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HOUSE

“Maternity”

EPISODE #3

Written by

Peter Blake

E#5507

Production Draft	August 3, 2004
Full Blue Revisions	August 9, 2004
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Full Green Revisions	August 13, 2004

HOUSE

Character List Episode 03 - Green Revisions

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

Ethan Hartig
Karen Hartig
Judy Lupino
Kim (Kimberly) Chen
Attorney Eli Ackerly
Dr. Lim
Dr. Kubisak
Jill
Charlie
Male Med Student
Young Man
Young Woman
Volunteer
Doctor (TV Soap)
Patient (TV Soap)

HOUSE

Location List Episode 03 - Green Revisions

INTERIORS

House's Office *
 Outer Office
 Hallway Outside
Lab
Clinic - Exam Room #1 *
Cuddy's Office
Maternity Ward
 Hallway
 Maternity Room
 Second Maternity Room
 Third Maternity Room
 Delivery Room
NICU - Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
 Hallway Outside
 Patient Lounge, off the NICU
Patient Lounge
Patient Lounge #1
Patient Lounge #2
OB/GYN Lounge
Morgue
Radiology
Doctor's Office (TV Soap)

EXTERIORS

Princeton

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. MATERNITY ROOM -- DAY

1

ETHAN and KAREN HARTIG (30s, high-powered) hold their NEWBORN DAUGHTER. They're exhausted, but also exhilarated, blissful. Almost punchy. Mid-conversation:

ETHAN HARTIG

Amber?

KAREN HARTIG

No.

ETHAN HARTIG

Why not?

KAREN HARTIG

It's a stripper name.

ETHAN HARTIG

Find me one stripper named Amber Hartig.

(off her look)

Or not. Okay. Non-stripper name...

Uh... Desiree? Bambi? Kandy Kane?

KAREN HARTIG

Max. Maxine. Max Hartig, that's a cute name.

ETHAN HARTIG

If you're a professional boxer, maybe.

Karen holds their hospital-supplied teddy bear in front of the swaddled baby, trying to catch her eye. But their daughter's drifting off to sleep. They stare in wonder.

KAREN HARTIG

We made this little creature.

ETHAN HARTIG

It's incredible.

KAREN HARTIG

The most crazily amazing thing we've ever done.

ETHAN HARTIG

I almost ran the marathon last year.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

KAREN HARTIG
 (to the baby)
 If you're lucky, you won't inherit
 Daddy's sense of humor.

He takes the teddy bear, waves it in front of the baby.

ETHAN HARTIG
 Say hi to bear...

The baby spits up right onto the bear. Oops. That didn't
 work. Karen's worried--

KAREN HARTIG
 She's not even eating anything, how
 can she be spitting up?

ETHAN HARTIG
 We can't bug them again.

Karen looks at her husband, pleading...

ETHAN HARTIG (CONT'D)
 ...Okay.

2 INT. MATERNITY WARD - HALLWAY -- DAY

2

Ethan walks with their OB/GYN, DR. LIM (in scrubs, 40s, a
 hotshot). He's slightly annoyed to be dragged into this.

ETHAN HARTIG
 I'm sorry, it's our first kid, we're
 both a little panicky, I guess.

LIM
 You gotta ask the pediatrician next
 time. I just deliver 'em.

They pass into--

3 INT. MATERNITY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

3

They enter, cross to the mother and child.

LIM
 She's spitting up?

KAREN HARTIG
 Second time in an hour...

LIM
 You lived underwater for nine months,
 you'd have a lot to spit up, too.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

Dr. Lim picks the baby up, her arm hangs loosely. He touches her cheek. The baby doesn't move. No rooting instinct. Lim frowns.

KAREN HARTIG
Something wrong?

LIM
Little lethargic...
(feeling her forehead)
She's hot.

ETHAN HARTIG
(getting worried)
We didn't think... Is she--

The baby's head trembles. She's having convulsions.

KAREN HARTIG
What's happening?

Lim, still holding the baby, punches a button on the wall. A beeping alarm goes off. A light just outside the maternity room door starts flashing on and off. Lim calls out into the hallway--

LIM
Need some help here!

*

Lim quickly lays the child down in her bassinet and starts removing her swaddling...

ETHAN HARTIG
(panicking)
What's wrong with her?

Lim's too busy checking the girl with his stethoscope to answer. Off the terrified Hartig parents, experiencing their worst nightmare, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE -- DAY 4

A good-looking DOCTOR in a pristine lab coat carries his chart up to the bed of a BEAUTIFUL YOUNG PATIENT.

DOCTOR
The MRI's back.

PATIENT
And?

He takes her hand. Oozing empathy:

DOCTOR
It's what we expected. The accident
caused serious damage...

HOUSE (V.O.) DOCTOR
It's amnesia... ...It's amnesia.

[See Appendix A for additional Doctor/Patient dialogue.] *

PULL BACK TO REVEAL:

5 INT. OB/GYN LOUNGE -- DAY 5

The nicest lounge in the hospital. Plush leather reclining chairs, artwork on the walls. HOUSE lies on one of the chairs, eating skittles and watching the above scene (from a daytime soap) on a plasma screen TV. Dr. Lim enters with another OB, DR. KUBISAK. They see House.

KUBISAK
(pointedly)
Enjoying our lounge, House?

HOUSE
Just getting milk for my coffee.

He's not drinking coffee. Notices them noticing. Helpfully:

HOUSE (CONT'D)
Which you're out of.

The doctors exchange a look: what a dick. Lim plops down on a couch while Kubisak opens the fridge, calls to Lim:

KUBISAK
Flat or sparkling?

LIM HOUSE
Sparkling. Flat.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

Kubisak ignores House, tosses a Pellegrino to Lim.

KUBISAK

So the Hartigs...?

House turns the sound up.

LIM

Alright, so their baby gets a fever--

KUBISAK

Don't tell me, kid had a seizure?

LIM

Yep. The parents of course start freaking and I have to deal with that for an hour.

KUBISAK

(looking up from fridge)

Like it was your fault.

House turns the sound down slightly. He's eavesdropping.

LIM

(smiles, a joke among
Ob/Gyns)

She was perfect when I delivered her; you want to blame someone, blame the pediatrician.

KUBISAK

How's the kid now?

LIM

Bowel obstruction, she's under observation. She'll be fine.

KUBISAK

Pediatrician will take all the credit.

Kubisak chuckles at the joke. Turns to where House was sitting. House is gone.

6 INT. NICU -- DAY

6

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. House and WILSON stand in front of the Hartig daughter, one of EIGHT BABIES here. Like the others, she's hooked up to an IV, an arterial line, and various monitors.

HOUSE

Exhibit A. Baby girl Hartig.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Term baby, 42 hours old. Seized six hours ago, was rushed to the NICU. Diagnosed with a small bowel obstruction.

WILSON

I'm still amazed you're actually in the same room with a patient.

HOUSE

People don't bug me until they get teeth.

*
*

House moves over to a second bassinet. This one holds another baby, the HOWSAM boy, similarly monitored.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Exhibit B. Baby boy Howsam. Another term baby, 48 hours old, brought to the NICU three hours before the Hartig baby. Undiagnosed febrile illness, 101 degrees and trending upwards.

House looks at Wilson, like: see?

