

The Staircase Episode Guide

Episodes 001-008

Last episode aired Thursday June 09, 2022





© 2022 www.imdb.com



© 2022 www.hbomax.com



© 2022 readysteady.cut.com



© 2022 awardsradar.com

The summaries and recaps of all the The Staircase episodes were downloaded from <https://www.imdb.com> and <https://www.hbomax.com> and <https://readysteady.cut.com> and <https://awardsradar.com> and processed through a perl program to transform them in a \LaTeX file, for pretty printing. So, do not blame me for errors in the text 😊 😊!

This booklet was \LaTeX ed on June 10, 2022 by `footstep11` with `create_eps_guide v0.68`

Contents

Season 1	1
1 911	3
2 Chiroptera	5
3 The Great Dissembler	7
4 Common Sense	9
5 The Beating Heart	13
6 Red in Tooth and Claw	17
7 Seek and Ye Shall	21
8 America's Sweethearts	25
 Actor Appearances	 27

Season One

911

Season 1

Episode Number: 1

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Thursday May 5, 2022
Writer: Antonio Campos
Director: Antonio Campos
Show Stars: Colin Firth (Michael Peterson), Toni Collette (Kathleen), Michael Stuhlbarg (David Rudolf), Dane DeHaan (Clayton Peterson), Olivia DeJonge (Caitlin Atwater), Patrick Schwarzenegger (Todd Peterson), Sophie Turner (Margaret Ratliff), Odessa Young (Martha Ratliff), Rosemarie DeWitt (Candace Zamperini), Tim Guinee (Bill Peterson), Parker Posey (Freda Black), Juliette Binoche (Sophie Brunet), Vincent Ver-mignon (Jean-Xavier)
Guest Stars: Joel McKinnon Miller (Larry Pollard), Maria Dizzia (Lori Campbell), Susan Pourfar (Dr. Deborah Radisch), Justice Leak (Tom Maher), Robert Crayton (Ron Guerette), Cullen Moss (Jim Hardin), Cory Scott Allen (Art Holland), Josh Drennen (Francis Borden), Jason Davis (Fred Atwater), Hannah Pniewski (Becky), Jean V. Alexander (Marylou Pollard), Myke Holmes (Duane Deaver), Kevin Sizemore (Mark Zamperini), Ryan Lewis (Bruce Campbell), Katelyn Farrugia (Christina Tomasetti), Erika Coleman (Medical Assistant), Jeff Benninghofen (Chief M.E. John Butts), Craig Pearman (Kenneth Snell), Kate Sanford (Veronica Hunt), Daniela Lee (Devon), Cynthia Barrett (Carol), Christina Bach (News Reporter), A.K. Benninghofen (Charlene Rudolf), Charlton Hoag (Officer), Angela Davis (Officer), Ronald Godfrey (Officer), Viviana Chavez (Paramedic), Larry Herring (Paramedic), Dustin Lewis (Assistant District Attorney), Jay Gutierrez (SBI Lab Technician), D.J. Stavropoulos (News Reporter)
Summary: In 2001, author and aspiring local politician Michael Peterson is charged with murder after the suspicious death of his wife Kathleen.



On 24th February 2017, Michael Peterson wakes up in bed before a voice recording gets played where he is in a state of panic and says that "she's not breathing". And flashing back to the night of Kathleen Peterson's death, his son, Todd, wakes in a passenger seat to flashing lights outside of the house. Todd rushes into the family home, which now has a heavy police presence. Inside, Kathleen is dead at the bottom of the stairs. Whilst Michael claims that she fell down the stairs, he cradles her and the scene

gets declared a crime scene. This is when Michael gets warned by the police to stop washing himself in the sink.

As some flashbacks that date September 2001, three months before Kathleen's death, play out, Todd calls Bill. He tells Bill that Kathleen is down, with Bill saying that an attorney is on their way. As forensics inspect the scene, they claim that it's as though her head exploded. While Michael cannot tell Kathleen's sister, Candace, that she's dead, he calls her husband, Mark, and asks him to tell her what has happened.

What initially appears to be a mourner of Kathleen actually reveals itself as being a worker that Kathleen has to "let go". Meanwhile, Michael speaks on the phone and asks if someone is "ready to get their arse pounded". Then, whilst cutting back to after Kathleen's death, the autopsy reveals that Kathleen didn't die straight away and had, in fact, struggled.

When Bill, aka Uncle Bill, arrives, he practically asks Michael if he killed Kathleen. Then, after a broken gets found in the bedroom, a rape test is performed on Kathleen. And as Michael says that they didn't even use condoms, the rape test comes back negative. Later, in the days that follow, Michael attempts to carry on. But, as one would expect, he cannot escape talk of Kathleen's death.

In a flashback, whilst at a party, Kathleen jumps into a pool, injures her neck, and ends up in hospital. Once Michael learns that he needs to turn himself in to the police a media storm heads his family's way. His legal aid advises Michael to have a blood relative of Kathleen speak to the media as it will help his case. However, after Kathleen's sisters, Candace and Lori, get shown images of Kathleen's body and are informed gay p**n was found on his computer, they firmly start to believe that he could be responsible for her death. The first episode of *The Staircase* concludes with a much older Michael now remarried with presumably a new wife as he appears to be rebuilding his life again.

Chiroptera

Season 1
Episode Number: 2
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Thursday May 05, 2022
Writer: Maggie Cohn
Director: Antonio Campos
Show Stars: Colin Firth (Michael Peterson), Toni Collette (Kathleen), Michael Stuhlbarg (David Rudolf), Dane DeHaan (Clayton Peterson), Olivia DeJonge (Caitlin Atwater), Patrick Schwarzenegger (Todd Peterson), Sophie Turner (Margaret Ratliff), Odessa Young (Martha Ratliff), Rosemarie DeWitt (Candace Zamperini), Tim Guinee (Bill Peterson), Parker Posey (Freda Black), Juliette Binoche (Sophie Brunet), Vincent Vermignon (Jean-Xavier)
Guest Stars: Trini Alvarado (Patty Peterson), Maria Dizzia (Lori Campbell), Justice Leak (Tom Maher), Robert Crayton (Ron Guerette), Cullen Moss (Jim Hardin), Frank Feys (Denis Poncet), Jason Davis (Fred Atwater), Teri Wyble (Sonya Pfeiffer), Olek Krupa (Werner Spitz), Hannah Pniewski (Becky), Myke Holmes (Duane Deaver), Kevin Sizemore (Mark Zamperini), Ryan Lewis (Bruce Campbell), Kate Sanford (Veronica Hunt), Daniela Lee (Devon), Andre Martin (Yves), Deena Wade (Margaret Blair), Wilky Lau (Henry Lee), Vince Pisani (Tim Palmbach), Matthew Jayson Cwern (Faris Bandak), Morgan Henard (Dennis Rowe), Scott Daniel Johnson (Jay Trehy), Tedd Taskey (Weight Lifter), Carl Palmer (Banker at Gym), John Crow (Joseph), Joel Ray Ishman (Police Officer), Paul Teal (Brad Wolgamott), Sophie Pittman (Dancer), D.J. Stavropoulos (News Reporter), Ed Sturdivant (Upper Management)
Summary: While working on his defense, Michael considers an opportunity to tell his story in a documentary. Then, after learning shocking information about her stepfather, Caitlin wrestles with doubts.



In Paris, France, a documentary filmmaker pays close attention to Kathleen's death and comments that he finds it cliché that the husband always gets the blame. And so, he decides to make a film about it. (Which, by the way, forms part of the inspiration for this mini-series).

With Margaret Ratliff not keen on speaking over the phone, she soon heads over to America. And she's not just anyone. Her mother, Liz, was murdered in eerily similar circumstances to Kathleen. And as the Christmas season approaches,

Michael speaks to his family from prison. But when Michael tries to call Mark, there's no answer. During dinner "celebrations", the family comes to odds over Kathleen's death.

