

= Bang (The Good Wife) =

" Bang " is the fifteenth episode of the first season of the American legal drama television series The Good Wife . It originally aired on CBS in the United States on March 2 , 2010 . In the episode , ex States Attorney Peter Florrick (Chris Noth) is released from prison to his home . He is confined by house arrest and starts working on restarting his legal career . His wife Alicia Florrick (Julianna Margulies) has conflicted emotions about his return and distracts herself with a legal case , in which she defends a man of killing a mutual fund manager who assisted in Bernard Madoff 's investment scandal .

The episode was written by co @-@ producer and staff writer Courtney Kemp Agboh and directed by Rod Holcomb . " Bang " included guest appearances by actors Alan Cumming and Gary Cole . Cole plays a forensics expert with a country persona and a strong set of ethics , while Cumming plays a cutthroat political operative several commentators said closely resembled White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel . The opening scene of " Bang " , in which Peter returns home to his family , was planned to be the final scene of the series if the first season was unsuccessful and additional episodes were not ordered .

" Bang " received generally positive reviews , with several critics complimenting the ensemble performances , as well as Cole and actress Christine Baranski . According to Nielsen Media Research , the episode was seen by 13 @.@ 3 million viewers , a 13 percent drop from the previous episode . It was the 15th most watched television program the week it first aired .

= = Plot = =

Ex @-@ State 's Attorney Peter Florrick (Chris Noth) returns home to an emotional reunion with his children , Zach (Graham Phillips) and Grace (Makenzie Vega) , while his wife Alicia (Julianna Margulies) looks on . Peter had been imprisoned for several months after being convicted of charges of corruption . He is allowed to return home under house arrest while his appeal is considered . Peter must wear an ankle monitor and cannot leave the apartment or communicate with the outside world . Alicia is uncomfortable about Peter 's return because of his infidelity , which was exposed at the time of his conviction .

Zach shows Peter incriminating photos he had been hiding from Alicia , which are doctored to show Peter being unfaithful . Zach intercepted the photos when they were anonymously delivered to the Florrick residence . Zach also shows Peter a photo he secretly took of a man bugging the Florrick apartment entranceway . Peter hires hardened and blunt political operative Eli Gold (Alan Cumming) to assist in the appeal . Gold recognizes the man as a federal investigator and informs Peter he is under investigation by the FBI . Peter reveals to Alicia that Zach hid the photos from her to spare her feelings .

Because of Peter 's imprisonment Alicia , a lawyer herself , is working as a junior associate at a law firm . Alicia serves as second chair for senior partner Diane Lockhart (Christine Baranski) in a murder trial . Their client , Brad Broussard (Tom Degnan) , is charged with shooting Miles Wagner . Wagner was an unpopular mutual fund manager who defrauded Broussard and many other out of their life savings by assisting in Bernard Madoff 's investment scandal . Broussard was found covered in blood next to Wagner 's body , but insists on his innocence . Diane consults ballistics expert Kurt McVeigh (Gary Cole) , a mustachioed country man with a strict principle that he will not work if the client is guilty . Kurt testifies that Wagner was shot inside a car despite being found on the floor . Wagner 's partner , Martin Knox (Kevin O 'Rourke) , had a strong financial motive to kill Wagner . Knox 's wife , Rachel (Geraldine Hughes) , strongly dislikes her husband and is willing to implicate him , but is bound by spousal privilege laws . Alicia discovers a conspiracy tactic that will allow Rachel to testify , and Broussard is vindicated and set free . The firm 's investigator Kalinda Sharma (Archie Panjabi) visits FBI agent Lana Delaney (Jill Flint) inquiring about the investigation into Peter . Delaney asks Kalinda to feed her information about Peter , but Kalinda declines .

= = Production = =

" Bang " was written by Courtney Kemp Agboh and directed by Rod Holcomb . The writers based the episode on the Ponzi scheme orchestrated by Bernard Madoff , who was sentenced to prison in 2009 after pleading guilty to defrauding thousands of clients out of billions of dollars with an investor fraud scheme . The anger expressed by onlookers at the Miles Wagner trial in The Good Wife reflected the passionate emotions the real @-@ life Madoff scandal evoked . " Bang " featured guest appearances by actors Alan Cumming and Gary Cole . Some commentators suggested Cummings ' character , Eli Gold , was based on White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel . Both are political operatives from Chicago noted for bullying tactics and their use of foul language .

