

Executive Producer: Paul Attanasio  
Executive Producer: Katie Jacobs  
Executive Producer: David Shore  
Executive Producer: Bryan Singer  
Co-Executive Producer: John Mankiewicz  
Supervising Producer: Matt Witten  
Supervising Producer: Thomas L. Moran  
Producer: Gerrit van der Meer  
Consulting Producer: Peter Blake  
Consulting Producer: Sara B. Cooper  
Associate Producer: Marcy Kaplan  
Associate Producer: Bruce Nachbar  
Director: Peter Medak

# HOUSE

“The Socratic Method”

EPISODE #2

Written by

John Mankiewicz

E#5502

Production Draft	July 21, 2004
Full Blue Revisions	July 23, 2004
Full Pink Revisions	July 27, 2004
Yellow Revisions	July 30, 2004
Green Revisions	July 30, 2004
Goldenrod Revisions	August 2, 2004
Buff Revisions	August 5, 2004
Salmon Revisions	August 6, 2004
Cherry Revisions	August 9, 2004
Tan Revisions	August 11, 2004

# HOUSE

## Character List Episode 5502 - Yellow Revisions

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

Lucille "Lucy" Palmero  
Lucas "Luke" Palmero  
Dr. Wells  
Dr. Bergin  
Sally  
Clark  
Trina Wyatt  
Male Truant Officer  
Terri  
Wendy  
Nurse \*

Female Voice/Frog Voice  
EMT Voice  
Hospital P.A. Voice

# HOUSE

## Location List Episode 5502 - Tan Revisions

### **INTERIORS**

#### Hospital

- Hallway - Patients' Floor
- Patient Floor Lounge
- Hallway - Admin. Floor
- Lobby - Main Floor
- E.R. Waiting Room
- Elevator

#### House's Office

- Outer Office
- Inner Office

#### Lab

#### Clinic

- Exam Room #1
- Exam Room #2

#### Cuddy's Office

#### Lucy's Hospital Room

- Hallway Outside

#### Hallway Outside Surgical Suite \*

#### Men's Room

#### New Jersey State Unemployment Office

#### Lucy's Apartment

- Outside Front Door
- Her Bedroom
- Luke's Bedroom
- Tiny Kitchen

#### House's Apartment

### **EXTERIORS**

#### Princeton - Aerial Shot

#### Hospital - E.R. Entrance

TEASER

FADE IN:

TIGHT - LUCY PALMERO

Rocks her head slowly to a private, painful rhythm. 38, but looks older. A pale round face. A frozen, mirthless half smile. The blank, flattened affect of schizophrenia.

The murmur of public business in a big room. And then, aimed right at her, vaguely menacing, from out of nowhere --

FEMALE VOICE

... Cat got your tongue?

Lucy blinks. PUSH IN. Blue eyes, scared, fill the screen.

FEMALE VOICE (CONT'D)

Nah. You killed the cat. Cut off its head.

Lucy stops rocking. Then, very faint, from the real world --

SALLY (V.O.)

...need to take a look at this -

LUKE'S VOICE (V.O.)

Mom... Mom.

Lucy startles, turns to Luke's voice. WIDER to REVEAL we're:

1 INT. NEW JERSEY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE -- DAY

1

The Disabilities Benefits desk. Lucy's teenaged son LUKE - thin, anxious, highly organized -- sits next to her. The Caseworker (SALLY) -- 50ish, plump -- behind a desk featuring a colored GLASS FROG PAPERWEIGHT. Re: a form --

SALLY

Just a couple of questions, before I can authorize extending her benefits.

Lucy's confused. Drooling now. Bobbing her head. Re: Sally -

LUCY

I don't like her. She's fat.

Luke flashes a nervous look to Sally, who nicely lets him off the hook; she's not offended.

SALLY

I could lose a little weight.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

As Lucy rubs her right calf, distracted, CAMERA SLAMS IN:

TIGHT - LUCY'S CALF - VFX

PUSHING through fat, bone and muscle to discover a dangerous looking thrombus -- a blood clot, inside Lucy's deep vein.

RESUME - UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE

LUKE  
(worried)  
You all right?

Lucy releases her calf --

SALLY  
Actually, before she signs --

LUCY  
-- I killed the cat... So much blood.

Off Sally's look --

LUKE  
It's okay.

Sally sighs. She wants to give the kid a break.

SALLY  
I have questions about a couple of these dates. The first diagnosis --

LUKE  
-- Schizophrenia, Dr. Walters, May 11 last year. Letter's in the medical file.

Sally nods. Gets it. Off the form:

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

SALLY

And April 6. That was her last day of work.

LUKE

The termination letter's dated March 5, I know, it's confusing, but yeah, her last pay stub was for the week ending April 6.

SALLY

But she received unemployment benefits that week. A week she worked.

LUKE

No. That's a mistake.

Off Luke, shook, grabbing a thick file, looking --

BACK INSIDE THE VEIN - VFX - AS BEFORE

SEE a SMALL PIECE of the BIG CLOT in the calf breaks off and flows up Lucy's body. Bad news.

RESUME - UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE

Luke still looking. It's got to be there.

SALLY

It's a big problem, it could nullify her entire claim.

LUKE

We fixed that. I know we did. We returned the money.

Finally -- he's found what he needs. He hands her a document.

LUKE (CONT'D)

That's the canceled check... Not the real one. You know. A copy.

SALLY

(irony, a compliment)  
And you're the dependent.

LUKE

No, that's my little brother. I'm 18. Just helping out.

A weird beat. Sally looks at him. Smiles. STAMPS the form.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (3)

1

SALLY  
You're all set. Just need a  
signature.

LUCY  
(fast, urgent)  
Shut up shut up shut up.

Lucy's agitated, paranoid, eyes locked tight on --

TIGHT - THE FROG PAPERWEIGHT ON THE DESK - LUCY'S POV

FROG (THE FEMALE VOICE)  
The cat's first. Now it's your turn,  
Lucy.

WIDER - Lucy reacts, frightened and in pain, jerks her chair  
backwards. Tense.

LUKE  
It's okay. She just needs some water.

SALLY  
I'll get it.

Sally moves off, Luke slips his Mom an airplane sized bottle  
of vodka. She guzzles it.

LUKE  
Mom, just hold on. When she comes  
back, sign it, and we're done --

LUCY  
-- The voices.

LUKE  
-- The voices aren't real.

Lucy nods. Then she gasps, twists, in real pain, as CAMERA  
DIVES DOWN, and we're back --

INSIDE HER BODY - VFX - THE BLOOD CLOT

Slams through the chambers of her heart, and into a narrowing  
artery, crashing to a stop with a wet fat THUNK, blocking  
blood flow, and thus oxygen, to Lucy's lungs.

RESUME - UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE

Lucy gasps horribly, can't get any air. Luke is helpless,  
Lucy's eyes flutter closed, the whole world SLOWS DOWN, and --

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (4)

1

LUCY'S COLLAPSE - VARIOUS

Lucy falls off the chair... Luke tries to catch her... her dead weight spins him sideways... he SLAMS his wrist on the desk... her hand hits the glass frog... it flies off the desk... smashes and separates in a shower of glass... Lucy lands on the ground hard...

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (5)

1

BACK TO REAL TIME -- Sally's back, calling 911, and Lucy's on the floor, unconscious. Off the blank stare of what's left of the frog's eyes, and Luke, terrified, cradling his mother's head --

POP TO MAIN TITLES

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2 EXT. PRINCETON - AERIAL SHOT -- DAY 2

A SIREN, the sound of an ambulance pulling up and--

EMT VOICE

(filtered, thru radio)

38 year old Caucasian woman, status  
post respiratory arrest in the field,  
intubated, oxygenating poorly...