In a flashback to Caitlin's birthday celebrations, Kathleen reminds Michael about the party they will attend. As Kathleen takes off her neck braces in the bathroom, she hears some noises outside. (Owls, maybe?). And later on, whilst driving with Clayton, she becomes distracted and hits a deer.

Michael makes "friends" with someone in the gym spa. And just when it seems that they might hook up, two men enter and ruin the mood. Moving back to the timeline after Kathleen's death,

he asks his legal aid to inform his children about the gay p**n found on his computer. After being released on bail, Michael learns about Fraque and his interest in making a documentary.

Caitlin not only learns that the life insurance has been paid out, but she also learns that autopsy photos of her mother may be released. Jumping forward to 24th February 2017, and an older Michael is in the supermarket. He quickly rushes out and returns to his wife, who waits for him in the car. Moving back to shortly after Kathleen's death and his legal team is currently unable who can vouch for his bisexuality.

Scenes between a Campaign Fundraiser (57 days before Kathleen died) and an expert walk-through of the murder scene blend together. And whilst Michael calls his spa "friend" during the fundraiser, the experts learn that there's no chance that Michael could have heard Kathleen calling for help from outside.

A scene shows Kathleen on the night of her death, and after she leaves Michael at the pool, she heads to bed. However, she loses her footing and falls over. As blood pours out, she hits her head again. Then as she tries to stand up, she falls over. Michael then finds her and cradles her as he calls 911. At least that is what his legal team is trying to claim what happened.

Caitlin looks at Kathleen's autopsy photos, and she is reminded that Kathleen was not intoxicated when she died, and therefore, it adds weight to the theory that Michael killed her. With Caitlin firmly believing that Michael is responsible for Kathleen's death, Michael tells her family not to bother with Caitlin anymore. As Clayton's mother, and Michael's ex-wife, Patricia, arrives, Candace stabs a cushion with a firestick. She firmly believes that Michael used something similar to kill Kathleen.

The Great Dissembler

Season 1

Episode Number: 3

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Thursday May 05, 2022
Writer: Antonio Campos
Director: Antonio Campos
Show Stars: Colin Firth (Michael Peterson), Toni Collette (Kathleen), Michael Stuhlbarg (David Rudolf), Dane DeHaan (Clayton Peterson), Olivia DeJonge (Caitlin Atwater), Patrick Schwarzenegger (Todd Peterson), Sophie Turner (Margaret Ratliff), Odessa Young (Martha Ratliff), Rosemarie DeWitt (Candace Zamperini), Tim Guinee (Bill Peterson), Parker Posey (Freda Black), Juliette Binoche (Sophie Brunet), Vincent Ver-mignon (Jean-Xavier)
Guest Stars: Trini Alvarado (Patty Peterson), Maria Dizzia (Lori Campbell), Justice Leak (Tom Maher), Robert Crayton (Ron Guerette), Cullen Moss (Jim Hardin), Cory Scott Allen (Art Holland), Frank Feys (Denis Poncet), Jason Davis (Fred Atwater), Teri Wyble (Sonya Pfeiffer), Donny Boaz (Tyrone Lacour), Myke Holmes (Duane Deaver), Morgan Henard (Dennis Rowe), Eric Lee (Judge Orlando Hudson), Daniela Lee (De- von), Andre Martin (Yves), Deena Wade (Margaret Blair), James Healy Jr. (Steven Blair), Dustin Lewis (Male ADA), Paul Teal (Brad Wolg- amott), A.K. Benninghofen (Charlene), Kara Young (Yasmine), Karson Kern (Nate), Nick McCallum (James the Masseur), Scott Daniel John- son (Jay Trehy), Maurice P. Kerry (Officer), Ashlee Heath (Texas News- woman), Joe Komara (Bar Patron), Jason Saucier (Exterminator), Mark Helms (Bailiff), Lisa Jolley (Court Clerk), Kevin Sizemore (Mark Zam- perini), Ryan Lewis (Bruce Campbell), Alex D. Jennings (Waiter)
Summary: As the DA's office attempts to solidify their case, shocking new details surface about Michael's past that threaten to derail the defense.



The episode picks up four months after Kathleen's death with the investigation in full swing after Candace proves through photos that the blow poke is missing. And after a flashback shows Kathleen's attempt to remove the bats from the house, Caitlin's lawyer advises stopping Michael from gaining her money.

Meanwhile, Jim, Freda, and their team speak to several men that they believe could have met up with Michael for sex. As there is still no weapon, aka the blow stick, Michael's sexuality is their

primary focus for a motive. Unfortunately, when Michael is forced into that very conversation, he tries to usher his children away. However, Todd still tries to listen regardless. And luckily for Michael, as Jim and his team have no proof that Michael slept with any of the men, it's unlikely to work in court. So, instead, Jim tries to find evidence that shows Michael visited gay clubs.

As claims surface that Michael had sex with men in the past, his ex-wife, Patricia, supports him. Bill struggles with the news of the affairs and decides that he wants to return to his family, whilst a person, who supposedly slept with Michael, informs the legal team that someone called

Tyronne may have also slept with Michael. But when Jim receives a list of married men that may be gay, he realizes that they are all financial donors. So, as a result, Jim now has nothing.

In a flashback, it reveals that as Kathleen grows more annoyed with the bats, Michael continues to meet up with men for sex. And in the timeline of Kathleen's death, Jean remarks that even when Michael tells the truth, it sounds like a lie. As Todd struggles with the trial, he gets wasted. As the trial becomes worldwide news, it sends shockwaves. Especially those close to Elizabeth Ratliff, who begin to suspect whether Michael was involved in her death.

In the closing section of *The Staircase*, the Durham county prosecution argues that the blood splatters on Michael's shorts prove that it was murder. But at the same time, Jim reveals to Freda that a tragic fire killed his siblings. And if something so tragic could kill his siblings, maybe Kathleen could just fall down the stairs and die. Regardless, Jim requests to exhume Kathleen's body. When it comes to the first day of the trial, Michael comes face-to-face with Caitlin and Candace. On the first day of the trial, Michael comes face to face with Caitlin & Sister, and then the trial begins.

Common Sense

Season 1

Episode Number: 4

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Thursday May 12, 2022
Writer: Emily Kaczmarek, Craig Shilowich
Director: Antonio Campos
Show Stars: Colin Firth (Michael Peterson), Toni Collette (Kathleen), Michael Stuhlbarg (David Rudolf), Dane DeHaan (Clayton Peterson), Olivia DeJonge (Caitlin Atwater), Patrick Schwarzenegger (Todd Peterson), Sophie Turner (Margaret Ratliff), Odessa Young (Martha Ratliff), Rosemarie DeWitt (Candace Zamperini), Tim Guinee (Bill Peterson), Parker Posey (Freda Black), Juliette Binoche (Sophie Brunet), Vincent Vermignon (Jean-Xavier)

Guest Stars: Joel McKinnon Miller (Larry Pollard), Trini Alvarado (Patty Peterson), Maria Dizzia (Lori Campbell), Susan Pourfar (Dr. Deborah Radisch), Justice Leak (Tom Maher), Robert Crayton (Ron Guerette), Cullen Moss (Jim Hardin), Cory Scott Allen (Art Holland), Frank Feys (Denis Poncet), Teri Wyble (Sonya Pfeiffer), Jason Davis (Fred Atwater), Hannah Pniewski (Becky), Jean V. Alexander (Marylou Pollard), Myke Holmes (Duane Deaver), Kevin Sizemore (Mark Zamperini), Ryan Lewis (Bruce Campbell), Erika Coleman (Medical Assistant), Wilky Lau (Henry Lee), Eric Lee (Judge Orlando Hudson), Paul Teal (Brad Wolgamott), Mark Helms (Bailiff #1), Faith Dillon (Officer Hayworth), Kandé Amadou (Assistant Editor #1), Jean-Luc McMurtry (Gaultier), Monika Gossmann (Agnes Schafer), Martin Harris (German Reporter), Andre Martin (Yves), Stephen Starkweather (Howard Clement), Adrian Tristan (Debate Monitor), Frank Brennan (WW2 Vet), Laura Palka (Court TV Reporter), Lisa Jolley (Court Clerk), Chandra Gaines (Juror), Babatunde Oyewo (Gym Member), Eric Tiede (BBC Reporter (voice))

Summary: After an unexpected homecoming, a critical discovery rocks the Peterson household. Michael's fate hangs in the balance as the trial ends.



