

FIRST, DO NO HARM

Episode 1 - "Everybody's Somebody's Problem"

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UNOFFICIAL CROSSOVER SPEC SCRIPT

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TEASER

INT. GREY SLOAN MEMORIAL - EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT - MORNING

Controlled chaos. A PARAMEDIC team barrels through the doors with LENA MARSH, 32, unconscious on the gurney. BAILEY walks beside them, already gloved.

PARAMEDIC

Thirty-two-year-old female. Collapsed at work. Fever, hypotensive, altered mental status. Coworkers say she'd complained of abdominal pain since yesterday.

BAILEY

Trauma one. Page Grey.

MEREDITH appears from around the corner, tying her hair back.

MEREDITH

What do we have?

BAILEY

Something that was apparently too boring to happen before my coffee.

They enter the trauma bay. Across the corridor, leaning against the nurses' station with a cane and an expression suggesting profound disappointment in humanity, is GREGORY HOUSE. He watches. A NURSE passes him.

NURSE

Can I help you?

HOUSE

Probably not.

Inside the bay, Meredith palpates Lena's abdomen. Lena GROANS even through the fog of consciousness.

MEREDITH

Abdomen's rigid. Could be perforation.

BAILEY

Get CT, CBC, cultures, lactate—

HOUSE

Not perforation.

Everyone turns. House has somehow appeared in the doorway.

BAILEY

Who are you?

HOUSE

The person who just saved you fifteen thousand dollars in unnecessary surgery.

MEREDITH

We haven't decided to operate.

HOUSE

You were thinking about it.

BAILEY

And you are?

House fishes a folded letter from his jacket and holds it out. Bailey takes it. Reads. Her expression changes from irritation to horror.

BAILEY

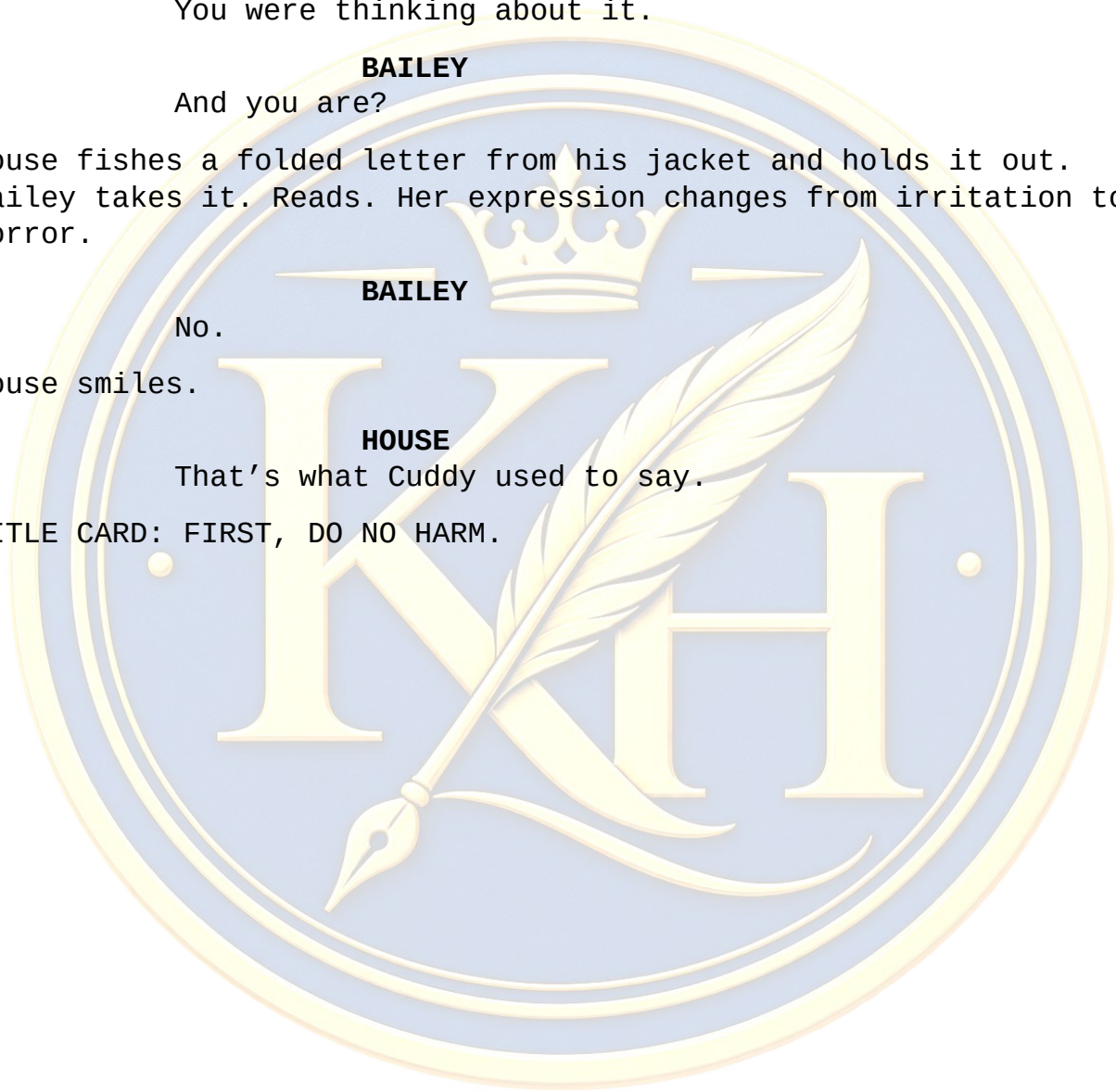
No.

