

= Poughkeepsie , Tramps and Thieves =

" Poughkeepsie , Tramps and Thieves " is the eleventh episode of the third season of the American mystery television series Veronica Mars , and the fifty @-@ fifth episode overall . Written by executive producer Diane Ruggiero and directed by John T. Kretchmer , the episode premiered on The CW on January 30 , 2007 . The series depicts the adventures of Veronica Mars (Kristen Bell) as she deals with life as a college student while moonlighting as a private detective .

In this episode , Veronica is hired by Max (Adam Rose) a student who is looking for his beloved , Chelsea , but Veronica learns that Chelsea is actually a prostitute hired to make Max lose his virginity . Meanwhile , Keith finds the official police report of Dean O 'Dell 's death . In addition , Veronica asks Logan about his past , eventually finding out that he had sex with Madison Sinclair (Amanda Noret) when they were broken up .

Adam Rose makes his second appearance in " Poughkeepsie , Tramps and Thieves " , while the episode was one of Thomas 's favorites of the season , particularly enjoying scenes between Logan and Veronica , Veronica and Keith , and Chelsea and Max . In its initial broadcast , the episode received 2 @.@ 69 million viewers and mixed reviews from television critics , with critics being divided over the case of the week and the development of Veronica and Logan 's romance . Eric Goldman of IGN thought that the episode was " extremely witty and fast @-@ paced " , while Rowan Kaiser , writing for The A.V. Club , believed that the episode suffered from a " lack of development for Max 's character . "

= = Background = =

Veronica Mars is a student who progresses from high school to college while moonlighting as a private investigator under the tutelage of her detective father . In each episode , Veronica solves a different stand @-@ alone case while working to solve a more complex mystery . In addition , there is usually a major mystery throughout episodes that takes Veronica longer to solve . In the case of the third season , there are two standalone cases with nine and six episodes , respectively , followed by five episodes without a major story arc . " Poughkeepsie , Tramps and Thieves " is the second episode to solely focus on the mystery of Dean O 'Dell 's (Ed Begley , Jr .) death , with the previous one being " Show Me the Monkey " ; the previous story arc , a serial rape , was solved in " Spit & Eggs " .

= = Plot synopsis = =

After a lunch with Logan , Veronica notices that the Hearst Lampoon ? s offices were egged . Veronica is approached by a mysterious student , Max , hires her to find his beloved , Chelsea , who is engaged , in a week , or else he threatens to kill himself . They spent one night talk together talking . He tells her that she sent him a text message . Veronica quickly finds out that Max ? s friends hired Chelsea , a prostitute , in order to make him be more confident with girls . His roommate sent him a text message in order to help him get over her . Keith receives the police report of Dean O ? Dell ? s death , but he doesn ? t find anything useful in it . Veronica hires the two prostitutes who might be Chelsea , and one of them is Chelsea . She is incredibly happy to see Max , surprising both Veronica and Logan .

As Max and Chelsea (whose real name is Wendy) make out on the couch , Madison (Amanda Noret) appears , looking for Dick . Keith interrogates the Lilith house girls , who have alibis for the Dean ? s death . A battered prostitute appears at Logan ? s door and takes Wendy away , citing problems with their pimp , leaving Max heartbroken . Veronica finds a stain of purple makeup on a towel , and she immediately deduces that Wendy conned Max out of \$ 1 @,@ 000 . Veronica blackmails a judge in order to secure the \$ 1 @,@ 000 back . Veronica and Logan ask each other personal questions in an attempt to become more intimate , but it fails . At the bus locker at which Veronica instructed the judge to leave the money , she instead finds a note that tells Veronica and Max to get in a limo . In the limo , they find Wendy ? s pimp , who is actually a woman . She tells

them that she actually did fall in love with Max , but that she needed money for other reasons .