3 OMITTED 3

4 INT. E.R. WAITING ROOM -- DAY 4

Quiet. Luke paces, restless, past a MAN reading the COMICS.  
When he lowers the paper, we see it's House. Annoyed.

LUKE

(a question)

This is a good hospital.

HOUSE

Depends what you mean by good.

(considers, then)

I like these chairs.

Off Luke's look, as House goes back to the comics --

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

HOSPITAL P.A. VOICE

Dr. Gregory House, please call Dr.  
Cuddy at extension 3731.

House ignores the page. E.R. DOC WELLS enters, early 30s,  
Luke moves quickly towards him --

LUKE

How is she?

WELLS

Stable, okay. Your mom had a small  
pulmonary embolism, a blood clot  
that got stuck in her lungs. Blocked  
the oxygen.

Luke winces as he pulls out his notebook -- his wrist hurts.  
(Throughout the following, House looks like he's just reading  
the paper, not paying attention. Think again.)

LUKE

But the pain started in her leg.

WELLS

(nods, that's right)  
Where the clot started. Her calf.  
That's called a deep vein thrombosis,  
basically a bigger clot --

LUKE

-- it never hurt before, I would've  
noticed --

WELLS

-- A piece of that broke off, went  
up the vein, through her heart, and  
blocked blood flow to her lungs. No  
blood flow, no oxygen.

LUKE

(writing fast)  
Got it. Wait a sec --

WELLS

-- Is your dad here? I have some  
things I need to talk to him --

LUKE

-- My dad's running a little late;  
he's dead. Talk to me. I take care  
of her.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

WELLS

All right. Your Mom's blood alcohol was point one two, 10:30 in the morning --

LUKE

-- I gave it to her. Two ounces of vodka. It cools her out.  
 (flips through book)  
 The last time was Monday. Three days ago. I'm real careful.  
 (beat)  
 She hears voices.

WELLS

(a question)  
 She's schizophrenic.  
 (off Luke's nod)  
 Explains the DVT. The alcohol makes her pass out, she's immobile for long periods --

LUKE

-- that doesn't happen. She's not an alcoholic.

WELLS

Fine. She only drinks when you give it to her.  
 (end of story)  
 We put her on blood thinners, you can probably take her home tomorrow.

Wells stands.

LUKE

It's not the alcohol. It's gotta be something else.

Out of nowhere --

HOUSE

Of course it's the alcohol. Hello.

As he gets up, moves toward them --

HOUSE (CONT'D)

(re: Wells)  
 This guy's a professional doctor.  
 Plays golf and everything, I bet.  
 (to Luke)  
 He's not gonna tell you your Mom's an alcoholic, not without proof.  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (3)

4

HOUSE (CONT'D)

I'm sure he scoped for varices, checked her esophagus, ran all kinds of blood tests... Doctors like this, they don't make assumptions, they do the work.

Wells doesn't like being jerked around.

WELLS

I'd be happy to refer you the case, Doctor House, you seem so interested --

HOUSE

-- what case, it's over, you're sending her home --  
 (to Luke)  
 How old is she?

LUKE

You're a doctor?

HOUSE

Own my own stethoscope. Did I ask you how old she was, I forget --

LUKE

She's 38.

HOUSE

(significant)  
 Ah.

LUKE

Are you gonna take the case?

5 INT. HOUSE'S OFFICE -- DAY

5

House and the team -- CHASE, FOREMAN and CAMERON. As House writes "Deep Vein Thrombosis" and "female, 38 yrs," on the empty whiteboard --

HOUSE

-- Come on people, it didn't just come in the mail. A 38 year old woman with no previous symptoms or history presents with Deep Vein Thrombosis, how did she get it?

FOREMAN

The usual three big risk factors for DVT are immobility, injury to the vein, or the blood itself.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

CAMERON

An inherited clotting disorder.

FOREMAN

If she's European.

As House scrawls the possibilities on the whiteboard --

HOUSE

Lucy Palmero. Italian. Dr. Chase.

Is Italy in Europe?

(off Chase's look)

You look sleepy, you're from there,  
thought I'd give you an easy one.

CHASE

Italy's in Europe. *Australia's* not.

HOUSE

Fun geographical facts, always good  
for bar bets, thanks, she's European,  
the Factor V blood disorder's more  
likely, what else?

CAMERON

Infections and  
inflammatory diseases.  
Lupus, Crohn's Disease,  
rheumatoid arthritis,  
they can stimulate  
clotting.

CHASE

-- She said "lupus," she  
always says lupus --

FOREMAN

(hard, fast)

-- and pregnancy, especially third  
trimester, oral contraceptives,  
smoking, diabetes, obesity, and what's  
the point here? A DVT's a DVT. Put  
her on IV Heparin to prevent new  
clots. What's the big mystery?

HOUSE

Fine, you're all sleepy, you need a  
clue --

(circles "38," hard, as)

She's thirty-eight years old. She's  
twenty years too young to get a Deep  
Vein Thrombosis.

FOREMAN

I took care of a twelve year old  
girl, soccer player, kicked in the  
leg --

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

HOUSE

-- There's no trauma; none of the risk factors.

CAMERON

(skeptical)

You took a history?

HOUSE

I have some notes. Not mine, but reliable, I think, for the purposes of this discussion.

He shows them Luke's notebook, and, glancing through it --

HOUSE (CONT'D)

As for immobility, she's real active now, of course, the paranoia keeps her limber, but before that, she worked at the library for twelve years, putting away books. And this was before e-books and CD's, so there was a real weight to --

They've all caught the reference, but it's --

FOREMAN

-- Whoa whoa whoa, back it up. Paranoia?

HOUSE

Oh yeah, she's schizophrenic. And her kid wrote this, so it might be a little biased, having to take care of his nutso mom and all.

(beat, off the looks)

What. You think there's a connection? Do we include schizophrenia in the differential for DVT?

FOREMAN

Well --

HOUSE

-- The answer's no. Abnormal dopaminergic pathways in the brain do not cause blood clots. Schizophrenia does not cause DVT.

(beat)

It's something else.

6 INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - PATIENT FLOOR -- DAY

6

House and Wilson walk and talk, mid-conversation --

(CONTINUED)

HOUSE

On the other hand, we don't know anything about schizophrenia. So maybe it is connected.

WILSON

The schizophrenia does explain one mystery. Why you're so fascinated by some woman with a bump in her leg. It's like Picasso deciding to white wash a fence.

HOUSE

-- Thanks, but I'm more of a Leroi Neiman man; and this is only about the DVT; she's 38, she shouldn't --

WILSON

-- right, solve this one, you're headed for Stockholm --

HOUSE

We don't even know how to treat it. Come on: fumigation of the vagina?

WILSON

A little louder, I don't think they heard you in Labor and Delivery --

HOUSE

-- Two thousand years ago, that's how Galen treated schizophrenics. The Marcus Welby of ancient Greece.

WILSON

Right. Clearly you're not interested.

HOUSE

(still on his rant)

Because, obviously, all the symptoms were caused by malposition of the uterus.

WILSON

There's a better place for it?

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

HOUSE

And since then, what? Lobotomies,  
rubber rooms, electric shock -- that  
Galen was so primitive.

House hangs a right.

WILSON

Where are you going?

HOUSE

Taking her history; I'm a doctor,  
it's what I do.

WILSON

You won't talk to patients because  
they lie; but give you somebody who  
doesn't know what reality is and  
you're--

HOUSE

--If it wasn't for Socrates, a raving,  
untreated schizophrenic, we wouldn't  
have the Socratic Method, the best  
way to teach everything except  
juggling chain saws, and without  
Isaac Newton, we'd be floating on  
the ceiling.

