

= Did You Hear What Happened to Charlotte King ? =

" Did You Hear What Happened to Charlotte King ? " is the seventh episode of the fourth season of the American television medical drama , Private Practice , and the show 's 61st episode overall . Written by Shonda Rhimes and directed by Allison Liddi @-@ Brown , the episode was originally broadcast on ABC in the United States on November 4 , 2010 . Private Practice centers on a group of young doctors working in a private medical practice , and this episode deals with the immediate aftermath of Charlotte King 's (KaDee Strickland) rape .

The episode , written in collaboration with the Rape , Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) , revolved around Strickland 's character to accurately represent recovery from rape . Nicholas Brendon guest @-@ starred as Lee McHenry , and Blue Deckert also appeared as detective Joe Price . " Did You Hear What Happened to Charlotte King ? " earned the series , Rhimes and Strickland several awards and nominations and was well received by critics , with Strickland 's character and performance praised . The initial broadcast was viewed by 10 @.@ 18 million people , received a 3 @.@ 9 / 11 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , and had the fifth @-@ highest number of viewers that night .

= = Plot = =

The episode opens with St. Ambrose Hospital chief of staff Charlotte King (KaDee Strickland) hiding in a supply closet after being raped in her office . Alternative @-@ medicine specialist Dr. Pete Wilder (Tim Daly) finds and examines her , diagnosing a broken wrist , eye socket and nose and a deep arm laceration and admitting her to the hospital . King lies to Wilder , telling him that she was injured in a mugging . Wilder calls the police ; King attempts to contact her boyfriend , Dr. Cooper Freedman (Paul Adelstein) , but cannot reach him because he is out drinking with Dr. Amelia Shepherd (Caterina Scorsone) and Dr. Sam Bennett (Taye Diggs) . At the police station psychiatrist Sheldon Wallace (Brian Benben) interrogates Lee McHenry (Nicholas Brendon) , who was found with blood on his clothes . After nurses photograph King 's injuries , Dr. Addison Montgomery (Kate Walsh) realizes that King was raped and offers her a rape kit . During her pelvic examination , King refuses the rape kit and tells Montgomery not to tell anyone else about the rape . Freedman arrives with Shepherd and Bennett , and is surprised at the extent of King 's injuries . During the CT scan , King and Shepherd bond over their shared drug addiction when King refuses pain medication . Shepherd admits drinking alcohol again , and King offers to take her to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings . Shepherd sutures King 's wounds , which causes King great pain ; Freedman feels powerless , unable to protect her .

Interviewed by Wallace , McHenry admits being angry after discovering his girlfriend 's infidelity but denies that the blood on his clothing is hers . Montgomery tries to convince King to report her rape ; King refuses , telling Montgomery that she does not understand what it is like to be raped . Wilder uses alternative medicine to help King deal with her pain . Psychiatrist Violet Turner (Amy Brenneman) refuses to talk to King about the rape because of similarities to the fetal abduction she experienced a year earlier , and wonders if everyone in the practice is cursed . Bennett wants to go home and rest , which angers Montgomery . King attempts to compose a memorandum saying that she was attacked on the hospital grounds , but Freedman suggests that another member of the staff do it for her ; she shouts at Freedman when he calls her a victim . After the argument , Freedman goes to King 's office and weeps when he sees the aftermath of her assault . McHenry admits raping a woman , assaulting Wallace before he is pulled away by the police . In the ambulance bay , Bennett expresses his confusion about Montgomery 's mood swings and suspects that she is hiding something from him ; Montgomery asks him to promise never to leave her alone . After Freedman helps her dress , King says that she loves him and wants to go home . McHenry is held by the police for assaulting a police officer during his arrest and Wallace during his interrogation , but detective Joe Price says that McHenry cannot be charged with rape until charges are filed against him . The episode ends with King walking out of the hospital with Freedman 's help ; flashbacks of the rape reveal that McHenry was the rapist .

