

= Lexie Grey =

Alexandra Caroline " Lexie " Grey , M.D. is a fictional character from the medical drama television series Grey 's Anatomy , which airs on ABC in the United States . The character was created by series ' producer Shonda Rhimes and was portrayed by actress Chyler Leigh from the third through eighth seasons . She was introduced as a surgical intern in season three . Serving as Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo) ' s half sister , she transferred to the fictional Seattle Grace Hospital , after her mother 's sudden death . Eventually named a surgical resident , the character was originally contracted to appear for a multi @-@ episode story arc , but received star billing in the fourth season .

The character 's focal storyline involved a romantic relationship with plastic surgeon Mark Sloan (Eric Dane) . She sustained life @-@ threatening injuries after an aviation accident , in the eighth season finale , which ultimately ended in her death . The character 's death resulted in mixed critical feedback and the reason given for the departure was Leigh 's desire to spend more time with her family . Rhimes has characterized Lexie as being a dork , as well as having issues with saying how she feels . Leigh has been moderately well received by critics , and was among the cast to receive a Screen Actors Guild Award nomination for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series in 2007 .

= = Storylines = =

= = = Background = = =

Lexie Grey is the daughter of Thatcher Grey (Jeff Perry) and his second wife , Susan Grey (Mare Winningham) . She grew up with her younger sister , Molly Grey @-@ Thompson (Mandy Siegfried) and through @-@ out her childhood was kept unaware that she also had an older half @-@ sister , Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo) , born to Thatcher and his first wife , Ellis Grey (Kate Burton) . Lexie is first mentioned when Molly is admitted to Seattle Grace Hospital , with Susan informing Meredith that Lexie is a student at Harvard Medical School . At some subsequent point , Lexie learns of Meredith 's existence . She graduates from medical school and is accepted to take her surgical internship at Mass General hospital , but following her mother 's sudden death from complications stemming from the hiccups , Lexie instead opts to move back to Seattle to be closer to her father , taking up an internship at Seattle Grace Hospital , one year behind Meredith who is due to begin her residency .

= = = Season 4 = = =

The night before her internship begins , Lexie meets Derek Shepherd (Patrick Dempsey) at Joe 's Bar , mirroring his initial meeting with Meredith . The pair flirt , but Derek makes his excuses and leaves . On her arrival at the hospital , Lexie meets George O 'Malley (T.R. Knight) who quickly realizes her identity . Lexie promises to keep George 's secret that he is repeating his internship after failing his intern exam and the pair strike up a friendship . Lexie is assigned to be Cristina Yang 's (Sandra Oh) intern , and is dubbed " three " by Cristina , who doesn 't take the time to learn her name . Lexie is eager to get to know her half @-@ sister Meredith , but receives a hostile response when she introduces herself , and her later frequent attempts to bond with Meredith are similarly rebuffed . Lexie begins a brief sexual relationship with Alex Karev (Justin Chambers) , who discovers that Thatcher has descended into alcoholism following Susan 's death . When Meredith scolds Lexie for not looking after Thatcher , she finally retaliates and decides to stop pursuing a relationship with Meredith . Lexie bonds with patient Nick Hanscom (Seth Green) , and is present when his exposed artery blows , causing him to suffer massive blood loss . She manages to stop the bleeding , but is distraught when Nick later dies anyway . Feeling sympathy for Lexie , Cristina invites her to join her and Meredith in drinking and dancing , causing the sisters relationship to begin

to thaw . The following morning , Meredith goes out of her way to make Lexie breakfast , which she politely eats despite an allergy to eggs , resulting in her having to be treated at the hospital . Lexie and George agree to move in together , but they can only afford a dilapidated apartment which Lexie attempts to improve by stealing decorations from the hospital . She begins to develop romantic feelings for George , and discovers that he had only failed his intern exam by one point , encouraging him to try and convince the Chief that he deserves a second chance .