WILSON

Wow. That is amazing. You hung out in the OB/GYN lounge all morning and you heard about two sick babies. It's eerie.

HOUSE

(like it's obvious)

We have an infection spreading in the hospital.

Wilson looks at House like he's crazy.

WILSON

These kids have totally unrelated illnesses--

HOUSE

They fell sick within four hours of each other. They had the same delivery room and their maternity rooms were neighboring, so transmission's possible. And they have the same symptoms.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

WILSON

The Hartig girl has a bowel obstruction. No matter how close their beds are, I'm pretty sure kids can't share a blockage.

HOUSE

What does "bowel obstruction" on a chart indicate?

WILSON

Normally, I'd say it means that the patient's *bowel* is *obstructed*. But I'm guessing you've got some deeper truth to impart.

HOUSE

It means some random doctor of indeterminate skill thinks that the patient's bowel is obstructed.

WILSON

Look, you're upset that they threw you out of their lounge, but--

House picks up the Hartig girl's X-ray.

HOUSE

--Look at the X-Ray.

He points out a couple of small discolorations in the X-ray as he explains:

HOUSE (CONT'D)

It's a normal gas pattern. And look here--

WILSON

--You want, I can get you a key to the oncology lounge.

HOUSE

Air in the colon.

WILSON

We're getting TIVO.

HOUSE

If it's air, no bowel obstruction.

Wilson realizes House is a dog with a bone.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (3)

6

WILSON

Even if that is air, it could have
been there before the obstruction.

House looks at the two babies. Firmly:

HOUSE

No. Something's infected both these
infants.

CUDDY (V.O.)

And you're the only one to put it
together because...

7 INT. CUDDY'S OFFICE -- DAY

7

CUDDY is shuffling through some papers and largely ignoring
House.

HOUSE

Because I'm the only one who looked
at both kids. I want them isolated.
And I want the maternity ward shut
down.

CUDDY

Because you're better at reading X-
rays than a radiologist.

HOUSE

Radiologists always overread babies'
X-rays, especially when they're asked
to rule out a pathology. He read
into it what he wanted.

CUDDY

Which is exactly what you're doing.
You're finding a cluster because it
would be interesting to find a
cluster. Two plain old sick babies
would just bore you.

HOUSE

This is why I don't waste money on
shrinks. You give me these great
insights for free.

CUDDY

(mock surprise)

Shrink? If you'd consider seeing a
shrink, I'd pay for it myself. The
hospital would hold a bake sale, for
God's sake.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

She puts the papers in her briefcase.

HOUSE
We have an epidemic.

CUDDY
(genuine, heading for
the door)
Two sick babies... It's very sad...
but it doesn't prove an epidemic.

As she leaves...

HOUSE
How many do?

8 INT. HOUSE'S OUTER OFFICE -- DAY

8

CHASE is sprawled out on a chair, taking a nap. CAMERON sits at the desk, typing a letter. FOREMAN is reading a large medical textbook.

House enters, grabs Foreman's book and tosses it onto Chase. Chase leaps up, totally confused--

CHASE
Ow!

HOUSE
Get up. We're going hunting.

FOREMAN
For what?

HOUSE
Wabbits.

And he leaves. They follow.

9 INT. SECOND MATERNITY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

9

An AFRICAN-AMERICAN COUPLE (20s) is asleep on the single bed. Their blue-capped BABY BOY lies on his back in the bassinet, staring upwards, alert. House and Foreman enter. The parents slowly rouse themselves as they notice the Doctors examining their baby.

HOUSE
Hi.

Foreman looks at the chart as House picks up the child. The baby starts crying loudly.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Bye.

He hands the child to Foreman, says, sotto:

HOUSE (CONT'D)

He's screaming, he's fine.

House walks out, leaving Foreman with the confused parents...

FOREMAN

(at a loss)

Good looking kid.

Foreman puts the kid in its bassinet and quickly exits. The parents are confused about what just happened... but somehow flattered.

10 INT. DELIVERY ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

10

Cameron and Chase enter another room, to find a FATHER-TO-BE holding his VERY PREGNANT WIFE's hand. She's in labor. Groaning. Doing breathing exercises. The woman looks up, very surprised. Chase and Cameron turn on their heels--

CAMERON

Wrong room.

CHASE

We'll see you later.

They leave...

11 INT. MATERNITY WARD - HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

11

...and run into House and Foreman.

CHASE

That's it, right? Twelve rooms.

CAMERON

Good news. No epidemic.

House says nothing. He's clearly disappointed his theory hasn't panned out.

FOREMAN

(to House)

Tragic, huh?

The elevator doors open and some DOCTORS get out. Which reminds House:

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

HOUSE

Overflow rooms. Third floor.

House gets into the elevator right before the doors close. The rest of the team share a look, then hurry but it's too late, the doors are closed. They push the button.

FOREMAN

This imaginary infection has spread to the next floor? Maybe we should check neighboring towns as well?

Chase shrugs. Typical House.

12 INT. THIRD MATERNITY ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

12

House enters another room (on the floor above). KIM CHEN and JUDY LUPINO (girlfriends, comp lit grad students) are surprised to see the doctor. Judy, the birth mother, holds their baby BOY.

JUDY LUPINO

We were just going to call...

HOUSE

He got hot all of a sudden?

KIM CHEN

(how did you know?)

Yeah.

Judy shows the swaddled baby to House. The poor kid is lethargic, out of it. We can read it on House's face: this is a third sick baby. It is an epidemic.

13 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE NICU -- DAY

13

We're looking through the window into the NICU. The eight babies who were here earlier are mostly gone. The room is weirdly empty except for the three kids we've met (the Howsam, Hartig and now the Chen-Lupino baby) who have been isolated from the rest of the kids.

PAN OVER to Cuddy supervising ORDERLIES who wheel a baby in a bassinet down the hallway, towards the elevator.

AT THE ELEVATOR, A YOUNG COUPLE gets off. The wife is pregnant, about to pop. Cuddy sees this and her face falls. She hurries over--

CUDDY

Excuse me. Hi. Intake sent you up here?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

YOUNG MAN

My wife's contractions are--

CUDDY

--Intake messed up. The maternity ward is temporarily closed.

(gestures to passing Nurse)

Nurse Alpert will arrange for an ambulance to take you to Princeton General.

Cuddy corrals the couple and NURSE ALPERT onto the elevator:

YOUNG WOMAN

We have to leave?

CUDDY

I'm very sorry.

YOUNG MAN

Why are you--

He's cut off by his wife's groan as she begins a contraction.

CUDDY

You'll be there in no time.

The elevator door closes. Cuddy turns to find House standing there, watching...

CUDDY (CONT'D)

Happy now?

HOUSE

No.

He turns and looks to the three isolated sick children...

HOUSE (CONT'D)

...But I am interested.

And for once, he's not exhibiting a smug attitude, as we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

14 INT. NICU -- DAY (DAY 2) 14

We're looking at the sick babies in the NICU again. The three babies we've seen before, plus a FOURTH BABY who's being placed in a bassinet by TWO NURSES. The nurses are masked, gloved and gowned (as will be everyone else who enters the NICU from now on).

HOUSE (V.O.)
Three sick babies.

