the door. There is no monitor, and the hard drive lies flat on the desk.

David enters with his clipboard and his Device, making sure to shut the door on his way in. He places his Device into a small pool of soft red light near the keyboard and sits down. And then...

Nothing happens.

He taps the Device.

Nothing.

He knocks on the hard drive.

Nothing.

He BASHES the hard drive.

CLICK! The pool of light surrounding the device jumps from red to blue, followed by

AN EXPLOSION OF LIGHT

It's a gigantic holographic screen that floats above the desk.

The hologram's dialogue is displayed as text on the screen.

HOLOGRAM

This system was improperly shut down.
Some information may have been lost.



The more things change, the more they stay the same.
David shakes his head as the system loads.

HOLOGRAM (CONT'D)

Sample detected. Scanning...

On the screen, the computer displays Sandra's blood droplet, and then ZOOMS into it in super detail.

A CELLPHONE BEEPS

at David's waist. He pulls it off and answers it.

DAVID

I'll be right there.

David leaves, but the computer is just getting started.

THE RESULTS



The hologram sorts through the potential illnesses rapidly. Cancer: no. Diabetes: no. SARS: no.

BING.

Pregnancy: yes.

THE COMPUTER

pauses for a moment, then moves on. Already inside Sarah's blood, now it ZOOMS closer, to a single DNA strand.

THE DNA STRAND

The hologram zips through the DNA clusters, pulling out different traits. It pops up with probability percentages for things like hair and eye color, weight, height, and especially health (heart disease, diabetes, etc).

BING.

HOLOGRAM
Probability for optimal development: 97%.

Beat.

HOLOGRAM (CONT'D)
Conducting maternity scan...

Folders scatter across the screen like playing cards. Each one contains a separate part of Sarah's identity. Personal Profile, Work History, Credit Record, Criminal History -

The computer is rapidly working through Sarah's entire life.

It classifies information under "acceptable", "borderline", or "violation".



Everything falls under the first or second categories, until:

The hologram BLATS a warning.

HOLOGRAM (CONT'D)
SUBSTANCE VIOLATION: Marijuana detected.
Timestamp (04292012-9/36/12) exceeds
legal limits.

It processes for a moment.

HOLOGRAM (CONT'D)
MATERNAL AUTHORIZATION DENIED.

A few bare moments are all it needs to deliver:

HOLOGRAM (CONT'D)
Directive: DISCONTINUE PREGNANCY.

The computer stops.

Nothing happens.

DAVID ENTERS

He stops short at the doorway when he sees the display.

Slowly, he enters the room, laying his hands on the keyboard...

ESC.

ESC ESC ESC ESC.

HOLOGRAM
ERROR! CANNOT CANCEL.

His fingers splay out into a series of keys, and he presses them all at once: CTRL-ALT-DEL.

EVERYTHING on the screen freezes.

HOLOGRAM (CONT'D)
SYSTEM LOCKED.

David jumps out of his seat, but before he can get halfway to the door, an image appears on the screen:

DR. HALBERTSON

Dr. Halbertson is a mature-looking man with sharp features and a measured tone. He begins speaking immediately, casually.

HALBERTSON
David? I'm getting some strange warnings here, are you having a problem?

David turns back toward the screen.

DAVID
No, no. It's just these new machines, sir. They're acting stupid, I can take care of it.

HALBERTSON
Hang on, let me run it back.

Halbertson's face turns away from us, and suddenly David's hologram flashes through the whole sequence again in fast-forward. When it stops:

HALBERTSON (CONT'D)
There's no mistake, David. Now what's the problem?

DAVID
That can't be right, sir. This information - marijuana, I understand. But it's minor - one hit, almost five years ago - to tell the truth, it's just a few days shy of five years.

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

Another week and this violation wouldn't be an issue!

HALBERTSON

It's not our job to make judgment calls, David. Five years means five years.

DAVID

I know, but there's no reason-

HALBERTSON

David, we have in our hands a very serious responsibility. It may not be easy, it may be distasteful, but it's our responsibility. Do you understand?

David isn't going to win this one.

DAVID

Yes, sir.



HALBERTSON

It's the right thing to do.

Halbertson's image vanishes from the hologram.

EXAM ROOM - DAY

David walks in.

SARAH

So? Did you find anything?

David is very concerned about dotting the T's on his clipboard.

DAVID

No...there was a problem with the test.

