

Who Wants to Live Forever
by
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Based on HOUSE, M.D.

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HOUSE, M.D.

WHO WANTS TO LIVE FOREVER

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE'S OFFICE - INNER OFFICE

HOUSE chats amicably with a Japanese patient in her late 20's.

KOBAYASHI

What should I do now? Wait?

HOUSE

No. Just live. Right now you're a healthy young pretty woman. Don't do anything you may regret. I assure you: there's no afterlife; I know what I'm talking about.

KOBAYASHI

I promise I'll wait.

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

CUDDY peeps at House and KOBAYASHI saying goodbye. She seems worried.

Kobayashi embraces affectionately House and leaves without looking back.

EXT. PRINCETON PLEINSBORO ENTRANCE - DAY

Kobayashi exits the hospital.

FADE TO:

EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - DAY

Kobayashi walks slowly, looking down and lost in her thoughts.

She glances upwards and sees: students reading, chatting and playing on the grass; students walking and cycling.

FADE TO:

EXT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE - AFTERNOON

Kobayashi peeks through the exterior gate.

The school is empty, though she still perceives an old ECHO of the crowd of noisy children.

FADE TO:

EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

Kobayashi sits on a bench. Children playing around.

People leaving the park IN FAST FORWARD while Kobayashi sits STILL. Darkening.

FADE TO:

EXT. KOBAYASHI'S HOME FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

She enters home and takes off her shoes.

INT. KITCHEN

She carefully prepares an udon soup with vegetables.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Kobayashi sips the noodles sitting on the sofa and watching an old FLINTSTONES cartoon on TV.

INT. BEDROOM

Kobayashi reads the last pages of a big pink Japanese book sitting on the bed.

She finishes the book and leaves it on the bedside table over a handwritten note, nearby a half-empty bottle of RED PILLS.

KOBAYASHI
(whispering to herself)
You can't put a wild animal into a
cage.

She sighs and slides into the bed.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT 1

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MID 80'S

DR. MORTIMER, fifty-something, black, waits for all the resident doctors to enter the room.

YOUNG CUDDY is on the front line. LONG-HAIRED WILSON and HEALTHY HOUSE stand at the back of several other residents.

WILSON
(whispers to House)
Boy! Look at these!

Wilson points to Cuddy's legs. A pair of colorful leg warmers rise up to her white coat.

WILSON
Will she flashdance for us?

HOUSE
No way. Just for the boss. Only he will remember her name.

Wilson laughs low. Mortimer interrupts.

MORTIMER
Everybody's attention, please!

Mortimer stands next to a bed occupied by a black adolescent with an afro hairdo.

MORTIMER
We have an apparently healthy young male with motion sickness, dizziness and vomits. Who wants to start?

ASIAN RESIDENT
Has temperature?

MORTIMER
Good start. Yes, half degree.

SECOND RESIDENT
Earache?

MORTIMER
Second obvious one.

Mortimer sends the patient an inquisitive glance.

PATIENT
Yep. Right ear. And can't stop hearing a high pitch.

Mortimer orders a resident to scan his ear with an otoscope. In the rearguard House pries into the patient's belongings. He half-opens the room's cupboard and sees an Adidas jogging suit and sports shoes.

RESIDENT (O.S.)
I can't see if there's any
infection.

House snoops into a sports bag to discover a stereo inside.

MORTIMER
Good, more clues. Sometimes we can
see hidden things without direct
eyesight. It's called deduction.
Excess of cerumen plus the
temperature could be a sign of the
infection. Who's next?
(stares at the crowd)
No one dares? Well, here's a
question for first in the class.
(looks at Cuddy and
smiles)
Which is the smallest bone in the
human body?

Cuddy grins embarrassed and answers.

CUDDY
The stirrup bone, in the ear. 0.1
inches long, sir.

MORTIMER
Brilliant!

At the back, Wilson whispers to House.

WILSON
God! I knew that one and I'm not
even second in my class.

House gets it with a false smile.

HOUSE
Half women, half encyclopedia. Make
me barf.

Mortimer is disturbed by the background noise.

MORTIMER
There, in the backfield. Any
opinions?

Wilson is caught off guard. Nervously, he tries to escape the situation:

WILSON

Yes, I agree.

A shy laughter spreads through the residents. Mortimer is not pleased with their lack of attention and inquires House.

MORTIMER

Doctor House?

HOUSE

(coughing)

Couldn't care less.

MORTIMER

What did you say?

House takes a deep breath and gives his speech with a magisterial tone:

HOUSE

Obviously he's not gonna die. His case's not a puzzle to me. I mean, you'll think you're right cause he'll recover on his own; your pills won't hurt either.

MORTIMER

So, illustrate us. What do you think? Is it Ménière syndrome? Or is it any other rare disease only you've heard of?

HOUSE

Nope. On the contrary, it couldn't be much simpler. It's a piece of smartass you got here. See his clothes? He'd been practising breakdance in the street.

House moonwalks to the head of the bed.

HOUSE

Boy, you'd better start with the worm and the wave and let the headspinning for when you've got muscles in your neck.

(shouting at his ear)

Ah, and don't put your stereo so close to your ear.

MORTIMER

What about the temperature and the infection?

HOUSE

Sometimes you can see things there are not. It's called mistake.

(MORE)

HOUSE (cont'd)

We haven't seen the infection plus half a degree is not temperature.

MORTIMER

We could make some plates to refute your theory of traumatic origin. But don't be so naive, House. He's fourteen, he'd know if his pain came from dancing.

HOUSE

He knows. But he doesn't want his parents to know. If you could pay for this hospital, would you like to see your son dancing in the street?

The residents goggle at House showing their back to Mortimer. Mortimer's expression can hardly conceal the embarrassment and oozes vengeance from all his pores.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - NIGHT - MID 80'S

Wilson struts in his grunge jeans and fringed leather hippie vest. House walks on a pair of Chucks and wears his classic leather jacket and drainpipe jeans.

WILSON

How did you do it?

HOUSE

Well, he could have an ear infection, or a virus, we'd need more tests to know. But what we really knew is that he'd been break-dancing. That single fact explained all his symptoms. Take Occam's razor and you have it.

WILSON

Oh, God. You speak as if you were Sherlock Holmes.

HOUSE

Elementary, my dear Wilson.

WILSON

We're doctors not detectives.

HOUSE

Where's the difference?

EXT. BUS STOP - CONTINUOUS

They arrive at the Bus Stop, where a middle-aged busker introduces a song to his audience.

MUSICIAN

That's two weeks ago. Coming back home found my key doesn't fit. Hey! Pretty strange, ain't it? Knock on the door and here comes Johnny with a bag, don't say a word, I know I'm on the street. I know I should've never introduced'em. But, lucky me, lucky you, he also handed me my guitar. And from the deep blue, came this one.

He plucks an old guitar. Wilson throws some coins to the musician.

