

= Owen Hunt =

Owen Hunt , M.D. is a fictional character from the medical drama television series Grey 's Anatomy , which airs on the American Broadcasting Company ( ABC ) in the United States . The character was created by series ' producer Shonda Rhimes , and is portrayed by actor Kevin McKidd . He was introduced in season five as a U.S. Army trauma surgeon who served in war @-@ torn Iraq , and subsequently joins the fictional Seattle Grace Hospital to teach medicine as a surgical attending , head of trauma surgery , and eventual chief of surgery , sometimes with unorthodox methods . Originally contracted to appear for a multi @-@ episode story arc , he was upgraded to a series ' regular at the conclusion of his first appearance .

The fictional character served as a love interest for surgical fellow Cristina Yang , and had an unstable personality when first introduced , suffering from PTSD . McKidd 's connection with fellow actress Sandra Oh ( Cristina Yang ) has been acclaimed amongst critics , with Matt Roush of TV Guide calling the " instant sparks " between McKidd and Oh " electrifying " . McKidd was nominated for two awards for his work on the show , winning one of them . Chris Monfette of IGN has praised the addition of " fresh , new characters " such as Owen Hunt .

= = Storylines = =

Before his regular appearances on the show , Owen Hunt was a United States Army surgeon , specializing in trauma surgery . The character makes a dramatic first appearance when he performs a tracheotomy on a man with a pen , winning the admiration of resident Cristina Yang ( Sandra Oh ) . He is offered a job by former chief of surgery Richard Webber ( James Pickens , Jr . ) , but declines , explaining that he has not completed his tour in Iraq . He later becomes the new head of trauma surgery , at Seattle Grace Mercy West Hospital , and manages to irk both Derek Shepherd ( Patrick Dempsey ) and Mark Sloan ( Eric Dane ) , head of neurosurgery and plastic surgery , respectively , who view his treatment of some of the patients as crude . He is also rebuffed by resident Izzie Stevens ( Katherine Heigl ) when he stabs a set of pigs and then orders the residents and interns to save their lives , in order to teach them medicine on " live tissue . " Hunt eventually embarks on a relationship with Yang , but it comes to a sudden close when his PTSD gets the best of him , and he unconsciously strangles her . Soon after the breakup , he begins therapy with the hospital psychiatrist , Dr. Wyatt . Some time later , a soldier visits the hospital for treatment , and his presence influences Owen to contemplate returning to the US Army . When he shares this with Cristina , she disagrees with his decision , stating that she doesn 't want him to die , and the two eventually rekindle their relationship . Owen brings in Teddy Altman ( Kim Raver ) , his best friend and colleague from when he was in the army , as the new head of cardiothoracic surgery . When it is revealed that Hunt and Altman may be potential lovers , Hunt and Yang 's relationship is challenged , and eventually concluded by Yang .

During a hospital shooting , Owen is shot and injured , attracting the sympathy of Cristina , who subsequently restores their relationship . Due to the emotional reverberations of the shooting crisis , Owen and Cristina decide to wed one another shortly after their reconciliation , not wanting to risk separation . When Cristina discovers she is pregnant , Owen is displeased with her desire to abort the baby , and the two separate from each other . In the fallout of resident Meredith Grey ( Ellen Pompeo ) ' s tampering with Derek Shepherd 's Alzheimer 's trial , Owen is promoted to Chief of Surgery after Webber steps down . After substantial thought , Owen reluctantly decides to accompany Cristina to the abortion , uniting the two . Owen 's friendship with Teddy ends when Owen lies to Teddy about her husband 's sudden death , due to Owen wanting her to finish a surgery she was currently performing and Teddy blaming Owen for her husband 's death . Feeling abandoned and disconcerted after an altercation with Cristina , Owen has a one @-@ night stand with a patient 's friend . Cristina consequently finds out , terminates their relationship , and their marriage is tested . After Cristina passed her medical boards , she reconciles with Owen , but reveals to him that she is leaving Seattle to go to Mayo Clinic . Teddy and Owen eventually became friends again . After learning that she has been offered a job at Med Com , Owen fires her assuring

her that he will be okay . He also fires April Kepner ( Sarah Drew ) because the hospital cannot afford to keep her due to her not being a Board certified . Months later , Hunt visits Kepner and rehires her as he realized he made a mistake .