The episode opens with Michael Peterson and his French girlfriend, Sophie Brunet, entering the Durham County Courthouse on February 24, 2017. Michael walks into a courtroom while Sophie waits outside. A little bit later, Jean-Xavier de Lestrade interviews Sophie.

Most of the Peterson-Ratliff clan sits through the trial to support Michael. They sometimes stay during supremely uncomfortable testimony. However, the family "screw up" Clayton Peterson stays in Baltimore because nobody wants him at the trial. Defense lawyer David Rudolf and Michael bully Martha Ratliff into staying for the state pathologist's testimony. The prosecution shows Kathleen's horrific autopsy photographs. Jean-Xavier continues to document the trial and send tapes back to Paris so the editor can begin her work.

The pathologist finds that Elizabeth Ratliff didn't die from a brain hemorrhage. Instead, she and Kathleen share similar head wounds pointing toward foul play. Margaret Ratliff feels guilty for granting the prosecution permission to dig up her biological mother's body. The former Ratliff

babysitter, Angus Schaffer's testimony, shakes Martha to the core. Angus suspected Michael of hurting Kathleen because he is the one who said Elizabeth died of a brain hemorrhage and abused his sons. After seeing Elizabeth's autopsy results, Clayton rushes home to mixed reception.

Forensic expert Dr. Henry Lee testifies that he believes that Kathleen died from multiple falls. Prosecutor Jim Hardin can't force the doctor to change his story. David feels like Dr. Lee's testimony is the perfect end to the defense's case, but now Michael wants to talk directly to the jury.

While fixing up a car, Clayton finds the clean blow poke that the prosecution said was the murder weapon. The defense team advises Clayton on how to answer questions in court. The siblings verbally attack one another when the eldest son's domestic abuse charges come up. Michael stops the fight in its track by announcing he will testify about the blow poke.

David explains that if Michael testifies, the prosecution will ask him why he lied about receiving a Purple Heart. The author tells David about how he earned other military medals during the Vietnam war. Michael dragged his dying best friend into a foxhole. He held the other soldier until he died. The lawyer explains to Michael that the jury might assume that his story about a seasoned military veteran freezing up instead of conducting CPR on his dying wife is another lie. In the end, the novelist decides not to testify. Instead, David closes the case after introducing the missing blow poke. The prosecution panics now that they no longer have a murder weapon.

Prosecutor Freda Black's fiery closing statement pulls on the juror's emotions while David points out all the reasonable doubt in their case against his client. The jury finds Michael guilty. Flashbacks reveal Michael beat Kathleen to death on the stairs. Kathleen found the gay porn on his computer. She planned to divorce Michael, which he couldn't allow. Back in the present, Jean-Xavier hugs the sobbing novelist in his last few moments of freedom.

The last sequence of the episode reveals that Sophie is the editor of *The Staircase* docu-series. Sophie writes to Michael in English, promising that she will tell his story. A story where he is the innocent intellectual widower found guilty by close-minded conservative Southerners. The editor plays Jean-Xavier, and producer Denis Poncet screens her first rough cut.

Sophie reveals her philosophy about justice during her 2007 interview with Jean-Xavier. The documentary crew films Sophie inside an empty courtroom. The director asks if Sophie thinks today's proceedings prove that the American justice system works. She shrugs. Sophie states that it depends on one's definition of justice.

There is a cut to the Paris editing suite as the post-production staff opens boxes full of trial tapes. The assistant editor starts editing a sequence about the trial. Sophie's voice-over explains that a trial is just two sides trying to tell the best story. Then the jurors pick which side they believe. The winner's story becomes justice. The assistant editor edits together a shot of a female juror looking shocked and Freda cross-examining a Gay man about what sex acts he was ready to perform with Michael. These two shots are entirely unconnected but editing them next to each other makes the juror look homophobic. The juror may have been reacting to an autopsy picture or some other piece of testimony. She may not even have a problem with queer men or women. The human mind creates a story if two images are placed next to each other, even if it's not based on reality.

Now that we know that Sophie plans to paint Michael as a persecuted widower, it's apparent that she is manipulating footage to tell her version of the story. Editing is always about making choices, but it's hard to create an ethical account of events when you love your subject. The editor doesn't care about attempting to tell the truth, only creating a seductive narrative that convinces the public to side with Michael. She wants to make "justice."

A little later, Sophie's voice-over interview states that justice is a construct that can affect somebody's whole life. In other words, justice is not real. The editor is shirking her responsibility to seek justice through the documentary by denying it exists. Sophie's ethics allow her to edit a bluntly subjective docu-series because she doesn't think she owes the victim anything.

Before this episode, Michael's actions destroyed his family, but small moments of connection reveal that there is still a sisterly bond between the Ratliff siblings and Caitlin Atwater. Caitlin broke off from the Peterson-Ratliff-Atwater family because she believes Michael killed her mother. Everybody in Michael's camp practically disowned her. Caitlin's aunts also forced her to give up on a relationship with the Ratliff sisters because they couldn't let go of their last living parent. Candance's only sympathies are with her dead sister. The young adult sisters' love for each other

bleeds into the background of the trial.

Martha freaks out after seeing enlarged photos of Kathleen's autopsy during the pathologist's testimony. She falls into herself as the pathologist explains what's happening in the images. Martha cries audibly. Caitlin, concerned, glances at Martha from across the aisle. She wants to comfort her little sister. They are all struggling with these horrific images of their mother.

Caitlin's love for her two sisters affects how she hears Michael being found guilty. Instead of celebrating, she silently cries after witnessing Martha and Margaret sobbing in each other's arms. Caitlin understands how hard it is to lose a parent. The Ratliff sisters have lost four. She runs into the women's bathroom to throw up. When Caitlin finally exits the bathroom, her aunts guide her away. The Peterson family usher Martha and Margaret in the opposite direction. The press hounds both sides with flashing cameras and probing questions. The three sisters look back at each other. They all stare into each other's eyes with desperation. Nobody wins at the end of a murder trial. Martha, Margaret, and Caitlin wish they could be leaving the courthouse together instead of being forced apart forever because they chose different sides.

The Beating Heart

Season 1
Episode Number: 5
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Thursday May 19, 2022
Writer: Craig Shilowich
Director: Leigh Janiak
Show Stars: Colin Firth (Michael Peterson), Toni Collette (Kathleen), Michael Stuhlbarg (David Rudolf), Dane DeHaan (Clayton Peterson), Olivia DeJonge (Caitlin Atwater), Patrick Schwarzenegger (Todd Peterson), Sophie Turner (Margaret Ratliff), Odessa Young (Martha Ratliff), Rosemarie DeWitt (Candace Zamperini), Tim Guinee (Bill Peterson), Parker Posey (Freda Black), Juliette Binoche (Sophie Brunet), Vincent Vermignon (Jean-Xavier)

Guest Stars: Joel McKinnon Miller (Larry Pollard), Susan Pourfar (Dr. Deborah Radisch), Justice Leak (Tom Maher), Frank Feys (Denis Poncet), Samuel Ray Gates (Big Ray), Mike Forbs (BK), Hannah Pniewski (Becky), Michelle Rivera (Diane), David Silverman (Carl), Cynthia Barrett (Carol), Karson Kern (Nate), Eric Poulain (Jacques), Kandé Amadou (Assistant Editor #1), Jean-Luc McMurtry (Gaultier), Andre Martin (Yves), Erik J. Jensen (J-Smoke), Martin Bats Bradford (Loop), Seth Dousman (Sneaky Inmate), Dayne Catalano (Inmate #1), Paul Vincent Freeman (POD C.O. #1), Adam James King (Yard C.O. #2), Donna Duplantier (Visiting Area C.O. #3), Leanna Adams (Commissary Worker), Nick Basta (George), Sailor Larocque (Payton), Jean Brassard (François), Caroline Bloom (Rosalie), Paris Benjamin (Claire), Abigail Susan Williams (Conductor), Giovanni Pucci (Remy), Rachel Walters (Expat #1), Lindsay Rootare (Expat #2), Ian Gregg (Lucas), Jaime Fortwangler (J-Smoke Crew), Elijahawon Perrin (BK's Crew)

Summary: In the aftermath of the verdict, the Petersons struggle with the court's decision, and Michael finds solace in an unlikely friendship from thousands of miles away.



