

EPISODE ONE:
An Accident, A Panic, A Necromancy, More Panic
by
Samantha Seely

Samantha Seely
The Trial of Memory Fairchild
[https://samanthaseely.com/trial-of-memory-fairchild/
memoryfairchildpod@gmail.com](https://samanthaseely.com/trial-of-memory-fairchild/memoryfairchildpod@gmail.com)

SCENE 1.

INT. COURTROOM - MORNING

JUDGE MERIDIAN SPEAKS FIRST, BEFORE INTRODUCING THE PROSECUTOR ATTORNEY, CALDWELL COLD, AND THE DEFENSE ATTORNEY, SLATE MORRISON. ON TRIAL IS MEMORY FAIRCHILD.

JUDGE MERIDIAN: The defendant stands accused of gross negligence, two counts of medical malpractice, and three counts of necromancy. (PAUSE) Court is now in session, Judge Meridian presiding. Opening statements may begin. Prosecution, you have the floor.

CALDWELL COLD: Thank you, Your Honor. (BEAT) Your Honor and people of the jury, I'm attorney Caldwell Cold, appearing on behalf of the plaintiffs in this case. My clients have all experienced serious injury and trauma as a result of the defendant's blatant disregard for their lives, their safety, and the standard practices of magic and medicine. (PAUSE) When we arrive in a hospital, we expect to be cared for — we expect healing. Ms. Fairchild's actions have shaken not only my clients', but our very society's trust in our medical institutions. (PAUSE) Do we want to trust our lives, or the lives of our loved ones, to the person who did this, to the people who let this happen?

SLATE MORRISON: Your Honor and people of the jury, my name is Slate Morrison, representing the defendant. (PAUSE) This case is unprecedented, that much is certain. It is the first time in centuries that someone has been charged with necromancy. And you may have arrived here today, expecting to see someone power-hungry, someone with a dark ability and will to use it — Monteneres come again. (BEAT) But as you will learn in the course of this trial, that is far from the truth. The young woman sitting here has been misguided, saddled with abilities she did not ask for, seeking only to help the people around her.

(SLATE MORRISON/CONT'D OVER)

SLATE MORRISON
(CONT'D):

There's no skeletal armies, no curses or robbed graves. Just a girl, still learning, doing her best, making a mistake. I seek to ask you — in her position, what would you have done?

FADE OUT.

THE SHOW'S THEME MUSIC PLAYS.

FADE UP: INT. COURTROOM - AFTERNOON,
LATER THAT DAY

JUDGE MERIDIAN: Ms. Fairchild, please approach the stand. (PAUSE) Do you swear your testimony is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Yes, I swear.

JUDGE MERIDIAN: Please state your name for the record.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Memory Fairchild.

JUDGE MERIDIAN: You may be seated, Ms. Fairchild.

SLATE MORRISON: Alright. Memory, what is your job?

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: I'm a medical student at Freestone University. It's my third year there.

SLATE MORRISON: And how do you like it so far?

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: In- in general, or my third year specifically?

SLATE MORRISON: Just in general, to start with.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Okay. Uhm. Well, it's stressful. I mean — it's med school, of course it's stressful. There's a lot of studying, competition. Pressure. I, uh, I didn't really like that side of things. But I thought it was all pretty interesting. The subject, I mean. Well, I guess if I didn't find it interesting I wouldn't have stuck with it. (LONGER PAUSE) The clinicals are more stressful, because it stops being so- so theoretical? But that's also what makes them good, I guess. There's less book work and note cards, and instead you start being able to help people and do good.

SLATE MORRISON: So when you started your first clinical rotation, you were excited to help patients?

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Of course. That's sort of the goal, when you're wanting to be a doctor.

SLATE MORRISON: Your clinical rotation was at the Caltrop Memorial Hospital in the intensive care unit, is that correct?

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Yes. The patients there need, well, intensive care. There were a lot of difficult cases — most people who end up there have failures across multiple organ systems, and need life support.

SLATE MORRISON: Of course. You started working at Caltrop Hospital on May 25th, yes?

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Yes.

SLATE MORRISON: Could you please describe your first day working at the hospital for me?

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: (DEEP STEADYING BREATH, PAUSE.) It was my first day of clinicals. First time working with patients, and I had honestly hoped that my first clinical would be in a different field. Something less demanding, I guess. And I was nervous about working under Dr. Gardens. This rotation was infamous — I mean, she's the best in her field, probably knows more about how the physical and the magical interact than anyone else in the country. And everyone said that she was a tough supervisor, with no patience for mistakes or confusion. They said that she didn't play favorites like some attendings might, but when you're on rotation with her you could either get on her level or get out...