In season 9 Cristina and Owen 's marriage is again very strained . Cristina is working at Mayo Clinic and Owen in Seattle but she returns . Owen asks for a divorce . He later shows that he is still in love with her and only asked for a divorce so Cristina and the others involved in the plane crash get the money . Cristina and Owen reconcile in episode 9 before Bailey 's wedding .

In season 10 , Cristina decides to accept a job to run a state of the art clinic in Switzerland . Owen supports her decision as he realizes no good could come from him asking her to stay , but requests her not to leave him until she has to leave him for good , following which , they both spend two weeks leading to her permanent departure together . While saying her farewell to her colleagues of the last seven years , there is a possible act of terrorism in Seattle , which later turns out to be just a gas main explosion . Cristina has a quick but emotional goodbye hug with Derek , Bailey , and Webber , leaves her shares of the hospital to Alex , and dances it out with Meredith one last time to an old favorite song . Owen , however , is busy saving a patient in the O.R. , so they share a silent goodbye through the gallery 's glass .

In Season 11 , Owen develops a relationship with Amelia Shepherd . This is off and on throughout Season 11 and 12 until the end of Season 12 where he and Amelia get married .

= = Development = =

= = = Casting and creation = = =

Shonda Rhimes , series ' creator , says that the character was envisioned " an old @-@ fashioned tortured hero " and likens him to Heathcliff . Originally set to appear in a multi @-@ episode story arc , Kevin McKidd 's contract was extended , securing him a slot as a series ' regular of Grey 's Anatomy . In July 2008 , Entertainment Weekly announced the possibility of McKidd becoming a series ' regular , with this possibility eventually being confirmed by People . When asked of how he got involved with the show , McKidd offered the insight :

McKidd told BuddyTV , " It 's been really great . I was nervous when I started because every job I 've ever done before this , I have been in the job right from day one when everybody 's new and getting to know each other . So I was nervous because I had never done this before . And I feel really grateful to the Grey 's cast and crew and everyone there , really , because they 've been so nice to me and gracious and accepting of me joining the show . The transition was much easier than I thought it might be , which I 'm very grateful for . " McKidd has told People that he thinks Grey 's Anatomy is a great show and he feels lucky to be on it . Shonda Rhimes , the series ' creator , said of his addition , " I am excited to have Kevin McKidd joining us for the season , he 's been a delight to collaborate with and brings incredible passion , talent and creativity to his work . Plus , he ? s already got the ? Mc ? built into his name so we had to keep him . "

= = = Characterization = = =

The American Broadcasting Company ( ABC ) characterized Hunt as " confident " , " innovative " , " intelligent " , while he also can be " aggressive " , " brazen " , " presumptuous " , " hasty and rash " . McKidd said of his character : " [ ... ] He 's not an easy character to connect to , I think . There 's some darkness to him and there 's some danger to him that I think is really interesting and exciting to play . [ ... ] " Additionally , McKidd describes Hunt as " very instinctive , and follows his gut , and he 's very impulsive , and very immediate . He immediately assesses a situation . And he 's very honest , sometimes painfully honest , with himself and with others . He wants to make himself better . He wants to improve himself as a person . He 's a decent guy , a sort of a guy I 'd like to go out and have a beer with . " McKidd 's unorthodox teaching methods have been the subject of controversy . McKidd said of this :

" You know , I think , at the end of the day , [ Owen ] ' s basically a good man who has some pretty extreme teaching techniques that he learned in the army . And all these things that are in the show are actually the way trauma surgeons are taught . But I think probably beyond that , he very much just calls a spade a spade and looks at each scenario . He ' s not trying to be difficult . He just looks at each scenario and each case and each patient and knows what is needed and when to cut to the chase , and doesn ' t want to mess about with the periphery of it . And sometimes that gets him into trouble , and sometimes that is for the best . So , it ' d be interesting and kind of exciting to see where he goes . "

