

H HOUSE

By
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Based on characters created
By
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FADE IN:

EXT. OUTSIDE - DAY

There is a beaten and used cane on the side of a walkway.
It is raining.

EXT. DORM ROOM - DAY

A young man, early 20's, with dark hair, and blue eyes sits
with his head resting on a lacrosse stick. He is looking at
the ground.

TITLE CARD

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

The young man is sitting in a chair on the other side of a
group of board members. He is wearing casual dress clothes.

One of the academic affairs members stands up to start the
proceedings.

BOARD MEMBER #1

We would like to begin.

(BEAT)

If that's alright?

Neither student responds. They all sit in silence.

BOARD MEMBER #1

The sanction trial of Gregory
House will now begin. You are
being tried by the university
of John Hopkins under the
suspicion of cheating during
an academic exam.

House sits in a chair looking at the table.

BOARD MEMBER #1 (CONT'D)

The professor of the course
will now take the stand to
express his view on the
incident.

BOARD MEMBER #1 (CONT'D)

I'd like you to first explain
Gregory House as a student

and how you'd say his work ethic is within the classroom.

PROFESSOR

Gregory is one of my best students, never failing to impress me with his knowledge and observational skills. I will admit he can be smart with me from time to time and can occasionally take short cuts, but these tend to lead to answers faster than other students. I can't penalize him for coming to the proper conclusion by reasonable means.

BOARD MEMBER

So it's safe to say he's an excellent student by most means?

PROFESSOR

Absolutely.

BOARD MEMBER

Now I'd like to ask you to explain your account of the Gregory's act of cheating during your final exam.

PROFESSOR

I did not actually witness Gregory cheat off Weber, the student who caught him. I was merely approached after the class by the student and as a matter of fact most of the answers from both students were very different so I don't see how it's possible.

BOARD MEMBER

So you cannot attest to Gregory copying off the student?

PROFESSOR

No. I would be lying if I said I could.

BOARD MEMBER

No further questions.

The PROFESSOR leaves the stand.

BOARD MEMBER

Now we'd like to call PHILLIP WEBER, the witness, to speak of the incident.

There is silence within the room, everyone looking around but not moving.

BOARD MEMBER (CONT'D)

Phillip Weber? (BEAT) It appears that he has not come to the trial.

HOUSE smiles thinking that he's won. Then the doors open to reveal PHILLIP WEBER, who confidently walks in. Dressed to the nines and ready to speak on his behalf.

House's smirk turns sour and then he looks down towards an empty notepad on his lap. He etches the phrase "Everybody Lies."

BOARD MEMBER #1 (CONT'D)

Philip Weber will speak first and then Gregory House will speak on his own behalf. Any questions?

WEBER takes his seat across from HOUSE at the conference table.

BOARD MEMBER #1

Okay. Let's begin.

(BEAT)

Mr. Weber you may stand and make your opening statement.

WEBER stands up and buttons his suit, before making his way to the stand.

WEBER

Hello Board Members, I would like to thank each of you for considering this offense with the greatest of importance, as cheating is not something that should be taken light...

HOUSE interrupts.

HOUSE

Hey Arnold?

HOUSE says while doodling on his notepad.

WEBER

It's Weber. And can you please wait until after I have finished speaking, if you wouldn't mind?

HOUSE looks towards WEBER.

HOUSE

Oh.

(BEAT)

Sorry, I thought your name was Benedict Arnold. I always get your names confused. Please continue.

BOARD MEMBER #2

House. Do not interrupt Mr. Weber. You can speak once he is finished.

HOUSE looks at the members with frustration before looking at WEBER. WEBER continues.

WEBER

As I was saying, cheating is not an offense to be taken lightly.

WEBER (CONT'D)

Gregory House cheated off of my exam and I turned to notice him doing so.

HOUSE snaps quickly in response, ignoring the board members threat.

HOUSE

None of my answers even matched yours.

WEBER

That is not the point House.

HOUSE

Then, what is the point?

WEBER

You cheated!

HOUSE

This isn't about the cheating Weber.

WEBER

Really? What is it about?

HOUSE

I looked over to notice that all of your answers were wrong. A simple student observation.

