

= The Chase ( Desperate Housewives ) =

" The Chase " is the sixteenth episode of the sixth season of the American comedy @-@ drama series , Desperate Housewives , and the 127th overall episode of the series . It originally aired on ABC in the United States on February 28 , 2010 . In the episode , Gabrielle ( Eva Longoria ) gets a break from the children when one of them catches chickenpox , Lynette ( Felicity Huffman ) forgets her daughter 's birthday , and Katherine ( Dana Delany ) continues to explore her feelings of lesbianism .

The episode was written by John Pardee and Joey Murphy , and directed by Larry Shaw . It included the third in a string of guest appearances by Julie Benz , a former stripper who serves as a romantic interest for Katherine . The pairing marked the first lesbian relationship in Desperate Housewives . " The Chase " also marked the first appearance of Samuel Page , who plays a mysterious man named Sam Allen who takes an unusually strong interest in Bree ( Marcia Cross ) .

" The Chase " received generally mixed to negative reviews . According to Nielsen Media Research , the episode was seen by 10 @.@ 89 million viewers , making it the second lowest rated Desperate Housewives episode at the time . Viewership for " The Chase " suffered due to competition from the 2010 Winter Olympics closing ceremony .

= = Plot = =

= = = Back story = = =

Desperate Housewives focuses on the lives of several residents on the suburban neighborhood of Wisteria Lane . In recent episodes , Susan Mayer ( Teri Hatcher ) has encouraged a stripper Robin Gallagher ( Julie Benz ) to quit her job and turn her life around . Robin briefly lived with Susan , but moved out after Susan became jealous of Robin living in the same house as her husband , Mike Delfino ( James Denton ) . Robin moved in with Katherine Mayfair ( Dana Delany ) and revealed she was a lesbian , prompting the heterosexual Katherine to start developing romantic feelings for Robin . Lynette ( Felicity Huffman ) is pregnant , despite being a middle @-@ aged career woman and already having four children . This has caused strain for Lynette and her husband , Tom Scavo ( Doug Savant ) . Bree ( Marcia Cross ) is the ambitious owner of a catering company , and her son Andrew ( Shawn Pyfrom ) works as her personal assistant . Angie ( Drea de Matteo ) and Nick Bolen ( Jeffrey Nordling ) recently moved onto Wisteria Lane to escape circumstances in their old home of New York City that are yet to be fully explained . Gabrielle and her husband Carlos Solis ( Ricardo Antonio Chavira ) overheard the Bolens arguing about their circumstances , and have grown concerned about their niece Ana ( Maiara Walsh ) dating the Bolens ' son , Danny ( Beau Mirchoff ) . As a result , they convinced Ana to leave Danny and pursue her modeling career in New York City , but Danny has secretly gone into the city to find her .

= = = Episode = = =

Still struggling with her growing feelings of lesbianism , Katherine has a dream in which she seduces Robin . Katherine 's therapist suggests she stop living with Robin because she is interfering with her recovery . Later , while celebrating Robin 's new job , she accidentally spills champagne on her top and takes it off , causing Katherine to blurt out that she wants her to leave because she has feelings for her . Robin agrees to leave , but Katherine follows her upstairs , and they end up in bed together .

Celia Solis ( Daniella Baltodano ) , one of the Solis ' daughters , comes down with chickenpox . Since Gabrielle ( Eva Longoria ) has never had the illness , she is forced to leave the house . She stays with neighbors Bob ( Tuc Watkins ) and Lee ( Kevin Rahm ) , where she enjoys partying and drinking with them so much she tries to prolong her visit . During a party , Gabrielle accidentally stumbles into a nursery , and learns Bob and Lee have been trying to adopt a baby . With a new

appreciation for her children , Gabrielle returns home .

Distracted by her pregnancy , Lynette and Tom are horrified to realize they have forgotten their daughter Penny 's ( Kendall Applegate ) birthday . Lynette tries to organize a last @-@ minute party , but mistakenly has the wrong name written on her cake . Penny runs away and checks into a hotel room , where Lynette tracks her and apologizes . Penny said she is jealous of her unborn sister , but Lynette jokes the women will outnumber the men in the family when the baby is born .

One of Bree 's employees , Tad ( Eric Ian Colton ) , keeps making major mistakes , but Andrew defends him . Later , a mysterious man named Sam Allen ( Samuel Page ) visits Bree , insisting he understands her values and wants to work for her . Although initially hesitant , Bree is impressed and hires him . Later , Andrew gets upset when Bree plans to fire Tad , and Sam correctly assesses that Andrew is having an affair with him . Later , Sam hints to Bree that Andrew should be let go , then secretly drinks coffee from Andrew 's " World 's Greatest Son " mug .