WILSON

Dodging chain saws, no doubt.

HOUSE

And that guitar player, you know, in  
that English band. He was great.

At the room, about to enter, he sees Wilson's smug smile and --

HOUSE (CONT'D)

You think it's the schizophrenia.

WILSON

Pretty sure of it.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (3)

6

HOUSE

Galen was pretty sure about the fumigation thing.

(a beat, it comes to him)

Pink Floyd.

He goes inside.

7 INT. LUCY'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

7

House enters. In bed, Lucy's monitored, got a central line. Weak, but the schizophrenic symptoms -- the rictus-smile, the higher voice, the disassociated thought -- are in full bloom. Luke stands by the bed as House looks down and --

LUKE

Mom, this is --

HOUSE

-- Gregory House, nice to meet you. Would it be all right if we talked alone for a while?

LUKE

(anxious)

But you need me --

HOUSE

(re: note book)

-- I've got your chart notes, Doctor.

(hands him a twenty)

Cafeteria's downstairs, get yourself anything you want, as long as there's enough left over for a Reuben sandwich to go, dry, no fries, hold the pickles. Should run you about five eighty with tax.

(gives him his pager)

I'll page you when we're done.

(smiles)

Get a receipt.

LUCY

(soft)

No pickles.

Luke leaves. House sits by the bed.

HOUSE

Nice kid. How much do you really drink?

Off her look:

8 INT. PATIENT FLOOR LOUNGE -- DAY 8

With Chase and Foreman, reeling. As Luke walks past --

FOREMAN  
He's really talking to a patient?

CHASE  
(nods, then)  
I don't know who I am anymore.

9 INT. LUCY'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY 9

As before, Lucy and House --

HOUSE  
And the meds?

LUCY  
Baseball. I like baseball.

HOUSE  
Very nice.

LUCY  
Very sad.  
(softer)  
We went to a game. Me and the boy.

HOUSE  
Meds. Not Mets. Medicine.

Lucy turns away. House moves to the other side of the bed.

HOUSE (CONT'D)  
You take what he tells you to take.

LUCY  
(small nod, then)  
The Mets lost.

10 INT. PATIENT FLOOR LOUNGE -- DAY

10

The team and Wilson. Waiting. Cameron opens an envelope from the MEDICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY. The conversation proceeds as Cameron opens a form, looks at it, realizes, smiles to herself, and throws it away --

FOREMAN

Some nurse saw him go in; maybe it never happened; like the guy waking up in Central Park without a kidney; it's always a friend of a friend.

WILSON

I saw him.

Beat. They consider the significance of all this...

CHASE

What's he gonna find out that we couldn't?

Wilson gives him a look - is that what this is? A turf issue?

WILSON

Think of it as calling in a specialist.

11 INT. LUCY'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

11

House standing now, leaning against the wall, as --

LUCY

(too loud, with edge)  
Why why why? Why why why?

HOUSE

Because I like your voice.

Lucy gives a short, barking laugh. House sits back down.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

(re: her leg)  
You told Luke it never hurt before.

LUCY

Just rough. They didn't hurt.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

Lucy wiggles her legs underneath the sheets. House takes note...

HOUSE  
(thoughtful)  
They didn't.

LUCY  
Don't lie to him, Limpy. Lively  
Lucy never lies to Lucas.  
(softer, serious)  
Look what I do to him.  
(beat)  
Now. My leg hurts now.  
(beat, softer)  
Yours too.

12 INT. PATIENT FLOOR LOUNGE -- DAY

12

As House approaches from the patient's room...

WILSON  
Learn anything from the human  
connection?

HOUSE  
Yeah. The Mets suck.

They look at each other: that's it?

HOUSE (CONT'D)  
Also, for the last couple of months,  
she hasn't shaved her legs, because  
of the tremors, she cuts herself --

CHASE  
-- the tremors aren't new, she must  
always cut herself --

HOUSE  
-- Exactly. Something changed, two  
months ago. I'm thinking the amount  
of blood when she cut herself.  
(to Foreman, sitting)  
Let's do some blood work; collect  
and send for clotting studies -- PT,  
PTT, Factor V, protein C&S. The  
whole shebang.

Luke comes in, hands House his pager and a bagged sandwich.

LUKE  
No pickles. And it's cold now.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

CAMERON

If it's a Reuben, that's how he likes it.

HOUSE

Everyone, this is Luke.

CAMERON

Allison Cameron, glad to meet --

HOUSE

-- Save it, we're busy -- Luke, give us another half hour with your Mom, we need to do some tests.

Luke goes off.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Nice kid. Keep her on the IV Heparin to prevent future clotting, and take her off the psych meds -- that way we can see what's what on the physical side, and who knows, we might get more out of her.

They move off. Except for Cameron... He takes a bite of his sandwich then notices her still standing there.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Don't worry... no pickles.

She debates, then:

CAMERON

...Happy birthday.

HOUSE

Okay; whose?

He really doesn't know what she's talking about, but Cameron thinks he just doesn't want to talk about it.

CAMERON

I was just going through your mail, it was on a form --

(beat)

Happy Birthday.

HOUSE

Oh.

Nothing.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2) 12

CAMERON

Just wanted to say it. No big deal.  
It's a custom on this planet, you'll  
catch on.

Cameron leaves.

13 INT. LUCY'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY 13

Foreman and a Nurse with a rack of blood tubes.

LUCY

No blood. Not mine.

FOREMAN

For the tests, Dr. House told you  
about them --

Lucy SPITS in his face.

LUCY

You're gonna steal it. Sell it.

As Foreman wipes his face, the Nurse presses a button. A  
moment later, a couple of larger nurses enter --

FOREMAN

Haldol, 5 milligrams, STAT.

LUCY

No!

As a Nurse produces a needle, Lucy struggles, terrified.  
Foreman and two Nurses hold her down as --

LUCY (CONT'D)

No... don't...

She twists, sees the Haldol go into the IV. Foreman watches  
her face go SLACK and DULL. She stops struggling; he uncaps  
the needle to draw the blood...

14 INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM 2 -- DAY 14

TERRI - mid-30's, fit, very attractive, in tight fashionable  
clothes, and WENDY, her ever so slightly overweight 12 year  
old daughter, who has a sore throat and wears baggy jeans.  
House walks in as Terri adjusts Wendy's thin gold bracelet.  
She's got a matching one.

HOUSE

Well, good news, the lab says it's  
not strep, so we're done.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

Wendy hops off the exam table, but --

TERRI  
(to her daughter)  
Wait a second.

HOUSE  
Really not strep. The boys in the lab, sure, they're hard drinkers, but they're pros. Plus your kid actually has none of the symptoms for strep; I just figured running the test was easier than arguing with you. My point is: go.

TERRI  
I wanted your opinion, doctor. She's having a birthday party next week, and she's upset that I'm getting a sugarless cake.

WENDY  
The other kids hate it.

HOUSE  
That's why you're here.

TERRI  
Sugar is --

HOUSE  
-- You want a doctor to scare her about the *dangers* of sugar.

TERRI  
She has to get her weight under control.

Beat. House considers his options, then:

HOUSE  
Well, I feel sorry for those other kids, Wendy, because they don't have a Mom like yours, who knows that sugar causes heart disease, appendicitis, and athlete's foot.

TERRI  
That's not fair --

HOUSE  
-- Sure it is. I get it.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

HOUSE (CONT'D)

You want her to slim down a little  
so she can wear pretty outfits, just  
like yours. Love the bracelets.

Hey, what about matching outfits?

You could be twins.