15 INT. HOUSE'S OFFICE -- DAY 15

CLOSE ON A WHITEBOARD showing Four names: "1) Baby girl Hartig." "2) Baby boy Howsam." "3) Baby boy Chen-Lupino." Separated from the rest: "4) Baby girl Perry" with a question mark beside it.

HOUSE (O.S.)
And a fourth showing early symptoms.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL House, his team, and Cuddy huddling. It's the next morning.

CUDDY
How bad?

CHASE
Spiking fevers. *

FOREMAN
BP's plummeting, they're barely able to keep systolic up. This rate, they could be dead in a day.

Everyone absorbs this quietly. *

CUDDY
Where did it come from?

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

CAMERON

*

Two delivery rooms. Four different maternity rooms. No common personnel, no common equipment.

CUDDY

There's gotta be something in common.

HOUSE

True. That's the difference between an epidemic and a *coincidence*.

CUDDY

I'm putting a team together; we're gonna start swabbing.

HOUSE

Get the townsfolk and some torches, too.

Cuddy gives him a look.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

(means it)

No, you gotta do it.

She exits. The others turn to House, surprised.

FOREMAN

What's she gonna swab? Every respirator, sink, drain, vent and body cavity in the entire hospital? It'll take months.

CAMERON

Needle in a haystack.

HOUSE

It's worse. We don't even know it's a needle we're looking for.

*

*

CAMERON

So why did you tell her to do it?

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (3)

15

HOUSE

Because the hospital is her baby and her baby's sick. If she doesn't solve this soon, her head's gonna explode and I don't want to get any on me.

House moves to the whiteboard, picks up a marker.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Let's figure out what's in the haystack. Differential diagnosis, people.

FOREMAN

Parasite?

House writes "PARASITE" on the board. No one's convinced.

CAMERON

Spreading too quickly.

*
*

HOUSE

(crosses out "parasite")
Next?

CHASE

Virus.

House writes "VIRUS" down.

CAMERON

(no way)
The kids are too sick. And the blood tests show no lymphocytosis.

FOREMAN

And they're not responding to acyclovir and ribavirin. If it's some other virus, we'll never find it in time anyway.

*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (4)

15

House doesn't cross out "VIRUS"; he puts a question mark next to it. *

HOUSE

Which leads us to...

He writes "BACTERIAL INFECTION."

HOUSE (CONT'D)

They're not responding to broad spectrum antibiotics. So we've got something resistant. Usual suspects.

FOREMAN

MRSA. ["Mersa."] It's always MRSA in hospitals. Half of us are probably carrying it in our nostrils.

CAMERON

But the infection's spread so quickly... maybe contaminated food or water source. Pseudomonas. *

CHASE

VRE. *

House writes down the bacteria as they list them.

FOREMAN

H. Flu. *

HOUSE

(he writes "H. Flu")

All right. Those are the big ones. Cultures will take 48 hours, might as well be postmortem.

(circling "MRSA")

Start them on vancomycin for the MRSA...

(circling the rest)

And aztreonam to cover the rest.

And let's get MRIs, check for abscesses or some occult infection.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (5) 15

He heads for the exit.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

I'll be in the clinic; grab me if
you find anything important. Or
unimportant.

They follow him out.

15A INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE NICU -- DAY 15A

The Hartig baby is on a mobile incubator. Chase and some ORDERLIES are taking her away from her distraught parents for testing. The Hartigs watch as their baby's wheeled farther and farther down the hall, away from them. Ethan leans against a wall. Karen stands in the center of the hallway, her hands crossed. (Their body language should show the toll this is taking on their relationship.)

15B INT. RADIOLOGY -- DAY 15B

Away from the parents, Chase supervises TECHNICIANS as the Hartig child is given a full body MRI (a "babygram"). Her tiny body is strapped down, hands above her head on the platform. The platform slowly slides inside the tube.

INSIDE THE MRI

Inside the machine. A claustrophobic tunnel. The banging sounds are deafening, like a machine gun battle. But the Hartig child stares upwards, listless, unaware of its surroundings.

IN THE OBSERVATION AREA

Chase watches a monitor as the "babygram" appears -- an eerie full-size MRI showing the entire child.

16 INT. PATIENT LOUNGE -- DAY 16

Cameron and Foreman sit with Kim Chen and Judy Lupino. They're trying to hold in their emotions, and having a hard time of it, especially Judy (the birth mother, still in her hospital gown).

CAMERON

We did an MRI; he was a real trooper.
Unfortunately it didn't show us
anything. But we're putting him on
the strongest antibiotics we've got.
We're hoping they'll do the trick.

*
*
*
*

JUDY LUPINO

He's so tiny...

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

KIM CHEN

How sick is he?

CAMERON

Fever's up to 103.5. His blood
pressure's 80 over 40--

JUDY LUPINO

--How bad? How bad is that?

Cameron's about to answer, but hesitates. Says nothing. So
Foreman jumps in...

FOREMAN

It's low. The heart needs to
circulate the blood, if it's weak,
the oxygen isn't getting to the liver,
the kidneys, the brain...

Judy slumps in her chair. Kim puts her arm around her.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

JUDY LUPINO

I have to ask you something--

KIM CHEN

(gently)

Judy--

JUDY LUPINO

Kim, let me.

(to Foreman)

I had a cold last month, I told the
doctors about it--

KIM CHEN

Honey, this has nothing to do with
you...

CAMERON

Kim's right. Your son was born
healthy, he caught the infection
after birth. There's no reason to
think he caught it from you.

JUDY LUPINO

(still terrified)

But you don't know; you don't know
how he got sick.

CUDDY (V.O.)

Maybe the vents?

17 INT. DELIVERY ROOM -- DAY

17

The hospital's cleared mothers and kids out of the maternity and delivery rooms. Cuddy's here, trying to find the source of the infection. She's got her own team -- FIVE MEDICAL STUDENTS -- swabbing different surfaces. Wilson looks on dubiously as she speaks to a MALE MED STUDENT (sleep deprived, 26 but looks 22).

CUDDY

Could be airborne.

MALE MED STUDENT

In all the other rooms, too?

Cuddy nods: of course. The student goes off to instruct the rest of his team.

WILSON

How many med students you got swabbing
the decks?

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

CUDDY

What else are they going to do?
They're not delivering babies.

WILSON

Find anything yet?

CUDDY

Yeah. About half the antibacterial
gel dispensers are empty or broken.

WILSON

That's bad. And yet diagnostically
completely insignificant.

CUDDY

(true, but)

If the staff can't clean their hands,
no wonder an infection's spread.

Before he can tell her to calm down, Cuddy is on the move. She has noticed the Male Med Student swabbing a sink. His tie dips into the drain as he works.

CUDDY (CONT'D)

Hey. Tie clip.

MALE MED STUDENT

Sorry?

CUDDY

(sharp)

We have an epidemic in the hospital
and your tie is becoming a petri
dish. Put on a tie clip or take the
damn thing off.

The med student backs away, wide-eyed.

18 OMITTED

18

19 OMITTED
AND
20

19
AND
20

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

21

House, annoyed that he has to deal with clinic bullshit, checks his watch as he listens to a 27-year-old woman, JILL (zaftig, attractive, wearing a baby tee).

JILL

My joints have been all loose? And I've been feeling sick a lot. Maybe I'm overtraining? I'm doing the marathon, like ten miles a day but I can't lose any weight.