WEBER

They were not.

HOUSE

Well most of them were.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

The reason why you're doing this is because you want the Doyle internship at the Mayo Clinic to study under Brightman and Gilmarr, which I'm in line to get.

WEBER

That's preposterous.

HOUSE

Is it? If you get what you want and I get expelled, then that internship will be yours.

WEBER

He is not even supposed to be speaking.

HOUSE

Have you ever heard "you can't always get what you want?"

The board member interrupts both parties before singling out HOUSE.

BOARD MEMBER #1

Mr. House you aren't supposed to be speaking and we should have put a stop to this bickering, but you have made good points.

(BEAT)

Even if it is true, you still looked at another students exam, which by default is cheating.

The member looks towards WEBER.

BOARD MEMBER #1

And Mr. Weber, it is wrong to use academic sanctions for personal reasons. You are both at fault.

WEBER

What? This is ludicrous. He cheated. That's why we are here.

BOARD MEMBER #1 interrupts WEBER.

BOARD MEMBER #1

We are going to end this
before it gets any more out
of hand.

The board member looks at his papers before continuing.

BOARD MEMBER #1 (CONT'D)

This may not have gone in an
orderly fashion, but we were
able to hear both arguments.
We are going to review this
meeting and you will receive
letters by mail with our
judgments. This meeting is
adjourned.

The MEMBERS stand up and begin to file out of the room.
House remains seated and so does WEBER. This room is empty
besides them.

WEBER

The Doyle internship is going
to be mine House. Once we get
the results of this hearing.
You'll be expelled.

HOUSE stands up and begins to walk out. He stops after he
opens the door. He looks at WEBER.

HOUSE

Hey Arnold.

WEBER turns to look at HOUSE.

WEBER

It's Weber.

HOUSE

You want some results? Go get
yourself tested. Oh wait. The
results just came back and
they say you're still an
idiot.

HOUSE leaves. The door closes leaving WEBER sitting in
silence.

INT. BOOK STORE - DAY

GREGORY HOUSE stands at the register of a bookstore helping customers. Suddenly, he notices a beautiful young brunette looking through the aisles. She picks up a novel and comes to the register. She smiles at him. He smiles back before looking at the book. It's a copy of James Joyce's "Ulysses." He rings it out and she leaves. She looks back after leaving the store. He doesn't look at her. She walks away.

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

HOUSE is sitting a table with music blaring. People around him are dancing and conversing. He is sipping on a glass of whiskey. He finishes it and pours himself another. Suddenly the girl from the bookstore sits next to him. She smiles.

GIRL

Hello.

HOUSE

Can I help you?

GIRL

Very friendly. So your reputation proceeds you.

HOUSE smiles.

HOUSE

At least you have a sense of humor unlike the other people here. Wait.

(BEAT)

Yeah I recognize you. You're the girl from the bookstore earlier, right?

GIRL

Yes. Observant and unfriendly. A modern day Sherlock Holmes.

HOUSE

I wouldn't go that far.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

After all, I don't seem to have a Watson. I'd say more like a Bukowski.

GIRL

The name is Lisa Cuddy. I figured I would tell you incase you don't remember me in the morning.

HOUSE puts his whiskey glass down and holds out his hand. They shake hands.

HOUSE

House. Gregory House.

He then picks up his whiskey and chugs it, then pours himself another.

CUDDY

That bad of a day?

HOUSE

That bad of a life.

(BEAT)

Life is tiring work, you know? A sore you can't get rid of. An itch you can't scratch.

CUDDY

I can only wonder what happened to make you this cheery.

HOUSE

Let's see. Oh, that's right! I woke up this morning.

CUDDY

Come on House. Tell me. Seriously?

HOUSE

I just feel alone, trying to figure out my place in the world.

CUDDY

That's what we are all trying to do.

HOUSE

The thing is that I am always alone, which is why I'm miserable. At the same time I'm too busy making other people miserable which is why I'm alone. It's big loop, you see.

CUDDY

You don't have to be alone, ya know?

HOUSE

Just being near me is a bad idea in fact.

HOUSE takes a drink while she talks before he continues his train of thought.