(a character)

My gosh, that can't be your daughter;  
it's impossible, you're way too young.

He turns to go, then turns back:

HOUSE (CONT'D)

(to the kid)

And happy birthday.

(to mom)

Get the kid a damn ice cream cake.

And he leaves. Mom tries to hold in her anger; daughter  
tries to hold in her glee.

15 INT. CLINIC -- CONTINUOUS

15

House emerges from Exam Room One and Luke is waiting for  
him.

LUKE

You drugged her.

HOUSE

Actually, I didn't, I've taken her  
off all --

LUKE

-- your guy Foreman gave her Haldol.

HOUSE

(takes a beat, recovers)

We needed blood for tests. I assume  
that was the only way to get it.

LUKE

(blocking House)

He knocked her out.

HOUSE

(get out of my way)

I've got a cane and I know how to  
use it.

LUKE

(still blocks him)

I hired you, you work for me.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

HOUSE

Okay. Can I go now, *boss*?

House walks away, Luke lets him, stays there as --

LUKE

She says the Haldol changes her.

Makes her soul numb.

(softer)

Don't give it to her.

House keeps moving, Luke getting smaller behind him.

16 INT. LUCY'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- NIGHT

16

In dim light, Luke's by the bed, reading to his whacked out Mom from a well-worn collection of W.B. Yeats.

LUKE

-- If there be rags enough he will  
know her name, and be well pleased  
remembering it --

(off Lucy's cough)

You okay?

Even numbed by Haldol, she's heard this poem so many times from her boy before...

LUCY

(prompting)

...Old days.

Luke smiles and continues...

LUKE

'For in the old days, though she had  
young men's praise and old men's  
blame, among the poor both old and  
young gave her praise --

Another COUGH. A wet SMACK of something. The open book -- suddenly flecked with RED DOTS. Confused, Luke touches the page, the dots SMEAR.

WIDER to INCLUDE Lucy, sitting up now, helpless, a river of something dark streaming from her mouth. She retches, throwing up HUGE VOLUMES of HOT RED BLOOD.

Luke grabs his mom's arm as he yells toward the door --

LUKE (CONT'D)

Help! Somebody help!

16A OMITTED

16A

FADE OUT:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

17 INT. HOUSE'S INNER OFFICE -- DAY 17

Foreman and House, mid argument, as --

HOUSE

When I said no psych meds, I'm just curious, which word didn't you understand?

FOREMAN

The Haldol had nothing to do with the bleed, you know that; I used it purely as a chemical restraint --

HOUSE

-- Great, good to know, then she won't experience any of those pesky little side effects you get when your motives aren't pure.

FOREMAN

(give me a break)  
Those side effects are rare and --

HOUSE

-- passing out, increased confusion, depression -- none of that's gonna happen; none of that's gonna screw up our diagnosis, because you just used it to restrain her. I am so relieved.

PULLING BACK THRU GLASS to...

18 INT. HOUSE'S OUTER OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS 18

Cameron's there as Chase enters with a big envelope. Foreman and House go at it, muffled, behind the glass.

CHASE

(re: envelope)  
The clotting studies. Pretty fast, you promise to date the whole lab?

CAMERON

(taking it from him)  
No, I save that for emergencies. I told them the patient bled out two units and if it happens again she'll die.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

Chase sits down as Cameron opens the envelope.

CHASE

If it had happened at home, she'd be dead.

(off Cameron's look)

The ER Doc. He was going to send her home.

Chase sees House and Foreman through the glass. Gives Cameron a look re: House and Foreman --

CAMERON

They're picking a movie.

Coming out of the inner office, with Foreman behind him --

HOUSE

Why did this patient bleed out?

Cameron looks up from the results as --

CAMERON

The clotting studies. So far they're normal --

HOUSE

(he knows)

-- cover your ears if you don't want me to spoil the ending.

(off the looks)

I couldn't wait, I tried that crazy new telephone gadget, I think it could catch on.

(beat)

It's all normal, except for a prolonged PT time. What's that mean?

Chase and Cameron look at Foreman, they know exactly what it means: Foreman screwed up.

FOREMAN

Usually it means whoever drew the blood didn't do it right.

(low, to Chase and Cameron)

Appreciate the confidence.

HOUSE

Oh, that's right, you drew the blood. But you were precise, because you knew the tube was purely for the PT study.

(CONTINUED)

FOREMAN

That's right.

HOUSE

And I'm right with you. I trust this result. For two reasons: a) you are a good doctor and b) 5 milligrams of IV Haldol makes for a spectacularly cooperative patient.

(waits, no response)

Fine, I'll go. The prolonged PT time makes me think she's got a Vitamin K deficiency, which, aggravated by the Heparin, caused the bleed.

FOREMAN

Fine, but it does nothing to explain the DVT you're so curious about.

(mutters)

Or why.

HOUSE

Hipbone, thighbone. Without vitamin K, protein C doesn't work, without protein C, she clots. Thinning and clotting all at the same time.

(ta da)

DVT and bleeding.

CAMERON

Awfully obscure. What about another drug interacting with Heparin. An anti-biotic, like ampicillin. That could cause a bleed. And some other drug could --

HOUSE

-- Clever, but she's not on ampicillin.

CAMERON

But she has it. According to the book of Luke.

(off Luke's notebook)

-- a couple of months ago, she had a sore throat, he got her some ampicillin --

HOUSE

(weak theory)

-- which she refused to take then. Why would she take an anti-biotic now?

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (3)

18

CAMERON

(re: the book)

He just says she didn't take them.  
What is it, everybody lies, except  
schizophrenics and their children?

CHASE

(re: Cameron's theory)

It's more likely than *malnourishment*.  
Why not scurvy, or the plague?

HOUSE

Gee, I wish my idea was as cool and  
with it as yours, and what is yours,  
do you have one?

CHASE

Alcohol. Simple.

FOREMAN

First thing we did was scope for  
varices; there's no gastritis, no  
esophageal tear, LFT's were okay,  
plus the kid says--

CHASE

--The kid's a kid. And she's an  
alcoholic; even if they're not  
schizophrenic, they're liars.

(to House, appealing  
on his terms)

Alcohol fits the symptoms. It causes  
immobility, which explains the DVT.  
It also causes cirrhosis, which  
explains the bleed and the prolonged  
PT time. Let's go the extra mile.  
Ultrasound the liver.

House thinks, then...

HOUSE

Check her place for the ampicillin  
and diet.

(to Chase)

And then ultrasound her liver. Let's  
find out who's right before she bleeds  
to death.

Off House, as they leave --

19 INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - OUTSIDE FRONT DOOR -- DAY

19

Chase and Foreman at the door. Chase tries it. It's locked.  
Chase takes out a credit card.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

FOREMAN

House says the kid's sensitive, thinks he takes good care of her. If we don't find anything, why let him know we did it in the first place? What's the point?

Chase struggles; the credit card's stuck in the doorjamb.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

Why not just make old Foreman lift the key from the kid's backpack?

Chase looks up. Foreman grins. Holds the KEY.

20 OMITTED

20

21 INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

21

Chase and Foreman move through a small hallway into a living room/bedroom, and into Lucy's bedroom. It's neat, simple, sunny.

Foreman keeps moving (into a bathroom) as Chase sees a chest of drawers. Chase opens a drawer and finds an entire outfit -- shirt, shorts, underwear, socks -- as Foreman is in the doorway --

FOREMAN

(entering)

Her medication's not in the bathroom.

Chase looks up from the drawer. A little rocked. Foreman gets it, too --

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

Oh man. He lays out her clothes.