FADE.

SCENE 2.

INT. HOSPITAL MEETING ROOM - EARLY MORNING - SIX MONTHS AGO, FLASHBACK

STUDENTS ARE WAITING FOR DR. GARDENS TO ARRIVE. THERE IS NERVOUS ENERGY IN THE

ROOM. MEMORY IS SPEAKING WITH HER CLOSE FRIEND AND CLASSMATE REED SONG.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Aren't you even a little worried?

REED SONG: Psh, no, of course not. I've been ready for this for weeks.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: (ECHOING, TO HERSELF) Right, of course not.

REED SONG: Hey, dude. Chill out, it'll be fine. There's no way we're the worst students to ever show up here.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: I guess. But still — we'll be working with Dr. Gardens.

REED SONG: What? That's what I'm excited about, learning from the best and all that.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Yeah, but, what if-

DR. GARDENS ENTERS THE ROOM, AND THE HUBBUB OF THE STUDENTS IS DOUSED QUICKLY IN SILENCE. THERE'S A PAUSE BEFORE DR. GARDENS SPEAKS.

DR. GARDENS: Alright. Welcome, all of you. I'm Dr. Gardens. (PAUSE) While you are on rotation here, you will be charged with two patients each. You will monitor their condition, suggest plans for treatment, and in some cases, administer said treatment. These people will be your primary focus, however, you are expected to have a broader understanding and familiarity with all of the cases in our wing. You will be under my supervision and will report to me. You may not be full doctors yet, but I do not accept any substandard work, distractions, or negligence. You are here to do a job, and I expect you all to do it well. (BEAT) At the nurse station you will find the names and details of your charges. Review their case files, and be ready to start the rounds at 8:00. Questions? (PAUSE) Excellent. Now get to work.

THE STUDENTS MOVE TOWARDS THE NURSE STATION TO PICK UP THE FILES WITH THEIR NAMES ON THEM.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Thank you.

MEMORY SITS DOWN TO READ HER PAPERS.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Helvetica Redway, 58 and Absinthe Mulligan, 35. (PAUSE)
Ok, so. Ms. Redway. Reason for admission: acute G-I
bleeding and hypotension. Initially treated with
vessel-repairing spells to stem the bleeding. Diagnosis
revealed multiple points of bleeding, resolved with surgical
treatment. Pre-existing conditions... increased risk of
complications... two weeks post-surgery observation. Alright.
Seems straightforward enough.

SHE BEGINS TO SKIM THE TEXT MORE.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Mr. Mulligan was admitted with... “severe brain trauma from a
cranial gunshot”? Oof. So, initially treated in the ER before
transferal... medical coma... upcoming surgery... wait, what?

MEMORY FLIPS BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN
THE PAGES A FEW TIMES, BEFORE TURNING TO
REED.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Hey, uh, Reed? Do both of your patients have their full
medical history, their conditions and stuff?

REED SONG: Huh? Uh... Yeah, looks like it.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Okay. I think some of my pages got lost, because none of the
medical history is here.

REED SONG: Really? That’s weird. You should probably go ask Dr.
Gardens about it.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: (BEAT) Yeah. Yeah, I’ll go do that.

SCENE 3.

INT. DR. GARDENS’ OFFICE - A MINUTE OR TWO
LATER

MEMORY KNOCKS ON DR. GARDENS’ OFFICE
DOOR.

DR. GARDENS: Come in.

MEMORY ENTERS THE ROOM.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Hi, uh, Dr. Gardens...

DR. GARDENS: What do you need, Miss Fairchild?

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Uh. Right. Sorry, um. I was reading my case files and uh, I'm not sure- maybe I just missed something, I'm sorry. I just... can't find the patient's prior medical history? I-I think I might've lost the page with it or-

DR. GARDENS: (INTERRUPTING) Which patient?

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Oh, uh, Absinthe Mulligan.

DR. GARDENS: (QUICK PACE, CALM) Age 35, suffered a gunshot to the brain, brought into our care three days ago, after stabilization in the ER. What procedure would you use for stabilization?

