

= I Always Feel Like Somebody 's Watchin ' Me =

" I Always Feel Like Somebody 's Watchin ' Me " is the third episode of the sixth season of the American television medical drama Grey 's Anatomy , and the show 's 105th episode overall . It was written by Tony Phelan and Joan Rater , and directed by Michael Pressman . The episode was originally broadcast on the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) in the United States on October 1 , 2009 . In the episode , the physicians of Seattle Grace struggle to maintain their jobs as the hospital merges with Mercy West . Further storylines include Dr. Cristina Yang (Sandra Oh) working under Dr. Arizona Robbins (Jessica Capshaw) , and Dr. Izzie Stevens (Katherine Heigl) returning to work full @-@ time , too quickly after her surgery .

Although the episode was fictionally set in Seattle , Washington , filming primarily took place in Los Angeles , California . Adrienne Barbeau and James Frain made their first guest appearances , while Sarah Utterback , Mark Saul , and Molly Kidder reprised their roles as guest stars . The episode 's title refers to the song " I Always Feel Like " , by American hip hop group TRU . " I Always Feel Like Somebody 's Watchin ' Me " opened to generally positive critical reviews , with Chyler Leigh (Dr. Lexie Grey) ' s and Oh 's performance praised in particular . Upon its initial airing , the episode was viewed by 15 @.@ 69 million Americans , and garnered a 6 @.@ 1 / 16 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , ranking third for the night in terms of viewership .

= = Plot = =

Dr. Cristina Yang (Sandra Oh) tries to convince pediatric surgeon Dr. Arizona Robbins (Jessica Capshaw) to place her on her service , to which she agrees to . A trauma victim is brought into the emergency room , with the surgical residents all trying to impress the superior physicians , in hope that their job will be preserved , come the merger . Dr. Izzie Stevens (Katherine Heigl) returns to full @-@ time work quickly after her cancer treatment , showcasing an auburn wig .

Dr. Lexie Grey is assigned to the trauma victim , and while transferring blood to the operating room , she slips while running . Dismayed with the merger , Dr. Derek Shepherd (Patrick Dempsey) condemns the chief of surgery Dr. Richard Webber (James Pickens , Jr .) for initiating it , only to be yelled at . Dr. Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo) is optimistic , assuring everyone that they will keep their jobs . A patient , Jodie Crawley (Adrienne Barbeau) , and her son with schizophrenia , Tom (James Frain) , is brought into the hospital with a moving growth inside her stomach , claimed to be an alien by her son .

Yang expresses difficulty connecting with the children on pediatrics , to Robbins ' disappointment . Tom becomes frightened when he notices Lexie is not wearing a name tag , so she attacks her and runs away . His mother is subsequently diagnosed with an abdominal aortic aneurysm , for which requires surgery , and Tom falls down the stairs , for which also requires surgery . Dr. Callie Torres (Sara Ramirez) returns to the hospital , and informs Robbins that Yang is just sucking up . The Crawley 's are uneasy about agreeing to surgery , but Dr. Miranda Bailey (Chandra Wilson) convinces them that it is the right thing to do . An obstetrics and gynecology resident accidentally cuts off a baby 's arm during a caesarian section , but it is healed by plastic surgeon Dr. Mark Sloan (Eric Dane) , Robbins , and Yang . Stevens assists Shepherd with a five @-@ hour craniotomy , and Karev is fearful that she cannot handle it , although she is ultimately able to complete the surgery . At the conclusion of the episode , human resources sends out an email notifying Olivia Harper (Sarah Utterback) and Dr. Steve Mostow (Mark Saul) ' s wife Megan (Molly Kidder) , that they have been fired .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Tony Phelan and Joan Rater , and directed by Michael Pressman . David Greenspan edited the episode , and Donald Lee Harris served as production designer . The episode 's title refers to the song " I Always Feel Like " , by American hip hop group TRU . Featured music includes Gossip 's " Pop Goes the World " and Ingrid Michaelson 's " The Chain " .

Rater intended the theme of the episode to be " paranoia " , elaborating : " After Richard dropped the bomb that the hospital would be merging with Mercy West , we knew that this episode would have to deal with people 's paranoia . Because merger means change . And change means fear . And the worst kind of fear is the kind that lives in your head . The dark thoughts . The paranoia . The worst case scenarios that you play out that usually don 't come true . And with Richard holing himself up inside his office , it 's just a breeding ground for rumor , fear and paranoia . So , when we started talking about this episode , the theme of paranoia emerged pretty quickly . " All storylines in the episode were inspired by Rater 's friend base , including the story on schizophrenia . She offered her insight :