*
*

HOUSE

Let me see your arms.

She's confused: she didn't say anything was wrong with her arms. But she lifts up her left arm, then her right. House sees something...

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

HOUSE (CONT'D)

You have a parasite.

JILL

Like a tapeworm or something?

House rises, grabs an ultrasound machine, wheels it over. Jill's starting to worry. House applies gel to the transducers.

HOUSE

Lift up your shirt?

She lifts her T-shirt up so her belly's exposed. He presses the transducers to her abdomen and slides them around.

JILL

Can you do anything about it?

HOUSE

Only for a month or so. Then it becomes illegal to remove, except in a couple of states.

JILL

Illegal?

HOUSE

Don't worry. Many women learn to embrace this parasite. They name it, dress it in tiny clothes.

*
*

He spins the ultrasound's screen around so that she can see the sonogram. It's immediately clear what the "parasite" is: a four-month fetus swims in her amniotic fluid. Jill is understandably stunned.

*

HOUSE (CONT'D)

It has your eyes.

*
*

JILL

No. It's impossible...

*

HOUSE

I assume you weren't getting your period? Maybe that should have given you an inkling?

JILL

But I'm on this birth control implant--

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

HOUSE

--yes, yes, yes, I saw the scar on your arm.

JILL

The doctor told me I might not get any periods at all if it's working.

HOUSE

Yep. Interestingly enough, you also don't get any periods if it isn't working. Which is why you were supposed to get regular pregnancy tests.

She's just floored. House gets up.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

I'm going to send a nurse in here to schedule your prenatal care. You're due in about five months, so start planning the shower. *

House starts to leave, writing on her chart. Jill stops him--

JILL

Doctor, please, wait. Me and my husband, we wanted to have a kid soon. But, oh, God... Like five months ago? We had a really big fight, he moved out... I did something stupid...

HOUSE

One night stand?

JILL

Ex-boyfriend.

She's close to tears; he's anxious to leave.

HOUSE

I'll schedule you a paternity test, too.

JILL

I can't let my husband know.

HOUSE

Does this other guy look at all like your husband?

She nods, confused.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (3) 21

HOUSE (CONT'D)
Then just have the kid, he'll never
know. Problem solved.

House's pager goes off. He glances at it and heads out the
door.

HOUSE (CONT'D)
The most successful marriages are
based on lies; you're off to a great *
start. *

22 OMITTED 22

23 OMITTED 23*

24 INT. HOUSE'S OFFICE -- DAY 24

House enters. Foreman, Cameron and Chase are waiting, *
worried. *

CAMERON *
The Hartig and Chen-Lupino babies. *
Their B.U.N. and creatinine are way *
up. Their kidneys are shutting down. *

CHASE *
And the urine tests show no casts. *

24 CONTINUED:

24

HOUSE
Which means the antibiotics are
causing the kidney failure.

*
*
*

FOREMAN
(to House)
You're the nephrologist; which one
did it? We'll take them off that
one.

*
*
*
*

House stares at him. No one says anything for a beat.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)
Don't tell me... both vancomycin and
aztreonam...

CHASE
They both can cause this. There's
no way to know which one it is. No
test, nothing.

*
*
*

FOREMAN
We can't take them off the
antibiotics, the kids'll die of the
infection.

CAMERON
We leave them on both antibiotics,
they die of kidney failure.

CHASE
So we take our best guess, then.
Which drug's causing the kidney
failure?

*
*

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

No one says anything for a moment. Guess wrong, both babies could die. House is lost in thought as--

FOREMAN

Like I said, it's always MRSA in hospitals. Take the kids off aztreonam.

CAMERON

And I still think it's pseudomonas, I vote we take them off vancomycin. *

HOUSE

There's no point in guessing.

CAMERON

What else can we do?

HOUSE

Take one kid off vancomycin and the other off aztreonam.

The group is silent for a stunned beat.

CHASE

They have the same disease, you want to give them different treatments?

FOREMAN

The hell you doing?

HOUSE

A therapeutic trial. To find the cause of the infection.

FOREMAN

...That's just wrong.

HOUSE

Yes. Awful Dr. House is being bad again. Why can't I see that the moral thing is to pretend there's no epidemic?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (3)

24

HOUSE (CONT'D)

(then)

There're four sick kids at least;
who knows how many more haven't
started showing symptoms yet--

FOREMAN

We have a duty to these two--

HOUSE

--If these two have different
reactions, we'll know how to save
the rest.

Silence. They can't believe they're even considering this...

FOREMAN

So you're condemning one of these
kids to die based on random chance?

House is quiet for a moment. However he appears, he knows
how serious this is.

HOUSE

I guess I am.

Off the team, absorbing this, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

25 OMITTED 25

26 INT. CUDDY'S OFFICE -- DAY 26

Cuddy, House and ELI ACKERLY, the hospital's Risk Manager/Lawyer (smart, unflappable, looks like a grown-up Harry Potter, clearly doesn't like House and vice versa), argue the ethics of House's choice. House knows the horror of this choice - he also knows he's right.

CUDDY

So you're just going to flip a coin?
That's how you decide which baby
lives?

HOUSE

Can I borrow a quarter?

ACKERLY

You want to get sued, lose your
license, House? Generally, I'd
applaud that. But I have to protect
this hospital. So I strongly advise
you to come up with some medical
rationale why Baby A should get
Medicine X and vice versa.

HOUSE

Whoa, whoa, whoa, slow down there,
slick, not all of us went to law
school. Your advice is that I should
use *medical* reasons to make *medical*
decisions?

(thinks)

That's not going to be as easy, but...

ACKERLY

Any medical justification, it doesn't
need to be a good one.

HOUSE

Hmmm... Hartig sounds Jewish, so
does aztreonam. I'll take the Hartig
kid off vancomycin. How's that?

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

Ackerly looks to Cuddy: what's wrong with this asshole?

CUDDY

(to House)

You can't experiment on babies.

HOUSE

Doctors experiment all the time.

CUDDY

On adults. With their consent.

HOUSE

Fine. I'll get the parents' consent. *

He turns to go.

ACKERLY

Their informed consent. They have to know the other kid is getting a different treatment.

HOUSE

Sorry, can't do that. It'd be *unethical* to tell one patient about another patient's treatment.

ACKERLY

Very funny. They have a right to know.

HOUSE

(we all know this)

If they know, they won't consent, which defeats the whole purpose.

ACKERLY

That's their right.

HOUSE

Two more babies have just become symptomatic. I defer to your legal wisdom. Which takes precedence: six dying babies or a missing consent form? *

ACKERLY

You can't do it.

CUDDY

(after a beat)

Do what you think is best.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

House nods his ever-so-subtle thanks to Cuddy, turns and exits. Ackerly rises and gathers his papers.

ACKERLY

We might as well write some malpractice lawyer a blank check.

CUDDY

Let's focus on saving the kids, we'll worry about our exposure later.

ACKERLY

Just between you and me... legally, the best outcome would be for both children to die. Then none of the parents can allege their kid was denied life-saving treatment.

Cuddy stares at the lawyer, trying to decide who she hates more at this moment: him or House.

27 OMITTED

27

28 INT. PATIENT LOUNGE #1 -- DAY

28

Foreman sits with the Hartigs. On the other side of the room (out of earshot) are two other worried SETS OF PARENTS.

