

= How About a Friendly Shrink ? =

" How About a Friendly Shrink ? " is the thirteenth episode of the sixth season of the American comedy @-@ drama series , Desperate Housewives , and the 124th overall episode of the series . It originally aired on ABC in the United States on January 17 , 2010 . In the episode , Tom tries to convince Lynette to seek marriage counseling , Gabrielle clashes with Susan about their children 's intelligence , and Bree tries to care for an increasingly irritable Orson .

The episode was written by Jason Ganzel and directed by Lonny Price . " How About a Friendly Shrink ? " marked the return of Katherine Mayfair , portrayed by Dana Delany , who had been not appeared since the episode " Boom Crunch " . It also featured Jane Leeves , who previously starred as Daphne Moon on the American NBC sitcom Frasier , in a guest appearance as Tom and Lynette 's therapist , Dr. Graham .

" How About a Friendly Shrink ? " received generally mixed reviews . According to Nielsen Media Research , the episode was seen by 11 @.@ 2 million viewers . It was the lowest rating for an individual Desperate Housewives in the series ' history , a distinction it held only two weeks until the subsequent episode , " The Glamorous Life " , drew even poorer ratings . The viewership for " How About a Friendly Shrink ? " suffered due to competition from the 67th Golden Globe Awards on NBC and the two @-@ hour eighth season premiere of 24 on Fox .

The title of this episode is taken from a line in the song " Country House " which was written for , but never included in , the Stephen Sondheim musical " Follies " .

= = Plot = =

When he learns that Bob (Tuc Watkins) and Lee (Kevin Rahm) are seeing a counselor , Tom (Doug Savant) suggests going to one with Lynette (Felicity Huffman) , but she insists therapy is for " losers " . Tom starts seeing a therapist on his own and keeping a " feelings " journal , which he will not let Lynette read . Angrily , she visits the therapist , Dr. Graham (Jane Leeves) , to defend herself from what she 's sure is Tom 's badmouthing . She admits she gets mad when she is not in control . When Dr. Graham equates this to the lack of control Lynette felt in losing her baby , Lynette reluctantly sits down on the couch . Later , when Tom returns from work , Lynette informs him they will be going to therapy together .

Using a wheelchair , Orson (Kyle MacLachlan) continues to order Bree (Marcia Cross) around at his whim and refuses to let her give him a bath . When Orson refuses to say please while Bree brings him breakfast , she places the waffles on a shelf he cannot reach . When the physical therapist arrives , he pretends to be starving and abused . The therapist tells Bree she must be more patient , or she will be reported . Later , when Orson still refuses to be bathed , Bree takes him outside and sprays him with the garden hose until he begs her to stop . He breaks down and admits he is miserable at the prospective of a life in which he needs to ask for help in everything . Bree finally understands , and asks Orson for forgiveness .

The Oakridge students are placed into learning groups named after animals . Gabrielle (Eva Longoria) initially suspects her daughter Juanita (Madison De La Garza) , who is in the Leopards , is among the slow group , whereas Susan (Teri Hatcher) is pleased that her son M.J. (Mason Vale Cotton) is in the Giraffes , which she believes are advanced . This leads to competitive behavior between the two ladies . