

= Nice Is Different Than Good =

" Nice Is Different Than Good " is the sixth season premiere episode of the American comedy @-@ drama series , Desperate Housewives , and the 112th overall episode of the series . It originally aired in the United States on September 27 , 2009 , on ABC . In the episode , Mike ( James Denton ) marries Susan ( Teri Hatcher ) and Angie Bolen ( Drea de Matteo ) and her family move onto Wisteria Lane as they attempt to escape their sordid past .

The episode was written by series creator Marc Cherry and directed by Larry Shaw . It included the introduction of the Angie character , as well as her husband , Nick ( Jeffrey Nordling ) , and their son , Danny ( Beau Mirchoff ) . The Bolen family is the subject of the series ' yearly mystery . " Nice Is Different Than Good " enacted the long @-@ running storylines of Katherine 's ( Dana Delany ) nervous breakdown , Lynette 's ( Felicity Huffman ) attempts to conceal her pregnancy , and the Fairview serial strangler .

" Nice Is Different Than Good " received generally positive reviews , with critics raving about the rivalry between Susan and Katherine and the possible connection between the Bolen and serial strangler storylines . According to Nielsen ratings , the episode drew 13 @.@ 6 million viewers , the smallest audience for a Desperate Housewives season premiere until the seventh season premiere on September 26 , 2010 .

= = Plot = =

= = = Background = = =

Desperate Housewives focuses on the lives of several residents in the suburban neighborhood of Wisteria Lane . In recent episodes , Mike Delfino ( James Denton ) married an unidentified bride , who was either Susan Mayer ( Teri Hatcher ) , his ex @-@ wife , or Katherine Mayfair ( Dana Delany ) , his fiancée and Susan 's close friend . Lynette Scavo ( Felicity Huffman ) learned that she and her husband , Tom ( Doug Savant ) , are expecting twins , two of what will be six children . Gabrielle ( Eva Longoria ) and Carlos Solis ( Ricardo Antonio Chavira ) agreed to take in his niece , Ana ( Maiara Walsh ) , and she and Gabrielle began to antagonize one another . Bree Hodge ( Marcia Cross ) sought a divorce from her husband , Orson ( Kyle MacLachlan ) ; however , Orson refused to end their marriage and blackmailed her into staying in the relationship . As a result , Bree began an affair with her divorce lawyer and Susan 's ex @-@ husband , Karl Mayer ( Richard Burgi ) .

= = = Episode = = =

In the eight weeks leading up to her wedding , Susan avoids any contact with Katherine . Katherine begins to resent Susan , even threatening to pour tomato sauce on Susan 's wedding dress . Mike is concerned for Katherine , but Susan is frustrated with her behavior . On the day of the wedding , Katherine demands that Susan apologize to her in public . Susan obliges , expressing her sorrow to Katherine during the wedding ceremony . Katherine tells Susan that the apology does not help mend their friendship .

Angie ( Drea de Matteo ) and Nick Bolen ( Jeffrey Nordling ) move into a house on Wisteria Lane with their college @-@ bound son , Danny ( Beau Mirchoff ) . Danny takes interest in Julie Mayer ( Andrea Bowen ) , Susan 's daughter , and asks her to start tutoring him . She agrees , but at Nick 's urging , tells Danny that she is not interested in a relationship . Later , elderly neighbor Karen McCluskey ( Kathryn Joosten ) sees Julie and Danny arguing . On Susan and Mike 's wedding night , Julie is strangled outside of her home by an unidentified attacker , who flees the scene .

Lynette grows increasingly weary at the idea of having more children . She confesses to Tom that while she began loving her other children before they were born , she does not have the same feelings for her unborn twins . Tom assures her that she will love them once she is able to hold them

in her arms . At Lynette 's request , the couple conceals the pregnancy from their family and friends . Meanwhile , Gabrielle is irritated with Ana 's poor attitude , provocative wardrobe , and disregard for her curfew or other rules . Carlos insists that Gabrielle sign a contract that would make her Ana 's legal guardian , but she refuses . However , when Ana expresses interest in becoming a model , Gabrielle understands that they are more alike than she initially thought and signs the guardianship documents .

Bree continues to hide her affair with Karl , but her difficulty with adjusting to the sinful and secretive lifestyle prompt Karl to end the affair . In that time , Orson suggests that they enter marriage counseling , but Bree insists that she no longer sees herself as his wife , but rather his captive . Realizing that guilt is a small price for happiness , Bree reignites her affair with Karl .

= = Production = =

" Nice Is Different Than Good " was written by series creator and executive producer Marc Cherry and directed by Larry Shaw . It marked the debut of Drea de Matteo as Angie Bolen , the matriarch of an Italian family . While brainstorming ideas for the sixth season , the *Desperate Housewives* writing staff decided to introduce an Italian New Yorker housewife , as she would be unlike the other title characters . When she was offered the role of Angie , de Matteo was best known for her Emmy Award @-@ winning performance as Adriana La Cerva on *The Sopranos* , an HBO drama series about the Italian Mafia . She accepted the offer without knowing the character 's name or storyline . Cherry described the Angie character as " a very loving but tough Italian woman who comes [ to Wisteria Lane ] with her husband and her kid ... [ and ] will do what she has to to protect her family . " Jeffrey Nordling and Beau Mirchoff made their series debuts in this episode as well , appearing as Nick , Angie 's landscaper husband , and Danny , their " tightly @-@ wound " son , respectively . Maiara Walsh also joined the cast as a series regular , having made her debut as Ana Solis in a guest starring capacity during season five .