Michael Peterson struggles to survive in the prison while waiting for his appeal. Editor Sophie Brunet fights to cut the docu-series in a way that could convince others of his innocence. The episode flashes between the past and present. In November 2001, Michael opens Margaret Ratliff's mail from Tulane University. She earned several bad grades. Michael yells at Margaret over the phone because she will probably lose her scholarship. He refuses to pay for his adopted daughter's plane ticket home for Thanksgiving.

Martha Ratliff refuses to spend the holiday in the Peterson home without her big sister. Kathleen Peterson hates that two of her daughters won't be in Durham for Thanksgiving because of her husband's temper. Michael plays dumb.

Back in "present" day Paris, Sophie edits all eight episodes of The Staircase docu-series. She becomes Michael's pen pal. Unhappily married, Sophie enjoys flirting with the intellectual author

through their letters. Sophie and producer Denis Poncet argue over adding a "cartilage scene" where the forensic pathologist says Kathleen died from strangulation with medical certainty. Denis thinks it's necessary because the jury found Michael guilty based on the physical evidence, while Sophie believes the scene would disrupt the balance of the docu-series.

On the other hand, the director Jean-Xavier de Lestrade doesn't want to cut a scene where Michael and Clayton Peterson speak about life to make room for the cartilage sequence. He believes the original scene helps the audience understand Michael. During the disagreement, Sophie reveals that she exchanges letters with Michael.

Later, Denis wants to fire Sophie. She saves her job. The producer feels taken advantage of when Jean-Xavier officially sides with Sophie. He believes that *The Staircase* is no longer about studying the American Justice system. Denis changes his tune when the French cinema community adores the sneak peek of their docu-series. Jean-Xavier reveals that Michael also seduced him. He and Sophie talk about how the docu-series might help free the author.

Michael gets beaten up in prison until he pays some Black convicts to protect him. His older brother Bill Peterson adopted daughter Margaret, son Clayton, and youngest son Todd Peterson sell the author's home and a bunch of his stuff. Michael needs the money to pay defense lawyer David Rudolf to continue working on the first appeal. The appeal is based on the idea that the trial was unfair because of juridical mistakes. Michael prays that his appeal goes through because he doesn't belong in prison. The author freaks out when he learns that he lost his first appeal from a fellow inmate. David tries to calm Michael over the phone, but he breaks down because he will have to wait two years to hear about his second appeal with the North Carolina Supreme Court. The author cheers up when Sophie visits him in jail for the first time.

The production team behind *The Staircase* argues in a recording studio's control room, proving how divided they are over the edit. Note that Sophie, Denis, and Jean-Xavier mostly speak French during this sequence. The composer conducts the docu-series melancholy instrumental score in the recording booth. In the control room, Denis announces that he thinks that they should fire Sophie because she is too biased. He's suspicious because Sophie has never behaved so stubbornly about an edit of a documentary before corresponding with Michael. Jean-Xavier doesn't think it makes sense to let an editor go when the project is wrapping up in a month. However, the producer insists that she must go. Jean-Xavier notices the orchestra has stopped performing. The director pushes a button so that the composer can hear him. He comments that the music should be "softer and even more mournful." Then, the "mournful" music starts up again.

Sophie comes into the room as Denis finishes saying that he would also be flirting with a felon if he was married to her husband. They all listen to the score from different places in the control room. Everybody in the recording studio can feel the tension between Denis and Sophie. Sophie tells Denis that she understands his concerns and agrees to stop writing to Michael for the project's integrity. The producer pushes for Sophie to add the "cartilage scene." They all start arguing over Denis' comment. Jean-Xavier wants Denis to stay in his lane as the producer and not influence the edit. Sophie can't believe that Denis is ignoring her olive branch. The producer thinks Jean-Xavier shouldn't downplay Michael's guilt.

The orchestra quietly watches the production team wordlessly fight. The studio room is sound-proof, so they can't hear anything said. Finally, the composer asks about the director's thoughts in English. Jean-Xavier pushes the button. In English, he asks her to play the score one more time. Jean-Xavier sits down on a chair. The director turns his whole body away from the rest of the production team. Sophie crosses her arms defensively. She plops down in the middle of the couch, staring right at the orchestra. Denis lounges on the chair on the other side of the room, playing with his glasses as he stares ahead. Nobody says a word revealing how disjointed the team is over the edit. Sophie intently watches the documentary playing on a screen behind the orchestra. She tears up. Sophie only cares about freeing Michael, not creating a "fair" documentary that is full of integrity.

In November 2001, Michael and Kathleen have a subtextual conversation in front of their friends at dinner. After getting off the phone with an upset Margaret, Kathleen plants a smile on her face as the host takes her to their table.

The friends at dinner tell the Peterson couple that they can't come over for Thanksgiving after all. Kathleen adds that she is thinking of sitting the holiday out herself. Michael tightly asks his wife to say more. He is not happy that they won't be hosting a large feast even though

Kathleen would be doing all the heavy lifting. Michael likes the "happy family" appearance when the couple hosts Thanksgiving dinner for all their friends. Kathleen pointedly tells her female friend that all the kids won't be coming home. Michael asks who won't be there even though he banished Margaret from their home for the holidays.

Kathleen jokes around, saying that Michael is sure acting surprised. Margaret plans to go to Aunt Blair's (Elizabeth's sister) home for Thanksgiving. Michael dismisses Margaret's choice not to come home, behaving like she wasn't forced to make that decision. He asks if Martha will be flying over to their Aunt Blair's home for Thanksgiving. Kathleen shrugs, saying that their youngest daughter won't answer her phone. She forces herself to smile but looks forlornly at her wine glass. Martha is so scared of Michael's explosive anger that she won't come home without Margaret. They were never the happy family that Michael says they were before Kathleen's death.

Red in Tooth and Claw

Season 1

Episode Number: 6

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Thursday May 26, 2022
Writer: Emily Kaczmarek
Director: Leigh Janiak
Show Stars: Colin Firth (Michael Peterson), Toni Collette (Kathleen), Michael Stuhlbarg (David Rudolf), Dane DeHaan (Clayton Peterson), Olivia DeJonge (Caitlin Atwater), Patrick Schwarzenegger (Todd Peterson), Sophie Turner (Margaret Ratliff), Odessa Young (Martha Ratliff), Rosemarie DeWitt (Candace Zamperini), Tim Guinee (Bill Peterson), Parker Posey (Freda Black), Juliette Binoche (Sophie Brunet), Vincent Vermignon (Jean-Xavier)
Guest Stars: Joel McKinnon Miller (Larry Pollard), Maria Dizzia (Lori Campbell), Susan Pourfar (Dr. Deborah Radisch), Cory Scott Allen (Art Holland), Frank Feys (Denis Poncet), Samuel Ray Gates (Big Ray), Kevin Sizemore (Mark Zamperini), Ryan Lewis (Bruce Campbell), Deena Wade (Margaret Blair), James Healy Jr. (Steven Blair), Kara Young (Yasmine), Eric Poulain (Jacques), Giovanni Pucci (Remy), Erik J. Jensen (J-Smoke), Ian Gregg (Lucas), Paul Vincent Freeman (POD C.O. #1), William Thompson (Mess Hall C.O. #4), Victoria Nicole Dresden (Melody), Daniel Annone (Shawn), Justin Calalay (Josh), Daryn Kahn (James Gregory), Amber Erwin (Topsy Woman), Zele Avradopoulos (Therapist), Kevin Saunders (Durham Officer Kern), Greg Weeks (Shorty the Janitor), Andre Martin (Yves), Kate Sanford (Veronica Hunt), Bailey Marie Griggs (Ashley Zamperini), Henry Charnaux (Timmy Campbell), William Gregory Lee (Suit #1), Mike A. Morgan (Yard inmate)
Summary: In 2006, Sophie pursues a far-fetched new theory about the night of Kathleen's death. Then, in 2017, Michael grapples with compromising his principles in exchange for his freedom.