" My inspiration for the story of Tom and Jodie came from a kid I knew growing up named Jon . I babysat for him . His mom , Barbara and my mom are friends . We went on vacations with their family . And he grew up and became a paranoid schizophrenic . My mom recently told me a story that when Jon (who ? s now 30) needs a haircut , Barbara is unavailable all day for golf or bridge because she never knows how long it will take for Jon to find a barber shop he ? s okay with . She has to drive from barbershop to barbershop , waiting for him to get a ' good feeling ' about one . It might happen right away , it might take all day . And she 's patient and kind and she just does it because she 's his mother . I was really moved when my mom told me this story because I know these people and I know how painful this has been for her but how she just handles it , with dignity and humor . I can just picture the scene in the car as she pulls up to yet another one , " Well , Jon ? " I can totally see her trying to talk him into giving one a try . And I can see him wanting to do it , to please her , but ultimately being too afraid and telling her they have to try another one . I can just picture the front seat of that car , so full of love and disappointment and fear as they negotiate this very mundane thing that for them has become anything but mundane . Then the story became what it became , with Tom choking Lexie , and falling down the stairs creating a real dilemma for Jodie . And the idea of Bailey pricking her finger to show Tom that she 's human , she 's a mother and she 's a doctor and she 's human , that idea came from Krista [Vernoff] , but the original inspiration was the complicated love that I 've witnessed between these family friends . "

At the conclusion of the episode , several physicians played a game of baseball to cheer up . Rater called it " her favorite scene " , explaining : " I loved the scene where Owen , Derek and Mark take Cristina , Meredith and Lexie to the baseball field . This is one of the first times Owen has seen Cristina 's intensity . And I love that he makes her leave the hospital , focus on something else . That 's why he 's so good for her . The scene was actually inspired by Shonda saying , let 's do a scene where they 're all playing baseball . But when I finally saw it , it makes me want to write more scenes like that , with our doctors outside of the hospital , little glimpses of them in real life . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Broadcasting = = =

" I Always Feel Like Somebody 's Watchin ' Me " was first broadcast on October 1 , 2009 in the United States on ABC . The episode was viewed by a total of 15 @. @ 69 million Americans , down 1 @. @ 34 % from the previous episode " Goodbye " , which garnered 17 @. @ 03 million viewers . In terms of viewership , " I Always Feel Like Somebody 's Watchin ' Me " ranked third for the night , just behind CBS 's juggernauts CSI and The Mentalist . The episode did not win in viewership , but its 6 @. @ 1 / 16 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 6 @. @ 7 / 17 rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The episode was generally well received among television critics . Steve Marsi of TV Fanatic called Yang being on pediatrics " an epic fail " , but praised the humor given by Oh . He also called Lexie 's storyline " endearing and sad to watch " , writing that overall , the episode was " classic Grey 's Anatomy " . PopSugar gave a positive review of the episode , writing : " Derek and Mark seem to be the only ones who are keeping their cool . " However , they also felt that Meredith was " out of character " , commenting : " Though Meredith also kept it together , her optimism is so out of character that it can only be chalked up to the crisis , and even she recognizes it . " While Yang was on pediatric service , she impersonated a bear , and PopSugar called her voice " priceless " . They were also positive about Stevens ' storyline , saying : " At first it seemed super annoying but was pretty sweet by the end of the episode . " PopSugar also enjoyed Lexie 's storyline , commenting that " she proves her worth in the end " .

Cinema Blend 's Amanda Krill said Stevens ' wig looked like a " Stepford Wives wig " , adding : " Everyone has a hard time not looking at it . She 's still a cancer patient , but she knows that her job is on the line just like everyone else 's . Everyone is working round the clock , showing up at every call , and the Chief is acting like a maniacal overlord . " Krill also enjoyed Oh 's performance as Yang , writing : " Cristina dealing with children is almost laughable ? and actually provides a chuckle or two in this tense episode . Miss C thinks she is striking gold by moving to peds , because she will be able to do all types of surgery , and on little people , which makes the surgery harder , which is of course , better . Things don 't turn out as planned , though , when she realizes kids are a little more resilient than their adult counterparts . And then Callie outs her to Arizona ? in the she doesn 't really like kids sense of outing . " Krill enjoyed Wilson 's performance as Bailey , in addition to Dane 's , writing : " He wins the best line of the show with ' That ? s how I know my job is safe , Yang ? I reattach babies arms . ' "

Michael Pascua of The Huffington Post disliked Stevens ' wig , writing : " Izzie 's wig looked horrible . She looked exactly like her mother Robbie and that 's not a compliment . I loved Cristina 's Stepford wife joke and how everyone , including Derek , couldn 't help but stare at her hair . Yet , no one had the balls to tell her it was bad . " Pascua also enjoyed Leigh 's performance as Lexie , commenting : " This was one episode I felt that Lexie was a genuine character . She still maintained that book @-@ smart ability to repeat facts (like the merger cases) and shows a command of medical situations . " He too found Oh 's bear voice comical , adding : " I laughed when Cristina attempted to do her voice for Mr. Bear because you knew that she didn 't know what she was doing . " Pascua was shocked with the departure of Utterbacks ' character , writing : " I can 't believe that they cut Nurse Olivia . I understand that she wasn 't really around , but having her as a tertiary character was nice . It was kind of ass @-@ y of the chief not to personally tell these people that they were being cut , but it made Derek look really chivalrous . "