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Oh, uhm. Stabilization. I guess- uh, well, first you'd have to make sure the patient's airways are open and clear? (PAUSE, THEN A DEEP BREATH). Then, uh, the patient would need spellwork to stop the bleeding, though with it being a head wound, I guess you'd probably need additional stored magic to close the blood vessels? Or a second healing mage, I guess. And then, uh, repairing the surrounding tissue would be the next priority, but since the injury was in the brain... well, that's why the patient was put in a coma, right? So the repairing spellwork and surgery could happen in a more controlled environment?

DR. GARDENS: And what complications should you watch for in this scenario?

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Uhm. The patient likely lost a lot of blood by that point, so... complications could come from that, like, uh, hypovolemic shock or, uh, hypothermia and coagulopathy.

DR. GARDENS: And how do you correctly free a brain nerve to restore function?

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: I- I don't know, I'm sorry.

DR. GARDENS: (BEAT) Mr. Mulligan's file is missing a medical history because it does not exist in our databases, and he was not conscious at his time of admission into the hospital for us to ask. We only know his name because of the ID card in his wallet.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Oh, okay. Sorry for bothering you.

DR. GARDENS: Not at all. You're dismissed. Be sure to review the magical processes used to re-establish tissue function.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Yes ma'am. Thank you.

MEMORY GOES TO LEAVE THE OFFICE, MAKING IT TO THE DOOR AND OPENING IT.

DR. GARDENS: Oh, and Ms. Fairchild? (PAUSE) I used to work with your mother. She was a credit to our profession and a dear friend to me, and it is one of my deepest regrets that we lost touch over the years. Sateen and I had our... disagreements, but she was a good person, a good doctor. Anyway. I'm sorry for your loss.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: I... Thank you.

DR. GARDENS: (COUGHS) Yes. You may go now. Close the door on your way out, I will see you during the rounds.

FADE.

SCENE 4.

INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON,
SEVERAL HOURS LATER

MEMORY AND REED ARE HAVING THEIR LUNCH
BREAK AFTER A BUSY MORNING.

REED SONG: She knew your mother?

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: That's what she said. She said she was a, and I quote, "dear friend to me," but she also mentioned some kind of disagreement? She was pretty vague about it, to be honest.

REED SONG: That's wild. How did you not know about this?

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: I have no idea. Mom never mentioned knowing her, even when Dr. Gardens' research was in the news all the time. I mean, Dr. Gardens said they hadn't been in contact anymore, but whenever someone mom knew published a study or something it'd always be all "Oh, come look at this study, I knew Dr. So-and-So in residency, they're doing great work now." Why wouldn't she mention her, if they worked together?

REED SONG: Maybe Dr. Gardens was just exaggerating how well she knew your mom?

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: (HESITANT) Yeah, maybe. Anyway, I was just happy she wasn't quizzing me on stuff anymore.

REED SONG: Oh yeah, people definitely weren't kidding when they said to watch out for her pop quizzes — she started asking me about the effects of frequent magic use on the thyroid when the patient was taking this or that medication, and I honestly had no clue what to say. (SINCERE) I can't wait until we get to do the presentations.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Seriously? You liked the questions? I felt like I was going to die!

REED SONG: I mean, don't get me wrong, I definitely felt like an idiot, but it's exciting! Now I know another thing to look out for, and it's not like they're trying to embarrass us, anyway. This is when we get to learn these things, how are you not excited?

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: No, I get all of that, it's a valuable teaching tool, yadda yadda yadda, but I am still not a fan. I don't know, it just stresses me out. I don't like being put on the spot, it makes every thought fly out of my head.

REED SONG: I guess that's fair. I bet you just need to pretend you're taking a test out loud and you'll do fine! Or, or! Do that trick where you pretend everyone else is in their underwear, I've heard that works.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: (LAUGHS) That is not nearly as helpful as you think it is, but thanks for the suggestion, Reed.

REED SONG: Anytime.

A BELL GOES OFF IN THE BACKGROUND, MARKING THE END OF LUNCH BREAK. THE PAIR STANDS UP TO RETURN THEIR TRAYS AS THEY TALK.

REED SONG: Aw, seriously? They did not give us a long enough lunch break.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Welcome to the real world I guess. A hospital never stops, right?

REED SONG: Yeah, well, I could do without the real world for a little while longer.

THEY SET THEIR TRAYS ON THE RETURN RACK, MAKING THEIR WAY OUT OF THE CAFETERIA.

REED SONG: Oh, by the way, I have to take Timepiece to the airport once I'm off shift here, so I'll get back to the flat a little later.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Oh, they're leaving tonight? I thought their trip wasn't until later.