The episode begins in 2017 with Michael preparing to take an Alford Plea with his defense lawyer David Rudolf. Michael officially taking the Alford Plea will mean that he is admitting that the prosecutors have enough evidence to prove to a jury that he is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of murdering Kathleen while maintaining his innocence. Therefore, he will be a free man. However, the episode ends with Michael unsure if taking the Alford Plea is the right thing to do because he will be admitting some form of guilt over

Kathleen's death.

In 2007, Michael and Sophie wait patiently to hear back about his second appeal. Michael works out, reads books, writes romantic letters to Sophie, and spends time with her during prison visits. Sophie ends her marriage to her absentee husband. She flies back in forth between Paris and Durham. Sophie shares custody of her son with her ex, rents a home in Durham, edits

a narrative feature and visits Michael in prison. Michael lashes out at David when his defense lawyer shares that his second appeal failed. The former author becomes a broken-down man when he realizes that he will be spending the rest of his life in prison.

Michael's former neighbor Larry Pollard, tells Sophie that he thinks an owl killed Kathleen. At first, the French editor thinks that Larry is bonkers, but he convinces her that his theory is credible. Next, they dig into Kathleen's case files and footage from the docu-series to find proof of the owl's involvement. Eventually, Sophie and Larry find two feathers to go with the theory that the bird's talons caused all the injuries on Kathleen's face. Finally, the editor argues her case in front of the pathologist Dr. Deborah Radisch, who agrees to check her body for signs of an owl attack. First, however, the doctor needs Caitlin Atwater's permission to exhume Kathleen's body.

During Thanksgiving 2001, Kathleen takes Michael and Caitlin to her sister Candace Hunt Zamperini's home for the holidays. Kathleen and Candace fight the entire visit leading to a tense Thanksgiving. Martha Ratliff figures out she is queer during her Thanksgiving in San Francisco. Margaret Ratliff spends the holiday in Rhode Island with her biological mother Elizabeth Ratliff's sister Margaret Blair, a.k.a. Aunt Blair, and her brother-in-law Steven Blair. Margaret calls Martha to tell her some upsetting news that she learned from Aunt Blair, but her younger sister is so joyful over the phone that she can't break the news.

On Thanksgiving 2001, Margaret learns something that destroys the way she sees her family. Margaret and Aunt Blair sit at the dining room table looking over old family photographs while Uncle Steven watches football in the living room. The two women share some smiles while looking at photos of Elizabeth Ratliff and discussing her life. Aunt Blair shows Margaret a picture of her and Martha when they were very little. The sisters were hanging out at the beach with her and Uncle Steven. Aunt Blair tells her the photograph was taken when the sisters spent the whole summer in Rhode Island. Margaret questions why her father (Michael) would send her and Martha to spend three entire months with her aunt. Aunt Blair checks to make sure Uncle Steven is focused on his game, then blows up her niece's world.

Aunt Blair explains that Michael's ex-wife Patty Peterson couldn't handle raising her sons and the Ratliff sisters. As a result, Patty handed custody of the girls over to her and Uncle Steven. Margaret is shocked since nobody told her anything about living with her aunt. Aunt Blair says that Michael took the girls back because he didn't like that they were being raised religiously. The eldest Ratliff sister scoffs, resting her head in her hands. Four years later, Michael wanted to return Martha to Aunt Blair because of her behavioral issues. Aunt Blair tells Margaret that he wished to keep custody of her, essentially splitting the two sisters up. However, she refused to only take in Martha. Margaret can't believe that her father wanted to split the two of them up. Tears well up in her eyes, realizing that Michael's loving parent routine isn't real.

Why did Margaret work so hard to help create Michael's defense when she knows he is a liar? Perhaps the eldest Ratliff still feels loyal to her father because he ended up keeping the sisters together. On the other hand, maybe Margaret supported Michael to keep Martha from knowing the truth. She could also believe that Michael isn't capable of murder even if he manipulates people.

Sophie hangs all her hope of living happily ever after with Michael in Paris onto the Owl Theory. She spends "Red in Tooth and Claw" researching case files and footage to find proof that an owl killed Kathleen. Sophie feels so excited when the pathologist agrees to examine Kathleen's body for signs of an owl attack but instantly nervous when Dr. Radisch explains that she needs permission to exhume the body. The phone call with Caitlin to gain that permission goes as well as can be expected.

Caitlin is typing away on her laptop in the dark when her cellphone starts to buzz. She answers the flip phone. Sophie asks if it's Caitlin Atwater, and the younger woman confirms her identity. The French editor introduces herself, then explains she thinks that the defense's theory about how Kathleen died is incorrect. Sophie sits at her dining room table in Durham. The French editor's half-put-together puzzle is sprawled on the table in front of her. Caitlin doesn't understand what Sophie is trying to say. She doesn't even know that the editor worked on *The Staircase*.

Sophie asks if they can meet up in person. She can't get her thoughts out. Maybe she realizes that she shouldn't be asking Caitlin to exhume her mother's body. Caitlin asks Sophie to tell her everything over the phone because she is too busy to meet. The French editor explains she has a theory that could answer all the questions about what happened "that night." Then there is a

reenactment of the owl attack on the Peterson's lawn and Kathleen dying alone on the staircase.

The French editor cries as she tells Caitlin they need to exhume Kathleen's body to confirm the Owl Theory. Sophie asks for the daughter's permission to find that evidence. Caitlin yells at Sophie about why she would ask her to dig up her mother's grave. The editor begs Caitlin for a chance to prove Michael's innocence. The daughter shouts that she sleeps well at night, knowing that Michael will die in prison. She angrily hangs up the phone. Sophie holds back tears as she hangs up her phone. She destroys the half-put-together puzzle, frustrated that her last hope of being with Michael is gone. Without the body, the pathologist can't change Kathleen's cause of the death because she can't be sure that an owl killed Michael's late wife. Sophie's love will be trapped in prison forever.

Seek and Ye Shall

Season 1

Episode Number: 7

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Thursday June 02, 2022
Writer: Maggie Cohn
Director: Antonio Campos
Show Stars: Colin Firth (Michael Peterson), Toni Collette (Kathleen), Michael Stuhlbarg (David Rudolf), Dane DeHaan (Clayton Peterson), Olivia DeJonge (Caitlin Atwater), Patrick Schwarzenegger (Todd Peterson), Sophie Turner (Margaret Ratliff), Odessa Young (Martha Ratliff), Rosemarie DeWitt (Candace Zamperini), Tim Guinee (Bill Peterson), Parker Posey (Freda Black), Juliette Binoche (Sophie Brunet), Vincent Vermignon (Jean-Xavier)
Guest Stars: Trini Alvarado (Patty Peterson), Susan Pourfar (Dr. Deborah Radisch), Justice Leak (Tom Maher), Robert Crayton (Ron Guerette), Cory Scott Allen (Art Holland), Donny Boaz (Tyrone Lacour), Hannah Pniewski (Becky), Myke Holmes (Duane Deaver), Daniela Lee (Devon), Morgan Henard (Dennis Rowe), Monika Gossmann (Anges Shafer), Erik J. Jensen (J-Smoke), Nick Arapoglou (Corey), Deja Dee (Evelyn Ivins), Kelley Hinman (Older Lawyer), William Ngo (Makeup Artist), Miguel A. Gaetan (Inmate #2), Liz McGeever (Bloomingdale's Rep), Bastian Günther (Father), Kate Brown (SBI Tech 1), Daniel P. Wilson (Greg Taylor), Nora Seyfried (Clayton's Daughter #1), Kynzie Colmery (Clayton's Daughter 2), Vinny Lotti (State Police #1), Aqeel Ash-Shakoor (State Police #2), William Gregory Lee (Suit #1), David Christian Welborn (Suit #2), Nick Hagelin (Nortel Party Bartender), Thea Clark (Premiere Guest)
Summary: In 2001, Kathleen prepares for a Christmas to remember. Years later, Sophie continues her quest to prove Michael's innocence.



