

= Wishin ' and Hopin ' ( Grey 's Anatomy ) =

" Wishin ' and Hopin ' " is the fourteenth episode of the third season of the American television medical drama Grey 's Anatomy , and the show 's 50th episode overall . It was written by Tony Phelan and Joan Rater and directed by Julie Anne Robinson . The episode originally aired on the American Broadcasting Company ( ABC ) in the United States on February 1 , 2007 . In the episode , Dr. Meredith Grey ( Ellen Pompeo ) struggles with her Alzheimer 's @-@ stricken mother , Ellis Grey ( Kate Burton ) , becoming temporarily lucid . Further storylines include Dr. Izzie Stevens ( Katherine Heigl ) and Dr. Miranda Bailey ( Chandra Wilson ) continuously seeking patients for their new clinic , Dr. Richard Webber ( James Pickens , Jr . ) dealing with the repercussions of his upcoming retirement , and Dr. George O 'Malley ( T.R. Knight ) facing negative response from colleagues on his unexpected marriage to Dr. Callie Torres ( Sara Ramirez ) .

Although the episode was fictionally set in Seattle , filming occurred in Los Angeles , California . Burton reprised her role as Dr. Ellis Grey in a guest star capacity , in addition to Sarah Utterback , who portrayed Olivia Harper . The title of the episode refers to the song " Wishin ' and Hopin ' " , by British pop musician Dusty Springfield . The episode received mixed to favorable reviews , with the storyline involving Ellis being particularly praised by television critics . Upon its original airing , the episode was watched by 24 @.@ 18 million viewers in the United States , ranked first in its time @-@ slot and garnered an 8 @.@ 5 Nielsen rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

= = Plot = =

" Wishin ' and Hopin ' " opens to a voice @-@ over narration from Dr. Meredith Grey ( Ellen Pompeo ) about extraordinary events . The Denny Duquette Memorial Clinic has been opened , after a US \$ 8 million funding from Dr. Izzie Stevens ( Katherine Heigl ) . Four of the hospital 's attending surgeons , Dr. Derek Shepherd ( Patrick Dempsey ) , Dr. Preston Burke ( Isaiah Washington ) , Dr. Addison Montgomery ( Kate Walsh ) , and Dr. Mark Sloan ( Eric Dane ) are all seen competing for the position of chief of surgery , after the current chief Dr. Richard Webber ( James Pickens , Jr . ) announces his plans for retirement . Meredith arrives to the Alzheimer 's support home that her ill mother Dr. Ellis Grey ( Kate Burton ) is living at , and to her surprise , her mother has become lucid , but faints . Ellis is taken to Seattle Grace Hospital , her former source of employment . Residents Dr. Cristina Yang ( Sandra Oh ) , Dr. Miranda Bailey ( Chandra Wilson ) , and Dr. Alex Karev ( Justin Chambers ) are awaiting the arrival of patients at the clinic , and Dr. George O 'Malley ( T.R. Knight ) walks in to announce his unexpected marriage with Dr. Callie Torres ( Sara Ramirez ) .