Chase closes the drawer. Maybe talking about himself, too --

CHASE

Enough organization, enough lists, you think you can control the uncontrollable. Fix her meds, fix her clothes, maybe you can fix her.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

FOREMAN

You pick that up on your psych rotation?

Chase doesn't answer, just moves to a bureau drawer, opens it, and --

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

I'll check Luke's room.

Foreman leaves. Chase stops, looks at a pre-schizophrenia PHOTO of Luke and Lucy at a ball game. She's present, laughing -- it's heartbreaking.

22 INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - LUKE'S BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

22

Foreman's on the single bed, with an open lock box of meds -- twenty bottles of prescriptions, and a print out MEDS LOG. As Chase enters...

FOREMAN

Trifluoperazine, Thorazine,  
Clozarile. They tried everything.  
(off a pill bottle)  
Abilify.

CHASE

That's what we took her off of, right?

FOREMAN

(off the log)  
She'd been on it for a couple of months. Last refill was the 14th. One a day, she missed a dose the day of the DVT, should be 18 left.

Foreman counts. Chase looks at the neat desk, the computer, the stack of library books on Schizophrenia. The poetry. The disability info. Paid and unpaid bills.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

18. The kid's on top of it.  
(another bottle)  
The ampicillin. Never touched it.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

CHASE  
(doesn't want House  
to be right)  
God, I hope it's not a Vitamin K  
deficiency.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2) 22

And he exits...

23 INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - TINY KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER 23

Chase opens the refrigerator. It's almost empty. Then tries the freezer.

CHASE

Damn.

The freezer's packed tight with boxes of FROZEN BURGERS.

FOREMAN

Breakfast, lunch and dinner. It's a Vitamin K deficiency.

Chase literally can't believe it. Off the box of burgers --

24 INT. LAB -- DAY 24

DING - A burger in the microwave.

House removes it and carries it to the table where the rest of the box from Lucy's freezer sits. House is mid-conversation with Luke, who's upset --

LUKE

This is the only thing she'll eat --

HOUSE

Problem is, you can't actually live on the stuff --

LUKE

-- I checked it out. I looked on the box. The nutritional values are solid. Plenty of calories, protein --

HOUSE

Vitamin A and C, but no K. That's why your mom got sick.

LUKE

What's the plan now?

HOUSE

Load her up with Vitamin K.

LUKE

That's it?

(CONTINUED)

HOUSE

If it all checks out, you can take her home in a couple of days.

(Luke is upset)

Oh God, you're upset about something; you're going to open up to me, aren't you?

LUKE

It's my fault.

HOUSE

Here we go.

(has to get him off this)

I'm gonna say this once. You've done a very good job taking care of your mother; if this was all she'd eat, what could you do? Gosh, just being a kid is a full time job --

LUKE

-- Shut up. I'm 18. I should be able to take care of my mom.

(beat)

I almost killed her.

HOUSE

Good example. Just the time it takes to express all those ridiculous, self-centered teenage ideas -- I don't envy your schedule.

House takes a bite of the burger, pleased.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

No pickles.

LUKE

My mom doesn't like 'em either.

HOUSE

Smart woman.

Luke knows she once was a smart woman. Beat, then...

LUKE

When I was a kid I got her a hot dog once, tried to sneak some relish on it to see if she'd notice. She yelled at me.

HOUSE

You got off easy.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

LUKE

Before she got sick, I didn't like  
how bossy she was, always telling me  
what to do, the right way to do it.  
Never thought I'd miss that.

House digs in. Meeting's over. Luke hefts his backpack to  
leave, and winces. House notices. Re: Luke's wrist:

HOUSE

You should get that looked at...

25 OMITTED

25

26 OMITTED

26

27 INT. HOUSE'S INNER OFFICE -- DAY

27

With Luke, House SLAPS the wrist X-Rays on a light board and studies them.

HOUSE

It's not broken.

(indicates)

This, right here... The epiphyseal plate... otherwise known as the growth plate --

LUKE

-- what's wrong with it?

HOUSE

An amazing thing, this bone. If you know how to read it, it can tell you how old someone really is. Exactly how old.

LUKE

Great, it's not broken. Thanks.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

House is looking at the X-Ray.

HOUSE

(studying)

Not even 15. Almost though. Two weeks away. A month, maybe --

LUKE

-- Last week. I was 15 last week.

HOUSE

Happy birthday to us. If you're going to lie, go big, go 21; then you won't need your crazy mom to help you buy vodka.

LUKE

Great, thanks for the tip. When I bring my mom home, is there anything I need to know about taking care of her?

As Luke takes out his notebook --

HOUSE

I suppose your big worry isn't the booze. You're 15; with basically no mom. If Child Welfare let kids get away with that they wouldn't need all those nice foster homes; that'd make them sad.

LUKE

They'd put her someplace, too. My life is working.

HOUSE

Not the word I'd use. Most 15 year old kids are doing what they're supposed to be doing, you know -- huffing glue, catching crabs --

LUKE

If you turn me in, I'll sue you.  
(the X-ray)  
That's privileged information.

HOUSE

Oh relax, that's not even your X-ray.

28 INT. LUCY'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

28

Lucy's asleep as Cameron enters. Chase has just started the ultrasound.

CAMERON  
Vitamin K's not good enough for you?  
You're still testing for cirrhosis?

CHASE  
(needs to know)  
Doctors never cancel tests.

Cameron takes a look at the monitor, marking the read out --

CAMERON  
(re: Lucy)  
She's awfully calm.

CHASE  
(doesn't approve)  
House wrote new orders.

He grabs the empty airplane bottle of vodka off the nightstand, puts it in his lab coat pocket.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

Chase manipulates the Ultrasound on Lucy's stomach.

CAMERON

A little bit of scarring. Not much,  
not enough to --

CHASE

-- It's cirrhosis.  
(a little edge)  
But she doesn't drink.

Chase looks away from the monitor, at Lucy, still sleeping.

CAMERON

Congratulations, you win.

Cameron reacts to something she sees on the monitor -- a  
lightly outlined shape on the liver -- speckled.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

Actually... nobody wins.

Chase moves to the monitor.

CHASE

A tumor. Cystic?

CAMERON

(wish it was)  
Solid mass. Cancer.

29 OMITTED

29

30 INT. HOUSE'S INNER OFFICE -- DAY

30

The ultrasound and an MRI photo are up on the light board.  
Wilson examines them. The team and House await his verdict.

WILSON

The Vitamin K caused the DVT, and  
aggravated the liver, the tumor's  
the real reason for the blood  
problems. The tumor's the problem.

Off House's tight nod, as he turns away --

31 INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - OUTSIDE LUCY'S ROOM -- NIGHT

31

As Luke comes out of the room, Cameron and Wilson approach, and --

WILSON

I'm Dr. Wilson. Dr. Cameron and I need to talk to you about what's going on.

LUKE

Sure.

WILSON

We need to talk to your mom, too.

They enter the room. Close the door. CAMERA SLIDES down to the window, watches Wilson and Cameron deliver the bad news to mother and son.

As Luke asks questions and takes notes, NOTICE that Lucy says nothing. She's FOCUSED only on her son. Nothing else exists.

Luke puts his book down. Stands up. Asks something. Wilson nods. Luke turns away, doesn't want his face seen - he thinks he might cry. Lucy's eyes follow him.

Luke takes a few deep breaths, doesn't cry. He turns back, picks up his book and asks another question - he has to handle this. If he stops he won't be able to start again.

Off Lucy's unreadable look as she watches her son take care of her --

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

32 OMITTED 32\*

33 INT. HOUSE'S OFFICE -- DAY 33

House watches his team debate the limited treatment options.