SARAH

- A problem? -

DAVID

- yeah. Not with you. The computers. They crashed. They're new, and well, you know.

SARAH

Oh.

David sits down in a chair opposite her, focused intently on scribbling nothing in the most official way he can.

DAVID
 But: what I can do is reschedule your
 appointment. Give tech support some time
 to fix the system. Let's see...how about
 you drop by...

David considers his busy schedule.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 ...sometime next week?

Completely casual.

SARAH 
 Well...I guess I can do that.

David's relief explodes out of him.

DAVID
 Great! -

The door opens behind him.

HALBERTSON
 (O.S.)
 David.

David shuts up immediately.

HALBERTSON (CONT'D)
 (O.S.)
 I have those meds you ordered.

David doesn't move.

DAVID
 (to Halbertson)
 - Thanks.
 (to Sarah)
 Give me just a second.

David exits with Halbertson.

INT. HOSPITAL HALL - DAY

Halbertson has barely closed the door when David starts.

DAVID
 Sir, it's really just a week.

HALBERTSON
 I know that, David, but this is policy.

No arguing that.

Silence.

DAVID

All right, well...let me go in there and stall her for a moment, then I'll get the injection.

HALBERTSON

I already did.

Halbertson produces a bottle of bluish fluid.

Strike one.

DAVID

Is that the right-

HALBERTSON

Yes.

Strike two.

David fidgets.

DAVID

Sir, she doesn't even know she's-

HALBERTSON

David, why are you dragging your feet on this? It's a simple procedure -

DAVID

- Yes, but -

HALBERTSON

- it's a LEGAL procedure, don't interrupt. Are you incapable of doing your job?

Strike three.

DAVID

No, sir.

HALBERTSON

Then get in there and do it. Because if I have to go in there -

DAVID

No, sir. No...sir. She's my patient. I'll handle it.

HALBERTSON

Good man.

INT. EXAM ROOM - DAY

David enters.

SARAH

Hey -

Her eyes fall to the syringe.

SARAH (CONT'D)

What's that for?



INT. HALBERTSON'S OFFICE - DAY

Halbertson's hand presses "SECURITY" on his own holo-display.

INT. EXAM ROOM - DAY

The red light of a security camera just beyond Sarah clicks on.

David looks down from the camera to Sarah.

DAVID



It's a vitamin booster. It'll help strengthen your immune system until you can come in next week.

SARAH

Oh. Isn't there a pill or something I can take? I hate shots.

Salvation lights David's face.

DAVID

Well, you don't have to have it if you don't want. You can refuse it.

SARAH

Well, you know better than I do.

David's eyes flick up to the camera.

It stares back, unblinking.

DAVID
I think you should have it.

SARAH
Okay. As long as I don't have to watch,
I hate shots.

She sticks out her arm and shuts her eyes.

INT. EXAM ROOM - DAY - SECURITY CAMERA'S POV

David wipes her arm and grips it. He injects the needle.
It's done.

BACK TO NORMAL VIEW

David removes the needle.

DAVID
That's it.

SARAH
That's it?

The security camera shuts off.

DAVID
Yeah. That's it.

As he looks back down at Sarah, she LAUNCHES at him -
- catching him in a kiss.

SARAH
That was awesome. I hardly felt a thing.
And that's a good thing in this
situation.

She suddenly realizes they are not at home.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Sorry. Sorry, I know, never at work.

She disentangles herself from David.

SARAH (CONT'D)
I'll see you tonight.

David is quiet as Sarah walks away.

DAVID

See ya.

Sarah stops at the door.

SARAH

Don't forget to write me in for next week.

DAVID

I won't.

She leaves. David trudges over to the trash can, pushes down on the plunger -

- and ejects the entire contents of the syringe into the trash.

He drops the needle in after it.

INT. TERMINAL ROOM - DAY



The hologram glows red with the words: "MATERNAL VIOLATION" and "SYSTEM LOCKED".

David sits, head in his hands.

SARAH

(V.O.)

Hey sugar, how was work? Are you okay?

DAVID

(V.O.)

Yeah...

David's head rises from his hands.

DAVID (CONT'D)

(V.O.)

...everything's going to be fine.

David BASHES the hard drive next to him. The hologram cracks into static as he walks out.

The hologram reforms:

HOLOGRAM

This system was improperly shut down.
Some information may have been lost.

THE END