A cancerous patient , Marina Wagner ( Amanda Collins ) , is admitted into the hospital and is revealed to have toxic blood - presumably caused by a chemical reaction between an herbal supplement and chemotherapy - making several physicians fall ill . O 'Malley is exposed to the neurotoxin , and quickly becomes anxious , fearing that his marriage is the cause of the sickness . Ellis is diagnosed with a heart condition , in which surgery or medication are options . Ellis does not want the surgery , but Meredith fears that she will not be compliant with her medication . Shepherd and Burke try to close up Wagner as the OR was evacuated before her surgery was completed , by entering the operating room with sealed , airtight suits . Ellis agrees to the surgery , but opts to speak with Webber , her former lover . A teenage patient is brought into the clinic by her father , hoping that a doctor can teach her how to use tampons . When her father leaves the room , she explains to Bailey that she had sex , but her pregnancy test is negative . Shepherd and Burke run out of air whilst operating on Wagner , so Yang , Stevens , and Meredith enter holding their breath to close the patient 's incision . O 'Malley 's colleagues act in a rude manner to his new marriage , and displeased , he lectures them , standing up for Torres . Sloan is seen to be having sex with Montgomery , and Yang agrees to marry Burke . At the conclusion of the episode , Ellis ' lucidity has vanished , leaving Meredith and Webber distraught .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by co @-@ executive producer Tony Phelan and Joan Rater , while filmmaker Julie Anne Robinson directed it . Featured music includes Psapp 's " King of You " , The Whitest Boy Alive 's " Fireworks " , Iain Archer 's " Canal Song " , Miho Hatori 's " Barracuda " and Sybarite 's " Runaway " . Rater described that she got the idea after being told that her husband had to undergo a craniotomy . She noted that the plan for the episode was to focus on Ellis ' inner feelings , mainly her fright , frustration and stress . " The concept of someone with this disease having a lucid day is real . The disease varies for everyone , but experts we talked to said that patients have bad days and good days and then sometimes they have great days where it seems like they are their old selves . Maybe it 's a moment , maybe an hour , for some a whole afternoon , but we were fascinated with the idea of getting this time , this gift , and knowing that it 's only temporary . What would you do with that one day ? And what would it mean for Meredith ? " , stated Rater , explaining the premise of the episode . She also stated that " the cool idea " to have Meredith and Ellis connect again had been considered for almost a year before the actual concept of the episode was written , after numerous attempts to include the storyline in other episodes that " didn 't feel quite right " : " If you 're going to give Meredith her mother back and then take her away again , you 'd better have a pretty good reason . " Rater also explained that , in her vision , the episode introduces a new period in the interns ' lives , focusing on their finding an identity as surgeons , becoming more central than in the beginning of the season , which revolved around the aftermath of Denny Duquette ( Jeffrey Dean Morgan ) ' s death and Meredith 's involvement in the love triangle between her , Shepherd and Finn Dandridge ( Chris O 'Donnell ) .

Rater noted that the balance Meredith had just found in her life , finally having a chance at happiness with the man she loves , is shaken by her mother 's unexpected lucidity , which was stated to have been written in the series in order to remind Meredith about the troubled years of her growing up : " If Meredith is ever going to be happy , she 's got to deal with the fact that she had a really terrible childhood . " In addition , Rater explained that Ellis ' " awful , raw , ugly and terrible " statements towards her daughter were intended to make everyone realize the reason behind Meredith 's alcoholism in college and her continuous one @-@ night stands with inappropriate men . She also deemed Pompeo 's performance in the episode " exceptional " , describing what she regarded an " exceptional moment " which sees Meredith stand up to her mother . In response to the scene that sees Ellis interacting with Webber , Rater wrote that it is the first time she lets her guard down , exposing the previously hidden vulnerability , which allows her express the desire to be as happy and ordinary as her daughter . She also praised the performances of the cast , by deeming their acting " remarkable " . " That is really what it 's all about . We have to cherish the time that we have here , and love the people who surround and support us , even if they make us crazy , because things happen . Brain surgery , Alzheimer 's and weddings . And the worst thing is to come to the of your life , and realize , like Ellis , that you should have tried harder " , stated Rater , putting the emphasis on the main aspects of the episode , characterizing it as " not ordinary " .

= = Reception = =

On its original broadcast on February 1 , 2007 at 9 : 00 ET , the episode averaged 24 @.@ 18 million viewers , ranking ninth in weekly viewership with an 8 @.@ 5 rating , according to Nielsen . The episode was the fifth most @-@ watched episode of the season , airing in the fourth week after the winter hiatus . The episode showed a significant increase in ratings , attracting 2 @.@ 68 million more viewers than " Great Expectations " , which received a 7 @.@ 6 rating . " Wishin ' and Hopin ' " was also the leading show in the time slot , with 2 @.@ 69 more million viewers than CBSs ' CSI , which ranked tenth in weekly viewership with a 7 @.@ 6 rating . Kate Burton , who portrayed Ellis Grey , received a nomination at the 59th Primetime Emmy Awards in the Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series category , but ultimately lost to Law & Order : Special Victims Unit 's Leslie Caron . Variety listed the episode in its top 10 most bizarre medical maladies encountered in the series .