" Nice Is Different Than Good " revealed the identity of Mike Delfino 's bride , a mystery which served as the cliffhanger for the fifth season finale . Cherry revealed that he initially intended to have Mike marry Katherine Mayfair rather than Susan Mayer , but fans " were insistent " on having Mike marry Susan . As a result , Cherry decided to change the storyline " as opposed to frustrating the fans for another year by keeping Mike and Susan apart . " The episode also introduced the long @-@ running storyline of Katherine suffering a nervous breakdown after losing Mike to Susan . Cherry commented that it would be " one of the funniest breakdowns you 've ever seen . " Actress Dana Delany , who portrays Katherine , was not informed about the storyline change until a week before the episode began filming . She called the change " brilliant " and was pleased with her character 's new storyline " because happiness is great in life , but it 's kind of [ sic ] boring dramatically . " To keep the identity of Mike 's bride confidential , a stunt actress was used in the season five finale . When filming of the episode took place in July 2009 , both Hatcher and Delany were photographed wearing wedding dresses on set . " Nice Is Different Than Good " also introduced the secondary ongoing mystery of the Fairview strangler . The episode ended with a cliffhanger in which Julie Mayer is strangled by an unknown attacker . Cherry said of the storyline , " I 've come up with my own version of ' Who Shot J.R. ? ' , " referencing the murder mystery plotline surrounding the J. R. Ewing character ( Larry Hagman ) in the popular primetime soap opera *Dallas* .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

According to Nielsen ratings , " Nice Is Different Than Good " was seen by 13 @.@ 643 million viewers and held an 8 @.@ 6 rating / 13 share on its original American broadcast on September 27 , 2009 . Among viewers between 18 and 49 years of age , the episode drew a 4 @.@ 7 rating . The

episode is the least @-@ watched season premiere of Desperate Housewives at the time , with a thirty @-@ five percent decrease in viewers from the fifth season premiere a year earlier . The seventh season premiere drew in lower ratings , with 13 @.@ 056 million viewers and an 8 @.@ 1 rating / 12 share on its September 26 , 2010 broadcast . " Nice Is Different Than Good " was outperformed by the following episode , " Being Alive " , on October 4 , which drew 14 @.@ 641 million viewers and a 9 @.@ 2 rating / 14 share in the 18 @-@ 49 demographic . Nevertheless , the premiere episode had a higher viewership than the season six average of 12 @.@ 823 million viewers and 4 @.@ 2 rating in the 18 @-@ 49 demographic per episode . The episode was outperformed by Sunday Night Football on NBC , which drew 18 @.@ 461 million viewers in the Desperate Housewives timeslot .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The episode received positive critical reviews . Tanner Stransky of Entertainment Weekly praised the Julie storyline and expressed sympathy for the Katherine character . Additionally , while he enjoyed the introduction of the Bolen family , he commented that " it 's not even worth speculating [ about the Bolens ] because the family honestly didn 't reveal anything much about themselves . " He also noted the realness of the Lynette story and the comedic relief provided by the Gabrielle and Bree stories . Isabelle Carreau of TV Squad also gave the episode a positive review , expressing interest in Katherine 's storyline now that Mike has married Susan . She declared , " Karl and Bree are now my favorite couple on Wisteria Lane . They are twisted , flawed and complex characters , " calling the pair reminiscent of Bree and Orson when the first started dating . She also credited the introduction of the Ana character for making the Gabrielle story " really fun to watch " and complimented Beau Mirchoff 's portrayal of the " extremely weird " Danny Bolen character , speculating that he strangled Julie .

USA Today 's Robert Bianco awarded the season premiere three out of four stars , opining that the episode " starts with a bang , ends with a cliffhanger jolt , and offers a good story for each of the wives in between while dropping a possibly worthy new addition in their midst . " He predicted that viewers would be satisfied with the revelation of the mystery bride 's identity and commented : " There 's humor and poignancy in all the stories and good work all around . " Bianco praised Felicity Huffman 's " strong and varied " acting skills , complimented Eva Longoria 's comedic talents , and declared Richard Burgi 's performance as his best in the entire series . He concluded that while the show has declined in quality since its first season , " it remains a very good TV series " and noted that " there 's also the potential for a season that returns this already @-@ solid show to top form . " TV Guide writer Mickey O 'Connor was negative in his review . He criticized the Lynette story as being " an awful development " and said the chemistry between actress de Matteo and her costars " a little off . " However , he was more receptive of Katherine 's reaction to losing Mike , saying " what could have played out as a typical weepy , hos @-@ before @-@ bros make @-@ up session has been elevated to something much richer . "