FOREMAN

Your daughter's kidneys are shutting down.

INTERCUT WITH:

29 INT. PATIENT LOUNGE #2 -- DAY

29

Cameron sits with the Chen-Lupino parents.

CAMERON

Your son's kidneys are failing.

ON THE HARTIGS

FOREMAN

So we're going to take her off aztreonam.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

ON CHEN AND LUPINO

CAMERON

We're taking your son off vancomycin.

We're INTERCUTTING between the two rooms as the doctors give different diagnoses to the two sets of parents...

ON THE HARTIGS

ETHAN HARTIG

But what made her sick in the first place?

ON CHEN AND LUPINO

CAMERON

Seems to be a germ called pseudomonas.

ON THE HARTIGS

FOREMAN

We think it's MRSA. Methycillin-resistant staph aureas. It's a very resistant form of a very common bacteria.

ON CHEN AND LUPINO

CAMERON

We're hoping the aztreonam will clear it up.

ON THE HARTIGS

FOREMAN

Vancomycin is the best treatment for MRSA, so we're going to keep giving it to your boy.

ETHAN HARTIG

Is it going to cure him?

Foreman leans in. Talks softly.

FOREMAN

Your son is very sick. You need to know that. This is a Hail-Mary. It might cure him... but it might not.

*

The Hartigs slump back in their chairs, taking this in. Karen can't hold back her tears.

*

ETHAN HARTIG

Alright.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

ON CHEN AND LUPINO

JUDY LUPINO *

So it'll cure him?

CAMERON

We'll know in the next twenty four
hours if it's working.

KIM CHEN

Okay. Great. Thank you.

The parents look relieved. Kim takes Judy's hand. Cameron
rises and leaves.REVEAL Wilson, at the nearby Nurse's station, noticing the
look on Kim and Judy's faces as Cameron walks away.

30 INT. MATERNITY WARD - HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

30

Cameron walks away. Wilson catches up to her.

WILSON

What did you tell them?

CAMERON

Kim and Judy?

WILSON

They looked relieved. Did you tell
them how sick their son is?

CAMERON

(not wanting to deal)
I explained what's going on.

WILSON

Alison. Their baby is dying. If
those parents weren't in tears by
the time you left, you didn't tell
them the truth.

CAMERON

That's not how I see it.

WILSON

You want them blindsided? You want
them coming up saying "My God, my
baby died, why didn't you warn me"--

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

CAMERON

Oh, so it's about making sure they don't yell at us?

WILSON

No. It's about getting them prepared for the likely death of their child!

Cameron stops. She speaks quietly, but angrily.

CAMERON

If their son dies tomorrow? You think they're going to give a damn what I told them today? Nothing's going to matter. Nothing's going to be the same ever again. God, let those poor women have a few hours of hope.

She walks off. Leaving Wilson wondering what the hell is wrong with her.

31 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE HOUSE'S OFFICE -- DAY

31

House is leaving his office for the day, locking up.

JILL (O.S.)

Dr. House?

Jill (the Norplant woman) is there with CHARLIE, a scruffy young man who clearly doesn't want to be there at all.

HOUSE

Oh, no...

House walks as quickly as he can away from her. Which, obviously, isn't that quickly. She tails him, Charlie trailing behind her.

JILL

This is my husband Charlie.

HOUSE

Who told you where my office was?

CHARLIE

Jill, come on, he obviously doesn't want us bothering him.

HOUSE

Ooh, and I was trying to hide it.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

JILL

Look, Doctor, the mono you said you
thought I had--

HOUSE

Mono?

Jill stares at him, pleading. She really looks like she's
about to have a meltdown.

JILL

You know...

(pleading)

Shouldn't Charlie be tested? You
know, the test? The blood test?

House gets what Jill's after. And he has to smile. She's a
woman after his own heart.

HOUSE

Right, sorry, I sometimes forget
patients. I thought you were this
idiot who didn't know how to use
birth control.

CHARLIE

I can't have mono. I don't feel
sick or anything.

HOUSE

That's very often the first sign.
(to Jill)

Call my office in the morning, we'll
schedule him for blood tests.

*

*

JILL

Thank you.

House walks off.

CHARLIE

I'm not even tired.

32 OMITTED

32*

33 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE NICU -- DAY 33*

Wilson and Cuddy walk towards the Nurse's Station. Cuddy looks tired and harried. *

WILSON *
Find anything yet? *

CUDDY *
Oh, just some baby formula being stored under a sink with a dripping faucet.

WILSON *
(that's bad) *
Tap water contamination; are you *
thinking pseudomonas infection? *

CUDDY
I was. I wasted a couple hours chasing it down, but of course, turns out the formula hasn't been anywhere near the babies.
(pissed)
Whatever idiot stored them there--

WILSON
Relax. We'll figure this out. Just calm down--

CUDDY
I am calm.

She notices the Male Med Student she'd yelled at that morning. He's standing at the Nurses' Station, talking to a NURSE. His tie is once again peeking out of his jacket, and is now draping over the countertop.

Cuddy grabs a pair of scissors from the Nurses' Station and starts cutting off his tie.

MALE MED STUDENT
Oh, come on--

CUDDY
I warned you.

She hands him back the piece of his tie, then walks over to Wilson. Wilson raises an eyebrow.

CUDDY (CONT'D)
I did that calmly.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

And they walk on, passing KAREN HARTIG, who's staring through the NICU window at her daughter. The CAMERA STAYS ON KAREN. After a beat, Chase emerges from the NICU. (There are now SIX BABIES in the NICU.)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

KAREN HARTIG

Hey.

CHASE

Hi.

KAREN HARTIG

She any better?

CHASE

Fever's been stable the last hour.

Karen looks mournfully over the children.

KAREN HARTIG

We're not going to make it, are we?

CHASE

Sorry?

KAREN HARTIG

Me and Ethan.

(off his silence)

Our next door neighbor, her little
 boy died in a car crash. She and
 her husband... they split up like
 four months after the funeral. That's
 what always happens, right?

Chase searches for the right words. *

CHASE *

I honestly don't know. I don't know
 what happens with my patients after... *

(trailing off) *

We're going to do everything to-- *

An alarm starts beeping inside the NICU. Chase spins, re-
 enters-- *

34 INT. NICU -- CONTINUOUS

34

--and Karen follows him.

CHASE

You can't come in here.

He leans down to look at a monitor.

KAREN HARTIG

(panicked)

Is my baby dying?

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

CHASE

Mrs. Hartig--

KAREN HARTIG

Is she dying?

CHASE

It's not your baby.

It's the Chen-Lupino baby he's standing over. Karen Hartig's face is filled with relief -- and guilt about the relief. *

TIME CUT TO:

35 INT. NICU -- LATER

35

A screen has been drawn across the windows of the NICU. It's a flurry of activity around the baby's bed as Chase, Cameron, Wilson, Foreman and a NURSE scramble to keep the Chen-Lupino baby alive -- opening needles, checking monitors and IVs, pressing the child's belly, pinching his hand. The heart monitor beeps rapidly.

CHASE

BP's 60 over 20.

CAMERON

Heart rate's 180.

House, last to arrive, stands a few feet away as he watches--

HOUSE

You started levophed?

CHASE

Yeah.

(re: BP)

Still dropping. Sixty over palp.