= = = Season 5 = = =

Lexie continues to harness romantic feelings for George , oblivious to the fact that he doesn 't see her in the same way . She prioritizes helping George study over taking part in a surgery with Mark Sloan (Eric Dane) , but feels betrayed when George doesn 't request that she become one of his interns after passing his exam . Finally realizing that he doesn 't feel the same way , Lexie gives up on her feelings for George and the pair 's friendship begins to fizzle out . She later begins a flirtation with Mark , and the pair begin an unlikely romantic relationship , though they are forced to keep it a secret when Meredith and Derek warn Mark away from Lexie . Lexie discovers that some of her fellow interns have secretly been performing simple procedures on each other and begins taking part . Sadie Harris (Melissa George) joins the society , and seeking a more daring procedure , suggests removing her appendix . Though Lexie agrees , she quickly finds herself out of her depth , resulting in Meredith and Cristina having to intervene to save Sadie 's life . Lexie and the other interns are put on probation . Derek finds Lexie distraught at the day 's events , and allows her to move into the attic at his and Meredith 's house . Mark comes clean to Derek about his relationship with Lexie , resulting in the two men getting into a fist fight . The pair continue to feud , resulting in Lexie beginning to stress eat , though they eventually reconcile . Lexie is delighted when Meredith asks her to be a bridesmaid at her and Derek 's wedding , though they eventually give the ceremony to Alex and cancer @-@ stricken Izzie Stevens (Katherine Heigl) . Mark decides to purchase a house and invites Lexie to move in with him , however she declines , concerned about how fast their relationship is progressing .

= = = Season 6 = = =

Lexie feels guilt following George 's death , having abandoned their friendship after he failed to reciprocate her romantic feelings towards him . Mark comforts her , and she eventually agrees to move into his new apartment with him . Thatcher is admitted into the hospital with liver failure stemming from his former alcoholism . When Lexie is found to not be a suitable transplant candidate , Meredith steps in and donates part of her liver , not to help Thatcher , but to spare Lexie the grief of losing her father . Mark and Lexie receive a shock when a girl named Sloan Riley shows up claiming to be Mark 's daughter , and her parentage is soon confirmed . Sloan announces her pregnancy and Mark quickly agrees to let her and the baby move in without consulting Lexie , resulting in her ending their relationship . She engages in a one @-@ night stand with Alex , but feels guilty the following day . She confesses to Mark who is furious with her , officially ending their relationship . Despite secretly suppressing her feelings for Mark , Lexie and Alex resume a casual relationship . Lexie takes part in a surgery on a patient named Alison Clark (Caroline Williams) and informs her husband Gary Clark (Michael O 'Neill) that it was a success . However , moments later Alison suffers a stroke and falls into a coma that she is deemed unlikely to wake from . As Alison had signed a DNR form , Lexie is forced to turn off the machine keeping her alive , despite Gary begging her to stop . After failing in an attempt to sue the hospital , a grief @-@ stricken Mr Clark later returns to the hospital with a gun , seeking revenge on Lexie , Derek and Richard Webber (James Pickens , Jr .) . After witnessing Mr Clark shoot a nurse dead , Mark shields Lexie and the pair attempt to save a critically wounded Alex . Seeking supplies , Lexie heads out into the hospital and comes face to face with Mr Clark who attempts to shoot her , but she is saved by a SWAT team member who wounds Clark at the last moment allowing her to escape . Lexie and Mark proceed to save Alex 's life . After a showdown with Richard , Gary Clark eventually commits suicide , having

killed eleven people and wounding another seven , as well as causing Meredith to suffer a miscarriage .

== Season 7 ==

Lexie feels responsible for the shooting and is unable to cope with the guilt , eventually suffering from a breakdown . She is admitted to the hospital 's psychiatric facility and is sedated for over fifty hours , with Meredith remaining by her side through it all . Alex on the other hand is less sympathetic and breaks off his and Lexie 's fling . After both realizing that they continued to have feelings for each other , Lexie and Mark resume their relationship , but their brief happiness is ruined when Lexie discovers that during their breakup , Mark had impregnated his best friend Callie Torres (Sara Ramirez) and she again ends their relationship . Eager to win Lexie back , Mark recruits his protégé Jackson Avery (Jesse Williams) to try to bring him back into Lexie 's favour , but his plan backfires when Jackson and Lexie develop romantic feelings for each other , resulting in them starting a relationship of their own . Mark is furious and tries to win Lexie back , but shortly after Callie is involved in a car accident and Lexie consoles Mark . The next episode , Lexie explains that she will go back to Mark if he continues to pursue her , despite her belief that they aren 't suited , he agrees to let her go , giving her and Jackson his blessing .

