

= I Like You So Much Better When You 're Naked (Grey 's Anatomy) =

" I Like You So Much Better When You 're Naked " is the twelfth episode of the sixth season of the American television medical drama Grey 's Anatomy , and the show 's 114th episode overall . It was written by Tony Phelan and Joan Rater , and directed by Donna Deitch . It aired on the American Broadcasting Company in the United States on January 21 , 2010 . In the episode , Dr. Izzie Stevens (Katherine Heigl) returns to the fictional Seattle Grace Mercy West Hospital with the fear that her estranged husband Dr. Alex Karev (Justin Chambers) is moving on . Further storylines include Dr. Derek Shepherd (Patrick Dempsey) contemplating as to whether or not he should report the chief of surgery Dr. Richard Webber (James Pickens , Jr .) , for his alcoholism , and Dr. Callie Torres (Sara Ramirez) battling the chicken pox .

The episode was originally intended to serve as the final episode before Heigl 's maternity leave , but was later marked as her final appearance to the series . Kim Raver (Dr. Teddy Altman) reprised her role as a guest star , in addition to Jesse Williams (Dr. Jackson Avery) and Mitch Pileggi (Larry Jennings) . The title of the episode refers to the song , " I Like You So Much Better When You 're Naked " , by Norwegian rock musician , Ida Maria . " I Like You So Much Better When You 're Naked " opened to generally favorable reviews , with Sandra Oh (Dr. Cristina Yang) ' s performance particularly praised . Upon its initial airing , the episode was viewed by 12 @. @ 70 million Americans , ranked second in its time @- @ slot , and garnered a 4 @. @ 7 / 12 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

= = Plot = =

The episode begins with general surgeon Dr. Miranda Bailey (Chandra Wilson) performing a special surgery , and to her dismay , the chief of surgery Dr. Richard Webber (James Pickens , Jr .) is absent from the operating room . At Dr. Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo) ' s house , Dr. Lexie Grey (Chyler Leigh) is engaging in sexual activity with Dr. Alex Karev (Justin Chambers) , while his wife , Dr. Izzie Stevens (Katherine Heigl) is estranged . In the next room , Meredith begins arguing with her husband , Dr. Derek Shepherd (Patrick Dempsey) , over whether or not he should report the chief of surgery , Dr. Richard Webber (James Pickens , Jr .) ' s alcoholism to Larry Jennings (Mitch Pileggi) , the hospital 's president .

Dr. Izzie Stevens (Katherine Heigl) returns home after being on a hiatus , due to her being fired from the hospital , to rekindle her relationship with Karev . Dr. Callie Torres (Sara Ramirez) and Dr. Arizona Robbins (Jessica Capshaw) are being intimate in the hospital 's on @- @ call room , until Torres discovers that she has the chicken pox . Robbins places her in isolation , because she wants a " sexy " relationship , and does not think the chicken pox can account to that . Meredith is set to perform a Pancreaticoduodenectomy procedure with Dr. Jackson Avery (Jesse Williams) , under the supervision of Webber , but under the influence of alcohol , he falls asleep , and Bailey performs the surgery . In an effort to reason with Meredith , Shepherd offers her a proposition . Shepherd is aware that he will receive Webber 's job if he is reported , and therefore will be in charge of hiring . He explains to Meredith that if she lets him report the chief , he will let Stevens re @- @ obtain her job .

Stevens enters the hospital to receive a Positron emission tomography , due to her cancer . When it is revealed that she is now cancer @- @ free , her happiness leads Meredith to allowing Shepherd to report Webber . In the previous episode , " Blink " , Dr. Cristina Yang (Sandra Oh) told cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Teddy Altman (Kim Raver) that she could have Dr. Owen Hunt (Kevin McKidd) , her boyfriend , if she continued to work at Seattle Grace Mercy West . An appalled Altman reveals this to Hunt , however , him and Yang subsequently mend their relationship , and Altman continues to work at the hospital . Lexie meets up with Dr. Mark Sloan (Eric Dane) , her ex @- @ boyfriend , and reveals that she had sex with Karev . Sloan reveals that he too was involved in sexual activity , but is unable to forgive Lexie . At the conclusion of the work @- @ day , Stevens approaches Karev , seeking reconciliation , but he explains that he does not deserve to be treated the way he was , and asks her to leave . Meredith informs Stevens that she is getting her job back ,