CAMERON

We can't hold BP, even with three pressors.

WILSON

Losing the pulse.

The beeping heart monitor starts flatlining.

WILSON (CONT'D)

V-fib.

We ZOOM in on the baby's chest, and...

VFX: DISSOLVE THROUGH its skin and ribcage to find his tiny heart. It's stopped.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

BACK IN THE ROOM: Chase picks up the small paddles (designed for infants).

CHASE
Charging... clear.

Chase shocks the baby.

VFX: inside the baby's chest, his heart PULSES once as the electricity hits. But it doesn't start beating on its own. We hear the concern in the doctors' voices:

FOREMAN (V.O.)
Still V-Fib. *

CHASE (V.O.)
Charging... clear.

We see the second electrical charge hit the heart, one beat, then nothing...

BACK IN THE ROOM

CHASE (CONT'D)
Charging... clear.

He shocks the baby for the third time. But this boy is gone. The doctors all know it. Still:

CHASE (CONT'D)
Charging...

House steps forward, puts a hand on Chase's arm, shakes his head. Chase discharges the paddles in the air, puts them down.

HOUSE
Time of death, 6:57 PM.

The doctors start taking off their gloves. The nurse turns off the monitors one by one.

Cameron just stands there, can't stop staring down at the infant's body on the operating table.

Silence for a beat. Then House is back to work.

HOUSE (CONT'D)
Aztreonam doesn't work. Double-cover all the other babies with vancomycin.

CHASE
I'll do it.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

Chase leaves to give a nurse instructions.

HOUSE
(to Cameron)
Tell the parents.

Cameron's startled.

HOUSE (CONT'D)
Tell them their child probably saved
five lives.

CAMERON
Wait. Chase should--

HOUSE
--Chase is busy.

CAMERON
You're the attending.

HOUSE
Wilson, make sure she does her job.

And House leaves.

36 INT. PATIENT LOUNGE OFF THE NICU -- NIGHT

36

Wilson and Cameron enter to find the Chen-Lupino parents waiting nervously. Two other sets of PARENTS also look up, expectant and scared.

Judy Lupino's holding the hospital-supplied teddy bear in her arms. She sees the look on the doctors' faces and immediately gets it. Kim Chen looks and gets it, too.

Wilson waits for Cameron to say something, but she remains silent. Wilson steps forward as the couple breaks down...

*

37 INT. MATERNITY ROOM -- NIGHT

37*

Kim Chen and Judy Lupino cry and hold each other as they look upon the body of their son, who's been moved here. He's been cleaned up a bit; the lines have been cut but they're still attached to his body. Judy places her cheek on his belly as she cries. Kim puts her fingers in his tiny hand.

38 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE NICU -- NIGHT

38

Wilson and Cameron walk and talk.

WILSON

Alison. Something going on?

CAMERON

No.

WILSON

You were frozen back there...

Cameron says nothing. Wilson regards her a moment. Not sure what to say. Then Cameron notices Chase coming down the hallway toward them. It doesn't look good--

CAMERON

What is it?

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

CHASE

The Hartig baby. She's getting sicker, too. The vancomycin isn't working, either.

39 INT. HOUSE'S OUTER OFFICE -- NIGHT

39

House, Cuddy, Wilson and the team. Everyone looks exhausted.

HOUSE

Vancomycin doesn't kill it. Aztreonam doesn't kill it.

(beat)

What the hell is it?

FOREMAN

It's a superbug.

This is bad.

CHASE

It could be V.R.S.A.

CUDDY

There's only been two reported cases ever in the US.

CHASE

One of the kids, the Howsam baby, has a skin rash. Maybe scalded-skin syndrome, which would be a sign of VRSA.

FOREMAN

Then these kids are dead.

WILSON

(unconvincingly)

There's a couple drugs that can fight VRSA -- linezolid, I think--

HOUSE

(simmering)

Sure, like I can fight Mike Tyson. This is our fault. Doctors overprescribing antibiotics. You have a cold? Take some penicillin. Sniffles? No problem, here's your azithromycin. Oops, not working anymore? Got your levaquin. Anti-bacterial soaps in every bathroom; we'll be adding vancomycin to the water supply soon.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

HOUSE (CONT'D)

We've bred these superbugs. They're our babies, and they're all grown up and coming back to commit parricide.

Silence.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

On the other hand, maybe antibiotics had nothing to do with it.

Everyone looks at House like he's nuts.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Did you notice how low his BP was at the end? Even with three pressors?

WILSON

Heart damage?

House says nothing for a moment. Then he rises.

HOUSE

Go home. Nothing more you can do tonight.

And he exits. Off the others -- is that really all?

40 INT. MORGUE -- NIGHT

40

CLOSE ON HOUSE sitting on a bench, in a dark, cold, windowless room in the hospital's basement. He's lost in thought. Staring into the distance.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL that House is looking at a tiny, sheet-covered BODY on the shiny metal operating table.

He gets up, pulls the sheet off. We don't see the dead infant, but we see House's face. It's filled with regret. He didn't save this child.

We might think he's come here to commune with his patient, but he pulls on surgical gloves. Takes a digital recorder out of his pocket. Sets it down, presses "record."

HOUSE

Baby boy Chen-Lupino. Time of death:
6:57 PM, Thursday, December 2, 2004.

*

He picks up a scalpel. He's conducting the autopsy alone, determined to discover why he lost this kid. He raises the scalpel and we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

41 INT. LAB -- DAY (DAY 3)

41

CLOSE ON a computer screen showing an image from a microscope. We see the striated red muscle fibers stretching lengthwise. There's a large white mass in the middle, and some smaller, clear circles scattered around.

HOUSE (O.S.)

This is a cross-section of the Chen-Lupino boy's myocardium.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL the team with Wilson and Cuddy looking at the computer screen. House points to the white mass with a pen.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Fibrosis.

Then the smaller circles.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

And lymphocytic infiltrates.

Everyone is shocked.

CAMERON

There was no lymphocytosis on the blood tests...

House crosses to the whiteboard used in the earlier differential diagnosis. He crosses out "BACTERIAL INFECTION" and circles "VIRUS."

HOUSE

Yes, we had plenty of good reasons to think bacterial; nobody's scolding you. Unfortunately, all those clever reasons were wrong. This is a virus. Infecting their hearts.

FOREMAN

We're screwed. We can't chase down a virus. There's a thousand possibilities.

CAMERON

We could run gels, antibody tests.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

FOREMAN

A thousand of them? The kids don't have enough blood.

HOUSE

(not defeated)

Chase. You're the intensivist. How many could we do? Before we risk exsanguinating the kids.

CHASE

(thinking)

You're talking vials, not stick tests? I wouldn't take more than five or six.

HOUSE

Then we have to narrow the thousand viruses down to six.

House writes "YES NO" on a whiteboard, draws a vertical line between them.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

The autopsy's shown us what this virus does. Let's go. What do we know?

A silent beat. This task seems too daunting. Finally:

WILSON

Ribavirin and acyclovir don't knock it out.

CUDDY

Cross out the herpes viruses.

House writes "HSV 1/2" in the "NO" column. (He will continue throughout this scene to add the named viruses to the proper columns).

HOUSE

Right. Also, adenovirus...

