

= Things Which Have Never Yet Been Done =

" Things Which Have Never Yet Been Done " is the ninth episode of the second season , and the nineteenth episode overall , of the Canadian science fiction television series Orphan Black . It first aired in Canada on Space and the United States on BBC America on 14 June 2014 . The episode was written by Alex Levine and directed by TJ Scott .

The series focuses on a number of identical human clones , all of whom are played by Tatiana Maslany : Sarah Manning , Alison Hendrix , Cosima Niehaus , Rachel Duncan , and Helena . In this episode , Sarah 's daughter Kira (Skyler Wexler) undergoes bone marrow extraction to donate to Cosima in an attempt to cure Cosima 's illness . Alison and her husband Donnie (Kristian Bruun) attempt to bury Dr. Aldous Leekie 's body , while Helena attempts to escape from the ranch of the Proletheans , a religious extremist group .

" Things Which Have Never Yet Been Done " marked the first on @-@ screen appearance of Kathryn Alexandre , who also works on the show as Maslany 's " clone double " when filming scenes where multiple clones interact . The episode was filmed at various locations in Toronto and the title was taken from Francis Bacon 's work Novum Organum . It was watched by 613 @,@ 000 viewers in the United States and received mostly positive reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

At the Dyad Institute , Rachel appoints Delphine Cormier (Évelyne Brochu) the interim director of the cloning program following the death of Dr. Aldous Leekie . Delphine meets with Sarah to ask if her young daughter , Kira , will donate her bone marrow to help cure Cosima 's illness , and Kira agrees . Meanwhile , Cosima works with her lab assistant Scott (Josh Vokey) and Rachel 's adoptive father Ethan (Andrew Gillies) , a founder scientist of the cloning program , to find the genetic sequence that has caused her illness . Rachel , who is usually stoic , laughs and sobs whilst watching home videos of her childhood , lamenting her own infertility . Disguised as Sarah , she tricks her way into the pediatric clinic where Kira is recovering and sedates Sarah 's foster brother Felix (Jordan Gavaris) . She abducts Kira and takes her to a young girl 's bedroom in the Dyad Institute , telling Kira that she " may even grow to like it here , just as I did " .

After confessing that he accidentally murdered Dr. Leekie , Donnie Hendrix and his wife Alison decide to dispose of the dead body under the cement of their garage floor . They are interrupted by Vic (Michael Mando) , whom Alison met in rehab and who is acting as an informant to Detective Angie DeAngelis (Inga Cadranel) . Donnie threatens to shoot Vic , who confesses that Angie is parked nearby , before walking into Angie 's van and threatening to destroy her career if she continues to stalk his family , taking a picture of her with Vic as blackmail . After burying Leekie 's body and re @-@ laying the cement , Alison confesses her sudden attraction to Donnie and they have sex in the garage .

At the ranch inhabited by the Proletheans , a religious extremist group , following her impregnation , Helena is introduced to the group 's nursery where she bonds with a young girl . The Prolethean leader , Henrik Johanssen (Peter Outerbridge) , impregnates his teenage daughter Gracie (Zoé de Grand 'Maison) with his and Helena 's embryos . Sharing their displeasure with what Henrik has done , Helena and Gracie decide to flee the ranch together , but are caught by Henrik as they are preparing to leave . Henrik 's protégé and Gracie 's lover , Mark (Ari Millen) , arrives to defend Gracie . Mark and Gracie flee together as Helena attacks Henrik . Helena tortures Henrik with his own medical instruments before burning down the ranch and running away herself .

= = Production = =

Kathryn Alexandre appeared for the first time in this episode as Alexis , a Prolethean midwife . After working as a script reader during Orphan Black 's initial auditions , Alexandre began working as Maslany 's " clone double " : playing opposite Maslany in any scene when multiple clones interact and being replaced with Maslany in post @-@ production . Fawcett and Manson had planned to

cast Alexandre in her own role from the start of the show 's second season , and had considered casting her as Gracie before deciding that , due to the amount of interaction between Gracie and Helena (played by Maslany) , it would " turn into a mess if we cast her " . They decided to find a smaller role for Alexandre and eventually settled on the part of Alexis .

The scenes in the Hendrixes ' garage were filmed on a set ; the set replicated the real garage of a house in Markham , Ontario which had been used for filming in the show 's first season . The set was built 4 feet (1 @. @ 2 m) above the ground so that it could be excavated with a jackhammer on film . Bridgepoint Health Centre stood in as the clinic where Kira underwent bone marrow extraction , and was also used for exterior shots of the Dyad Institute . Scenes at Cosima 's laboratory were filmed at the Don Jail , now an administrative facility connected to Bridgepoint . The montage of Rachel drinking martinis and watching home videos from her childhood was not originally included in the episode 's script , nor was it filmed with the rest of the episode . According to Fawcett , when he and Manson viewed the final cut of the episode , they felt that something was missing from Rachel 's subplot . Manson then scripted the short sequence and Fawcett filmed it over two days during the production of the next episode . Due to time constraints while filming the scene in which Helena tortures Henrik , the scene was shot with a handheld camera by the episode 's director , TJ Scott , with Maslany and Outerbridge improvising the dialogue and use of props . The subsequent shot of the barn on fire was created by the visual effects company Intelligent Creatures . The title of the final two episodes , " Things Which Have Never Yet Been Done " and " By Means Which Have Never Yet Been Tried " , are taken from a Francis Bacon quotation in his philosophical work *Novum Organum* : " It would be an unsound fancy and self @-@ contradictory to expect that things which have never yet been done can be done except by means which have never yet been tried . "

= = Reception = =

The episode was aired in the United States on 14 June 2014 on BBC America . It was watched by 613 @, @ 000 viewers , with a Nielsen rating of 0 @. @ 27 in the demographic of adults aged 18 ? 49 .

Matt Brennan of *Slant Magazine* summarised the episode as being " among the best hours of television I 've seen so far this year " and an example of " unrelenting brilliance " . He praised the exploration of Rachel 's character and especially Maslany 's " nothing short of masterful " performance in the role , and described the satire of suburbia presented through Alison and Donnie as " impeccably wry " . Writing for *The A.V. Club* , Caroline Framke gave the episode an A ? grade and found it much more focused and with more of an " emotional core " than the preceding episode . She highlighted the " gorgeous " cinematography , the chemistry between Maslany and Bruun as Alison and Donnie , and the " stunning " montage of Rachel 's emotional breakdown . *IGN* 's Eric Goldman has described the episode as a " very busy , very strong " episode and among the best of the season . He praised the " darkly funny " storyline involving Alison and Donnie , although he found the pacing of some of the subplots to be rushed .

Paste critic Mark Rozeman gave the episode a rating of 8 @. @ 4 out of 10 , commending Bruun 's performance as Donnie and the " wonderful bit of Coen Brothers @-@ esque dark comedy " provided by Alison 's subplot . However , he criticised the predictability of the episode and opined that Kira 's abduction by Rachel felt like a recycled plot point from the first season . *Vlada Gelman* gave the episode a mixed review for *TVLine* , writing that it was the first episode of the show 's second season " that didn 't quite work " and " it didn 't have the momentum and progress you 'd expect from a penultimate hour " . Similarly , *The New York Times* 's Adam W. Kepler opined that the episode displayed *Orphan Black* 's " finest qualities (strong characterisation , dark satire and shocking moments) and its worst (odd pacing and ropey plotting) " . He enjoyed Alison and Donnie 's comedic subplot and praised Maslany 's performance as Rachel , but found the conclusion to Helena 's storyline with the Proletheans " baffling " and " haphazard " .