HOUSE

You fool? It's a fake story.

WILSON

I know. Can't even be pleasant with the boss? At least the very first week.

HOUSE

Ordinary people need to be kind. I don't have to. I don't have to ask forgiveness when I'm right.

WILSON

Want a good reason to be kind? He can fire you.

HOUSE

Not if I'm always right. Listen, it's easy to be a doctor. You can give a fast correct diagnosis to fifty percent of the patients. The other fifty percent, doesn't matter if you're right or wrong; human body cures itself --the case of the breaker--. Less than one percent, who cares, they got no solution, they only need company, kindness. There I see your field.

WILSON

Good to know.

HOUSE

Only a low percentage are improbable to diagnose but they do have a cure. There is my field. The hospital needs me to save these people.

Wilson looks incredulous.

HOUSE

Little work, and exciting. These patients need a cure, not affection. Mortimer needs me more than I need him. The hospital needs me more than it needs Mortimer.

WILSON

I wouldn't be so sure. Medicine is dealing with mistakes. Mortimer can fail; you can't, 'cause you've hurt his ego. That ain't wise, man.

Bus number 32 brakes in front of them.

WILSON (O.S.)

By the way, Holmes never said 'Elementary, my dear Watson'.

HOUSE (O.S.)

I know. I'm the second in my class and you're not even that.

The bus revs up and sets off.

The old FOLK SONG played by the busker TURNS UP while...

MONTAGE

-- Cuddy's bedroom -- The alarm clock LIGHTS UP. It's 6 a.m.

-- House's bedroom -- Same time. His eyes suddenly pop open.

-- Cuddy's bedroom -- She jumps off the bed.

-- House's bedroom -- Same for House.

-- Cuddy's apartment -- She eats an apple on her way out. Her roommates still sleep.

-- House's apartment -- He grabs his electric guitar and practises a new guitar solo. Wilson covers his ears with the pillow.

-- Dance school -- Cuddy practices ballet on her own.

-- House's apartment -- House likes the riff he has created and celebrates it by breakdancing.

-- Dance school -- Cuddy takes a shower.

-- House's apartment -- House takes a shower. Wilson slams the bathroom door pointing at his watch with his finger.

-- Princeton Pleinsboro Entrance -- Cuddy gets off a bus and enters the hospital.

INT. PRINCETON PLEINSBORO - RESIDENTS LOCKER ROOM - MID 80'S

Cuddy opens her locker and stores her coat. House sneaks in. He sees no one else inside and feels uncomfortable being alone with Cuddy. He tries to avoid her while opening his locker. Cuddy breaks the ice:

CUDDY

Nice deduction with the breaker.

HOUSE

Not bad for a second in class, uh?

CUDDY

You really kicked the old fossil's ego. He'll go after you, you know?

HOUSE

I'll be waiting.

CUDDY

Why do you take it as a fight? It's worse for me. He's making people think I'm his favorite.

HOUSE

You are.

CUDDY

Well I don't enjoy being harassed.

House gazes impudently at Cuddy's cleavage.

HOUSE

You dress as if you like it.

She feels ashamed.

CUDDY

My way of dressing is none of your concern.

Wilson breaks in yawning.

WILSON

Give peace a chance, you people.

CUDDY

Gee! Look at you! God and Jesus Christ.

HOUSE

That one was funny. Is it because of his hair or his doctrine? By the way, next time do not mistake me with inferior beings.

WILSON

I think we all need a residents party to build up an atmosphere.

Wilson searches inside his bag for a paper and a pen.

WILSON

When do you go to see your parents?

HOUSE

In two weeks.

WILSON

Sure?

HOUSE

(with a candid smile)
Absolutely.

Still, Wilson is not convinced. Are you?

WILSON

Alright, then. This Saturday we'll blow Studio out of this world!

He writes down something on the paper and hangs it up with a list for the party.

WILSON

I have already signed for you two.

They both moan at the same time.

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR - MID 80'S

HOUSE

I misjudged her. She's nastier than I thought. I think I like her.

WILSON

Not a good way to show someone you like your feelings and your good manners.

HOUSE

I was testing her. I like women in a rage.

Mortimer heads a line of resident doctors to the door of a room.

MORTIMER

Here folks. We have a nine-year old Japanese girl with SCID.
(MORE)

MORTIMER (cont'd)
 She's here for experimental
 surgery. I want you to follow the
 case.

House sweeps through to the first line of residents and
 stares in awe at Kobayashi through the windowed walls.

INT. ROOM - MID 80'S

The room is fully equipped for a child: small table, chairs
 and sofa. Kobayashi has already finished her meal and helps
 her teddy bear finish its own.

KOBAYASHI
 Well done! Soon you'll be taller
 than me, Rafty. Then you will leave
 me and see the world.

Kobayashi puts Rafty to sleep and cleans the table.

Kobayashi sits on the sofa and pretends she's piloting a
 shuttle.

KOBAYASHI
 Columbia to Houston. We've found
 the meteorite. Ready to blast it on
 your mark.

Kobayashi fires.

KOBAYASHI
 Kaa-Booom! The meteorite broke
 apart into thousands of space-choc-
 a-rocks. They'll fall to earth.
 Quickly boys! To your suits and
 get'em.

Kobayashi walks pretending to be in Zero-G.

KOBAYASHI
 Can I have my snack now, mom?

AOYAMA (O.S.)
 (in Japanese)
 Sure honey. Come.

Kobayashi runs to the wall and stretches her arm. MOM's hand
 is inside a plastic arm glove. Kobayashi lives isolated in a
 sterile bubble room.

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

MORTIMER
 Her immune system is severely
 depressed. She's lived in a bubble
 room for 9 years. She has overcome
 several critical conditions, and
 now she has to face the truth.
 (MORE)

MORTIMER (cont'd)

Either we transplant her bone marrow or she dies sooner than later. Problem: she has no siblings. Our best donor is a 70 percent match.

CUDDY

She won't make it.

HOUSE

She will. She would even make it with a half-match donor.

Gossips spread out.

HOUSE

But I wonder how has she survived 9 years with such a disease and eating chocolate bars.

AOYAMA

She has a healthy diet. Udon soup prepares you for whatever it comes. Besides, she's ill; no need to be sad also.

The image of Kobayashi's happy face blurs into House's eyes.

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

The image of Kobayashi is clear again. Only now she is older, just as in the TEASER.

KOBAYASHI

Hey! Seems like you saw a ghost.

HOUSE

So I thought. I guess it ain't good news that you bring.

KOBAYASHI

I told you I'd come back.

HOUSE

And I told you I'd have a cure. But I don't.

KOBAYASHI

Then it's time to die, Greg.

HOUSE

Not yet, kiddy.

KOBAYASHI

I'm no kiddy anymore, see.

There's no doubt she's grown beautifully.

KOBAYASHI
Wanna be tested.