Sophie Brunet figures out that she doesn't know the real Michael Peterson. On February 24, 2017, Michael refuses to take the Alford Plea because he doesn't want to admit any involvement in Kathleen's murder. Unfortunately, David can't convince Michael to change his mind even if it sends him back to prison. Sophie tries to tempt Michael with the fact that they can leave Durham forever if he takes the Plea, but the author wants the American justice system to admit their mistake. He asks to speak to Jean-Xavier de Lestrade alone.

In June 2010, attorney Evelyn Ivins from the Project for Actual Innocence in North Carolina investigates a mysterious man's wrongful conviction in Durham. After speaking with disgraced former prosecutor Freda Black and others, she learns that the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigations (SBI) frequently withholds test results that could help the defense.

So, Evelyn helps exonerate Greg Taylor, who served nineteen years in prison for a murder he didn't commit. Unfortunately, SBI and the Durham prosecutor's office have been conspiring

to put defendants in prison unlawfully, so Evelyn announces during a press conference that she plans to audit all their cases up to the present day. After Bill Peterson sees Evelyn's press conference on the news, he meets with David, who promises to help free his little brother for no money.

Meanwhile, Sophie learns that Dennis Rowe was recently murdered, in a similar way to how Kathleen Peterson died. Both Dennis and Kathleen suffered blunt force trauma to the head but had no skull fractures. Kathleen's death is no longer an anomaly. After reviewing footage from *The Staircase* docu-series, Sophie realizes that Dennis is the same guy who said he slept with Michael during the trial. She admits to herself Michael lied when he didn't have sex with the deceased man. Sophie interviews Detective Art Holland about Kathleen's murder. Sophie reveals her theory that the same man killed Dennis and Kathleen.

The detective mentions that their primary suspect is Tyrone Lacour, another man that Michael knew carnally. The author took Tyrone to his home, explaining why there was no sign of a break-in. Unfortunately, Detective Holland investigates the lead but soon realizes Tyrone couldn't have killed Kathleen because he was in prison when she died.

In December 2001, Kathleen suffers a nervous breakdown after learning that Nortel Network's stocks plummeted so low that she lost her retirement fund. As a result, she and Michael won't be able to retire in Paris. They may even need to downsize. Unfortunately, Michael refuses to deal with their financial crisis logically. "Seek and Ye Shall" ends with all of Michael's children and grandchildren returning to Durham in 2001 for the retrial hearing.

Detective Holland forces Sophie to realize that Michael is not the innocent prince charming that she created in her mind. During this episode, Sophie struggles because Michael will most likely spend the rest of his life in prison. In addition, she hates Durham. Nevertheless, Sophie holds on to the hope that Tyrone killed Kathleen because then Michael could be proven innocent and come home with her to Paris.

Throughout "Seek and Ye Shall," the editor learns that Michael lied about not cheating on Kathleen with loads of men, but she can hold on to the fact that the evidence will finally prove Michael's innocence. Unfortunately, Sophie's meeting with Holland at the diner destroys her last hope.

The scene starts with Sophie anxiously waiting at a booth in a diner as Hollands walks in wearing a police jacket. Holland greets Sophie as he sits down across the table from her. Right away, she knows that the detective has "bad news." Holland says the "Lacour Theory was good, Sophie." The film editor questions how he knows that Tyrone was not involved in Kathleen's death. Holland explains that Tyrone was in jail at the time Kathleen was murdered. Sophie hides her devastation on hearing Tyron's Albi.

Holland pushes Sophie to admit that she knows that Michael beat Kathleen to death. She didn't fall down the stairs. The editor's "Lacour Theory" proves that she knows that Kathleen was murdered. Sophie won't stop shaking her head. She refuses to say that it's not possible Kathleen's death was accidental. Sophie won't let go of her dream of living happily ever after with Michael. Holland calmly explains that Kathleen's death can't be murder and an accident. Sophie slumps on her side of the booth.

The detective states his opinion is based on evidence. Sophie argues that life is not so black and white. She brings up the fact the police never investigated the "Owl Theory ." Holland says that the logical answers are there for Sophie to see if she wants to examine the evidence. The film editor holds back tears as she essentially asks the detective to leave. Holland exits the diner while Sophie covers her face.

Kathleen finally tells Michael how she feels during their celebratory Chinese dinner out. Kathleen treats her husband to dinner because one of his books has been optioned for ten thousand dollars. During the dinner, she reveals to Michael that they lost a lot of money because the Nortel stocks plummeted. As a result, the couple won't be able to use her retirement fund to move to Paris in ten years. All their dreams are dead. Michael only cares about the fact that they are poor. Kathleen cries about the personal time with their family that she sacrificed to make enough money to move across the pond. She wasted years of her life for nothing.

Michael argues that they will be able to continue to finance their luxurious lifestyle because of his movie option. Both the author and Kathleen care about creating the perfect family image, but she lives in reality. She can't believe that Michael can think that some Hollywood producer will make him a millionaire based on one movie adaptation. The author refuses to let go of control by

admitting that she is right.

Kathleen points out that the only person who could fix this situation is her, but she doesn't have the strength to claw her way out of this financial hole. Michael doesn't bring any money into their current relationship. The author realizes that he is looking like the villain. He tries to turn the tables by making Kathleen's boring, stressful behavior the problem.

Kathleen punches back hard. She points out that she does everything for their family. Kathleen works long hours at Nortel and emotionally & financially supports his children while completing most of the homemaking duties. Michael only drains their joint bank account to project this charming, wealthy, talented author persona. Kathleen calls him a "boy" because he doesn't do anything to make his dreams for them as a couple come true. The whole time Michael silently seethes behind his calm demeanor. They are not the perfect loving couple that Michael described during the filming of *The Staircase* docu-series.

America's Sweethearts

Season 1

Episode Number: 8

Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Thursday June 09, 2022
Writer: Antonio Campos
Director: Antonio Campos
Show Stars: Colin Firth (Michael Peterson), Toni Collette (Kathleen), Michael Stuhlbarg (David Rudolf), Dane DeHaan (Clayton Peterson), Olivia DeJonge (Caitlin Atwater), Patrick Schwarzenegger (Todd Peterson), Sophie Turner (Margaret Ratliff), Odessa Young (Martha Ratliff), Rosemarie DeWitt (Candace Zamperini), Tim Guinee (Bill Peterson), Parker Posey (Freda Black), Juliette Binoche (Sophie Brunet), Vincent Vermignon (Jean-Xavier)

Guest Stars: Cory Scott Allen (Art Holland), Trini Alvarado (Patty Peterson), Alison Ball (Court Clerk), Micah Shane Ballinger (Baja Place Waiter), Kynzie Colmery (Clayton's Daughter 2), Emma Coulter (Amalfi Hostess), Robert Crayton (Ron Guerette), Deja Dee (Evelyn Ivins), Katelyn Farrugia (Christina Tomasetti), Benjamin Franczuszki (Jim Dornfried), Paul Vincent Freeman (C.O. #1), James J. Fuertes (Caitlin's Husband), Myke Holmes (Duane Deaver), Elbert Kim (Assistant District Attorney), Adam Klein (Amalfi Waiter), Daniela Lee (Devon), Ryan Lewis (Bruce Campbell), Bailey MB (Bartender), Cullen Moss (Jim Hardin), Muretta Moss (Local News Reporter), Hannah Pniewski (Becky), Michelle Rivera (Diane), Nora Seyfried (Clayton's daughter #1), David Silverman (Carl), Kevin Sizemore (Mark Zamperini), Ro Underwood (DA Tracey Cline), Teri Wyble (Sonya Pfeiffer)

Summary: After navigating a possible retrial, a 73-year-old Michael confronts a life-changing decision. Meanwhile, Martha and Margaret each share long-buried truths, and Sophie comes to terms with a revelation.