REED SONG: Yeah, it snuck up on me too. I'm going to miss them, but they're pretty excited about the whole thing.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: That's good. Are we still meeting Ash for dinner?

REED SONG: I think so? I'll double check, let you know when I'm heading back from the airport. See you later!

FADE.

SCENE 5.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - EVENING, A FEW HOURS LATER

IT'S THE END OF THE DAY, AND THERE IS A LOT OF MOVEMENT IN THE HALLWAY AS STUDENTS MOVE TOWARDS THEIR FINAL TASKS OF THE DAY.

DR. GARDENS: Mr. Orwat, please assist Nurse Patil with the replacement oxygen tanks in room 207. (PAUSE) Ms. Fairchild, bring one of the meal trays to Ms. Redway and take the blood pressure medication to Mr. Mulligan. Nurse Chambers will assist you in administering the drug when she finishes with her current patient.

MEMORY BEGINS TO LEAVE. THE CAMERA FOLLOWS HER. AND DR. GARDENS' VOICE FADES IN THE BACK.

Mr. Song, prepare Mr. Briggs' for another blood transfusion.

SCENE 6.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - SECONDS LATER

MEMORY KNOCKS ON THE DOOR BEFORE ENTERING, BUT HELVETICA REDWAY IS SLEEPING.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Hello, Ms. Redway, I've brought you- oh, you're sleeping. (QUIETLY) I'll just leave this here for when you wake up then.

MEMORY LEAVES HELVETICA REDWAY'S ROOM, CROSSING THE HALLWAY TO ENTER ABSINTHE MULLIGAN'S ROOM. SHE RAPS ON THE DOOR BEFORE PUSHING IT OPEN AND POKING HER HEAD IN.

SCENE 7.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - SECONDS LATER.

THIS SCENE IS UNDERSCORED BY THE SOFT BEEPS OF THE HEART MONITOR.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: (QUIETLY) Mr. Mulligan, are you awake? (BEAT) No, no of course not. You're in a coma. Duh. (LAUGHS SELF-CONSCIOUSLY) Alright, let's just go down the checklist until the nurse gets here...

SHE FLIPS THROUGH THE PAPERS ON HER CLIPBOARD; WE HEAR THE SCRATCHING OF HER PENCIL AS SHE MAKES NOTES AND TALKS QUIETLY TO HERSELF.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Pulse rate stable... blood pressure not ideal, but hey, once the nurse gets here we'll be fixing that up... temperature normal... magical energy looking fine... (PAUSE) Okay, so that's that. And now we just have to wait for Nurse Chambers so we can give you your medication.

MEMORY STANDS QUIETLY FOR A MOMENT, BEFORE STARTING TO IDLY HUM TO HERSELF AS SHE WAITS FOR THE NURSE TO SHOW UP.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: (IMPATIENT) Where is she? (BEAT) Well, it's just adding some drugs to the IV line, that's not so difficult. It's already here, I can just do it myself and save her the trouble.

SHE GIVES HIM THE WRONG MEDICATION.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: There you go.

MEMORY BEGINS TO WALK AWAY TO GIVE HER REPORT TO DR. GARDENS. ONE OF THE MACHINES BEGIN TO BEEP FRANTICALLY.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: Oh my god... That's. I.

MEMORY BEGINS TO PANIC, RUSHING AROUND THE ROOM, TRYING TO FIX HER MISTAKE. THERE IS THE FAINT SOUND OF SOMETHING BUILDING WITH HER PANIC, INCREASING IN VOLUME.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: No, no, no, no, no..... That was the wrong medication, I gave him the wrong drugs, oh my god. How- okay, we can fix this, it's just- if I just add this- come on- god, why isn't this working?!

THE HEART MONITOR FLATLINES, AND MEMORY GOES QUIET FOR A MOMENT, OUTSIDE OF HER PANICKED BREATHING.

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: I... I just killed a patient, he's dead and I killed him and how could I do that, I'm so stupid, if I'd just waited he'd still be fine but instead I killed him-

THE PRESSURE IN THE BACKGROUND SNAPS,
AND WE HEAR THE RUSH OF MAGIC ENERGY
EXPLODING FROM MEMORY. THERE IS SILENCE,
AND A MOMENT LATER, THE MONITORS START
BACK UP AGAIN WITH A SOFT, REGULAR
"BEEP.... BEEP... BEEP,,,"

MEMORY FAIRCHILD: I... What?

FADE OUT TO MUSIC, ROLL CREDITS.

END.