House throws her a glance of disapproval.

KOBAYASHI
Again.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. HOUSE'S OFFICE - OUTER OFFICE

The magnificent trio, Chase, Foreman and Cameron, sit around the crystal table reading medical magazines. House comes in and breaks the silence.

HOUSE

Boo!

No reply.

HOUSE

My dear idler disciples, I bring you some work. Want to know about genetic diseases?

CHASE

Yep. Gung ho.

HOUSE

Well. Kufs is an autosomal recessive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by--

CHASE

(yawning)

I think I'm losing my curiosity.

HOUSE

OK. To save you time, and disgusting details, it ends up turning you into a vegetal.

FOREMAN

You gonna tell us anything that's not in the books?

HOUSE

Of course. Go and test a girl for Kufs.

FOREMAN

They do so in the lab. Are we also going to perform the urine analysis now?

HOUSE

That would certainly please Cuddy.

FOREMAN

Where's the puzzle, here?

HOUSE

In diagnosing her.

FOREMAN

We do the test, we have an answer.
Puzzle solved.

HOUSE

She's been tested before. If it's
Kufs it's due to an unknown gene.

CAMERON

I assume you've checked the faulty
gene library, so it'll be the same
now.

HOUSE

We can see DNA evolution here,
folks. I see a paper coming out.
Why aren't you as excited as I am?

CAMERON

With one case? Forget it, no one
will publish it.

HOUSE

OK. We won't publish anything. I
can see why you're idlers: you're
bright but not hard-workers. Do it
anyway!

CAMERON

Where's she?

HOUSE

Here.

House shows one of Kobayashi's hairs.

CHASE

Unauthorized DNA tests are against
the law.

HOUSE

I authorize you to do it.

FOREMAN

We need her authorization.

HOUSE

Who do you prefer to go against:
the law or your boss? It seems
you're not so bright after all.

They look at each other in search of comprehension. No one
wants to do the test, but after a tense wait Chase stands up
first. Cameron and Foreman feel disappointed but they follow
Chase after a split second.

CUT TO:

INT. WILSON'S OFFICE

Cuddy suddenly opens the door without knocking. Wilson is freaked out, but before he can say anything:

CUDDY
(very excited)
Did you know Kobayashi's here?

WILSON
Holy! You seen her? Seen House?

CUDDY
No...

WILSON
Hell, how d'ya?
(guessing)
Chase?

CUDDY
They're carrying DNA tests for
Kufs--

WILSON
Got to see House.

Wilson cuts Cuddy off and sky rockets out of his office.

WILSON
Got to see him.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE'S OFFICE

The idle disciples enter.

FOREMAN
As expected, the test is
inconclusive. We've checked the NCL
Mutation Database. One faulty gene;
one not yet reported faulty. It
can't be known whether she'll have
Kufs or not. If she already has it,
we've found a new bad gene.

CAMERON
A paper after all.

CHASE
Does she have symptoms? Any sign of
chorea, ataxia, visual impairment?

HOUSE
Symptoms are also inconclusive.

FOREMAN

We need to perform neurological tests to know.

House shakes his head. He doesn't like the idea.

HOUSE

Think another way.

FOREMAN

There's no other way.

CAMERON

Anyone in her family had Kufs?

House evades the question.

HOUSE

OK, go ahead with the neuro-tests tomorrow. Treat her properly. It's a delicate situation.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY

House walks out carrying his bag. Wilson runs into him.

WILSON

Hey, hey, hey! Where do you think you're going?

HOUSE

Home? Wait... You know it?

WILSON

Rumor has it...

HOUSE

You know it. How d'ya...

WILSON

Big Brother's watching.

Cuddy watches from the first floor.

WILSON

Well... don't you have anything to say?

HOUSE

I'll speak... if you can follow.

EXT. HOSPITAL ENTRANCE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

House leaves the hospital. Wilson chases after him.

WILSON

No problem catching a lame.

HOUSE

Not when he has a date.

It's cold outside. Wilson tries to follow him only with his white coat on and starts to sneeze. He loses precious seconds. House mounts his motorbike and speeds off.

FADE TO:

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

House parks his motorbike in front of a restaurant. Kobayashi jumps off the motorbike. House wears his classic Chucks.

INT. RESTAURANT

A theme restaurant. The waiters are dressed up as famous Broadway musical characters.

HOUSE

How about your acting career? Does everybody in Japan eat those tasty sweeties?

KOBAYASHI

One day you find that your voice has changed and you're not so funny anymore.

HOUSE

My voice changed, but I'm still quite charming, ain't I?

Uneasy silence. It's been long since they haven't seen each other.

HOUSE

Your father's businesses OK?

KOBAYASHI

Yeah, fine. Got everything I need back in Kyoto. Also a nice job as sales manager. Though, I don't really like it. Life is not always as you want it to be.

HOUSE

In fact, it never is.

They both nod repeatedly as in slow motion.

KOBAYASHI

Your parents OK?

HOUSE

They are... As far as I know. It's not that things have improved, but who cares?

KOBAYASHI

Sure mom does.

Again, they share seconds of uncomfortable silence until the PHANTOM OF THE OPERA serves the dinner.

HOUSE

Ah! Here.

(looks at Kobayashi's fish dish)

I know, it's disgusting; they cook it.

House can't find a way to remove the uneasiness in Kobayashi's face.

HOUSE

What about boys? You married?

Kobayashi explodes.

KOBAYASHI

I have the plague, remember? Even if I don't have the disease I am carrier of it.

HOUSE

No need to have children, you look grown up enough to know it. But now you can even select the healthy embryo.

KOBAYASHI

And then what? Leave a charming little orphan. Listen, Greg: I want to put an end to this. Just tell me I have Kufs and I promise I'll put an end to this.

House tightens his lips and gulps. Kobayashi's face is in panic.

CUT TO:

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM

Kobayashi sits in front of Foreman. He takes notes on a notebook over his desk.

FOREMAN

When did you notice the first tremors?

KOBAYASHI

About a week ago.

FOREMAN

You've been fast. Tremors can mean a lot of things, not only Kufs.

Kobayashi is not convinced by Foreman's call for calm.

KOBAYASHI

DNA test was inconclusive, but my mother had it: I know how it ends. I don't want to give it any chance.

FOREMAN

Either you're immortal or you won't beat it.

KOBAYASHI

You bet I will.

The answer scares Foreman, but he doesn't want to add more tension:

FOREMAN

Any sign of weariness? Depression?

KOBAYASHI

A one week hell of depression.

FOREMAN

That's not a...

KOBAYASHI

I know what depression is.

FOREMAN

Listen, you'll have to be more cooperative. These are questions I have to ask you. I know they're silly, but a bunch of silly questions lead to a good diagnosis. Let's try to start over.

KOBAYASHI

OK.

FOREMAN

Relax. You can't be in better hands. Now, extend your hand.

