

# ***House md***

## **Series 1 Episode 7**

### **Fidelity**

This episode has fidelity in relationships as its central theme.

#### **Synopsis**

Ed and his friend go running together. They talk about Ed's relationship with his wife, how if they fall out, he apologises and they work it out. The friend jokes Ed is so exhausted from having sex with his wife, but in fact his wife is in bed, sleeping 18 hours a day and claiming she feels ill. She is admitted to hospital where the team can't work out what is wrong with her.

Meanwhile, Dr House treats a patient in his clinic who is short of breath. During the examination she tells Dr House that her breasts are the result of implants, which she had done as a present for her husband's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. Dr House suspects the implants might be causing the problem, but not before calling in Dr Wilson for a 'consult' on the breasts. Dr Cuddy ascribes the tests he orders to lechery.

Dr House also accuses Dr Wilson, who is married, of wanting to date other women. He comments that Dr Wilson is dressing to look attractive to the opposite sex and eventually elicits the fact that Wilson took a nurse out to lunch. Dr House then reveals that Dr Wilson has been married more than once and loves all the women he's married or dated, and that there is a pattern to his relationships with women. He loves too often and too generously and can't be faithful to just one person. Dr Wilson denies this: 'I love my wife' but Dr House thinks he is protesting too much.

House works out what is wrong with the clinic patient. Her husband is on blood pressure medicine and this has reduced his libido, so that he does not want to make love with his wife as much as he did, - despite the new breasts. In an attempt to cut her libido, he has been giving her some of his medication and this has caused her symptoms. House urges her to 'do the responsible thing', get some condoms and go to a bar..... in other words, have an affair to deal with the sexual urges. This idea doesn't get finished as House has an epiphany about his main patient. Her sexual history may have caused her disease.

Elise and Dr Cameron have a conversation about marriage. Dr Cameron says she is not married and Elise asks if she is waiting for the perfect man. Dr Cameron says Elise has already found him and they discuss devotion.

Fidelity becomes a matter of life or death for the main patient, Elise. It is possible that she caught sleeping sickness from a sexual partner, but her husband swears he has never been unfaithful and she swears that she has never been unfaithful too. When she goes into a coma, Dr House asks Ed whether he trusts Elise that much, and whether Ed can believe that she's never been tempted, made

a mistake or did something stupid when he was away. In the end, Ed says he just doesn't know and House treats her for the sleeping sickness.

Elise begins to get better, but this means that she lied and has been unfaithful to Ed. Ed is devastated and admits that he can't deal with the idea of her infidelity. He says that there is a part of him that wants her to die, and asks Dr Cameron if this makes him a terrible person. She simply says 'yes' and is found by Dr House crying in the laboratory. It turns out that Dr Cameron has her own sad marriage story: she fell in love with and married a man who had cancer and watched him die. She did not want him to die, but Ed wants Elise to die because she let him down.

Ed changes his mind about wanting Elise to die. Elise is slipping away, and he pleads with her not to die. She responds to him and wakes up, putting her arm round him. Elise recovers, but Ed then walks out on her. Dr Cameron tries to reason with him, but he can't forgive her for cheating on him. Elise weeps as she realises Ed has left her and isn't coming back. Dr House tells her he has to know who she had the affair with as he is infected and will also need treatment. The final scene shows Dr Cameron asking a little boy where his dad is. The dad is Ed's running partner friend from the beginning of the episode as the story comes full circle.

#### **Some excerpts to watch:**

House talking to Wilson about how he loved all his wives

House talking to his clinic patient about the 'treatment' for her condition.

Dr Cameron talking to Elise about the perfect man

Ed talking to Dr Cameron about not being able to forgive Elise

Dr Cameron talking to Dr House about her marriage

Dr Cameron pleading with Ed as he leaves

#### **Some questions:**

What do we learn about fidelity through the characters in this episode?

Do you sympathise with Ed?

What do you make of Ed's actions and reactions?

What feelings do you have about Ed's friend?

Why do you think Elise lied about her affair with Ed's friend?

What do you think about Dr House's insights into Dr Wilson's behaviour?

What do you think about Dr House's insights into Dr Cameron's past?

What issues are raised with regard to trust and forgiveness?

What do you think about someone getting surgery as a 'present' to another person?

What do you make of Dr House's advice to his clinic patient?

What would you say to someone who advised you to have an affair to save your marriage?

**Some Bible passages:**

Matthew 5.27-32

John 8.1-11

Exodus 20.14

2 Samuel 11 and 12