CUDDY

Why?

HOUSE

The problem with me is that I think about things so logically that I sometimes forget about people's emotions. I end up hurting them by accident. It's not that I necessarily mean to. People just generally act on feeling all the time, while I think before I act.

CUDDY

That's smart. I wish I could do that.

HOUSE

It's both a gift and a curse.

They both take sips of their drinks before HOUSE continues again.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

So what are you doing at a party like this? You don't really seem like the type.

CUDDY

I honestly just got out a long-term relationship.

HOUSE takes a sip of his drink for he speaks.

HOUSE

Ah. He cheated on you.

CUDDY

How did you know that?

HOUSE

You are out by yourself, and only talking to me, which singles out that you are looking to get back at someone. A recent love probably. You wanting to "hook up with someone" is the most logical assumption. Judging by the situation that person would be me.

CUDDY

Jesus.

(BEAT)

No wonder girls hate you.

HOUSE looks down and grabs his drink. Before looking back at CUDDY.

HOUSE

I warned you. I will totally understand if you leave...

CUDDY suddenly kisses HOUSE. They look at each other in silence for a few seconds.

HOUSE
We should probably leave,
huh?

CUDDY smiles.

CUDDY
Yeah.

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

HOUSE and CUDDY are laying in bed together, her head
against his chest as they converse.

CUDDY
So what year are you here?

HOUSE
To be honest, I transferred
from my last college. I
didn't really fit in there.

CUDDY
Making you a vagabond?

HOUSE
I may be wandering from place
to place, but I'm not
worthless. Just
irresponsible.

CUDDY
You're pretty smart for an
irresponsible guy.

HOUSE
Smarter than most.

CUDDY
Meeting you was my gift you
know.

HOUSE
You're lying.

CUDDY

Why would I lie?

HOUSE

Why wouldn't you? Everybody lies. Maybe not immediately or about something detrimental, but they do. Why should I believe you aren't?

CUDDY

Because what I said is true.

HOUSE

That's why I said what I said.

CUDDY

It's not about what you say House, it's about what you do.

HOUSE doesn't say anything.

CUDDY (CONT'D)

The reason why you are arguing what I said is because you are afraid to feel something. Not having control. To take a chance.

HOUSE

The last time I took a chance I didn't talk to my father for an entire summer. We just talked by passing notes to each other.

CUDDY

I'm sorry.

HOUSE

No need to be. It's not your fault.

CUDDY

Why do you think people need to be cruel to each other?

HOUSE

It's in human nature. People thirst for cruelty. They realize how little power they have in the world and love the feeling of treating other people like crap. It gives them a sense of control. They just want to feel like they matter.

CUDDY kisses HOUSE on the cheek.

CUT TO:

CUDDY is then shown leaving and she leaves him a note. She takes the scarf on his desk.

HOUSE wakes up and notices the note.

IT READS:

THANKS FOR THE BEDSIDE MANNER. IF YOU WANT TO TAKE THIS FUTHER MEET ME AT THE COFFEE SHOP ON CAMPUS AT 5. IF YOU DON'T SHOW UP, THEN I'LL REALLY KNOW THAT EVERYBODY LIES.

P.S. I STOLE YOUR SCARF. SO YOU HAVE TO COME.

CUDDY XOXO

HOUSE smiles and reclines in his chair holding the letter.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIL BOX - DAY

HOUSE walks up to his mailbox and opens it. He sifts through his mail to find a letter from JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY. He quickly shuts the mailbox and walks away.

INT. DORM ROOM - DAY

CUT TO:

HOUSE sits at his desk looking at the letter. He opens and begins to read. He drops the letter.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

PHILIP WEBER is seen in a room with men who are shaking his hand. He is smiling.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - EVENING

CUDDY is sitting with a cup of coffee looking around for someone. She then stands up and walks away from the table. She leaves the scarf.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

HOUSE is bouncing a tennis ball on the wall with his lacrosse stick. He misses and drops the ball. He puts the stick down like a cane. Looking forward towards the ball in the hallway, he uses the stick to close the door.

FADE TO BLACK.

CREDITS.