

= Secrets That I Never Want to Know =

" Secrets That I Never Want to Know " is the eighth @-@ season premiere episode of the American comedy @-@ drama television series Desperate Housewives , and the 158th overall episode of the series . It was originally broadcast in the United States on September 25 , 2011 , on the American Broadcasting Company ( ABC ) . The episode focuses on the aftermath and cover @-@ up of an accidental killing .

The episode was written by executive producer Bob Daily and directed by David Grossman . In the episode , Bree ( Marcia Cross ) and Gabrielle ( Eva Longoria ) work together to conceal the death of Gabrielle 's stepfather ( Tony Plana ) while Susan ( Teri Hatcher ) and Carlos ( Ricardo Antonio Chavira ) struggle with their guilt over the cover @-@ up . Meanwhile , Lynette ( Felicity Huffman ) and Tom ( Doug Savant ) deal with their separation .

" Secrets That I Never Want to Know " received generally positive reviews from critics , most of whom agreed the episode provided a satisfactory opening to the show 's final season . According to Nielsen ratings , the episode drew 9 @. @ 93 million viewers , making it the least @-@ watched season premiere in the series ' history .

= = Plot = =

= = = Background = = =

Desperate Housewives focuses on the lives of residents in the suburban neighborhood of Wisteria Lane , as narrated by their deceased neighbor , Mary Alice Young ( Brenda Strong ) , who kills herself in the pilot episode after receiving a blackmail note . In recent episodes , Bree Van de Kamp ( Marcia Cross ) begins dating a detective named Chuck Vance ( Jonathan Cake ) . Meanwhile , Lynette ( Felicity Huffman ) and Tom Scavo ( Doug Savant ) decide to separate after experiencing problems in their marriage . Carlos Solis ( Ricardo Antonio Chavira ) accidentally kills his wife Gabrielle 's ( Eva Longoria ) stepfather , Alejandro Perez ( Tony Plana ) , who raped her in her childhood and returns to inflict more harm . Gabrielle 's friends , Bree , Lynette , and Susan Delfino ( Teri Hatcher ) , agree to help cover up the killing .

= = = Episode = = =

Carlos and the women bury Alejandro 's body in the nearby woods and , at Bree and Gabrielle 's urging , make a pact to keep his death a secret . One month later , Carlos 's guilt has left him irritable and depressed . He confesses to having committed an unspecified crime to Father Dugan ( Sam McMurray ) , who tells him that he will only be forgiven if he turns himself in ; however , Carlos decides not to follow his advice in order to protect the other people involved in the cover @-@ up .

Meanwhile , Susan 's guilt over the cover @-@ up causes her to withdraw from her friends and family . Her husband , Mike Delfino ( James Denton ) , suspects that she is unhappy in their marriage . Susan wants to tell Mike about the cover @-@ up , but Bree and Gabrielle discourage her , warning her that Mike could be implicated if they are ever caught .

Lynette and Tom have decided not to tell their children about their separation . After Lynette has a nightmare about Alejandro , she seeks Tom 's company and they sleep together . The next morning , Tom assumes that they are getting back together , but Lynette tells him she still wants to separate . Meanwhile , Renee Perry ( Vanessa Williams ) attempts to seduce new neighbor Ben Faulkner ( Charles Mesure ) , but he rejects her .

Elsewhere , Bree struggles with dating a detective and covering up Alejandro 's death . While trying to dispose of Alejandro 's car , Bree and Gabrielle inadvertently attract Chuck 's attention and have to create a series of elaborate lies to avoid him finding out the truth . Later , Bree receives a note reading , " I know what you did . It makes me sick . I 'm going to tell . " This is the same as the letter Mary Alice received before killing herself .

## == Production ==

" Secrets That I Never Want to Know " was written by executive producer Bob Daily and directed by David Grossman . Filming for the episode began on July 11 , 2011 . The episode is only one of two season premieres Cherry did not write himself , as he took on a reduced production role for the eighth season in order to develop several new series while Daily was given more creative authority . According to Daily , the series ' ending allowed the writers more artistic freedom while developing storylines . " You get to do story lines that you wouldn 't otherwise do because you don 't have to worry about the ramifications , " he explained . " So people can move , people can die , people can have babies and you don 't have to worry about the babies growing up . " The episode introduced Bree 's blackmail storyline , which recalls the first season 's mystery storyline surrounding series narrator Mary Alice 's suicide . Daily stated that the similarity between the storylines was intentional : " We ? re kind of just diving into the DNA of the series a little bit . Are there any unanswered questions floating around out there ? Any characters we need to check in with one more time ? " Cherry noted that the " mystery harkens back to the first season , going back to the roots of Mary Alice [ Brenda Strong ] . This feels right for that mystery to take us out this year . " Brenda Strong commented that " It ? s the smartest way to end the series , to finish where you began . I think it really cements it in the psyche of the audience and gives them a sense of completion . "

The episode further develops the relationship between Bree and Chuck , which is complicated by her involvement in the cover @-@ up . " Bree ? s dilemma is the fact that she ? s falling for a cop and trying to cover up this crime that she was sort of the ringleader on , " Daily explained . " So her thing is instead of balancing work and pleasure , it ? s balancing crime and pleasure . " Cross stated , " I think we ? ll figure out if that ? s really a big love for her or if she ? s able to let it go . " Jonathan Cake , who appeared as Chuck in four episodes during the seventh season , was promoted to series regular with this episode . On the relationship between Bree and Chuck , Cake stated : " As a detective , he 's sort of drawn to this woman who seems both quite proper and conservative and yet can 't seem to stop herself from being drawn into these sort of crazy , lurid scenarios . There 's a sort of wild streak in Bree somewhere that he thinks is really interesting . " To prepare for the role , Cake watched key episodes of the series focusing on Bree 's previous relationships .