Kobayashi obeys.

FOREMAN

Right. Open it and close it slowly for me, please.

Her hand shakes slightly. Foreman doesn't like it.

MONTAGE - FOREMAN TESTS KOBAYASHI

-- Kobayashi walks - Her walk is sometimes clumsy. Foreman worries.

-- Memory test - Foreman shows her different drawings in cards and turns them down. Kobayashi points to a card. It's paired! They smile.

-- Memory test 2 - Foreman shows pictures of famous people. Kobayashi recites their names. Foreman shows George H. W. Bush. She sadly doesn't recognize him. Not a problem for Foreman. Foreman shows Fred Flintstone. She smiles.

-- Eye exploration - Foreman examines her cornea under a slit-lamp. Foreman sends her a 'Be quiet and don't move' sign with his hand.

KOBAYASHI

Had fun? Now, show me your technology, please.

CUT TO:

INT. CT CHAMBER

Cameron and Chase observe Kobayashi's brain on screen. Kobayashi lays down on the tube.

CAMERON

How do you think House knows this girl?

CHASE

Maybe they're relatives.

CAMERON

C'mon, don't joke around.

CHASE

I only know they're close enough.

CAMERON

How close?

CHASE

You jealous?

The image on screen doesn't look fine.

CAMERON

(through the microphone)
Lay still, please.

KOBAYASHI
(inside the tube)
Tremors don't help.

CHASE
Why would you want to know?

CAMERON
Just curious. Aren't you?

CHASE
I don't want to know much about
House.

Now Chase is jealous. He stands up and enters the tube room.

CHASE
Do you need something to help you
get relaxed? Music?

KOBAYASHI
Just stay here. I don't want to be
alone.

CHASE
Alright. I'll be talking to you.
You don't need to answer, just
relax, OK? If there's any safe
place in the Universe for rare
diseases it's here.

Cameron resumes the image scanner smiling at Chase's action.

FADE TO:

INT. HOUSE'S OFFICE - INNER OFFICE

House listens to music with headphones and pretends he's
playing the guitar with his cane. Kobayashi interrupts.

KOBAYASHI
Got a good team. No need to worry
about working, I see.

HOUSE
The finest swots I could possibly
find.

KOBAYASHI
They admire you, though they
wouldn't tell you.

HOUSE
They just butter me up. It's part
of their job. I pay them extra to.

Kobayashi knows it's not true.

KOBAYASHI

I guess it's just wait, now.

HOUSE

Yep. Go out tonight, have fun, and rest it. I'll give you the news first thing tomorrow.

KOBAYASHI

Don't send Wilson or I'll know it's bad news.

As she leaves:

HOUSE

Promise me you'll behave tonight.

KOBAYASHI

I won't.

She smiles and winks at House.

KOBAYASHI

(now seriously)

You know. All the things I said yesterday, I didn't mean them. Really.

House nods. As soon as Kobayashi leaves, House stands up and walks towards the outer office. He adds 'MOOD SWINGS' to the symptoms in the blackboard.

INT. HOUSE'S OFFICE - OUTER OFFICE - LATER

In the middle of a hot discussion. The three musketeers face Cardinal Richelieu.

FOREMAN

The diagnosis is crystal clear. DNA test shows at least one faulty gene. Her mother had it.

HOUSE

She inherited the faulty gene from her mother. The other gene is not known to be faulty and her father hasn't had Kufs.

FOREMAN

Neurological tests show symptoms of the disease. Why are we still looking for something else?

HOUSE

A combination of diseases can sum up the symptoms.

CAMERON

There's no point in further tests,
House. You know it.

HOUSE

Brain CT was clean.

CHASE

She's only in the early stages.

HOUSE

Meaning, there's a possibility
you're wrong.

CAMERON

Occam's razor says she has Kufs.

FOREMAN

She leaves the hospital, she needs
psychological support and we give
her palliative treatment. She lives
ten, twenty years more and then
dies. We can't do anything else.

HOUSE

Would you call that to live? Either
we find she has not Kufs or she's
worse than dead.

CHASE

Let's be objective: the manual says
she has Kufs so we act as if she
does.

HOUSE

I don't pay you to follow the
manual. Any other doctor in this
hospital could follow it. We don't.
That's why we save lives.

FOREMAN

We wouldn't be caring for this
patient if you hadn't known her.
There's no mystery in her symptoms
or disease. She's already
diagnosed. She leaves.

Three against one. House angrily admits he's lost... But only
this battle not the war.

HOUSE

Alright. Who gives the bad news?

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR - MID 80'S

Outside the Bubble Room.

WILSON

Miss Aoyama, we can't proceed with the bone marrow transplant now. We have to wait until...

AOYAMA

But, this bacteria could kill her because of the SCID. Isn't it worth the risk operating?

WILSON

It's not risky. It's certain she wouldn't survive the postsurgical. Chemotherapy is necessary before the transplant to completely destroy her immune system and prevent her own immune cells from attacking the donated cells. In that situation, a simple herpes could kill her, let alone the legionellosis she's acquired.

The residents, headed by Mortimer, look at the emissary. Aoyama bows her head. Wilson takes a deep breath, sketches a shy smile and continues speaking MOS holding her arm.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. HOUSE AND WILSON'S APARTMENT - MID 80'S

House and Wilson are squeezed on the sofa playing an old Nintendo Entertainment System. Cokes, snacks and slices of pizza all over the coffee table.

HOUSE
What did you tell her?

WILSON
Don't wanna talk about it.

HOUSE
What did she say?

WILSON
I said I don't wanna talk.

HOUSE
I know what happened. You tried to pick her up.

WILSON
No! What about Kobayashi's father?

HOUSE
He's missing in action. Otherwise they'd have had another baby for the transplant.

For a second Wilson feels like trying to pick her up.

HOUSE
Forget it. She's mine!

WILSON
They're all yours, but they all end up falling into my arms.

HOUSE
C'mon, tell me what happened. Don't be a nerd and keep it to yourself. It's professional curiosity. I want to learn too.

WILSON
OK. Want to know?

HOUSE
Of course.

WILSON
Do it yourself next time.

HOUSE

I see. Flower-Power has been abducted by the new Doctor Wilson. Soft spoken, parted hair, snooty-dressed.

WILSON

You won't needle me. I'm not gonna tell you.

HOUSE

A woman will catch you. She'll swallow and chew up Power-James, and spit out a new bourgeois doctor. I know it.

WILSON

I won't bite.

HOUSE

If Angie turned you into this hippie disguise, any other woman can reshape you.

WILSON

Nice weather today, uh?

HOUSE

Tell me if I beat ya.

WILSON

Won't do.

HOUSE

Why not?

WILSON

Cause you won't beat me, pal. Here, take that!

House pauses the videogame.

WILSON

What?

HOUSE

Caffeine break. Be in no rush to lose, sucker.

WILSON

Make my day, scumbag.