= = Production = =

The 43 @-@ minute episode was written by Shonda Rhimes and directed by Allison Liddi @-@ Brown . Christal A. Khatib edited the music , and Gregory Van Horn was its production designer . Johann Sebastian Bach 's Prelude and Fugue in C was played during the opening sequence . Rhimes wrote the episode in collaboration with the Rape , Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) to ensure that King 's recovery was presented as accurately as possible . She later called it one of her favorites from the series and said , " I feel like I changed as a writer writing that episode . "

Approached by Rhimes about the episode , Strickland agreed to the storyline on the conditions that " it not go away quickly " and would significantly impact the character . She liked the script , describing it as " humanizing the victims and just really creating a legitimate experience for the audience in a way that you may not see on network television " . In addition to communicating with RAINN representatives , the actress visited the Rape Treatment Center at UCLA Medical Center in Santa Monica and saw a young girl being admitted , which shaped her performance . Strickland also researched reactions to sexual assault by survivors , their friends and families . The decision to portray King 's resistance to reporting her rape was reached after consultation with the hospital . Strickland defended the choice , calling it a " very important part of Charlotte King 's story " and a " very realistic response " . Most of the episode focused on King 's psychological response to the rape . According to Strickland ,

" The nature of that kind of attack is so shocking to a person 's system a lot of times that how they respond in those first moments afterwards , it could go six ways to Sunday . For Charlotte , because of the type of person she is , very in control , very direct , very together , I think it really turns her world upside down , and I think she doesn 't really know how to even comprehend what has happened to her or how to process it . "

The actress described the filming of the rape as easier than the scenes depicting its aftermath , which she called " psychologically ... [and] ... physically hard " . Strickland and Brendon agreed on a safeword when they filmed the rape , due to its brutality . The scene affected Strickland to the extent that she " fe [lt] trigger [ed] " when she went to the set on which the rape was shot . The actress called the filming process " intense " and " truthful " , but " by no means is any of that even comparable to anything that women and men have had experience with " . Brendon was cast against type as McHenry , King 's rapist , since he is primarily known as the comedic Xander Harris in Buffy the Vampire Slayer . Strickland said that Brendon 's character was not " crazy " or " deranged " , because perpetrators of rape are " people who are around us all the time " ; she called Brendon 's acceptance of the role " brave " .

According to Strickland , every character in the episode was affected by King 's rape . She praised Adelstein 's performance , saying that he provided a " nuanced portrayal of the sexual assault victim 's partner " . Adelstein called his character " a conscious 21st @-@ century male " in his interactions with King . According to Strickland , Montgomery 's decision to use the rape kit on King without her knowledge would be a major storyline in the future and Turner would become " very adamant about getting help " for King after learning about the rape since the characters had had similar traumatic experiences . A behind @-@ the @-@ scenes feature about the episode and others involving King 's rape , " An Inside Look : The Violation of Charlotte King " , was included on the fourth @-@ season DVD and Blu @-@ ray releases .

= = Reception = =

= = Broadcast = = =

" Did You Hear What Happened to Charlotte King ? " was originally broadcast on November 4 , 2010 in the United States on the ABC network . The episode was viewed by a total of 10 @. @ 18 million people , 44 percent more than the previous episode . Although it was the fifth @-@ highest

@-@ rated show that night (behind CBS 's The Big Bang Theory , \$ h * ! My Dad Says , CSI and The Mentalist) , its 3 @.@ 9 / 11 Nielsen rating topped the 10 : 00 Eastern time slot for the rating and share percentages of the 18 ? 49 demographic . The episode was aired with a message encouraging viewer discretion , due to its violence .

= = = Critical response = = =

Critical response was largely positive , with a TV Guide writer ranking " Did You Hear What Happened to Charlotte King ? " one of 2010 's top 25 television episodes . According to the reviewer , when Freedman first saw King 's injuries " it was like we weren 't even watching TV anymore " . The review praised Strickland 's performance , predicting an Emmy nomination . A TVLine post listed Strickland as one of the Emmy Awards ' 21 biggest snubs , and called her performance a " tour de force " . TV Fanatic 's Steve Marsi liked the episode , saying that its pacing and Strickland 's performance immersed the audience despite the subject matter 's being " extremely difficult to digest " . E ! News ' Kristin dos Santos also praised Strickland 's portrayal of King , writing that she " definitely needs to be in the running " for an Emmy nomination , and Winston Mize of SpoilerTV wrote that Strickland was " robbed. of. all. the. awards " .