In 2011, the night before the retrial hearing, the family are back together as Todd records himself and Clayton for his latest post. Margaret learns that Martha is gay. But when Martha claims no one in the family talks about stuff, it nearly leads to an argument. The Staircase moves to 2001 and the day before Kathleen's death. Michael returns home early from work to find Kathleen dressed up and drinking, and they end up having sex.

Meanwhile, the retrial begins with his family and Katherine's family nervously awaiting what happens next. And the scene cuts to a similar courtroom setting

where Michael decides to accept or deny the Alford plea. During both hearings, Candace speaks out against Michael, firmly blaming him for Kathleen's death. However, there is one main difference, as, during the Alford plea hearing, Michael has few supporters in attendance.

In 2011, the Peterson family learn that despite Candace's speech against Michael, a retrial will go ahead. Meanwhile, Michael reluctantly pleads guilty for the purpose of the Alford plea and

seemingly ends the 16-year saga. When Clayton tries to book a table for the family, he is unable to do so due to the stigma.

As Michael's children question whether they should have gone to Michael's Alford plea hearing, they're all in agreement that they have better things to do. Margaret even adds that it's too hard to be around Michael. Kathleen's sisters discuss the latest developments. But Candace is unable to move on and regrets never telling Kathleen what she truly thought about Michael. Back in 2011, whilst out for dinner, the family use one of Kathleen's traditions to celebrate Michael's release. But Michael's mood causes an atmosphere, and Todd gets extremely drunk. And it brings the question, is Michael purely worn down by the last ten years, or is he starting to feel guilty over murdering Kathleen? Who knows.

Martha tells Michael that she has been reading his books, and she recognises him in some of the characters he has written. When it comes to picking dessert, Michael criticises Margaret's selection of a cheesecake. After Martha gives Margaret a birthday present, Margaret tells her that Michael had tried to separate them as children. After the Alford plea, Michael's sour mood continues, and after he snaps at Sophie, he tells her that he just needs a moment away from everything. Once Sophie makes a remark about his children not attending the hearing, Sophie questions why Michael fails to mention her when he gets quizzed on life after prison. As a result, Michael and Sophie have a vicious argument and break up, with Michael admitting that he doesn't know if he ever loved Sophie.

Sophie watches footage of Michael from the documentary, where he finally admits that Kathleen never knew the truth about his sexuality. She tells Jean that Michael is a liar, with Jean then adding that he doesn't know what to think. Although, he does state that he thinks Sophie will be happier without him.

Meanwhile, back on the night of Kathleen's death, Kathleen wants to use Michael's computer. But he advises Kathleen to give work rest for the night. As they sit outside together, Kathleen tells Michael that he'll be ok too before she asks why he never told her. Michael reveals that there was a moment when he knew what he wanted, but he got further and further away from that moment. Although it goes inaudible, it's clear that Kathleen is distraught by Michael's confession. The Staircase ends with present-day Michael sitting alone on his bed. The closing credits reveal that despite his freedom, Michael has so far never left Durham but still maintains his innocence over Kathleen's death.

Actor Appearances

A

Leanna Adams	1
0105 (Commissary Worker)	
Jean V. Alexander	2
0101 (Marylou Pollard); 0104 (Marylou Pollard)	
Cory Scott Allen	6
0101 (Art Holland); 0103 (Art Holland); 0104 (Art Holland); 0106 (Art Holland); 0107 (Art Holland); 0108 (Art Holland)	
Trini Alvarado	5
0102 (Patty Peterson); 0103 (Patty Peterson); 0104 (Patty Peterson); 0107 (Patty Peterson); 0108 (Patty Peterson)	
Kandé Amadou	2
0104 (Assistant Editor #1); 0105 (Assistant Editor #1)	
Daniel Annone	1
0106 (Shawn)	
Nick Arapoglou	1
0107 (Corey)	
Aqeel Ash-Shakoor	1
0107 (State Police #2)	
Zeke Avradopoulos	1
0106 (Therapist)	

B

Christina Bach	1
0101 (News Reporter)	
Alison Ball	1
0108 (Court Clerk)	
Micah Shane Ballinger	1
0108 (Baja Place Waiter)	
Cynthia Barrett	2
0101 (Carol); 0105 (Carol)	
Nick Basta	1
0105 (George)	
Paris Benjamin	1
0105 (Claire)	
A.K. Benninghofen	2
0101 (Charlene Rudolf); 0103 (Charlene)	
Jeff Benninghofen	1
0101 (Chief M.E. John Butts)	
Caroline Bloom	1
0105 (Rosalie)	
Donny Boaz	2
0103 (Tyrone Lacour); 0107 (Tyrone Lacour)	
Martin Bats Bradford	1
0105 (Loop)	
Jean Brassard	1
0105 (François)	
Frank Brennan	1
0104 (WW2 Vet)	
Kate Brown	1
0107 (SBI Tech 1)	

C

Justin Calalay	1
0106 (Josh)	
Dayne Catalano	1
0105 (Inmate #1)	
Henry Charnaux	1
0106 (Timmy Campbell)	
Viviana Chavez	1
0101 (Paramedic)	
Thea Clark	1
0107 (Premiere Guest)	
Erika Coleman	2
0101 (Medical Assistant); 0104 (Medical Assistant)	
Kynzie Colmery	2
0107 (Clayton's Daughter 2); 0108 (Clayton's Daughter 2)	
Emma Coulter	1
0108 (Amalfi Hostess)	
Robert Crayton	6
0101 (Ron Guerette); 0102 (Ron Guerette); 0103 (Ron Guerette); 0104 (Ron Guerette); 0107 (Ron Guerette); 0108 (Ron Guerette)	
John Crow	1
0102 (Joseph)	
Matthew Jayson Cwern	1
0102 (Faris Bandak)	

D

Angela Davis	1
0101 (Officer)	
Jason Davis	4
0101 (Fred Atwater); 0102 (Fred Atwater); 0103 (Fred Atwater); 0104 (Fred Atwater)	
Deja Dee	2
0107 (Evelyn Ivins); 0108 (Evelyn Ivins)	
Faith Dillon	1
0104 (Officer Hayworth)	
Maria Dizzia	5
0101 (Lori Campbell); 0102 (Lori Campbell); 0103 (Lori Campbell); 0104 (Lori Campbell); 0106 (Lori Campbell)	
Seth Dousman	1
0105 (Sneaky Inmate)	
Josh Drennen	1
0101 (Francis Borden)	
Victoria Nicole Dresden	1
0106 (Melody)	
Donna Duplantier	1
0105 (Visiting Area C.O. #3)	

E

Amber Erwin	1
0106 (Topsy Woman)	

F

Katelyn Farrugia 2
 0101 (Christina Tomasetti); 0108 (Christina Tomasetti)
 Frank Feys 5
 0102 (Denis Poncet); 0103 (Denis Poncet); 0104
 (Denis Poncet); 0105 (Denis Poncet); 0106 (De-
 nis Poncet)
 Mike Forbs 1
 0105 (BK)
 Jaime Fortwangler 1
 0105 (J-Smoke Crew)
 Benjamin Franczuszki 1
 0108 (Jim Dornfried)
 Paul Vincent Freeman 3
 0105 (POD C.O. #1); 0106 (POD C.O. #1); 0108
 (C.O. #1)
 James J. Fuertes 1
 0108 (Caitlin's Husband)