Foreman grabs a large medical textbook. Wilson grabs another. The team huddles around the books while House stays at the board.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

What else, what else? Keep talking.

Quicker, now:

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

CHASE

Well, it only seems to hit children,
the mothers aren't sick, so...

FOREMAN

(paging through)
...no toxoplasmosis, no rubella,
cross out the entire TORCH syndrome.

WILSON

You didn't find any lung damage?

HOUSE

No.

WILSON

Then cross out paramyxoviridae.

HOUSE

Cardiac scarring, people.

CHASE

CMV.

That's one for the YES column.

FOREMAN

Enteroviruses, too, I think...

CUDDY

Influenza.

The doctors are getting into it. Maybe House is right --
maybe this isn't impossible...

TIME CUT TO:

42 INT. LAB -- LATER

42

CLOSE ON the whiteboard, now filled up with the names of
viruses. The NO column has about 20 large categories listed.
The YES column contains seven specific viruses (Group B
Coxsackie, Echovirus 11, Rotovirus, CMV, Epstein-Barr,
Parvovirus B-19, Influenza A.)

FOREMAN (V.O.)

RSV?

PULL BACK TO REVEAL the team talking fast, getting closer.
They've narrowed the viruses down to the most likely.
Cameron's at the board now.

WILSON

Ribavirin is supposed to get it.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

FOREMAN

Supposed to.

HOUSE

(to Cameron)

Put RSV as a "yes." How many do we have?

CUDDY

Eight.

House looks to Chase.

CHASE

Eight vials of blood is pushing it.

HOUSE

Alright, let's push it. *

(to his team)

Get the antibody kits, start testing the sick kids.

They get up to go do their tasks.

WILSON

I'll look into whether there's any antivirals for these eight.

As they're almost at the door, House is still ruminating.

HOUSE

Wait. The kids who were on the floor but didn't get sick... are any of them still in the hospital?

WILSON

They got moved to the fifth floor.

CHASE

They're probably all checked out by now.

CUDDY

No, the Limpert boy had a bit of jaundice, he's checking out today.

HOUSE

I want to test his blood, too.

CUDDY

Why?

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: (2)

42

HOUSE

We need all the information we can get. The healthy kid will be our control group.

CUDDY

I'll go tell his parents he can't leave because he has smallpox.

CAMERON

Really?

CUDDY

(obviously not)

No. But I'll make something up.

House gives her a look - nice move. *

43 INT. NICU -- DAY

43

Cameron draws blood from a SICK BABY...

43A INT. MATERNITY ROOM -- DAY

43A

Chase draws blood from the HEALTHY LIMPET BABY as his PARENTS look on...

44 INT. LAB -- DAY

44

On a monitor, Foreman watches as a bar graph appears, indicating the presence of a specific antibody. House enters, scans the monitor as--

HOUSE

What did we get?

FOREMAN

The sick babies are all positive for Echovirus 11--

HOUSE

--Great.

FOREMAN

And CMV. And Parvovirus B-19.

HOUSE

Three of them?

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

FOREMAN

And what's weirder, the healthy baby we tested? He's positive for Echovirus 11 and CMV antibodies, too.

Across the room is the whiteboard listing the eight possible viruses. Five of them are crossed off, leaving only Echovirus 11, CMV, and Parvovirus B-19. House stares at the board. Did they go down the wrong path? Then he gets it:

HOUSE

Of course. They're infants, they have their mothers' blood, their mothers' antibodies.

FOREMAN

So we just learned nothing?

HOUSE

No. We have half the picture. The healthy kids survived because their mothers' antibodies saved them.

FOREMAN

(getting it)

If the mom had CMV in the past, she'd have the antibodies for CMV, her kid would be immune from it...

(then)

So we test the sick kids' moms for Echovirus, CMV and Parvovirus.

HOUSE

And whichever they don't have the antibodies for, that's what's killing their kids.

Foreman scrambles out the door.

45 INT. PATIENT LOUNGE -- DAY

45

Foreman draws a vial of blood from Karen Hartig while her husband anxiously watches.

46 INT. LAB -- DAY

46

House and his team look at an antibody bar chart appearing on a monitor. House smiles.

He walks to the whiteboard, where all the viruses but CMV, Echovirus 11 and Parvovirus B-19 are now crossed out.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: 46

He crosses out CMV and Parvovirus B-19 and circles Echovirus 11.

FOREMAN (V.O.)
Echovirus 11.

47 INT. PATIENT LOUNGE -- DAY 47

Cameron and Foreman are with the exhausted Hartig parents.

FOREMAN
It's an enterovirus, it lodges in the intestinal tract.

CAMERON
Enteroviruses cause diarrhea and flu-like symptoms in adults; maybe a rash. But for newborns, it can be deadly. It's damaging her heart.

KAREN HARTIG
Is there anything you can do?

CAMERON
We're giving all the kids large doses of IVIG. It's a solution of antibodies normally found in adult blood. We hope it will help.

FOREMAN
Unfortunately, viruses are more difficult to treat than bacterial infections. We still haven't found a cure for the common cold.

ETHAN HARTIG
So there's no... vaccine, or--

FOREMAN
There's a company in Pennsylvania developing an antiviral. We managed to get our hands on it. *

48 OMITTED 48*
AND AND
49 49

50 OMITTED 50*

51 INT. NICU -- DAY 51

Cameron checks a monitor while Chase adjusts a ventilator.

CHASE

Pulmonary resistance still low...

(looking)

BP's looking bad, too...

Cameron notices the Hartigs watching through the window.
They're devastated: watching their newborn, unable to do
anything to help, unable even to hold her.

52 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE NICU -- MOMENTS LATER 52

Cameron exits the NICU and approaches the Hartigs.

CAMERON

Can I get your help with something?

The parents stare at her, uncomprehending.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

Your daughter, her sheets--

ETHAN HARTIG

Maxine.

KAREN HARTIG

That's her name. Maxine.

*
*

CAMERON

(nods)

We need someone to hold Maxine up
off the bed while the orderlies change
her sheets.

53 INT. NICU -- MOMENTS LATER 53

The Hartigs (masked, gowned, and gloved) stand next to their baby's bassinet. Maxine is three days old and they haven't touched her in two of them.

CAMERON

Just gently reach under and lift
her, just a couple inches... Support
her head...

They lift her up.

The parents are standing close to each other, closer than we've seen them since the first scene. Ethan carefully cradles Maxine's head, Karen her body.

ORDERLIES begin to change the sheets. Cameron and Chase watch the Hartigs. The parents are close to tears, holding in their emotion... It's clear they desperately need this... Ethan puts his free arm around his wife...

54 INT. CLINIC - EXAM ROOM #1 -- DAY 54

House is with Jill.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

JILL
(anxious)
So the tests....

HOUSE
Your husband is definitely the source
of your "mono."

She's lets out a breath. Incredibly relieved.

JILL
Oh. Wow. Oh, thank God. Wow. I'm
going to be a mom. Whoa. Thank you
so much. I gotta get you a gift or
something.

HOUSE
Sometimes the best gift is the gift
of never seeing you again.

JILL
Okay. Alright. But Dr. House?
You've been so awesome. I mean, I
really, totally trust you. Do you
think--

HOUSE
No.

JILL
--you could do the prenatal care--

HOUSE
No.

JILL
--or deliver the baby?