Staci Krause of IGN had a positive outlook on the episode , mainly due to the heavy development the episode 's plot had in the season 's progressive arc . She described the storylines involving the

cancer patient 's intoxication and Ellis ' lucidity as achieving a balance , and moving the show " at a lightning quick pace " . Krause deemed the episode " stellar " , noting how it avoided the possibility of having negative points . Regarding the episode an " epic " one , she praised the scene which depicts O 'Malley realizing the intoxication provoked by the patient 's blood . " This is what we come to expect from medical dramas and it is great to see Grey 's get back to this , while not sacrificing the personal stories " , stated Krause , putting the emphasis on how " this case brought out the hore in just about everyone , pushing their limits for a patient " . Krause noted that O 'Malley has developed into a hero , stating that " pulling all the people in the operating room out , even though he was already sick and could have easily died from the effort " in a comparison to Sloan , described as being a man with no appealing traits and " unlikable ways " , which attracted criticism from Krause .

On the topic , Krause elaborated : " The only one who didn 't do anything particularly heroic was Sloan . That made him being with Addison at the end even better , because she was using him to sate a desire and that was very clear . " Krause positively reviewed the idea of Ellis Grey 's becoming temporarily lucid , deeming it " amazing " : " She was not very endearing when she was lucid , that 's for certain . She was unbelievably cruel to Meredith , telling her how disappointed she was that Meredith was merely ordinary . Ouch . But she did a great thing this episode too , during her short time as a sane person . She gave Cristina the answer she was looking for . " The arc involving Callie and George 's sudden marriage , named by Krause " a roller coaster " , was described as being a way to emphasize the contrast between the two . Krause also noted the contrast between Stevens ' kindhearted personality in the past , and the cruelty she proves to have in the episode , which was noted to have been " a highlight in perfect fashion " , as well as a reminder for the multi @-@ dimensional personalities of the characters . Also noted was Cristina 's way of accepting Burke 's proposal , following Ellis ' answer , which gave her the hope she had been previously looking for .

Kelly West of Cinema Blend also expressed a good perspective on the episode , considering it to have been the best episode of the season . Deeming the episode an " eye @-@ opening experience " , West described Ellis ' surprising personality as having worse repercussions on her daughter than the control issues and the intense disapproval that had previously been noted on the character : " You would think after Ellis had a few hours to digest the news that she has essentially lost her mind , she would take advantage of the gift that is her brief lucidity to patch things up with Meredith . Meredith was hesitant to sit and talk with her mother about the last five years but finally she decides this could be her only chance . " Comparing Ellis ' previous appearances in the series with the version presented in the episode , West stated she is " far worse " as a lucid person , noting how frustration and confusion are her main characteristics .

Also noted was the " completely erratic and borderline insane " behavior of Ellis at the realization that her daughter is focusing more on her love life than on her career , learning that the specialty , which she considers to be defining for a surgeon , is not a concern of Meredith 's : " If this is how she was treating Meredith during her childhood and adolescence , it completely explains why Meredith is so dark and twisty . " In addition , West noted the realism in Ellis ' troubled personality , when she considers refusing the heart surgery , due to not being sure of wanting to continue her life in a state of forgetfulness and confusion . The scene which depicts Ellis interacting with Webber was negatively received by West , which regarded the whole conversation to have been based on his convincing lies , determined to give her peace . In response to Miranda Bailey 's storyline in the episode , involving the sexually active teenager , West noted how the character was " direct , somewhat stern , but not unkind about the subject as she educates and consoles the girl " .