

= Broken Home ( Body of Proof ) =

" Broken Home " is the ninth and final episode of the first season of the American medical drama Body of Proof . It was originally broadcast in the United States on ABC on 17 May 2011 . The episode was directed by Nelson McCormick and written by Andrew Dettman .

In this episode , Megan Hunt ( Dana Delany ) stops the funeral of Nikki Parkson ( Mary Fegreus ) after seeing irregularities in her death . Nikki 's mother Lillian ( Jill Eikenberry ) , and siblings Sara ( Jo Armeniox ) and Bill ( Eric Sheffer Stevens ) , all say that Nikki was suicidal , with evidence at the scene suggesting this , but when Megan and Peter Dunlop ( Nicholas Bishop ) do an autopsy , the evidence suggests otherwise . Meanwhile , Megan finds out from daughter Lacey ( Mary Mouser ) that her ex @-@ husband Todd ( Jeffrey Nordling ) is in a relationship with her boss Kate Murphy ( Jeri Ryan ) .

The episode received mixed to positive reviews , and was watched by 10 @.@ 33 million viewers , according to Nielsen ratings , on the Sunday night it aired in the United States . Christine Orlando of TV Fanatic was unsure whether the episode was good enough to be the season finale , however she did praise this " solid " episode , saying it had an " intriguing murder , lots of suspects , and an interesting personal twist for Megan " . This episode was nominated at the 21st Annual Environmental Media Awards , however lost out to the CSI : Crime Scene Investigation episode " Fracked " .

= = Plot = =

Megan Hunt ( Dana Delany ) and Todd Fleming ( Jeffrey Nordling ) are called to Lacey 's ( Mary Mouser ) school when she is seen looking at photos of a young woman , Nikki Parkson ( Mary Fegreus ) who died , after battling a terminal illness . When Megan looks at a photo , she sees irregularities and without permission from Kate Murphy ( Jeri Ryan ) , Megan and Peter Dunlop ( Nicholas Bishop ) stop Nikki being buried , so they can look at her body , much to the horror of Nikki 's mother Lillian ( Jill Eikenberry ) . Although Nikki 's family say that she committed suicide , Megan finds evidence to suggest otherwise ; Nikki 's neck has bruising on the bottom , showing that she was strangled . Nikki was being given pills to help her illness by Lillian , though these made her worse , but this kept Lillian in the social limelight , getting sympathy from friends ; however Lillian did not kill her . Samantha Baker ( Sonja Sohn ) , Megan , Ethan Gross ( Geoffrey Arend ) and Curtis Brumfield ( Windell Middlebrooks ) find out that Nikki 's boyfriend Shane ( Charlie Semine ) was actually working together with Nikki 's sister Sara ( Jo Armeniox ) . It is revealed that Shane and Sara killed Nikki , as in Nikki 's will she was giving all her money to a fake wildlife foundation which Sara had set up . However , Nikki wanted to switch charities , so Sara killed her to stop her from doing this , with Shane helping her to stage it as suicide , so they could both get the money .

The two are arrested , and Nikki 's funeral takes place . However , Samantha arrives to arrest Lillian , as Nikki 's brother Billy ( Eric Sheffer Stevens ) found the pills Lillian wasn 't giving Nikki , and Lillian is charged with interfering with her daughter 's medical care . Bill assures Megan that Nikki 's money in her will , will be put to a good use and thanks her and the team for investigating . Throughout the investigation Lacey thinks that Megan and Todd are getting back together , as Todd has made many calls to Megan 's work . Lacey is shocked to find out that Todd is not phoning Megan , but Kate , and the two are in a relationship . Megan is angry at Kate , but tells Lacey to respect her , even if she does not like her yet .

= = Production = =

" Broken Home " was written by Andrew Dettman and directed by Nelson McCormick , this being his third episode he directed , having directed the season premiere " Pilot " and the subsequent episode " Letting Go " . McCormick has directed many television series such as Third Watch , Nip / Tuck , ER and more recently , Criminal Minds . Daniel Licht , who has worked on the series since its inception , returned to compose the music for the episode . Actress Jill Eikenberry 's best known for

her role in L.A. Law ? and actor Eric Sheffer Stevens ? best known for his role in As the World Turns ? both guest starred in this episode , as Lillian and Bill Parkson , respectively . Sheffer Stevens later reprised his role as Bill in season two 's fifth episode " Point of Origin " . Recurring cast members Jeffrey Nordling and Mary Mouser returned in this episode , with this being both Mouser 's and Nordling 's first appearance since seasons one 's seventh episode , " All in the Family " . Regular cast member John Carroll Lynch who plays Detective Bud Morris , did not appear in this episode , although he was credited .

" Broken Home " , along with the eight episodes from Body of Proof 's first season , were released on a two @-@ disc DVD set in the United States on September 20 , 2011 . The sets included brief audio commentaries from various crew and cast members for several episode 's , a preview of season 2 and a 10 @-@ minute " featurette " on the making of the show , with commentaries from the medical consultants who helped with the script , as well as a " Contaminated Evidence " blooper reel .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original American broadcast on May 17 , 2011 , " Broken Home " was seen by 10 @.@ 33 million viewers , according to Nielsen ratings . Among viewers between ages 18 and 49 , it received a 2 @.@ 1 rating / 9 share . This means that it was seen by 2 @.@ 1 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 9 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This episode achieved a much higher number of viewers than the previous episode , " Buried Secrets " , and a significant higher number than subsequent episode " Love Thy Neighbor " , which is season two 's premiere . Body of Proof came fifth in the ratings on Tuesday night , being outperformed by the season finales of CBS 's NCIS and of The Good Wife as well as two airings of ABC 's Dancing with the Stars . " Broken Home " was watched by 1 @.@ 75 million viewers upon its airing on Channel 5 in the United Kingdom .

= = = Critical response = = =

This episode received mixed to positive reviews . Christine Orlando of TV Fanatic said that the plot of the episode had a " nice story arc when the cause of death ranged from disease , to suicide , and finally murder " . She added that Nikki 's family was a " nightmare " . She was surprised that Bill was not involved in killing Nikki , saying that he " came across as a bit of a jerk for most of the episode " , adding that Nikki had a " short , sad life " . Orlando praised the detail of Nikki 's neck , noticing the bruising to show she was strangled . She said , " I generally hate gore yet I found myself fascinated by the autopsy of the girl 's neck . Maybe it was the detail of the muscle and the lack of blood but I 've never seen such a procedure portrayed with that level of specificity " . Orlando carried on saying , " Is there some rule that we can 't have both detectives every week ? Detective Baker 's definitely growing on me but I missed Bud . He and Megan had some great chemistry and I was hoping for more of that by the end of the season " . Orlando understood Megan 's reaction to the fact that Kate was dating Todd , calling it " justified " , saying it was a " odd position to be in " , but summarized ; " she 'll just have to get over it " . Orlando was worried whether Todd deserved Kate saying that ; " the jury is still out on Todd " . She praised how this storyline turned out to be a " great bonding moment " between Megan and Lacey , saying she " liked " that Megan was honest with Lacey adding , " I like it when adults actually act like adults " .

This episode was nominated at the 21st Annual Environmental Media Awards , an " organization dedicated to harnessing the power of the entertainment industry and the media to educate the global public on environmental issues and motivate sustainable lifestyles " . Under the category " Television Episodic Drama " , " Broken Home " was nominated alongside the The Good Wife episode " Real Deal " and the winner , the CSI : Crime Scene Investigation episode " Fracked " .

