

= Invasion ( Grey 's Anatomy ) =

" Invasion " is the fifth episode of the sixth season of the American television medical drama Grey 's Anatomy , and the show 's 107th episode overall . It was written by Mark Wilding and directed by Tony Phelan . The episode was originally broadcast on the American Broadcasting Company ( ABC ) in the United States on October 15 , 2009 . In the episode , the physicians of Seattle Grace Hospital must learn to co -@-@ operate with new Mercy West residents , who do not act in a kind manner to them . Other storylines include Dr. Callie Torres ( Sara Ramirez ) ' s father returning to the hospital to condemn her homosexuality , and Dr. Izzie Stevens ( Katherine Heigl ) putting her career into jeopardy after administering the wrong treatment to a patient .

The episode was Heigl 's last appearance before her five @-@ episode hiatus to film a movie . It is set in a fictional hospital in Seattle , Washington . Héctor Elizondo returned as a guest star , while Jesse Williams , Sarah Drew , Robert Baker , and Nora Zehetner made their first appearances . " Invasion " received generally positive reviews , with critics praising Drew 's , Jessica Capshaw 's , Ellen Pompeo 's , and Sandra Oh 's performances . Upon its initial airing , the episode was viewed by 13 @.@ 79 million Americans , garnered a 5 @.@ 0 / 13 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic and ranked third for the night in terms of viewership .

= = Plot = =

The hospital receives several surgical residents from Mercy West as they enter Seattle Grace , a repercussion of the recent merger . Dr. Meredith Grey ( Ellen Pompeo ) is recovering from her liver transplantation surgery , after donating a portion of it to her father . In the residents ' lounge , Dr. Izzie Stevens ( Katherine Heigl ) tries to explain to Mercy West resident Dr. Reed Adamson ( Nora Zehetner ) that she should not use a certain locker , due to it formerly belonging to the deceased Dr. George O 'Malley ( T.R. Knight ) . Adamson ignores her wishes , and uses the locker , leading Stevens to threatening to fight her . Shortly thereafter , Dr. Cristina Yang ( Sandra Oh ) and Dr. Lexie Grey ( Chyler Leigh ) are working in the emergency room , when Dr. Owen Hunt ( Kevin McKidd ) embarrasses Yang by taking Mercy West resident Dr. Jackson Avery ( Jesse Williams ) ' side in a disagreement . Despite her mindset that all Mercy West residents would act in the manner of Adamson , Stevens develops a friendship with Dr. Charles Percy ( Robert Baker ) . After months of the two not speaking , Dr. Callie Torres ( Sara Ramirez ) ' s father , Carlos ( Héctor Elizondo ) , shows up to the hospital with a priest , trying to condemn Torres for her concurrence in homosexuality .

Under the supervision of Dr. Derek Shepherd ( Patrick Dempsey ) , Lexie works with Mercy West resident Dr. April Kepner ( Sarah Drew ) on a burglar , and the two get in several disagreements , leading Lexie to steal her diary . Dr. Alex Karev ( Justin Chambers ) and Adamson continuously argue over the course of treatment for a patient , leading the patient 's daughter to yell at them in disbelief . Angry about the revelation that Percy ( who later apologized saying that they can be friends outside the hospital , but not inside ) was using her , Stevens accidentally administers the wrong dialysis to a patient , making her an unviable candidate for the kidney transplant she was scheduled to receive . After arguing over surgical cases for the entirety of the day , Yang comes to the realization that she needs a cardiothoracic surgeon to work at the hospital . After being mistreated by Kepner , Lexie begins to mock her about what is written in her diary , thus ruining her emotionally , but subsequently apologizes . Dr. Arizona Robbins ( Jessica Capshaw ) , Torres ' girlfriend , talks to Carlos , and convinces him to accept his daughter 's sexuality . Having found out about Stevens ' mistake , Dr. Miranda Bailey ( Chandra Wilson ) reprimands her reports her to the chief of surgery Dr. Richard Webber ( James Pickens , Jr . ) . Webber asks Stevens to come into her office , and he fires her from the staff , noting that Hunt , Shepherd , and Karev had concerns with her coming back to work so early . Stevens departs , writing Karev a Dear John letter , causing him to cry in front of Meredith and Yang .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Mark Wilding and directed by Tony Phelan . Jenny Barak edited the episode 's music and Donald Lee Harris served as production designer . Eric Dane ( Dr. Mark Sloan ) was absent from the episode . Featured music included The Myrmidon 's " Clap " , Traildriver 's " I Want You Now " , and Greg Laswell 's remake of " Your Ghost " . " Invasion " was the last episode Heigl appeared in , before her five @-@ episode hiatus to film the romantic comedy Life As We Know It .

Wilding called the guest stars " a blast to work with " . He deemed the theme of the episode " invasion " , adding that all the character 's lives were being invaded . In the episode , Stevens makes a mistake , following a disagreement with Percy . Wilding commented that Stevens was originally seeking friendship with Percy , because he reminded her of O 'Malley . At the conclusion of the episode , Torres ultimately reunites with her father Carlos . Wilding offered his insight on this and the overall episode :

" Shonda came up with the idea of Mr. Torres showing up with the family priest . I immediately said YES because anytime I can see Hector Elizondo on my TV screen , I 'm all for it . In the scene where he 's quoting the Bible at Callie , he really is afraid he 's going to lose her . He 's desperate , yanking out those index cards like her very life depends on it . It was Hector 's idea to use the cards . He didn 't think his character would know that stuff of the top of his head , which is how I originally wrote it . And he was right . And it worked beautifully . And that final scene when he and Callie are outside the hospital and he 's asking her if she 'll still get married , still have kids ? I really , really liked that scene . And I really , really liked their whole story . All told , I thought the episode came out pretty well . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Broadcasting = = =

" Invasion " was first broadcast on October 15 , 2009 in the United States on the American Broadcasting Company . The episode was viewed by a total of 13 @.@ 79 million Americans , down 0 @.@ 34 % from the previous episode " Tainted Obligation " , which garnered 14 @.@ 13 million viewers . In terms of viewership , " Invasion " ranked third for the night , just behind CBS 's juggernauts CSI and The Mentalist . The episode did not win in viewership , but its 5 @.@ 0 / 13 Nielsen rating ranked first in its 9 : 00 Eastern time @-@ slot and the entire night , for both the rating and share percentages of the key 18 ? 49 demographic , beating out CSI , The Mentalist , Private Practice , and The Office . Although its rating won for the night , it was a decrease from the previous episode , which garnered a 5 @.@ 4 / 14 rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The episode received positive reviews among television critics . The Los Angeles Times ' Carina MacKenzie 's review of the episode was largely positive , though she called it " immature " of the episode 's writers to have the characters in constant battle with one another , and deemed the Mercy West resident 's orange scrubs unnecessary . MacKenzie highly praised the characterization of Kepner , in addition to Capshaw 's performance , commenting : " Jessica Capshaw has an incredible ability to take even the most melodramatic of Grey 's [ Anatomy ] speeches and deliver them with a subtlety and an honesty that makes them come off as sincere instead of overwrought . " MacKenzie concluded that Karev , Yang , and Meredith had appropriate reactions to Stevens ' departure .

Michael Pascua of The Huffington Post praised the scene in which Yang broke down to Meredith , noting the exceptional chemistry between them . Pascua was positive of the storyline between Torres , Carlos , and Robbins , writing that it was nice to see an emphasis on the gay storyline . Adam Bryant of TV Guide wrote that Baker 's character " seems like the only decent guy in the

bunch ", though PopSugar asserted that Williams ' character " proves to be most likable of the new doctors " .