FOREMAN

Needle biopsy confirms hepatocellular carcinoma. A T2 lesion. Stage 2.  
It's big, five point eight centimeters.

\*  
\*  
\*

CHASE

We do nothing, she dies from liver failure within 60 days.

CAMERON

She needs a transplant.

HOUSE

That's gonna happen.

As Wilson walks in --

CAMERON

(thinks it should)  
She's 38 years old. She's a mother --

HOUSE

-- A schizophrenic mother with no money, on the public dole, in fact, who knocks back vodka when a breeze blows her way.

FOREMAN

Mickey Mantle had a whole bar named after him. He got a transplant.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

HOUSE  
Lucy can't switch hit. Plan B,  
surgery to resect the tumor.

He looks at Wilson:

CHASE  
Joe Bergin does the gamma knife thing.  
Laser cauterizes while it cuts; saves  
more liver.

WILSON  
The tumor's way too big. He won't  
even consider it.

FOREMAN  
Not a big risk-taker, Bergin.

HOUSE  
Won't drink milk on its expiration  
date.

WILSON  
He has no discretion. 5.8 centimeters  
is past surgical guidelines.

HOUSE  
You think he'd do it at 4.6?

CAMERON  
Why don't we say it's zero, then we  
don't need him at all. Tumors grow;  
they don't shrink.

HOUSE  
This one does.

Off House's look: he has a plan.

34 OMITTED

34

35 INT. LUCY'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

35

Wilson and Cameron watch Lucy's liver on the ULTRASOUND  
monitor. As he fills a big hypodermic needle, standing over  
Lucy --

WILSON  
Ninety-five percent ethanol.

(CONTINUED)



36 CONTINUED:

36

HOUSE  
 (should work)  
 That's how they teach it at Harvard  
 Med. How hard, though?

As Cuddy comes in the door, Clark WHACKS himself across the face.

HOUSE (CONT'D)  
 (should've worked)  
 That's about right.  
 (to Cuddy)  
 Hiccups.

CUDDY  
 I need to speak to you. Now.

It's a choice between Cuddy and Clark. Not a good choice.

HOUSE  
 I think I have to go pee pee.  
 (to patient, as he  
 leaves)  
 Dial it up a notch, try one more shot.

And he walks out. Cuddy follows as Clark hits himself a little harder and then... HICCUPS.

37 INT. MEN'S ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

37

House splashes water on his face, looks up to SEE Cuddy in the mirror behind him; she followed him in.

HOUSE  
 Girl in the boys' bathroom, ooh, very dramatic. Must be very important, what she has to say to me.

CUDDY  
 Yesterday your patient's tumor was 5.8 centimeters, today it's 4.6; how does that happen?

HOUSE  
 My guess would be: "this Dr. House must be very, very good; why am I wasting him at the clinic?"  
 (heads for the urinals)  
 I wash before and after.

CUDDY  
 You also requisitioned 20 ccs of ethanol. Which patient would that be for? Or are you planning a party?

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

HOUSE

Do me a favor?

Cuddy turns on the water.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

I was going to say 'leave,' but hey,  
that works.

CUDDY

You shrunk the tumor.

HOUSE

Only way to get this guy to do the  
surgery.

CUDDY

Fraud? Fraud was the only way?

A Doctor comes into the bathroom. Cuddy gives him a look,  
and the Doctor heads right back out.

CUDDY (CONT'D)

There's a reason we have those  
guidelines.

HOUSE

I know. To save lives. Specifically,  
doctors' lives. And not so much  
their lives as their lifestyles.  
Don't want to operate on anybody  
really sick, they might die, spoil  
our batting average.

CUDDY

Bergin has a right to know what he's  
operating on.

HOUSE

True. I got all focused on her right  
to live and forgot. You do what you  
think is right.

Pompous jerk. She turns to go, then turns back --

CUDDY

Your patient's kid slept here three  
nights in a row. I'm not running a  
homeless shelter.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

HOUSE  
 (give me a break)  
 He's 15 years old; he takes care of  
 his mom.

CUDDY  
 It's supposed to be the other way  
 around.

Cuddy leaves. Beat. House is still at the urinal. Finally,  
 he sighs...

38 INT. HOUSE'S INNER OFFICE -- DAY

38

House is working. Cameron enters.

CAMERON  
 ...You really didn't know?

HOUSE  
 No, I didn't, and frankly, I'm angry.  
 Which I'm guessing is the correct  
 response. Of course, I'll know better  
 once you tell me what you're talking  
 about.

CAMERON  
 Your birthday.

HOUSE  
 Oh. Anger was a bad guess.  
 (then)  
 Normally, I put on a festive hat and  
 celebrate the fact that the earth  
 has circled the sun one more time.  
 I really didn't think it would make  
 it this year, but darn it if it wasn't  
 the little engine that could all  
 over again.

CAMERON  
 It's a birthday. It's an excuse to  
 be happy. You think that's lame?

She feels sorry for him - and that makes him miserable.

HOUSE  
 Why are you here? Did you buy me a  
 pony?

CAMERON  
 (there's nothing to  
 do)  
 I'm just waiting for the surgery --

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

HOUSE

-- Loeb's 4th law of medicine. Go  
scrub in.

38A INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE SURGICAL SUITE -- DAY

38A\*

Cameron and DR. JOE BERGIN move through the doors, immediately  
post surgery, wrung out from a tense operation, blood on  
their scrubs. PUSHING CAMERA BACK, real smooth, but with  
sharp edge underneath --

\*  
\*  
\*

BERGIN

-- that tumor didn't just walk into  
a bar and buy itself a double shot  
of ethanol. Someone shrunk it down --

\*  
\*  
\*

CAMERON

-- I'm sorry, Doctor Bergin, it was  
very very wrong --

\*  
\*  
\*

BERGIN

-- House is lucky I didn't just close  
her up. He tries it again, that's  
what happens.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

CAMERON

I'll pass it on.

\*  
\*

Bergin moves past CAMERA as we HOLD Cameron, who stops. Off  
her small smile -- the plan worked, they got what they wanted --

\*  
--\*

39 OMITTED

39\*

THRU  
41THRU  
41

42 INT. LUCY'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

42

Lucy's sleeping. Chase and Luke talk quietly in the corner.  
 Luke's got his notebook out --

CHASE

It looks like the surgeon got it  
 all, but she's going to have to have  
 some chemotherapy --

LUKE

(writing)  
 -- what kind is it?

CHASE

Stop. Writing.

Luke does.

CHASE (CONT'D)

(he knows...)  
 If you stop for a second it won't  
 all fall apart. Give yourself a  
 break once in a while. The fact is,  
 your Mom's gonna take an extra drink  
 once in awhile --

LUKE

-- she won't, she doesn't --

CHASE

Fine.  
 (beat)  
 There are some things you can't fix,  
 that's all I'm saying.

A beat. Luke nods. As if he gets it, but --

LUKE

That's how you'd handle it. Something  
 like this. You'd give up.

Not really surprised, Chase realizes Luke didn't hear any of  
 it.

CHASE

No. I'd do it just like you.

Chase pulls a chemo pamphlet from his coat, hands it to Luke  
 and --

CHASE (CONT'D)

It's an infusion.  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

CHASE (CONT'D)

She'll have a drain in her abdomen,  
you're going to have to check for  
possible infection --

Luke is writing again as --

TRINA WYATT (O.S.)

Lucas Palmero?

She's in the doorway. 40ish, official looking. Moving in,  
talking low, aware of the sleeping Lucy --

TRINA WYATT (CONT'D)

Trina Wyatt. Child Services, state  
of New Jersey.