After a swig of coke, they resume the game.

It's an equal battle... until Wilson combines a series of kicks and punches and beats House up.

WILSON
Eat my shorts! Now, who's the
sucker, uh?

House throws the gamepad...

HOUSE
Stuff it up your ass.

... and leaves the living room. Wilson chases House up to his room.

WILSON
Know why I wouldn't tell you?

House slams the door blocking Wilson.

WILSON
Want to know why? Cause I lied.

He breaks into tears.

WILSON
I lied to her. I gave her hope,
when there's no hope. I swear I was
doing OK. But then I blew it, I
shat in my pants. I just didn't
have the bollocks, I couldn't. I
told her: don't worry it's a minor
inconvenience. She'll get over it
and we'll operate on her and bla,
bla, bla.
(hammering the door)
Listen? You happy now? She's happy
now. I'm not. I am not.

Wilson slaps the door repeatedly with decreasing strength.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE AND WILSON'S APARTMENT - PRESENT DAY

House wide opens the door and Kobayashi slithers in before he can even say hello. She starts speaking as she enters.

KOBAYASHI
People fear dying young. But not
me. I'd already assumed I'd die
young, so I was ready to take every
single day after thirty as a gift.
Sadly, I've had to thank for very
few gifts.

She's very nervous and speaks while circling around House.

HOUSE

What are you saying? No one's dying here today. What happened?

KOBAYASHI

There, at the hospital. Nobody wants to speak to me. Not even Wilson. They all avoid me. They wouldn't want to tell me.

HOUSE

I'll tell you then.

He pauses, thinks it twice and...

HOUSE

There are still no conclusive tests. We still have a lot of work to do. Have hope.

KOBAYASHI

But the tremors, they don't stop.

HOUSE

Minor inconvenience. They can mean anything. You could have... Parkinsons.

KOBAYASHI

Oh God! You've never been good cheering up, but that's not even trying.

HOUSE

Give us a week, at least. Please, stay calm while you're still healthy.

KOBAYASHI

Healthy? I can't control my movements!

HOUSE

You're still not impaired. Even if you do have Kufs, it could take some time before you are. The time to think it over and act hasn't yet come.

Kobayashi is exhausted. She can't stand more tension and lets herself fall on the sofa.

HOUSE

Don't give up. You're not prepared to die. You're never prepared to die.

(MORE)

HOUSE (cont'd)
You may think so, but you're not.
It's impossible, hear. No one is.

CUT TO:

INT. BUBBLE ROOM - MID 80'S

Kobayashi sits down on the sofa reading a big pink Japanese book along with Rafty. Outside Mortimer instructs the new doctors.

MORTIMER
You already know her situation: she just caught a legionellosis, so we can't make the transplant, and without the new bone marrow she can't fight the infection. What's worse is that she never had it and she turns out to be allergic to the family of macrolides antibiotics. Now it's your turn. Let's play real doctors here. Your mission is to take care of the patient and ultimately cure her. Any proposal goes to me, and the nurse will execute it. That's how it works. No heroes here. No lone-ranger decisions.

(pointing at the nurse)
Only she knows how take care of the sterile bubble.

The resident doctors do not respond. Responsibility dumbfounded them. House breaks the silence.

HOUSE
Tetracyclines.

MORTIMER
She's too young.

HOUSE
She's only two years younger than prescribed. We can't afford to be that conservative.

CUDDY
I agree.

Mortimer didn't expected Cuddy to side with House. That hurts him.

MORTIMER
OK. The nurse will administer her an increasing dose and control her response. But... this is a chess game against the infection.
(MORE)

MORTIMER (cont'd)
Check out all possible outcomes and
think of the next move.

The residents look incredulous.

MORTIMER
No time to loose! The clock is
ticking.

The residents disperse themselves in chaos. House and Wilson
suddenly find themselves alone.

Mortimer threatens House with a look.

HOUSE
The investigation begins. I won't
be needing anymore stimulants.

WILSON
Where do we begin?

HOUSE
You follow White Queen Cuddy and
report back to me. She's the only
other one who can find the right
path, the others are just pawns.
I'll search for the most similar
piece of DNA we've got:
(points to Aoyama with his
eyes)
Yellow Queen.

WILSON
What about me? Couldn't I just
think of a treatment? I'm also good
at chess.

House shakes his head. Although feeling disappointed, Wilson
dutifully looks around for Cuddy while House eagerly throws
himself at Aoyama.

HOUSE
Would you mind if I get a blood
sample from you?

AOYAMA
Sorry?

HOUSE
How much do you want for it?

AOYAMA
Do I seem like I need the money?

HOUSE
In this hospital we have two kinds
of patients: either very rich or
very ill.
(MORE)

HOUSE (cont'd)

Since she's very ill I imagined you were not part of the intersection set.

AOYAMA

You're very direct. That's not well seen in my culture.

Aoyama is very nervous. Her hands tremble. House realizes.

HOUSE

Time's running out for your little one. I'm sorry I didn't ask you out for a tea before.

AOYAMA

I'm an artist and a single parent. I may not have much money, but you can take the blood sample for free.

House's face shows the minimum expression of gratefulness.

FADE TO:

EXT. PARK - MID 80'S

Cuddy jogging with a walkman. She overtakes House without noticing him, though he wears 80's sport shorts, meaning they're really short and tight. He sprints and passes her again, only to let himself fall back again and...

HOUSE

Would you help someone to die?

CUDDY

What?

She takes off the headphones to see if she's heard it correctly.

HOUSE

I said: would you help someone to die?

CUDDY

Why do you ask?

HOUSE

Well, I like controversies. You answer yes, I defend no. You answer no, I defend yes.

CUDDY

She's not responding to tetracyclines because that particular legionella strain seems to be resistant to this antibiotic. But, Kobayashi is in no death pain.

HOUSE

It was an hypothetical case. She'll die without our help. Her only chance is surviving some treatment that we think may kill her.

CUDDY

What?

HOUSE

If we don't do anything she dies. If we do the transplant we can cure the SCID but she won't survive the postsurgical. If we treat her infection she'll die of a simple allergy.

CUDDY

If any action leads to death, we have to wait.

HOUSE

Waiting also leads to death. Any known action leads to death, so we have to look for the unknown. Radiation can kill you or save you depending on the intensity. We have to explore the limits.

CUDDY

What if the 'radiation' we need hasn't yet been discovered?

HOUSE

Before the railroads people also travelled, it just took longer.

CUDDY

And if we don't find anything? We help her to die?

HOUSE

In the end I prefer trying a desperate action rather than just letting her fade away, or killing her as you propose.

Cuddy shakes her head, disapproving.

CUDDY

I haven't said--

House doesn't let her complain.

HOUSE

I'd never do it. But that's because I don't have a heart and I don't give a damn about my patients. What I can't stand is that their loved ones wouldn't help'em. That really bothers me. See, even you'd do it, but not their family.