Susan encourages her elderly neighbor Roy ( Orson Bean ) to propose to his girlfriend Karen ( Kathryn Joosten ) , and he does so after Karen indicates she wants to get married . Later , however , Roy laments to Susan about being put in the situation , and fears he will start lusting after other women now that he is engaged . Later , Karen learns she may have lung cancer . Roy tells Susan he is marrying Karen because he now realizes he does not want to lose Karen , and is sure she will beat the cancer .

Danny Bolen leaves a note claiming to be camping with his friend Eddie ( Josh Zuckerman ) , but Angie runs into Eddie at a grocery store and realizes Danny has actually run off to New York City seeking Ana . Fearing a man from their past named Patrick will find Danny , Angie and Nick head to New York to find him .

= = Production = =

" The Chase " was written by John Pardee and Joey Murphy , and directed by Larry Shaw . It originally aired on ABC in the United States on February 28 , 2010 , and was broadcast on CTV in Canada the same day . The episode introduced the character Sam Allen , a mysterious man who starts working for Bree and takes what appears to be an unusually strong interest in her . The character , who is set to appear in several episodes , is played by Samuel Page , an actor best known as the husband of Christina Hendricks ' character Joan Holloway in the AMC drama series Mad Men . " The Chase " marked the third in a string of at least four guest appearances by actress Julie Benz as Robin Gallagher , a former stripper seeking a new life . Benz joined the show soon after her departure as a regular cast member from the Showtime drama series Dexter , where her character Rita Morgan was killed in the fourth season finale , " The Getaway " . Benz said of filming the episode , " ' The girls are all so fun to work with and have welcomed me with open arms . I 'm so thrilled that there is such a buzz about my character 's relationship with Dana 's . "

" The Chase " continued an ongoing storyline of Katherine Mayfair exploring her sexuality . The pairing of Katherine and Robin marks the first lesbian relationship in Desperate Housewives . Actress Dana Delany praised the subplot . She said she did not know if the character would become a lesbian permanently , because the story lines change so often in Desperate Housewives , but that series creator Marc Cherry " is interested in playing the complexity of that " . Delany compared Katherine 's new realizations to that of actress Meredith Baxter , who realized she was a lesbian late in her life after entering into a relationship with a woman . Delany said she believed her character would be taken by surprise by the new feelings she is experiencing : " I think that she ? s still so emotionally vulnerable from getting out of the loony bin , and I think she and Robin connect on a kind of wounded , emotional level . And I think if anything , she ? s feeling this kind of emotional solace with her , and that draws her to Robin in a physical way , and that ? s confusing to her . "

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " The Chase " was seen by 10 @.@ 89 million viewers , according to Nielsen Media Research . Among viewers between ages 18 and 49 , it received a 3

@.@ 6 rating / 9 share , which at the time was the lowest rating for an individual episode of Desperate Housewives in series history . This continued a downward trend in the ratings for the show : each of the previous three episodes had been the lowest rated in series history until the airing of the next episode in the subsequent week . " The Chase " dropped in viewership three percent from the previous episode , " Lovely " . Like that episode , " The Chase " suffered in the ratings partially due to competition from the NBC broadcast of the 2010 Winter Olympics , which drew an estimated 21 @.@ 3 million viewers . Desperate Housewives was also outperformed by the CBS reality series Undercover Boss which , in its fourth episode , drew 15 @.@ 15 million viewers .

The episode received generally mixed to negative reviews . Entertainment Weekly writer Tanner Stransky was highly critical of the episode , describing the Gabrielle story as predictable , the Susan subplot as boring and the overall Bolen story arc as too slow in developing . Stransky also felt the Katherine and Robin pairing was unbelievable , and questioned whether the show 's audiences of families and midwesterners would respond well to a lesbian pairing . Gael Fashingbauer Cooper of MSNBC praised Longoria for turning what he said could have been a gloomy story into " a gleeful fantasy " . Cooper said the character was fun and funny but ultimately heartfelt and caring . Conversely , Cooper said the subplots involving the other housewives were " all pretty standard , and dreary , stuff " .

Los Angeles Times writer Gerrick Kennedy said he liked the Robin character 's charm and chemistry with Katherine , and said their story arc " has already grown infinitely more interesting than the Angie Bolen mystery " . He said the relationship made more sense for Katherine than her previous subplots involving her romance with Mike and her mental breakdown following their break @-@ up . Isabelle Carreau of TV Squad said she was glad the episode was centered on the supporting cast , particularly praising the attention to Bob and Lee , but she said that did not like the direction the Andrew character had taken , and felt the relationship between Katherine and Robin had evolved too fast .