== Season 8 ==

Although initially happy in her relationship with Jackson , Lexie is distraught when she learns that Mark has begun a relationship with a woman named Julia . At a charity softball match , her jealousy gets the better of her , resulting in her throwing a ball at Julia . Sensing that Lexie is still in love with Mark , Jackson calls off their relationship . Lexie begins working with Derek 's service and becomes increasingly proficient in neurosurgery , helping Derek with a set of " hopeless cases " - high risk surgeries for patients who had otherwise run out of options . During a surgery , Derek is called away on an emergency , leaving Lexie and Meredith to carry out the procedure on their own . Though Derek had instructed them to merely reduce the patient 's brain tumour , Meredith allows Lexie to remove it completely . The sisters celebrate the successful surgery , but when the patient wakes up , Lexie is devastated to discover that the patient suffered severe brain damage , losing the ability to speak . Alex , Jackson and April Kepner (Sarah Drew) move out of Meredith 's house without inviting Lexie to join them , and with Derek and Meredith settling down with baby Zola , Lexie begins to feel increasingly lonely and isolated . After being left babysitting Zola on Valentine 's Day , she decides to try to salvage her relationship with Mark . However , after plucking up the courage to visit his apartment , she finds Mark studying with Jackson and loses her nerve , instead claiming that she was visiting to set up a play date for Zola and Sofia . When Mark confides in Derek that he and Julia have been discussing having a baby , Derek warns Lexie not to miss her chance again , resulting in her professing her love to a shell @-@ shocked Mark , who merely thanks her for her candour . He later confesses to Derek that he feels the same way , but is unsure about how to go about things . Days later , Lexie is named as part of a team of surgeons that will be sent to Boise to separate conjoined twins , along with Mark , Meredith , Derek , Cristina and Arizona Robbins (Jessica Capshaw) ; however , while flying to their destination , the doctors ' plane crashes in the wilderness . Lexie is crushed under debris from the plane , but manages to alert Mark and Cristina to help her . The pair try in vain to free Lexie , who realises that she is suffering from a hemothorax and is unlikely to survive . While Cristina tries to find Meredith , Mark takes Lexie by the hand and professes his love for her , telling her that they were " meant to be " . While fantasizing about the future that she and Mark could have had together , Lexie succumbs to her injuries , and dies moments before Meredith arrives . The remaining doctors are left in the woods waiting for rescue , with Mark refusing to let go of Lexie 's hand .

== Season 9 onwards ==

The remaining surgeons are rescued from the woods days later , and Lexie 's body is returned to Seattle . Weeks later , a traumatized Cristina reminisces to Owen Hunt (Kevin McKidd) about her time in the woods , telling him that she had fought with wild animals to keep them away from Lexie 's body . Weeks after the crash , Meredith comes across a young girl presenting with injuries identical to Lexie 's , and tirelessly works to save the girls life , with the experience eventually causing her to come to terms with her sister 's death . Despite making it home from the woods , Mark later died from the injuries he sustained in the crash . When the survivors of the plane crash pool their compensation money to purchase the hospital , they agree to rename the hospital to " Grey Sloan Memorial Hospital " in tribute of Lexie and Mark .

= = Development = =

= = = Casting and creation = = =

Leigh first appeared on the show during the last two episodes of the third season as Meredith 's half @-@ sister , Lexie Grey . Following Isaiah Washington 's departure , who portrayed Preston Burke , it was reported that show 's executives were planning on adding new cast members , such as Lexie . She was officially upgraded to a series ' regular on July 11 , 2007 , for the fourth season . On casting Chyler Leigh as Lexie , Grey 's Anatomy creator Shonda Rhimes said : " We met with a lot of young actresses , but Chyler stood out ? she had a quality that felt right and real to me . It felt like she could be Meredith 's sister , but she had a depth that was very interesting . "