House smiles.

HOUSE

That's what Cuddy used to say.

TITLE CARD: FIRST, DO NO HARM.



ACT ONE

INT. BAILEY'S OFFICE - TEN MINUTES LATER

Bailey is standing. House is sitting without having been invited. MEREDITH and WEBBER stand nearby.

BAILEY

You were supposed to arrive Monday.

HOUSE

Today is Monday.

BAILEY

You were supposed to report to administration.

HOUSE

I found the hospital. Seems like the important part.

WEBBER

Dr. Gregory House.

House looks at him.

HOUSE

You sound disappointed.

WEBBER

I've read about you.

HOUSE

Then you should be.

Meredith suppresses a smile. Bailey notices.

BAILEY

Don't encourage him.

She looks back at House.

BAILEY

Grey Sloan agreed to establish a temporary diagnostic medicine service. Temporary. Six months.

HOUSE

Long enough for me to discover Seattle rain is depressing and everyone here is sleeping with everyone else.

Silence. House glances between them.

HOUSE

That wasn't a guess, was it?

MEREDITH

You diagnosed the woman in the ER from a doorway?

HOUSE

No. I said what she doesn't have.
Diagnosing her requires thinking, which is apparently why I'm here.

BAILEY

You do not touch my patients without consulting the attending physician.

HOUSE

Okay.

Bailey stares.

BAILEY

That was too easy.

HOUSE

Because I'm lying.

BAILEY

Out.

House gets up.

HOUSE

I need three fellows.

BAILEY

You have none.

HOUSE

Then lend me surgeons.

MEREDITH

We're not diagnosticians.

HOUSE

Everyone's a diagnostician until they're wrong.

He exits.

BAILEY

Why did I agree to this?

WEBBER

Because he saves people everyone else
gives up on.

BAILEY

I have never hated a sentence more.

INT. PATIENT ROOM - LATER

Lena is awake but weak. Meredith examines her. AMELIA enters with
scans. House strolls in behind her.

AMELIA

Head CT is clear.

MEREDITH

You weren't invited.

HOUSE

I'm learning that about most places.

He looks at Lena.

HOUSE

What do you do?

LENA

I'm a primary-school teacher.

HOUSE

Children. So chronic exposure to disease
and disappointment.

MEREDITH

House.

HOUSE

Recent travel?

LENA

No.

HOUSE

Drugs?

LENA

No.

HOUSE

Everybody says no before the interesting
answer.

House takes Lena's hand before Meredith can stop him. Faint dark crescents beneath two fingernails.

HOUSE

You garden.

LENA

Sometimes.

HOUSE

Sometimes meaning yesterday?

LENA

Saturday.

HOUSE

What were you planting?

LENA

Nothing. Pulling weeds.

House looks at Meredith.

HOUSE

Not surgical.

MEREDITH

You've said that.

HOUSE

And you're still standing here, so repetition is apparently necessary.

He limps out. Amelia watches him go.

AMELIA

I kind of like him.

MEREDITH

Of course you do.

INT. DIAGNOSTIC CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

A whiteboard has been commandeered. House writes: FEVER. ABDOMINAL PAIN. SHOCK. CONFUSION. Then underneath: NOT BORING.

Meredith and Amelia enter. Bailey follows, already regretting everything.

BAILEY

They are not your fellows.

HOUSE

Then they're unpaid consultants. Very economical.

MEREDITH

CT abdomen is clean. No free air. No appendicitis. No obstruction.

HOUSE

Which means I was right before I had coffee. Dangerous precedent.

AMELIA

WBC twenty-one. Creatinine one-point-nine. Platelets a hundred and twelve. AST and ALT mildly elevated.

HOUSE

Sepsis without a source. Toxin. Autoimmune. Weird infection. Or she's lying.

MEREDITH

About what?

HOUSE

Something useful.

BAILEY

Blood cultures are pending. She's on broad-spectrum antibiotics. You are not going to turn her into a laboratory experiment.

HOUSE

All medicine is a laboratory experiment with worse lighting.

BAILEY

First, do no harm.