Max immediately pays \$ 10 @, @ 000 in order for Wendy to be forgiven , under the condition that he doesn't tell anyone about the judge . Unexpectedly , Wendy shows up at Max's door . Keith informs Veronica that Nish's alibi doesn't check out for the Dean's car but that it was likely true for Mindy's car , putting her under suspicion . Max and Wendy's relationship becomes difficult , and she leaves the following morning , claiming that he has acted differently towards her after he found out her occupation . Max pays back Veronica in \$ 1 bills he received from Wendy , indicating that she had returned to stripping . Madison tells Veronica that she and Logan had sex when he and Veronica were broken up .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by executive producer Diane Ruggiero and directed by John T. Kretchmer , marking Ruggiero's sixteenth and penultimate writing credit and Kretchmer's twelfth directing credit . One scene in the episode depicts Veronica and Max sitting in the backseat of a vehicle with Chelsea's pimp (a woman) and several bodyguards . Kretchmer decided to place one of the physically domineering bodyguards between Max and Veronica for comedic effect . In addition , Thomas noted that the actress of the pimp , Jackie Debatin , appeared in a similar role in an episode of *The Office* several weeks after the episode aired . The scene in which Keith , in a Sheriff's uniform , spots Don Lamb in his car was difficult to edit because although there was initially no radio music playing , Michael Muhney , the actor of Lamb , was moving his mouth as if singing lyrics . Thomas reported difficulty in finding a song that would match the movements .

Adam Rose makes his second appearance in " Poughkeepsie , Tramps and Thieves " , after being a suspect in " Hi , Infidelity " . From the very beginning of his appearances , Rose's character , Max , was planned to begin a romantic relationship with Mac . When Rose received the call that he would be appearing in more episodes for a romantic storyline with Mac , Rose , who was roommates with the actor of Bronson , another Mac love interest , stated , " But I thought that's what my roommate was doing . " Thomas called the scene in which Chelsea paints Max's toenails one of his favorite scenes involving no series regulars , noting that it was nearly a three @-@ minute scene .

Thomas enjoyed Brianne Davis's , the actress of Chelsea , performance so much that he called her and complimented her after filming ended , while Peter Roth expressed interest in giving her a job on another show . The episode was scored by Mark Lanegan , with whom Thomas had gone to elementary school . Thomas was favorable towards the scene in which Veronica and Logan discuss his past , stating that the scene could have dragged due to its length but that it did not . When scripting the scene , there was a discussion in the writers' room regarding what the extent of Veronica's jealousy could be , with Thomas and Ruggiero , who Thomas described as " naturally jealous people " , winning out and making Veronica more envious rather than less . For the scene in which Veronica asks Keith about the report on Dean O'Dell's suicide by humorously requiring him to sing what he has found , Colantoni gave nine different musical impressions of his dialogue , " I finally got the police report on the Dean's suicide ! "

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original broadcast in the United States , " Poughkeepsie , Tramps and Thieves " was viewed by 2 @. @ 69 million viewers , ranking 92nd of 100 in the weekly rankings .

= = = Reviews = = =

" Poughkeepsie , Tramps and Thieves " received mixed reviews from television critics . Eric Goldman of IGN rated the episode an 8 @. @ 2 out of 10 , indicating that it was " great " . He was

positive towards many aspects of the episode , particularly the first half , while he was more mixed or negative towards the conclusion of the main storyline as well as the romantic development . He wrote that " The first half of this episode was extremely witty and fast @-@ paced . " However , he thought that the Max @-@ Chelsea storyline should have ended earlier in the episode , and that " love sick , mokey Logan has gotten very old . " However , he was complimentary towards Keith 's plotline . Rowan Kaiser , writing for The A.V. Club , had mixed feelings towards the episode , being critical of the case of the week while enjoying some of the secondary storylines . While stating that the episode suffered from " the lack of exploration of Max 's character " and Wendy being underdeveloped , he elaborated that " those are generally minor quibbles with a decent standalone episode , however . " He went on to praise the Logan @-@ Veronica dynamic and Keith 's investigation into the Dean 's death .

Alan Sepinwall , on his blog What 's Alan Watching ? , was mostly positive towards the episode , praising the crew 's decision to focus on the mysteries of the week , stating that " if the last couple of episodes are an indication , maybe done @-@ in @-@ one is in the right direction . " He found that he was invested in the case @-@ of @-@ the @-@ week , while he felt as though the Dean O 'Dell plotline was not advancing quickly enough . Keith McDuffee of AOL TV was critical of nearly all aspects of the episode , stating that he was missing the longer story arcs and that once the mystery of Dean O 'Dell 's murder ended , the show would be relatively aimless . In addition , he decried Mac , Wallace , Piz , and Parker 's absences , saying , " I miss the ' gang ' . " Television Without Pity gave the episode a " B- " .