G

Bastian Günther 1
 0107 (Father)
 Miguel A. Gaetan 1
 0107 (Inmate #2)
 Chandra Gaines 1
 0104 (Juror)
 Samuel Ray Gates 2
 0105 (Big Ray); 0106 (Big Ray)
 Ronald Godfrey 1
 0101 (Officer)
 Monika Gossmann 2
 0104 (Agnes Schafer); 0107 (Anges Shafer)
 Ian Gregg 2
 0105 (Lucas); 0106 (Lucas)
 Bailey Marie Griggs 1
 0106 (Ashley Zamperini)
 Jay Gutierrez 1
 0101 (SBI Lab Technician)

H

Nick Hagelin 1
 0107 (Nortel Party Bartender)
 Martin Harris 1
 0104 (German Reporter)
 James Healy Jr. 2
 0103 (Steven Blair); 0106 (Steven Blair)
 Ashlee Heath 1
 0103 (Texas Newswoman)
 Mark Helms 2
 0103 (Bailiff); 0104 (Bailiff #1)
 Morgan Henard 3
 0102 (Dennis Rowe); 0103 (Dennis Rowe); 0107
 (Dennis Rowe)
 Larry Herring 1
 0101 (Paramedic)
 Kelley Hinman 1
 0107 (Older Lawyer)
 Charlton Hoag 1
 0101 (Officer)
 Myke Holmes 6
 0101 (Duane Deaver); 0102 (Duane Deaver); 0103
 (Duane Deaver); 0104 (Duane Deaver); 0107
 (Duane Deaver); 0108 (Duane Deaver)

I

Joel Ray Ishman 1

0102 (Police Officer)

J

Alex D. Jennings 1
 0103 (Waiter)
 Erik J. Jensen 3
 0105 (J-Smoke); 0106 (J-Smoke); 0107 (J-Smoke)
 Scott Daniel Johnson 2
 0102 (Jay Trehy); 0103 (Jay Trehy)
 Lisa Jolley 2
 0103 (Court Clerk); 0104 (Court Clerk)

K

Daryn Kahn 1
 0106 (James Gregory)
 Karson Kern 2
 0103 (Nate); 0105 (Nate)
 Maurice P. Kerry 1
 0103 (Officer)
 Elbert Kim 1
 0108 (Assistant District Attorney)
 Adam James King 1
 0105 (Yard C.O. #2)
 Adam Klein 1
 0108 (Amalfi Waiter)
 Joe Komara 1
 0103 (Bar Patron)
 Olek Krupa 1
 0102 (Werner Spitz)

L

Sailor Larocque 1
 0105 (Payton)
 Wilky Lau 2
 0102 (Henry Lee); 0104 (Henry Lee)
 Justice Leak 6
 0101 (Tom Maher); 0102 (Tom Maher); 0103 (Tom
 Maher); 0104 (Tom Maher); 0105 (Tom Ma-
 her); 0107 (Tom Maher)
 Daniela Lee 5
 0101 (Devon); 0102 (Devon); 0103 (Devon); 0107
 (Devon); 0108 (Devon)
 Eric Lee 2
 0103 (Judge Orlando Hudson); 0104 (Judge Or-
 lando Hudson)
 William Gregory Lee 2
 0106 (Suit #1); 0107 (Suit #1)
 Dustin Lewis 2
 0101 (Assistant District Attorney); 0103 (Male ADA)
 Ryan Lewis 6
 0101 (Bruce Campbell); 0102 (Bruce Campbell); 0103
 (Bruce Campbell); 0104 (Bruce Campbell); 0106
 (Bruce Campbell); 0108 (Bruce Campbell)
 Vinny Lotti 1
 0107 (State Police #1)

M

Bailey MB 1
 0108 (Bartender)
 Andre Martin 5
 0102 (Yves); 0103 (Yves); 0104 (Yves); 0105 (Yves);
 0106 (Yves)
 Nick McCallum 1
 0103 (James the Masseur)
 Liz McGeever 1

The Staircase Episode Guide

0107 (Bloomington's Rep)
 Jean-Luc McMurtry 2
 0104 (Gaultier); 0105 (Gaultier)
 Joel McKinnon Miller 4
 0101 (Larry Pollard); 0104 (Larry Pollard); 0105
 (Larry Pollard); 0106 (Larry Pollard)
 Mike A. Morgan 1
 0106 (Yard inmate)
 Cullen Moss 5
 0101 (Jim Hardin); 0102 (Jim Hardin); 0103 (Jim
 Hardin); 0104 (Jim Hardin); 0108 (Jim Hardin)
 Muretta Moss 1
 0108 (Local News Reporter)

N

William Ngo 1
 0107 (Makeup Artist)

O

Babatunde Oyewo 1
 0104 (Gym Member)

P

Laura Palka 1
 0104 (Court TV Reporter)
 Carl Palmer 1
 0102 (Banker at Gym)
 Craig Pearman 1
 0101 (Kenneth Snell)
 Elijahawon Perrin 1
 0105 (BK's Crew)
 Vince Pisani 1
 0102 (Tim Palmbach)
 Sophie Pittman 1
 0102 (Dancer)
 Hannah Pniewski 6
 0101 (Becky); 0102 (Becky); 0104 (Becky); 0105
 (Becky); 0107 (Becky); 0108 (Becky)
 Eric Poulain 2
 0105 (Jacques); 0106 (Jacques)
 Susan Pourfar 5
 0101 (Dr. Deborah Radisch); 0104 (Dr. Deborah
 Radisch); 0105 (Dr. Deborah Radisch); 0106
 (Dr. Deborah Radisch); 0107 (Dr. Deborah Radisch)
 Giovanni Pucci 2
 0105 (Remy); 0106 (Remy)

R

Michelle Rivera 2
 0105 (Diane); 0108 (Diane)
 Lindsay Rootare 1
 0105 (Expat #2)

S

Kate Sanford 3
 0101 (Veronica Hunt); 0102 (Veronica Hunt); 0106
 (Veronica Hunt)
 Jason Saucier 1
 0103 (Exterminator)
 Kevin Saunders 1
 0106 (Durham Officer Kern)
 Nora Seyfried 2
 0107 (Clayton's Daughter #1); 0108 (Clayton's daugh-
 ter #1)

David Silverman 2
 0105 (Carl); 0108 (Carl)
 Kevin Sizemore 6
 0101 (Mark Zamperini); 0102 (Mark Zamperini);
 0103 (Mark Zamperini); 0104 (Mark Zamperini);
 0106 (Mark Zamperini); 0108 (Mark Zamperini)
 Stephen Starkweather 1
 0104 (Howard Clement)
 D.J. Stavropoulos 2
 0101 (News Reporter); 0102 (News Reporter)
 Ed Sturdivant 1
 0102 (Upper Management)

T

Tedd Taskey 1
 0102 (Weight Lifter)
 Paul Teal 3
 0102 (Brad Wolgamott); 0103 (Brad Wolgamott); 0104
 (Brad Wolgamott)
 William Thompson 1
 0106 (Mess Hall C.O. #4)
 Eric Tiede 1
 0104 (BBC Reporter (voice))
 Adrian Tristan 1
 0104 (Debate Monitor)

U

Ro Underwood 1
 0108 (DA Tracey Cline)

W

Deena Wade 3
 0102 (Margaret Blair); 0103 (Margaret Blair); 0106
 (Margaret Blair)
 Rachel Walters 1
 0105 (Expat #1)
 Greg Weeks 1
 0106 (Shorty the Janitor)
 David Christian Welborn 1
 0107 (Suit #2)
 Abigail Susan Williams 1
 0105 (Conductor)
 Daniel P. Wilson 1
 0107 (Greg Taylor)
 Teri Wyble 4
 0102 (Sonya Pfeiffer); 0103 (Sonya Pfeiffer); 0104
 (Sonya Pfeiffer); 0108 (Sonya Pfeiffer)

Y

Kara Young 2
 0103 (Yasmine); 0106 (Yasmine)