If The Good Wife had not been successful and the first season was not renewed beyond its first 13 episodes , creators Robert and Michelle King planned to end their final episode with a scene in which Peter returns home and greets his emotionally conflicted wife ; because the season was continued , it ultimately became the opening scene of " Bang " . Robert King said he considered using it as a final scene because , " You would never have wanted to end it where it would be such a conclusion that everyone ? s satisfied , because that ? s not Alicia ? s life . Alicia ? s life is filled with questions . " Chris Noth said now that Peter is back home , much of the rest of the season will focus on whether Alicia can forgive his past infidelity , adding , " I don 't know if they 'll be able to recover or not . That 's part of the ongoing drama . "

= = Cultural references = =

Poole refers to Eli Gold as a " wartime consigliere " , a reference to the Tom Hagen lawyer character in the 1972 Mafia film The Godfather , which is itself based on a Mario Puzo novel of the same name . In turn , Gold disparagingly refers to Poole as a " Shiksa Bambi " , a reference to the title character of the 1942 Disney animated film Bambi , about a naive deer unaccustomed to the realities and horrors of the real world . Kurt McVeigh 's country mannerisms and dress prompt Diane to refer to him as the Marlboro Man , a cowboy @-@ like figure used in tobacco advertisements for Marlboro cigarettes . Upon learning about his morals , Diane said he was like something out of a novel by Herman Melville , the 19th century novelist who wrote Moby @-@ Dick and Billy Budd . She also jokingly asks whether Kurt is related to Timothy McVeigh , the man convicted of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing , by saying : " Oh my goodness what an unfortunate name . Hopefully no relation . " Diane , a liberal , is taken aback by the conservative Kurt 's enthusiasm for Sarah Palin , the 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee . As a joke , Kurt sends her a copy of Palin 's 2009 memoir , Going Rogue : An American Life . She in turn sends him the parody book Going Rouge : A Candid Look Inside The Mind Of Political Conservative Sarah Palin , which is filled with empty pages .

= = Distribution = =

" Bang " first aired on CBS in the United States on March 2 , 2010 , marking the first episode of The Good Wife in three weeks after a break due to the 2010 Winter Olympics . At the same time , it was simulcast on the Global Television Network in Canada . The episode aired on NET 5 in the Netherlands on April 2 , 2010 . The day following its American broadcast , " Bang " was made available for download at the digital media store iTunes .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " Bang " was seen by 13 @.@ 3 million viewers among adults between ages 18 and 49 , according to Nielsen Media Research . It marked a 13 percent drop in viewership from the previous original episode . Commentators suggested The Good Wife suffered slightly in the ratings due to the NBC debut of Parenthood , which premiered in the same timeslot to 8 @.@ 1 million viewers in the 18 to 49 age group . " Bang " was the 15th most watched television program the week it first aired . It received a 2 @.@ 7 rating / 8 share among viewers between 18

and 49 .

The episode received generally positive reviews . Jeremy Gerard of Bloomberg L.P. said the episode continues to maintain " with considerable grace " a strong balance between legal and domestic drama . Gerard also praised the performances of Cumming , Margulies and Panjabi . Mandi Bierly particularly praised the sexual tension between Alicia and Will , calling their moment together " one of the sexiest scenes between two non @-@ touching people wearing suits ever " . USA Today television critic Robert Bianco said the Broussard murder plot was " unusually weak " , but praised the performances of Cumming , Cole and Baranski , who she said was turning Diane from a two @-@ dimensional mean boss into an " appealingly complicated , generally admirable character " . Hal Boedeker of the Orlando Sentinel called it " another outstanding episode " and particularly praised the scenes between Baranski and Cole . The Cincinnati Enquirer described it as a " pivotal episode " due to Peter 's return home from jail , and listed it as a " must see " show .

Los Angeles Times writer Meredith Blake praised the episode , particularly the chemistry between Diane and Gary , which she called the " most amusing plotline " of the episode . Blake also complimented Alan Cummings ' performance and the sexual tension between Will and Alicia . Philadelphia Daily News television critic Ellen Gray said the homecoming between Peter and Alicia was satisfying , as was the chemistry between Alicia and Will . Gray praised the performances of Cumming and particularly Noth , who he said " manages to command attention whenever he 's onscreen " .