HOUSE
That would be no.

He opens the door to leave. Then he stops, a thought coming *
to him.

55 OMITTED

55*

56 OMITTED

56*

57 INT. NICU -- NIGHT

57

Chase is checking the Howsam baby. Foreman and Cameron are looking at Maxine Hartig's BP monitor.

FOREMAN

Chase. Take a look.

Chase walks over, looks at the monitor...

58 INT. PATIENT LOUNGE OFF THE NICU -- NIGHT

58

Ethan Hartig pours a cup of coffee. His wife rests on the bench. They see Chase, Cameron and Foreman enter the lounge. And here's what they think: we're about to hear that our daughter is dead. They're statues as the doctors approach.

And then Chase smiles.

ETHAN HARTIG

(stunned)

Oh God. It's good news?

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED: 58

CHASE

It's great. *

Karen bursts into tears. Then Ethan.

59 OMITTED 59*

60 INT. MATERNITY WARD - HALLWAY -- NIGHT (DAY 4) 60*

Cameron works on some paperwork at the Nurses' Station near the NICU. House steps up to her. *

HOUSE *

They all gone? *

CAMERON *

Hartigs are checking out right now. *

HOUSE

You look tired.

CAMERON

Thanks.

HOUSE *

And no wonder. You've had a real hard time the last couple days.

CAMERON

And you haven't?

HOUSE

Not like you.

She doesn't say anything.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Anyone who's that awkward either has no experience with death, or too much. And I'm pretty sure it's not the former.

Cameron doesn't like being put under House's microscope.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

60

CAMERON

(go away)

I have paperwork to finish up.

*

*

HOUSE

Chase told me about that idea you
had, the parents holding the baby...
where did you get that?

*

She doesn't reply.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

You lost someone, didn't you?

(off her silence)

Did you lose a baby?

Cameron's stunned he'd ask her that.

*

CAMERON

You can be a real bastard.

She walks away. FOLLOW HER as she turns a corner and sees
the Hartig family heading towards the elevator.

*

They're happy, vibrant. Talking excitedly, though we're too
far away to hear. Ethan pushes Karen, who's in a wheelchair.
She holds her baby in one arm and a large bouquet of flowers
in the other. They board the elevator. Ethan kisses his
wife. Kisses his daughter.

Cameron watches, her happiness for the Hartigs mixed with
some profound sadness.

61 EXT. PRINCETON -- DAY (DAY 5)

61

It's a new day; a beautiful fall day.

62 INT. MATERNITY WARD - HALLWAY -- DAY

62

The ward is being reopened. ORDERLIES moving equipment back
in. House stands outside the NICU, thinking, staring. Wilson
finds him there.

WILSON

Unfinished business?

HOUSE

I'm in the haystack.

WILSON

Ah. Because now you know you're
looking for a needle.

(CONTINUED)

HOUSE

Right.

WILSON

If I tell you to let it go, it's not going to make a difference, is it?

HOUSE

(apparently not)

Enteroviruses are spread by humans... Fecal-oral route, usually. Could be respiratory secretions, though.

WILSON

So Cuddy got stool samples from the whole staff. Just wait until they come back.

HOUSE

That won't do it.

WILSON

Why not?

HOUSE

This shedder, whoever he is? He's so virulent, he must have been symptomatic. Cuddy would have noticed him.

WILSON

Hmmm...

HOUSE

And the babies didn't share any common personnel. That's what's weird.

WILSON

(you're a freak)

Yeah. That's what's weird.

Wilson takes off. House stands there thinking for a long beat. Then House hears a cough. He turns to see a 65-YEAR-OLD WOMAN. She wears a T-shirt that reads "Hospital Volunteer" and carries a basket of teddy bears under her arm.

VFX: We FLASH BACK. QUICK CUTS show House piecing together how the infection was spread:

-- The Volunteer walks the hallway with her basket. She scratches her nose and brushes her hand against a bear. We ZOOM IN TO A MICROSCOPIC LEVEL and see the virus moving from the skin of her hand to the bear's artificial fur...

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: (2)

62

-- She hands the bear to Karen Hartig.

-- Karen wipes her baby's mouth. We ZOOM IN to show the germ spreading from Karen's hands to Maxine's mouth and latching on...

BACK TO SCENE

The Volunteer scratches her nose. Turns to see House staring at her like a hawk at a mouse. Looks behind her to see what House is looking at, realizes it's her.

VOLUNTEER

(confused)

What?

House just smiles... and we:

MATCH CUT TO:

63 INT. OB/GYN LOUNGE -- DAY

63

House, still smiling... as he reclines on a fancy leather chair in the fancy lounge, watching his soap opera.

Onscreen, the handsome doctor we saw earlier holds hands with his female patient. She's now out of her hospital gown and wearing a dress, looking healthy and happy [Appendix B]. *

Lim and Kubisak (the OB/GYNs we met in Act One) enter, annoyed to see House.

LIM

Hey. Seriously, man, you're not supposed to be here.

HOUSE

I'm performing a delivery.

KUBISAK

(what the fuck?)

You are.

HOUSE

A patient whose prenatal care I'm handling, I just took her on a few minutes ago. I'll need one of you to supervise, of course.

LIM

(suspicious)

When's she due?

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED:

63

HOUSE
Late March.

KUBISAK
Five months from now?

HOUSE
(nods)
Thank God these chairs are so
comfortable.

Off the Doctors, staring at House, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW

64 APPENDIX A - FOR SCENE 4: INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

64*

A good-looking DOCTOR in a pristine lab coat carries his chart up to the bed of a gowned BEAUTIFUL YOUNG PATIENT.

 DOCTOR
The MRI's back.

 PATIENT
And?

He takes her hand. Oozing empathy:

 DOCTOR
It's what we expected. The accident
caused serious damage...
 (beat)
...It's amnesia.

 PATIENT
No. No...

 DOCTOR
Yes. I'm sorry.

 PATIENT
I can't believe it...

 DOCTOR
Please remember, miss. Your car was
pounded into scrap around you. You
should have been smashed to pieces.
Appreciate your good fortune.

 PATIENT
Will I ever find out who I am?

 DOCTOR
I can't know for sure. But I do
promise you this: I will devote every
drop of energy in my being to making
you whole again.

 PATIENT
Thank you, Doctor, thank you. I
only wish...

 DOCTOR
What?

 PATIENT
 (downcast)
I just wish I could remember who I
am...

65 APPENDIX B - FOR SCENE 63: INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

65*

The handsome DOCTOR is now holding hands with the BEAUTIFUL YOUNG PATIENT. They stand by her hospital bed. He's still in his resplendent whites, but she's in a nice bright dress, looking happy and healthy. They're clearly in love.

PATIENT

You saved my life.

DOCTOR

I just ran some tests, Naomi. It was your will and determination that saved your life.

PATIENT

I know who I am now.

DOCTOR

Yes. Yes, you do.
(beat)
And I know who I am as well.

PATIENT

But what do you mean, Doctor?

DOCTOR

Under this lab coat, I'm just a man... who's fallen in love.

She looks at him with surprise.

PATIENT

Do you mean...

DOCTOR

Yes. Naomi. I love you. From the moment I saw you in the ER, I knew I loved you.

PATIENT

Yes.. Yes, I love you too, Doctor.

They kiss.