

16 YR old girl

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4 CONTINUED:

Sophie 4

FOREMAN

You have four fellows and never more than one case. Means I have time to work on other things, and they'll have more chances to step up, stand on their own.

HOUSE

And if there's an emergency with Annie, I guess she should just wait 'til you're finished grooming lab rats?

FOREMAN

If there's a problem with Sophie, or any other patient, you know I'll be there. Your patient's my priority.

House studies him a beat, considers.

HOUSE

Ninety-nine percent of clinical trials fail. You'd be wasting your time; means you'd be wasting mine.

House turns his attention to his computer. Foreman, annoyed, exits. Off House, as his eyes flick up and watch him--

5 INT. SOPHIE'S PATIENT ROOM -- DAY

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Sophie propped up in bed, a nasal canula attached. She looks better than in the Teaser, but still has a little trouble breathing. Kutner runs a transducer over her chest, watches the images of her heart on a monitor.

SOPHIE

I told you, I don't do drugs.

KUTNER

Still a good idea to check your heart; something else could've damaged it.

Kutner maneuvers the transducer, looks at more images.

KUTNER (CONT'D)

Find it hard, being all on your own? Having to do everything without--

SOPHIE

(not angry)
-- Drugs to ease my pain?

KUTNER

That's not--

(CONTINUED)

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5 CONTINUED:

Sophie 5

SOPHIE

Teenager on her own -- I wouldn't trust me either.

KUTNER

I meant: it must be hard. No one to back you up.

SOPHIE

I know you're trying to be nice, but I'm not into the whole pity thing.

KUTNER

I was actually doing the "I get it" thing. I lost my parents when I was six.

She reacts.

KUTNER (CONT'D)

It doesn't go away. But it gets easier; things fade.

SOPHIE

(softens)

I still get nervous when there's a knock on the door. Always think it's the state trooper -- with more bad news.

KUTNER

You already got the worst news and survived. It's kind of the upside.

Sophie smiles. Kutner's finished the test, removes the transducer.

KUTNER (CONT'D)

Your heart's healthy.

SOPHIE

(off his tone)

Isn't that good news?

KUTNER

One hand, good news, other hand, we we still don't know what's wrong with you.

Off Kutner and Sophie, both unsettled.

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