CHASE

Can I help you? This is a private--

TRINA WYATT

(moving toward Lucas)

He's 15 years old, a minor, in a  
very tough living situation. We  
want to help him.

LUKE

I don't need your help.

CHASE

(genuinely surprised)

Fifteen?

TRINA WYATT

Lucas. You have to come with us.  
Right now.

LUKE

I don't think so.

CHASE

Where are you taking him?

TRINA WYATT

Until the investigation is complete,  
and a determination is made, he'll  
be housed at Children's Services --

LUKE

-- I don't want to be housed. I  
live with my mother.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: (2)

42

TRINA WYATT

Not for the next few days. Come on.  
Let's not make this difficult.

Lucy stirs. Luke looks at her. Still asleep. You can see it in his face -- he's smart, knows he has to go with them, but just might not do it.

MALE TRUANT OFFICER (O.S.)

How we doin'?

A uniformed TRUANT OFFICER in the doorway. Implied muscle.

TRINA WYATT

(at Luke, a question)

I think we're okay.

A tense beat. Then, kissing his Mom on her forehead --

LUKE

(whispers)

I love you, Mom.

Lucy grabs his hand. Her hand shakes on his. She's awake.

LUCY

The Mets lost. You remember?

LUKE

I remember.

LUCY

I love you.

Luke is crying. Lucy closes her eyes, turns away. Luke lets go of her hand, turns fast, blows by the Truant Officer, and leaves the room. Trina Wyatt and the officer follow him, and, off Lucy alone in bed, and Chase...

43 INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - MAIN FLOOR -- DAY

43

House and Wilson, mid-conversation, walking toward the elevators --

WILSON

Cuddy hasn't said anything about pushing Bergin to finish the surgery?

HOUSE

Not a word. Some kind of mind game. She's waiting for me to crack.

WILSON

Either that or she's just being nice.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

House glances wryly to Wilson, then notices Luke come out of the elevators fast, pissed off, followed by Trina Wyatt and the Truant officer. House stops. He knows something's up.

HOUSE  
(not a chance of that)  
Right.

Ten feet away, Luke looks up, and House can see tears on his face. House steps toward Luke, and, as Luke blows right by him (bumping him a little) --

LUKE  
(bitter)  
You said you wouldn't call. You're  
a real bastard, you know?

HOUSE  
Yeah, I get that a lot.

House watches Luke head for the front door, trailed by the Truant Officer and Trina Wyatt. TIGHT ON HOUSE, thoughtful, putting something together... Luke exits. House turns to Wilson, and --

HOUSE (CONT'D)  
...I don't think mom's crazy.

FADE OUT:

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

44 INT. CUDDY'S OFFICE -- DAY

44

Cuddy works. House enters - there's something he's got to check out.

CUDDY

What?

HOUSE

You paged me.

CUDDY

Three days ago. I forget why.

She goes back to her work.

HOUSE

...Children's Services; they do nice work; you did the right thing ratting the kid out.

She reacts - this reaction is what he came to see, and assess...

CUDDY

You got me pegged as the anonymous caller?

HOUSE

If in doubt, I always blame you.

He continues to study her as:

HOUSE (CONT'D)

None of my people even knew he was 15, which doesn't impress me, but gets them off the hook. Tag, you're it.

CUDDY

Never thought I'd say this to you, but maybe you've gotten too involved in this case. On a personal level.

HOUSE

It's like you can see right through me. I feel so vulnerable.

And he leaves.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

HOUSE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 (reading, very low)  
 I have gone about the house, gone up  
 and down.

44A INT. LUCY'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

44A

ON THE BOOK. House reads from the collection of Yeats.  
 It's open to the page that's spattered in blood.

REVEAL, he's reading to Lucy, who's still weak from the  
 surgery, in bed, hooked up to a machine. Eyes closed.

HOUSE  
 (very low)  
 Among the poor both old and young  
 gave her praise.

He shuts the book, hard. Lucy opens her eyes.

HOUSE (CONT'D)  
 You called Social Services. It was  
 you.

LUCY  
 No. No no no.

Her eyes are sharp. Manic.

HOUSE  
 It's okay. I get it. He'll have an  
 easier time dealing with the system.  
 Sure, he won't be with his real  
 mother... but his real mother's sick.  
 (beat)  
 Someone needs to take care of him.

LUCY  
 I'm not gonna live here.

HOUSE  
 What would his future have been?  
 Taking you to chemo and back on the  
 bus... He'll have to fit school in  
 somewhere, too. And even if the  
 cancer's in complete remission, he'll  
 still have a mother who hears voices.

LUCY  
 (very low)  
 Talk no more. Talk no more.

(CONTINUED)

44A CONTINUED:

44A

HOUSE

'Look what I do to him; *Limpy*.' You said that.

She's got a little drool. House wipes it off.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

(re: the bedside phone)

I checked the phone records. Only one call from this room; smart, they charge you two bucks a call. It was to Social Services, State of New Jersey.

Lucy's mouth stiffens in a schizophrenic smile. A tear rolls down her cheek. House gets up.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

You're his mother. You couldn't do it to him anymore.

(beat)

Good for you.

Lucy closes her eyes. House turns out the light, and leaves.

45 INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - ADMIN. FLOOR -- DAY

45

Wilson and House, walk and talk away from House's office. House is wound up, working on a theory --

WILSON

Schizophrenics can make rational decisions.

HOUSE

On the small stuff, yeah. When to sleep, what to drink, maybe -- you know -- no lemonade, but I'll take some hemlock if you've got it.

WILSON

-- Your man Socrates --

HOUSE

-- but giving up your son, because it's better for him, that's so sane, so rational -- self-sacrifice is not a symptom of schizophrenia, it excludes the diagnosis.

WILSON

(a question)

She's not schizophrenic.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

HOUSE

She's 36 when she first presents --

WILSON

-- A little late, but within the range --

HOUSE

-- The internist sends her to the shrink, one shrink sends her to the next; she tells all of them she's not crazy. The drugs don't work -- why would they, if she's not a head case -- she got clearer when I took her off the psych meds.

Wilson stops. Off his look:

HOUSE (CONT'D)

You think I'm crazy.

WILSON

Yeah, but that's not the problem.  
(beat)  
Didn't we just leave your office?

WIDER to SEE House has led them back to his office.

HOUSE

I like to walk.

And House returns to his office, leaving Wilson in the hallway.

46 INT. HOUSE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

46

Not much furniture. Functional. Gliding past a clock that says 3:36AM, we HEAR a piano, Bach (same as we heard in the operating room).

House is alone at the grand piano in the big empty apartment. Still in his clothes. Thoughtful. He's a good player.

He stops. Takes a pill. Then, with one finger, he PLUNKS out the first nine notes of Happy Birthday.

Then, suddenly --

HOUSE - BY HIS DOOR

Rummaging through his bag, looking hard for something. As he finds the copy of Luke's medical journal --

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

HOUSE - AT HIS DESK

Off an entry in the journal, he stands, hunts for a book, yanks it from the shelf -- the MEDICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY --

HOUSE - ON THE PHONE

Punches out a number from a listing in the book and --

HOUSE

(into phone)

Dr. Jeffrey Walters?... This is Greg House, I'm a doctor over at... oh is it? I'm sorry, my watch must've stopped... I'm calling about a patient you diagnosed about 18 months ago, woman named Lucille Palmero. I was wondering if you did any tests for --

The CLICK, the guy's hung up --

JUMP CUT TO:

HOUSE - ON ANOTHER CALL

Another name from Luke's book --

HOUSE (CONT'D)

(English accent)

Oh, how terribly foolish of me, doctor, is it that late? I'm calling from London, you see, must've gotten my times mixed up --

CLICK. Another hang up.