In September 2011 , Leigh requested an extended summer hiatus , in order to spend more time with her family . This was granted by Rhimes , though the actress returned in mid @-@ October . Leigh 's character died in the eighth season finale . In May 2012 , Rhimes revealed why she decided to have Lexie die : " I love Chyler and I love the character of Lexie Grey . She was an important member of my Grey 's family . This was not an easy decision . But it was a decision that Chyler and I came to together . We had a lot of thoughtful discussion about it and ultimately we both decided this was the right time for her character 's journey to end . As far as I 'm concerned , Chyler will always remain a part of the Shondaland family and I can 't wait to work with her again in the future . " Following the death of her character , Leigh released a statement saying :

= = = Characterization = = =

Leigh 's character has been called " reliable , trustworthy , timid , and apprehensive " by Grey 's Anatomy executives . In her early appearances , it was learned that Lexie has a photographic memory , which she applied to her surgical career . This led her to being nicknamed " Lexipedia " by Alex Karev . The character has also been described as an " innocent young intern " by Alex Keen of The Trades .

Of the character , Leigh said : " She 's a very vulnerable person from a very healthy background ? she knows how to make good relationships but at this point [season four] , she 's coming into so much opposition she 's trying to adjust to it . " Debbie Chang of BuddyTV commented on Lexie 's early characterization , including her sexual relationship with Karev :

Similarities have been established between Lexie and Meredith . Series writer , Stacy McKee , commented on this :

" Lexie ? s struggling to be hardcore herself . I don ? t know if I ? d go so far as to say , perhaps , this kind of struggle must run in the family , but ? Okay . Fine . It must run in the family ? because Lexie , though she ? s very different from Meredith in many many ways , in this one way ? they seem to be exactly alike . Meredith and Lexie both want to succeed . They want to be strong . They want to feel normal . They want , so much , to be whole . But it ? s a struggle ? a genuine struggle for them . Being hardcore doesn ? t come naturally . Sometimes , they have to fake it . "

Lexie entertained several relationships throughout her time on Grey 's Anatomy . In her early appearances , she maintained a friendship with George O 'Malley , until developing romantic

feelings towards him . Rhimes offered the insight : " I love them as friends . They make good friends . We all have that friend we met in school or the gym or somewhere ? we just hit it off right away . And right away there was no pretense or airs . Just pure honesty . That ? s Lexie and George . They ? re really good friends and I can see the friendship evolving into something even greater . At least , that ? s what Lexie is hoping . She is my kind of girl . The girl who likes the guy because he is a GOOD guy and that ? s what George is . He is a good guy and that ? s something that Lexie could use now . She ? s going through her own challenges what with Meredith and losing her own mother and trying to keep things afloat . I ? m rooting for Lexie . She ? s my kind of girl and I hope that she gets what she deserves : love . And more kisses . There should always be that . " Lexie 's most significant relationship was with Mark Sloan . Following her death , Rhimes said :

= = Reception = =

Leigh has received mixed feedback for her role as Lexie Grey . People , less than impressed , criticized the way Leigh 's character initially approached her sister , calling it " rude " . Jennifer Armstrong of Entertainment Weekly was also critical of Leigh 's early appearances , referring to her as " awkward " . However , Armstrong later noted that the " sparkling " friendship development between Lexie and O 'Malley " won her over " . The character 's transition from season four to five was positively reviewed , with Keen of The Trades writing : " Her presence and confidence have increased quite a bit since last season , and actress , Chyler Leigh , does a fantastic job of making this progression feel seamless . Since the series has defused the tension between Little Grey and Big Grey (aka Meredith) , Lexie has clear sailing through the season and steals the show as one of the best current characters on the series . "

Lexie was strongly criticized by Laura Burrows from IGN , being called " awful " . Burrows also wrote : " Everything she says and does is obnoxious and does harm to someone . Lexie is an idiot and should be shot or drowned or exploded . " The character 's relationship with Sloan has been well received , with Chris Monfette of IGN writing : " Sloan 's honest relationship with Lexie helped to make both characters infinitely more interesting and mature . " Leigh served as a primary vocalist in " Song Beneath the Song " , the Grey 's Anatomy music event , and was well received , with the Boston Herald 's Mark Perigard praising her performance . The character was listed in Wetpaint 's " 10 Hottest Female Doctors on TV " . In 2007 , at the 14th Screen Actors Guild Awards , Leigh and the rest of the cast of Grey 's Anatomy , received a nomination for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series .