Cuddy halts. She is mad at House, who continues running.

HOUSE

Move that big butt of yours!

She puts on again the headphones. LOUD MUSIC.

CUDDY

(shouting)

Would you therefore kill yourself?

House turns back and answers, but we don't hear the answer.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE'S OFFICE - OUTER OFFICE - PRESENT DAY

Chase enters. House, Foreman and Cameron are already chatting. He takes off his iPod. The LOUD MUSIC silences.

CHASE

Good day, mates.

HOUSE

Visiting your parents this weekend?

CHASE

No relation with them. Same as you, except it's cause they're dead.

HOUSE

Same as me even before they died. Tomorrow, good morning will do. Imagine Foreman speaking Zulu. No place for aborigines in here.

CHASE

You're nastier than usual. Have you spoken with a patient recently?

FOREMAN

Yes. But didn't do the homework.
(to House)
You're getting sentimental. You know you shouldn't speak to the patient. That's the way it works for you.

HOUSE

Game's not over yet. You've got to convince me.

FOREMAN

We're convinced that she has Kufs.

HOUSE

Know what you're saying? She'll start to lose mobility, then she won't control her movements, she'll have to use a chair and finally she'll just lie still in a bed. Do I need to go on? Blindness, spasms, personality change, decreasing mental function...

FOREMAN

I know what I'm talking about. I'm a neurologist. My mother has Alzheimer. That's life.

HOUSE

She's just thirty. That's not life. Would you put a wild animal into a cage?

FOREMAN

Why not? It serves as education to children. They learn to care and respect animals in zoos.

HOUSE

But you're ruining one being. A person has the right to decide about his life. I feel fine if one wants to be an example, but not everybody wants to.

FOREMAN

The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, or the one.

HOUSE

Not for that one. You can't put a wild animal into a cage, even if you want to. Cause it'll cease to be wild. In other words: dies.

FOREMAN

So, what do we do next?

HOUSE

Ya tell me, bro. Differential diagnosis is not over. The symptoms already have several diseases in common. You're free to go...

(MORE)

HOUSE (cont'd)
once you discard ALS, Parkinson,
Alzheimer...

CAMERON
These aren't any better than Kufs.

HOUSE
So you can prove that she has
none. So get back to work.

INT. CORRIDOR

Foreman, Cameron and Chase head for Cuddy's office.

CHASE
(to Foreman)
It's your idea; you speak. I told
you, I do the tests cause that's my
job.

FOREMAN
We're not just assistants. It is
also our duty to say "enough".

CAMERON
I say we tell House.

FOREMAN
We've already done that. Now it's
the next step. Are you with me, or
not?

Cameron and Chase simultaneously SAY NO.

FOREMAN
Alright. I don't need you inside.

Cameron and Chase look at each other and decide they will
enter anyway.

INT. CUDDY'S OFFICE

Cameron and Chase stay in second line, watching.

FOREMAN
Can we...?

CUDDY
Of course. I wonder what took you
so long?

They are surprised that Cuddy was expecting them.

FOREMAN
So you know.

Cuddy nods.

FOREMAN

Look, we've been trying to convince him, but there's no way.

CUDDY

Well, he's your boss. Do as he says. You can't come here always complaining: "Mom, mom. Look what bro told me."

Now they're flabbergasted.

FOREMAN

But... you know... all these tests, CTs, MRIs. They're not free.

CUDDY

That's my business not yours. You all know Kobayashi is a special patient. House has shown he trusts in you as much as in himself. And how do you repay him? Doubting, instead of helping and caring.

Foreman turns around head bowed.

CUDDY

And that goes for you and the couple that only entered here for curiosity.

Being ashamedly spotted, Cameron doesn't want to leave without an answer:

CAMERON

Alright, it's my job; I'll help and care. But, can we at least know why is she so important?

CUDDY

Easy. Ask him.

FADE TO:

MONTAGE - TESTING KOBAYASHI - PRESENT DAY AND MID 80'S

-- Cameron, Foreman and Chase get out Cuddy's Office and walk through the corridor.

-- House, Cuddy, Wilson and the residents walk through the corridor.

-- Through the windowed walls, they see young Kobayashi sweating and coughing.

-- The nurse, in a special bio-sterile suit, applies cold towels to young Kobayashi head and armpits. She has difficulty breathing.

-- Cameron takes a blood sample from old Kobayashi.

-- Foreman checks Kobayashi's reflexes.

-- Foreman makes a spinal tap to Kobayashi.

-- Chase makes a brain veins contrast test to Kobayashi.

-- Foreman, Chase and Cameron stare at a spinal column radiography.

-- Young House, Cuddy and Wilson stare at a lung X-ray.

-- The nurse takes young Kobayashi's temperature. The residents await for an answer. The nurse shakes her head.

-- Foreman, Chase and Cameron, frustrated, close their notebooks.

-- Young Cuddy, Wilson and House, even more frustrated, close their notebooks.

FADE TO:

INT. BUBBLE ROOM - MID 80'S

Kobayashi watches 'The Flintstones' on TV. She is in bed with Rafty. She is sweating and trembling because she has a high temperature. She is almost fading. She half smiles at a joke on TV and falls asleep.

Outside the Bubble Room, House and Mortimer argue.

HOUSE

She's dying anyway. Don't you see it, damn it! The time to be aggressive has come. Broad-spectrum antibiotics: Quinolones family is the treatment for legionellosis for people over 18. Let's find the lower limit for that age.

MORTIMER

This is not an experiment. Do you think her little and fragile body would stand them? No! We'd be killing her.

CUDDY

You're not being reasonable. You asked us to find a solution, yet you don't let us perform it.

MORTIMER

You're not looking for a reasonable solution.

HOUSE

And who's gonna come up with a reasonable solution? You with your stonagescope? Everything you know is carved in stone in the books. I think any book is as good a physician as you are.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. HOUSE AND WILSON'S APARTMENT - MID 80'S

House leafs through a thick book. He lays on the sofa while Wilson dresses.

WILSON (O.S.)
Isn't any better for you going out
to a party than reading about the
symptoms of lupus?

No answer.

WILSON
(on his way to the
bathroom)
Nobody has lupus!

HOUSE
I had the plane tickets long ago.

WILSON (O.S.)
Long before we decided the date for
the party.

HOUSE
I thought they were for next week.

WILSON (O.S.)
And I told you to change the date
of the party.

House hides himself within the book. No answer again.

Wilson perfumes himself.

WILSON
(in front of the mirror)
Will you please give my regards to
your parents?

House nods without stopping reading.

Wilson is ready and shows himself off to House.

WILSON
Simply irresistible, uh? Tonight
I'm gonna pick up Cuddy.

HOUSE
Sorry to inform you that she's the
kind that picks herself up.

WILSON
Well, tonight she can pick anyone
but you.