HOUSE

Not actually in the Hippocratic Oath.

BAILEY

Still an excellent rule for you.

House writes LEPTO? under WEIRD INFECTION, then circles TOXIN.

HOUSE

Garden means fertilizer, pesticides, mushrooms, rat urine, neighbours who think composting is a personality. Search her house.

MEREDITH

No.

HOUSE

Then ask permission and call it a home visit.

AMELIA

I'll go.

Meredith turns to her.

AMELIA

What? I'm curious.

BAILEY

You are a neurosurgeon.

AMELIA

With a car.

House points at Amelia.

HOUSE

See? Fellowship material.

INT. DIAGNOSTIC CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

House draws four columns on the board: INFECTION. TOXIN. AUTOIMMUNE. "PEOPLE ARE LYING." Meredith refuses to acknowledge the fourth as a medical category.

MEREDITH

Her lactate is four-point-eight. She's hypotensive, febrile, thrombocytopenic and her creatinine is climbing. Infection is the obvious answer.

HOUSE

The obvious answer is what you call the wrong answer before pathology humiliates you.

AMELIA

TTP? Fever, neuro changes, renal injury, low platelets.

HOUSE

Good. Congratulations, brain surgeon.
Schistocytes?

MEREDITH

None on the smear. Hemoglobin is stable.

HOUSE

Then TTP drops. Vasculitis? Lupus?
Catastrophic antiphospholipid syndrome?

AMELIA

No thrombosis. No rash.

HOUSE

Yet. Hantavirus? Lepto? Toxic alcohol?
Amanita?

MEREDITH

She works at a school, not a biochemical
weapons lab.

HOUSE

You say that like schools don't contain
children.

Bailey enters with a chart.

BAILEY

Her lipase is normal. Pregnancy test
negative. Urinalysis has blood and protein
but almost no red cells.

HOUSE

Muscle breakdown. CK?

BAILEY

Pending.

HOUSE

Calf pain would be nice. Ask her. And
repeat the history without her brother in
the room.

MEREDITH

Why without him?

HOUSE

Because everybody edits themselves for
somebody. Parents, spouses, siblings,

priests, parole officers. Privacy improves data.

BAILEY

And because you think everyone lies.

HOUSE

Everyone does lie. The interesting question is what they think the truth will cost them.

That hangs there a beat longer than House intended. He points at the board.

HOUSE

Test for leptospira, hantavirus, hepatitis, HIV. Toxicology screen. CK. ANA, ANCA, complements. And somebody find out whether "gardening" means gardening or growing artisanal poison.

INT. LENA'S ROOM - DAY

A man in his late twenties, CAL MARSH, hovers at Lena's bedside with a paper cup he has forgotten to drink. He has slept in his clothes.

CAL

You scared the hell out of me.

LENA

I'm fine.

Her monitor says otherwise.

CAL

You're in intensive care.

LENA

Observation.

CAL

That's not what intensive means.

Lena closes her eyes. Cal notices the unopened voicemail notifications on her phone.

CAL

You didn't answer me yesterday.

LENA

I was working.

CAL

I needed—

LENA

Cal. Not now.

He shuts down. Meredith, at the door, clocks it.

INT. LENA'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Meredith closes the door after Cal leaves for coffee. House remains. Lena notices.

LENA

Is he always here?

MEREDITH

Unfortunately, yes.

HOUSE

You say “unfortunately” like I can’t hear you.

MEREDITH

That was the point.

House ignores her and studies Lena.

HOUSE

Any pain in your calves?

LENA

A little. I thought it was from standing all day.

HOUSE

Headache?

LENA

Yes.

HOUSE

Red eyes?

LENA

I teach seven-year-olds. Red eyes are occupational.

House leans closer, checking her sclera. Lena recoils.

HOUSE

You're jaundiced. Very slightly.
Congratulations, you're becoming
interesting.

LENA

Can you not talk about me like I'm a
crossword?

House looks at her.

HOUSE

Crosswords have rules. People cheat.

MEREDITH

He means your symptoms don't fit one
obvious diagnosis yet.

LENA

Then say that.

A tiny beat. Meredith almost smiles. House does not.

HOUSE

Your brother called you yesterday. What
did he need?

LENA

Nothing relevant.

HOUSE

That's not an answer.

LENA

It's the answer you're getting.

House's eyebrows lift. He likes resistance more than compliance.

HOUSE

Good. Fever hasn't killed your judgement.
Yet.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

House has been listening from just outside the doorway.

MEREDITH

You know eavesdropping isn't a diagnostic
test.

HOUSE

It is if people lie less when they don't
know you're listening.

MEREDITH

Her brother is scared.

HOUSE

Her brother is a dependent variable.

MEREDITH

He's a person.

HOUSE

That's usually the problem.

House looks through the glass at Cal and Lena.

HOUSE

Find out what he needed.