The look of Owen has been described as hardcore and the antithesis of the other males on the show . McKidd says it ' s not just the look of Owen , but the fact that in his profession , he is dealing with life and death everyday . The one distinction he finds between his character and the others is that Owen does not care what other people think of him . When McKidd returned from his first appearance , his character appeared to have been changed . McKidd told TV Guide : " Yes , that was who he really is in the premiere , but now we ' re seeing what can happen to a good man , a good soldier and good surgeon [ because of war ] . "

The character of Owen Hunt had an almost instant attraction to Cristina Yang since his first appearance at Seattle Grace , illustrated by the passionate kiss they share soon after they meet . Owen ' s story and connection with fellow character Cristina has been a topic of discussion . McKidd said : " Between him [ Owen ] and her [ Cristina ] , it ? s going to get really complex and kind of tense and explosive . " Owen and Cristina have experienced roadblocks in their fictional relationship , and continue to . McKidd offered this insight on his character ' s relationship with Cristina :

McKidd has referred to his character and the character of Cristina Yang as " soulmates . " Speaking of Owen ' s PTSD storyline , McKidd stated : " What ' s exciting about telling this story with this character is that it ' s quite brave of ABC and Shonda [ Rhimes ] , on a prime @-@ time network TV show , to address a tough subject , and one that people don ' t necessarily want to hear about . But so far the writing room is handling it beautifully . They ' re not banging people over the head with it but exploring it in a sensitive and interesting way . " Owen and Cristina have struggled with their fictional relationship in season eight , leading to Owen having a sexual affair . Directly before the episode involving the affair aired , McKidd said to Entertainment Weekly : " The thing about Owen is that he tries to do things perfectly , and obviously , he messes up as the chief because you have to make these odd black @-@ and @-@ white decisions and sometimes you make the wrong decision . There ? s a lot of stress in his life at the moment , so he ? s trying not to let that affect his efficiency as chief . " Although the characters ' marriage is tested , McKidd reported to The Hollywood Reporter : " I think they ' re meant for each other . I hold out faith in Cristina and Owen , even though they go to the darkest places out of all the couples on the show . It ' s going to get worse but it ' s going to get better soon . "

= = Reception = =

The character has received generally positive feedback from television critics . Weeks after Hunt ' s first appearance on the show , Matt Roush of TV Guide commented that " Hunt / McKidd is the most encouraging thing to happen to Grey ' s Anatomy in quite a while . " He also added : " The instant sparks between him [ Hunt ] and Yang were electrifying . " On the other hand , Robert Rorke of the New York Post states that McKidd was brought in as Hunt to " boost the sagging fortunes " of the show ' s ratings . Kelley L. Carter of USA Today , describes Hunt as " hardcore " and " the antithesis of the other males on the show . " Chris Monfette of IGN said that the fifth season of Grey ' s Anatomy was an improvement on the previous two seasons , attributing this in part to the introduction of " fresh , new characters " , Owen and Arizona Robbins ( Jessica Capshaw ) . He also referred to McKidd as " the season [ five ] ' s best , most effective addition " , adding :

Margaret Lyons of New York Magazine judged Hunt " too sad " for the first part of the ninth season . In 2010 , Kevin McKidd was nominated for the Prism Award for Best Performance in a Drama Series ' Multi @-@ Episode Storyline , and won the award . In 2011 , McKidd was nominated for the Prism Award for Best Performance in a Drama Series , for his work on Grey ' s Anatomy . McKidd was

nominated , along with the rest of the Grey 's Anatomy cast , for Best Drama Series at the 21st GLAAD Media Awards , in 2010 . Also in 2010 , McKidd , and the rest of the cast , were nominated for Outstanding Drama Series , at the NAACP Image Awards . The same nomination was received at the 2011 NAACP Image Awards , with the cast winning the award . At the 43rd NAACP Image Awards , in 2012 , McKidd and the cast were nominated yet again for Outstanding Drama Series .