(MORE)

WILSON (cont'd)
Anyway, thanks for your support.
You'd better get ready or you'll
miss the flight.

House takes a look at the VCR clock.

HOUSE
Five minutes, I'm onto something.

FADE TO:

INT. HOUSE AND WILSON'S APARTMENT

Ten minutes later in the clock. House swiftly manipulates a RUBIK'S CUBE without even look at it.

Time flows. Ten, twenty minutes. House changes position. Always looking at the wall; thinking.

The doorbell CHIMES once. House smiles but stays still. The doorbell chimes again repeatedly. House calmly walks to the door. He opens and...

CUDDY
Is that how you solve mysteries?

HOUSE
Uh?

House is captivated by Cuddy's party dress. She points to the Rubik's cube which is already solved.

HOUSE
Ah, no. C'mon, I was waiting for
you. See if you can help me
decipher the map.

House spots the wall where he has written a series of medicines and their effects connected with arrows. They ultimately connect to the words LIVES and DIES. Not a single arrow points to LIVES.

FADE TO:

INT. HOUSE AND WILSON'S APARTMENT

House sleeps in the sofa. Bottles, glasses and left overs of food messed up all over the place. He is awoken by the CREAK of the door. Wilson, drunk, steps in.

WILSON
Howdie dude?

Wilson instantaneously sobers up when he realizes House shouldn't be there.

WILSON

(angry)

Guess why I'm not surprised to see you here? Goddammit Greg, what happens between you and your father?

HOUSE

I had work to do.

WILSON

Same as last month. PanAm must be laughing at you. No wonder they overbook.

HOUSE

That was the last ticket. I'm not going anymore. We don't have anything to say.

WILSON

And your mother?

HOUSE

Didn't choose the right side.

WILSON

Gosh! What's your problem with authority? Mortimer, your father. Got to stop fighting authority. Got to stop being an adolescent.

HOUSE

You're right. I should get the rid of all these things or I won't solve the case. I shouldn't worry about the boss, my father, even the patient. They occupy a space in my head I could use for medicine.

WILSON

(astonished)

You just don't get it. You're obsessed.

Wilson turns around lifting his arm and sees the wall. Now he's even more shocked.

WILSON

What the hell have you been doing? It's not good to mix alcohol and medicine. And I swear I know what I'm talking about.

Wilson gets closer to the wall and freaks out.

WILSON

You've not been alone! Wait, wait.
Whose is this writing? Oh, man!
Cuddy didn't come to the party
either. Do you two...?

HOUSE

(with a candid smile)
No, no. It'd be a mistake; we're
both lone rangers.

On the wall, still no arrows point to LIVES.

FADE TO:

INT. WILSON'S OFFICE - PRESENT DAY

WILSON

I still don't believe you.

HOUSE

I lied.

WILSON

I knew it!

HOUSE

Not to you. I lied to Koba, and I
lied to Foreman, Chase and Cameron.
It's obvious she has Kufs, and it's
obvious there's no cure.

WILSON

Shit happens.

HOUSE

Problem is: I know how it ends.
I've already lived it.

WILSON

Then use that knowledge.

HOUSE

You can't go against someone's
will.

WILSON

It isn't fair, but you can still do
it.

House's cell phone RINGS.

HOUSE

This is the end.

House goes out. Soon after, Wilson follows.

INT. CORRIDOR

House limps. Foreman, Chase and Cameron follow him with their white coats on, like astronauts on their way to the space rocket.

WILSON POV

House goes into his office. Foreman, Chase and Cameron bring notebooks and the test results.

Cuddy reaches to Wilson.

CUDDY

The holly trinity. Do you see three, or just one?

WILSON

He's exorcised all his unnecessary parts.

The trio enter House's office with a mission.

WILSON

Do you think he'll do it again?

CUDDY

I don't think he did it the first time. Would you help one of your patients to die?

WILSON

Why would I? I already have the lowest survival rate in the hospital. Would you?

CUDDY

I don't know what I would do now. I've grown and changed, and in some ways I like it.

House comes out of his office looking down.

WILSON

Too fast. He's given up.

CUDDY

I hope Koba doesn't give up yet. It's a long struggle that awaits her.

WILSON

I'm worried about House. He'd need alcohol to face the phantoms of the past.

CUDDY

I take care.

Cuddy talks to a security agent.

FADE TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING

A downhearted House strolls through the parking lot. He looks up where his motorbike should be and looks down again to discover a note from the tow truck. He can't add more desperation to his soul, sighs, and continues drifting.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

An old busker strums a melancholic folk classic as House drags himself to the bus stop. Defeated and lost in his thoughts he doesn't even realize where the music is coming from.

OLD MUSICIAN (O.S.)

That's two weeks ago. Coming back
home found my key doesn't fit. Hey!
Pretty strange, ain't it?

House turns around angrily. Although street has chapped his skin and time has greyed his hair, he can still recall a long time forgotten face.

HOUSE

(drunk)

Hey man! Make up a new story. This
one's too old.

OLD MUSICIAN

If it works, why should I? Ain't
even real, you crazy man. But
everybody buys it.

EUREKA!!! House gets the idea.

HOUSE

That's it. She's still acting!

OLD MUSICIAN

Leave! You're scaring people away.

FADE TO:

INT. CUDDY'S OFFICE

Cuddy writes on her desk. House enters.

CUDDY

About time. I was waiting for you.

HOUSE

I guess you've already been briefed, so it was not really necessary for me to come.

CUDDY

Are you done with her?

HOUSE

I am.

CUDDY

And now, what? You help her die?

HOUSE

If necessary.

CUDDY

You're a doctor, not God.

HOUSE

He put me on earth so that I decide about my life and its end. These are matters decided down here, not up there. If you're worried, don't be; for he can stop me at any time if he thinks I'm wrong.

CUDDY

You never change your mind, do you?

HOUSE

Why should I? I was right then and I am now. Why do you change yours?

CUDDY

You haven't changed a bit. But I have, and so has the world. I've grown old, House.

HOUSE

Your brain's grown old. But not your butt neither your boobs... for what I can see.

CUDDY

There you go. You're still an adolescent. You know you've grown old when you stop saying everything that comes into your mind.

HOUSE

No. That's grown up. You've grown old when you can't wake up early anymore, cause your dreams slipped away long ago.

CUDDY

That hurt.

HOUSE

Sorry, I'm not grown up. Listen Cuddy. I have a plan. It worked then; it'll work now.

CUDDY

Why should I trust you?

HOUSE

Because when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth?

CUDDY

Don't make me laugh.

HOUSE

I really can't think of a better reason. I don't even think it works, but it's my last shot.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE'S OFFICE - INNER OFFICE

House vs Kobayashi: The final round. Kobayashi hits first...

KOBAYASHI

I can't stand any more pressure. No more tests. They know my disease. You know it and I know it. You've got to help me the way you helped my mother. You promised her you would help me.