The episode also continues the storyline of Tom and Lynette 's separation . Huffman enjoyed her character 's storyline , stating : " I 'm sure there are things that they knew the viewers want , which is for Tom and Lynette to get back together . But I do like that it 's kind of up in the air and maybe they won 't . " Doug Savant commented , " For many years on this show , we knew that Tom and Lynette were the grounding force on the street . They were the couple that most resembled most couples in America . It just got to a point after so many years when [ the writers ] really wanted to explore the things that made this relationship work by first pulling it apart . " Both actors expressed their desire for the couple to reunite by the series ' end . Charles Measure made his debut as new neighbor Ben Faulkner , a self @-@ made contractor and Renee 's new love interest . According to Vanessa Williams , " She ? s working hard to make it happen and it ? s not happening easily for her . And she ? s not used to that and that ? s where the comedy ensues and it gives her something to pursue . "

## == Reception ==

## === Ratings ===

According to Nielsen ratings , " Secrets That I Never Want to Know " was watched by 9 @. @ 93 million viewers and held a 3 @. @ 2 rating / 7 share among viewers between 18 and 49 years of age . The episode is the least @-@ watched season premiere in the series ' history , indicating a 28 percent decrease in viewership from the seventh season premiere one year earlier . The episode was outperformed by Sunday Night Football on NBC , which averaged 20 @. @ 36 million viewers and an 8 @. @ 3 rating / 21 share , and The Good Wife on CBS , which was watched by 10 @. @ 66

million viewers but held a 2 @. @ 2 rating / 5 share , 45 percent lower than Desperate Housewives . The episode was also outperformed by its lead @-@ out program , the series premiere of Pan Am . It averaged 1 @. @ 2 million viewers more than " Secrets That I Never Want to Know " , becoming the first lead @-@ out program to outperform Desperate Housewives since Grey 's Anatomy in May 2006 . The final minute of " Secrets That I Never Want to Know " drew 12 @. @ 188 million viewers and received a 7 @. @ 9 rating / 12 share overall with 4 @. @ 1 rating / 9 share in the 18 to 49 demographic . The episode gained an additional 2 million viewers and 0 @. @ 9 rating in the week following the original broadcast due to DVR recordings .

= = = Critical reception = = =

" Secrets That I Never Want to Know " received mixed critical reviews . TV Guide 's Kate Stanhope gave a mixed review of the episode , opining that " the episode moved a little slow for what was the last season premiere . " She praised the sequence in which Bree and Gabrielle attempt to get rid of Alejandro 's car , writing , " I always love the Bree @-@ Gaby scenes because they contradict each other in such an interesting way . " She enjoyed that the Bree character was " turning back into the controlling perfectionist we grew to love rather than the carefree woman she became " in the seventh season . Stanhope was critical of the Lynette and Tom storyline , opining : " it 's annoying that their relationship has been reduced to this gimmick ... I was never on board with the whole Tom and Lynette split simply because it felt less honest and more of a last @-@ ditch effort to cause conflict . But if they 're going to go through with separating the formerly stable couple , at least go through with it all the way and show Lynette really and truly on her own . " She also believed the Renee storyline to be a waste of Vanessa Williams 's talents . Tanner Stransky of Entertainment Weekly called the episode 's overall storyline " too juicy a landmine to not have the repercussions play out deliciously on this , the show 's last season . "

TV Fanatic 's Christina Tran gave the episode a positive review , awarding it 4 out of 5 stars . She picked Susan 's hamster burial scene and the scene in which Gabrielle eases Carlos ' conscience her favorite scenes in the episode . Tran also appreciated the writers ' decision not to prolong Tom and Lynette 's attempts to hide their separation , opining : " Last season , their fights were relentless and exhausting . I was glad that this storyline wasn 't dragged out too much , as Tom and Lynette were both able to rip off the band @-@ aid and let their children know of their new status . " She also enjoyed the addition of the Ben character and hoped that the Renee character would receive her own storyline this season . John Griffiths of Us Weekly awarded the episode 3 @. @ 5 out of 4 stars , writing , " After last season 's silly antics , the venerable dramedy pulls itself together for a clever final round . " He opined that Carlos and Susan 's guilt helped keep the cover @-@ up storyline compelling . The Hollywood Reporter 's Jethro Nededog was positive in his review of the episode , writing : " It was a strong return , because it relied on the series ' strength , which is the bond these women have with each other . " Jamie Heller of The A.V. Club noted that " there 's almost no other plot development " in the episode apart from the cover @-@ up and Lynette and Tom 's separation .