

House md

Season 6 episode 5

Brave Heart

This Halloween-time episode includes issues of supernatural haunting, ghosts, fate, the undead, 'resurrection', fear, guilt, killing, forgiveness, responsibility

Synopsis

The episode opens with Donny, a police officer who takes crazy risks because he thinks he won't live past 40 after family members died at the same age. He falls trying to jump across a roof chasing a suspect and is admitted to hospital with broken bones. When Dr Cameron finds out about Donny's conviction that he will die soon, she wants the medical team to investigate.

Meanwhile Dr House is still sleeping on Dr Wilson's couch. He accuses Dr Wilson of not letting him sleep in the room which he shared with his dead girlfriend which House says Wilson now regards as a shrine. Wilson agrees sarcastically that House can have the room as long as he can have the 'shrine' back for animal sacrifices on Tuesdays.

At the hospital Dr House is unimpressed by the idea that Donny is fated to die. He says the family members' deaths are coincidences which can be proved by statistics not fate. Dr Foreman disagrees and the team go off to investigate Donny's heart, but as Dr Chase passes the ICU he is haunted by the memory of Dibaba, the African dictator whom he deliberately killed in the hospital. He pretends to have left his watch behind to escape from the memory. In the morgue, looking at the bones of Donny's family members, Dr Foreman realises why Dr Chase made an excuse. Chase says he felt like he was going to have a panic attack and says he realises he has crossed a line and can't find the way back. Dr Foreman says he should not keep his emotional turmoil from his wife.

Dr House is contacted by Donny's ex girlfriend. It turns out Donny has a son he doesn't know about. Back at Wilson's, and now in the bedroom surrounded by pictures of Amber, House is disturbed by a spooky whispering.

The team decide to test Donny's son, while Dr House misbehaves at ward rounds. Dr Cameron suggests that the son get to meet his father, but Donny rejects his son's overtures, saying that he doesn't want to inflict the painful experience of a father's death on him. Dr House also picks up on Dr Chase's anxiety suggesting that he feels guilty and is destined for hellfire and that he should get some help to deal with it. He then uses Chase to back up a fictitious diagnosis for the patient to convince him he has been diagnosed and will be fine from now on. He gives him sugar pills for a fake disease and discharges him.

Back at Wilson's, House is again haunted by spooky noises and an ominous knocking, which turns out to be Dr Foreman at the door. Donny has been found dead. Dr Foreman has arranged for a post mortem to take place at their hospital. Chase tells Cameron at home that he wants to tell Donny's ex

about the death and leaves in the middle of the night. He insists he's fine and that he would tell her if there was something wrong.

In the morgue, House and Foreman begin the post mortem on Donny, but when they start to open his chest, they notice the body bleeding. Then Donny screams, frightening them both. He is not dead. House asks for a 'differential diagnosis for resurrection'. They agree that Donny was not dead in the first place, just appeared so. House hears noises again and gets his ears checked out. There is nothing wrong with his hearing, but maybe he is hallucinating again. House tells Cuddy he's not ready to go back to work and goes back to sleep on Wilson's couch. Donny meanwhile develops terrible tooth pain and pulls out one of his teeth. The team worry about cancer.

Dr House is obsessed by the spooky noises and goes back into the 'haunted' room. Investigating the noises he finds a grille under a carpet. The noises are coming through there. Opening Wilson's door he hears Wilson whispering softly to dead girlfriend Amber, telling her about his day and saying he misses her.

The team do not find cancer, but Cameron asks Foreman to tell her what's going on with Chase. Foreman says she should talk to him. House tells Wilson he's hallucinating whispering. Wilson suggests rational explanations such as the wind or the neighbour's TV, but House pushes him until Wilson admits it was him: 'Talking to her makes me feel better; you don't'.

House has a new idea and goes to find Chase who is asleep on a couch. He asks him if he is getting help. He accuses him of wanting to feel bad. He has to suffer and feel guilty to prove he's not a psychopath. He must make himself go back into the scary room and do his job. In the ICU Chase asks Donny about policemen who've killed people. Some get over it but others do not –turning to drink and so on.

While the team try new diagnoses for Donny, Chase goes to confession. He tells the priest that he killed a man but that it was the right thing to do. The priest says that all human life is sacred. Chase asks why a dictator who kills hundreds of thousands of people should be considered sacred. He asks if the priest is worried about a 'slippery slope' and says he won't tell anyone but he needs forgiveness. The priest says he can't just say a few Hail Mary's and make it go away. Dr Chase asks what God needs him to do to be forgiven. The priest says Chase cannot have absolution without taking responsibility. Chase must give himself up to the police. Chase says going to prison for the rest of his life would not be just and insists that he did the right thing. He wants another way to be forgiven, but the priest won't offer anything else.

At the hospital House continues his thread of sexual banter with Dr Cuddy which gives him his 'eureka' moment of what's wrong with Donny. He has an aneurysm in his brain which is causing his symptoms and after he and his son are treated they will be fine. Donny makes a new overture to get to know his son. Meanwhile, a worried Cameron is just phoning the police to report Chase missing when he comes home drunk. He says he needed to get drunk and now feels better but he still won't tell her what's wrong. Meanwhile House tries talking to his dead father but quickly decides it's a waste of time and yells to Wilson that it's stupid. Wilson, talking to the dead Amber, tells her that House really *is* getting better.

Some excerpts to watch

- The 'resurrection' scene in the morgue
- Chase's confession scene with the priest
- The haunted room scenes and Wilson talking to Amber
- A compilation of the scenes with Dr Chase

Some questions

- What does this episode make you think about ghosts?
- What do you make of the confessional scene?
- Why do you think Dr Wilson still talks to Amber?
- What do you think is happening to Chase and Cameron?
- What do you think the characters who are haunted by their pasts could do to find peace?

Some passages from scripture to think about if you want to.

2 Corinthians 7.9-10

1 John 1.5-10

1 John 2.1-2

Psalm 51

1 Thessalonians 4.13-14