but disinterested , Stevens departs , seeking a fresh start to life .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Tony Phelan and Joan Rater , and directed by Donna Deitch . David Greenspan edited the episode and Danny Lux served as the music coordinator . The episode was broadcast with Dolby Digital sound , being aired in both standard and high @-@ definition , and running for 43 minutes without commercials . Featured music included Ingrid Michaelson 's " Everybody " and Amanda Blank 's " Something Bigger , Something Better " , and the episode was named after the song , " I Like You So Much Better When You 're Naked " , by Norwegian rock musician , Ida Maria . The episode saw Heigl briefly return after a five @-@ episode hiatus to film the movie , Life as We Know It . " I Like You So Much Better When You 're Naked " was also planned to be the last episode before her maternity leave , however , in March 2010 , when she did not return to the Grey 's Anatomy set after her maternity leave , Heigl marked this episode as her last .

While writing the scene with Meredith and Shepherd fighting , Rater explained that she was intending to show how they matured , adding : " This is a real grown @-@ up argument . Meredith isn 't running away , getting all dark and going to Cristina for help getting out of her marriage . She 's staying and fighting . " While writing the episode , writers intended the theme of the episode to be " exposure " , but after the episode was filmed , realized it was " ambition " . Rater commented on this : " Derek wants to be Chief ; Meredith wants to do a procedure that she knows she isn 't ready for ; Cristina wants Teddy to stay . " In the episode , Oh 's character asked her fellow residents if they would choose love or surgery , if need be , with Stevens choosing love and Yang and Meredith choosing surgery . The Grey 's Anatomy staff offered the insight : " When we were first discussing this story we had a knock down drag out fight in the writers ' room ? if you had to choose your love or your art , which would you choose ? And some of us came down on the Cristina side , and some of us came down on the Izzie side ? that in the end love is all that matters . " At the conclusion of the episode , Karev ended his marriage to Stevens . Rater expressed that the writers decided to have the fictional couple break @-@ up , because Stevens wasn 't sick anymore , and Karev would not have left her when she was .

= = Reception = =

= = = Broadcasting = = =

" I Like You So Much Better When You 're Naked " was first broadcast on January 21 , 2010 in the United States on ABC . The episode was viewed by a total of 12 @.@ 7 million Americans , down 0 @.@ 20 % from the previous episode . In terms of viewership , the episode ranked second in its 9 : 00 Eastern time @-@ slot , just behind CBS ' CSI , and third for the night , losing to CBS ' The Mentalist and CSI . Although the episode experienced a low in viewership , its 4 @.@ 7 / 12 Nielsen rating ranked first in its time @-@ slot and the entire night , for both the rating and share percentages of the 18 ? 49 demographic , beating out typically high @-@ rated shows , including its spin @-@ off Private Practice , Fox 's Bones , CSI , The Mentalist , and NBC 's juggernaut , The Office .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The episode was generally well received among television critics . Prior to broadcast , E ! Online 's Jennifer Godwin expressed her fear : " [I 'm] a little afraid that Iz [zie] is just stopping by to break Alex 's heart before vanishing again . " After the episode aired , TV Fanatic 's Steve Marsi noted that the argument between Shepherd and Meredith " didn 't work " , calling him " aggressive " . Marsi also commented on Oh 's performance : " Incredible performance by Sandra Oh as always . You

can see the inner turmoil even when few or no words are exchanged , forgetting you 're watching an actress . Simply amazing . " BuzzSugar called Sloan 's inability to forgive Lexie " an unexpected twist " , and referred to the tensions between Yang , Hunt , and Altman as " awkward " .

The Huffington Post 's Michael Pascua opinionated that " I Like You So Much Better When You 're Naked " " reestablished Meredith as the core character of the show " , adding : " She was the one who had to deal with Derek 's problems with the chief , the aftermath of Alex and Lexie , Cristina 's driven nature , and had to console the chief . " Pascua also called Altman 's telling Hunt of what Yang told her " stereotypical " , and praised Chambers ' character for not taking Stevens back . Pascua was impressed with the chicken pox storyline , writing :

" Our odd form of comical relief came in the form of Callie . I loved how she was stuck in the " gauze paws " and that she still looked attractive even with blotchy red bumps on her face . Somehow Arizona can pull off a little white lie and it magically works for her . It ended up strengthening their relationship , as well . "