WIDER - HIS APARTMENT

House grabs Luke's book and is gone. The door slams behind him.

47 INT. HOUSE'S OFFICE -- NIGHT

47

House and the team, called out of their sleep, and not real happy about it.

FOREMAN

Drooling, spastic movements, attention loss, rocking -- this woman has classic schizophrenia --

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

HOUSE

I have a headache. That's my only symptom. I go see three doctors:

(to Foreman)

The neurologist says it's an aneurysm.

(to Cameron)

The immunologist says I've got hay fever.

(to Chase)

The intensivist can't be bothered, sends me to a shrink who tells me I'm punishing myself because I want to have sex with my mommy.

FOREMAN

(pointed)

-- maybe you're just not getting enough sleep --

HOUSE

Pick your specialist and you pick your disease.

Cameron yawns, she can't help it, she's half asleep.

CAMERON

This isn't about the DVT? Or the --

HOUSE

(frustrated)

It was never about the DVT.

FOREMAN

Get over to Pompeii, warn them about the volcano.

HOUSE

If it's not schizophrenia, what else presents with psych symptoms?

A beat. House is not going to get off this.

CAMERON

Porphyria.

CHASE

Madness of King George.

CAMERON

Kuru. Beri-Beri.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (2)

47

HOUSE

Lucy Palmero likes cheeseburgers, I don't think she's been eating brains in southeast Asia.

CAMERON

The copper thing. What's it called? It's genetic, body accumulates too much copper.

CHASE

Wilson's Disease.

HOUSE

Very rare... Nice. I like it.

A beat.

FOREMAN

(edge)

If any of us did this, you'd fire us.

HOUSE

Funny, I thought I encouraged you to question --

FOREMAN

-- you're not questioning. You're hoping. You want it to be Wilson's. Give her a couple of drugs, boom, she's okay.

House picks up Luke's book.

HOUSE

June 17. Appointment with a Dr. Karn--

CAMERON

--She didn't go; she didn't keep a single shrink appointment he made after --

HOUSE

-- No. Karn isn't a shrink; I looked it up. He's an ophthalmologist. Why would she need her eyes checked?

CAMERON

(this is thin)

Wilson's presents with cataracts. I think.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (3)

47

HOUSE

Yes, it does. It can also cause the slight cirrhosis Dr. Chase so eagerly attributed to alcohol. Why are we still here?

48 OMITTED

48

49 INT. LUCY'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- NIGHT

49

BLACK

HOUSE (V.O.)

Lucy? Lucy?

It's her POV; she opens her eyes and sees House and the team around her bed.

NORMAL SHOT

She's groggy.

FOREMAN

Can you sit up for a second?

Lucy's eyes WIDEN, she thinks she's dreaming.

LUCY

No thank you.

FOREMAN

Please, sit up.

They help her up.

HOUSE

I don't think you're crazy.

LUCY

Neither do I.  
(laughs)  
But I'm crazy.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

House nods to Chase, who puts Lucy's face into a SLIT LAMP (like at the ophthalmologist's's office.)

TIGHT - LUCY'S EYES - THRU SLIT LAMP (SPECIAL VISUAL EFFECT)

As Foreman RACKS Focus to see the different depths of field in her eyes, and suddenly -- clear, strong and very dramatic, the copper colored Keyser-Fleisher rings come into view.

FOREMAN

I guess we should start treating her for Wilsons.

HOUSE

That's what I'd do.

Pleased, he heads for the exit.

DISSOLVE TO:

50 INT. LUCY'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY (MOS)

50

PANNING OFF the IV Pole as a Nurse starts penicillamine and potassium sulfide to SEE Lucy in bed with full schizophrenic symptoms -- tremors, drooling, staring -- and then, as we MOVE OFF her in a CIRCLE around the room, we HEAR, in a clear voice we've never heard before --

LUCY (V.O.)

(low)

"I will talk no more of books or the long war/But walk by the dry thorn until I have found/Some beggar sheltering from the wind/and there/Manage the talk until her name come round. If there be rags enough he will know her name/And be well pleased remembering it --

-- And come right back to Lucy, (five days later) sitting up in bed now, transformed -- present, bright-eyed, back to normal. A person we've never seen. Glasses on, reading Yeats as --

LUCY (CONT'D)

For in the old days/Though she had young men's praise and old men's blame/Among the poor both old and young gave her praise.

She puts down the book.

51 INT. LUCY'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- LATER

51

The IV's are gone, Lucy's sitting up in bed. Ready to leave the hospital. As Chase enters --

\*

CHASE

\*

Hi, Mrs. Palmero, you all set to go home?

LUCY

Almost.

She looks at her watch. Waiting.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

LUKE (O.S.)

Mom?

WIDER to REVEAL Luke, standing in the doorway. Chase watches \*  
as Luke crosses the room and embraces her. \*

She pulls back to take a good long look at him.

LUKE (CONT'D)

(not sure what to  
expect)

How are you?

LUCY

A little tired. But good. I feel  
good now.

She hugs him again. Holds him extremely tightly --

LUCY (CONT'D)

(very low)

I am so sorry.

LUKE

Mom.

LUCY

It's okay.

LUKE

Mom.

(she's squeezing his  
neck)

You're hurting me.

She releases him. Tears on her face.

LUCY

Oh boy.

(beat)

You really need a haircut.

And for the first time in years, Luke is a child again, in  
his mother's arms. As a Nurse comes into the room with a  
wheelchair for checkout, Chase leaves. Off Luke and his Mom -- \*

52 INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - PATIENT FLOOR -- DAY

52

Luke is pushing his mom's wheelchair, waiting for the  
elevator. The door opens, revealing House and Wilson.

LUCY

Dr. House.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

Lucy's glad to see him. Luke isn't, he's about to pull his Mom away, but --

LUCY (CONT'D)

Luke, come on, we're making Dr. House wait.

HOUSE

It's okay. He can get another ride.

LUCY

Don't be silly. Luke.

It's been a long time since he's heard his Mom's voice like that. They get on. The doors close.

53 INT. ELEVATOR -- CONTINUOUS

53

An awkward beat.

LUCY

I'm being discharged.

HOUSE

I heard a rumor.

LUCY

Thank God I had cancer, huh?

House smiles, knows what she's getting at.

LUCY (CONT'D)

It's terrible having everybody think you're nuts.

HOUSE

(works for me)

Really?

LUCY

I called to thank you, did you get the message?

HOUSE

Yes.

(thinks, then)

You're welcome.

A beat. The car's moving. Lucy can't see House and Luke behind her, but she can HEAR, and REACT to:

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

LUKE  
 (very low)  
 I'm never thanking you. You turned  
 me in.

Lucy looks a little worried. Wilson wonders what's up too.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
 I told you, we were doing okay, and  
 it was none of your --

HOUSE  
 -- I don't care how you were living.  
 I just wanted you out of my life.

Lucy reacts, relieved that House is covering for her. House  
 glances to Wilson, then:

HOUSE (CONT'D)  
 That's why I had Dr. Cuddy call Social  
 Services.

DING. The doors open.

LUCY  
 Luke. Come on. Let's go.

54 INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - MAIN FLOOR -- CONTINUOUS

54

Luke pushes her out; House and Wilson step out behind them,  
 watching them cross the lobby, heading for the doors...

WILSON  
 You okay?

HOUSE  
 ...You were right. It wasn't the  
 DVT. It was the schizophrenia.

WILSON  
 I know.

HOUSE  
 She's not nearly as interesting  
 anymore.

HOLD House, alone, and --

FADE TO BLACK:

WILSON (V.O.)  
 Isn't your birthday around now?

THE END