JeromeWetzelTV of Blogcritics called the episode " disturbing , intense , tragic , and moving " , with the rape handled delicately and responsibly . E ! 's Jennifer Arrow described the rape scene as " the most realistic depiction of rape in media history " and " harrowing to watch " and noted Brendon 's casting as the " evil crazy guy " in contrast with his previous performance as Xander Harris , " the funny guy from Buffy the Vampire Slayer who mastered the Snoopy dance " . Alec Stern of The Michigan Daily cited the episode as an example of the show 's improved quality , and The Futon Critic 's Brian Ford Sullivan included it in his list of 50 best episodes of 2010 . SpoilerTV 's Winston Mize called the episode one of Rhimes ' best shows , praising it for avoiding a preachy or excessively @-@ dramatic take on rape .

Its depiction of King 's rape and its aftermath was compared to similar storylines on other shows . E 's Jennifer Arrow called it part of the " rape @-@ on @-@ TV trend " , linking King 's rape with those of Gemma Teller Morrow of FX 's crime drama Sons of Anarchy and Naomi Clark of the CW teen drama 90210 . According to Arrow , all three characters were " strong , no @-@ nonsense ladies who generally dominate their environments " and did not report their rape . She asked if each show 's decision for the victim not to report the rape was part of a larger cultural belief that " trusts in women who keep their silence " . TV Fanatic 's Steve Marsi called the episode reminiscent of Law & Order : Special Victims Unit in its presentation of events in real time and emphasis on character reactions . The Michigan Daily 's Alec Stern called sexual assault " a crutch Shonda Rhimes has turned to in all three of her series " , writing that the development of King 's character was superior to the storyline of Mellie Grant 's rape on the ABC drama Scandal .

= = = Awards and impact = = =

The episode was cited at the 2011 Television Academy Honors for exemplifying " Television with a Conscience " . The Academy of Television Arts & Sciences called it a " poignant " episode , which " master [ed] the gut @-@ wrenching crime of sexual assault " . Private Practice received the award in 2010 for its approach to physician @-@ assisted suicide in the second @-@ season episode , " Nothing to Fear " , and a drama @-@ series Women 's Image Network Award at the 13th annual WIN awards . " Did You Hear What Happened to Charlotte King ? " was a finalist for the Sentinel for Health Award for Primetime Drama (Major Storyline) for its representation of rape , losing to the Parenthood episode " Qualities and Difficulties " (which focused on Asperger syndrome) . The show was nominated for the PRISM Award for Drama Series Multi @-@ Episode Storyline (Mental Health) for " Did You Hear What Happened to Charlotte King ? " and the following episodes , " What Happens Next " and " Can 't Find My Way Back Home " , losing to the first two seasons of Parenthood .

Rhimes and Strickland received a RAINN Hope Award in recognition of " their efforts in educating

the public about sexual assault prevention " . Strickland said that she considered submitting the episode or later episodes , " Can 't Find My Way Home " or " Blind Love , " for consideration at the 63rd Primetime Emmy Awards , but she did not receive a nomination . The actress received the Female Performance in a Drama Series Multi @-@ Episode Storyline award at the 2011 PRISM Awards . Rhimes received the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Writing in a Dramatic Series at the 2011 NAACP Awards for her work on the episode .

After its broadcast , RAINN had a " 500 @-@ percent increase in service requests " (which temporarily crashed its website) . Strickland participated in a public service announcement to increase awareness of rape and sexual abuse , and said that she had received many emails from survivors of sexual assault . After her work on the episode , RAINN called the actress a " vocal advocate for using DNA evidence in solving rape cases " .