HOUSE

Not that way. Your mother never dared to ask me. She didn't want to put me in that position and she didn't need me. She was way too smart.

KOBAYASHI

Had she been that smart she wouldn't have left me alone.

HOUSE

She didn't.

KOBAYASHI

I didn't know my father, neither did she.

HOUSE

She knew he had the money and the education. Far more than most fathers have.

KOBAYASHI

Still, she didn't have the right.

HOUSE

But you think you do.

KOBAYASHI

Nobody depends on me. And then, of course, there's the horror to come.

HOUSE

Go walk around the hospital. You'll see plenty of people whom you would help.

KOBAYASHI

They're not me.

HOUSE

I see you in good condition. Humor changes? You don't know what humor changes are? You'll die? I'll also die. We'll all die yet we don't go around killing ourselves. You can still do things. You can still enjoy life. I'm more handicapped than you are now. It's not the time. Wait, please. There have been great advances recently in gene therapy and the use of stem cells.

KOBAYASHI

I know the speed of my disease, and so do you. Don't give me false hopes. Greg, I'm asking for help, but I can do it myself. Help me if I matter to you.

HOUSE

I'm not asking you to live forever. Just hold on to life while you still can. I'll take care thereafter. Trust me.

KOBAYASHI

(crying)

Will you please do it for me?

House already tricked her. He can hardly hide it.

HOUSE

But on one condition.

KOBAYASHI

Whatever.

HOUSE

There's still one little symptom dancing in the differential diagnosis.

KOBAYASHI

Tell me.

HOUSE

Remember your mother?

KOBAYASHI

Of course.

HOUSE

We still have two diseases in the differential diagnosis: Kufs and lupus. The only way to tell is if you start hearing sounds in your head, just like her.

KOBAYASHI

Deal. I'll wait till they come.

House is surprised by her fast answer. Kobayashi happily leaves the office. House, proud of himself, gives a good bite to his sandwich. It has been easier than he thought.

INT. VEGETATIVE MAN'S ROOM - MID 80'S

A man in a comma lies in bed. Next to him, House eats a sandwich and watches a medical series on the room's TV set. They go to commercials.

HOUSE

(to vegetative man)

See! Didn't I tell you? They always do it when something interesting's gonna happen. I hate it when they do--

House suddenly stops speaking and approaches to the TV set wide eyed.

KOBAYASHI (ON TV)

(through a transmitter)

Columbia to Houston. We've found the meteorite. Ready to blast it on your mark.

He is highly surprised to see that Kobayashi is acting in the snacks commercial.

ON TV

Kobayashi, at the helm of a faked shuttle, fires.

KOBAYASHI

Kaa-Booom! The meteorite broke apart into thousands of space-choc-a-rocks. They'll fall to earth. Quickly boys! To your suits and get'em.

Kobayashi puts on a helmet.

A group of children in spacesuits fly in space hanging by visible cables, chasing for big papier mâché chunks of chocolate snacks.

FADE TO:

INT. MORTIMER'S OFFICE - MID 80'S

Mortimer has gathered all the residents. House comes in late.

HOUSE

No more talk guys, I've solved the problem! I gave her a big shot of Erythromycin.

WILSON

She's allergic to the family of macrolides. You've killed her?

HOUSE

She would have died anyway. We med her for the coccus she dies of an allergy, we do the surgery she dies of the coccus. We don't med her she dies of SCID. I only tried to save her some pain. It was a no win scenario.

MORTIMER

Don't worry. I told the infirmaries to consult me everything before take action.

HOUSE

I administered it myself.

WILSON

You've really killed her!

Mortimer is out of his mind.

HOUSE

Strangely, she didn't die. Mind telling us why?

MORTIMER

You were supposed to learn something with this experiment, you young arrogant!

CUDDY

Experiment?

WILSON

Somebody explain me this, please?

HOUSE

You've all lost, even Mortimer. I've won.

WILSON

How could you possibly beat a no win scenario?

HOUSE

I cheated. It's what you do with women.

CUDDY

(shocked)

How did you find out?

HOUSE

Don't trust anybody.

MORTIMER

There are times in medicine when you can never be right. The faster you learn the better.

HOUSE

And I've really learnt: Never trust a patient; never trust another doctor, especially if it is your boss; and for an opera prima you'd better cast unknown actors. Now it's your turn to learn. This little actress would better start doing some real acting, because in fifteen, twenty years she'll be playing for God. The girl may have inherited Kufs.

CUDDY

(again, even more shocked)

But, but, how did you find out?

HOUSE

He said don't touch the patient, but he didn't say anything about her mother. Something was wrong with her.

(MORE)

HOUSE (cont'd)

I saw little details so I tested her. Kobayashi had 25 percent probability of having Kufs, but I wouldn't bet on her having two different genetic illnesses. Since I couldn't test Kobayashi, I only had to wait for the commercials.

Big smile from House.

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

The big smile is suddenly erased as Kobayashi enters.

KOBAYASHI

I have it, Greg. I now know I have it. Got to help me, please.

HOUSE

How could you know if we don't?

KOBAYASHI

Yesterday they started.

HOUSE

What?

KOBAYASHI

Sounds in my head. You told me.

Here comes again the big smile. He is convinced he is good.

HOUSE

Gotcha kiddy! This ain't a freaking symptom of Kufs.

Kobayashi is surprised.

KOBAYASHI

But my mother...

HOUSE

You're acting, Koba. You're playing the role of your mother. Just copying what you remember from her. Luckily, memories can be induced.

KOBAYASHI

(ashamed)

But, but that doesn't mean I don't have Kufs.

HOUSE

Nope. It means that we can't believe your symptoms because they are psychosomatic.

KOBAYASHI
I could still have it.

HOUSE
You could still not have it.

KOBAYASHI
What should I do now? Wait?

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Cuddy peeps at House and Kobayashi saying goodbye. She seems worried.

Kobayashi embraces affectionately House and leaves without looking back.

Cameron moves closer to Cuddy.

CAMERON
Why are you worried? Aren't they happy?

CUDDY
She has fear to live. Her disease is just an excuse. With all his intelligence and perspicacity and yet he can't see how a Kobayashi is fooling him, again.

CAMERON
Again?

CUDDY
He'd never tell you everything. He ended up having an affair with her mother shortly before she died.

A shine of sympathy glows in Cameron's eyes.

CUDDY
It is a real no win scenario. He just doesn't realize. You can't beat a no win scenario. Not even House.

House walks towards Cameron and Cuddy. He takes a bottle of RED PILLS from his pocket and eats a bunch.

HOUSE
(to Cuddy)
Want some strawberry barbiturics? Cameron's recipe.

CAMERON
When is her father due?

HOUSE

In time to welcome Kobayashi to
paradise.

Cuddy is in absolute awe.

HOUSE

I cheated... again.

END OF SHOW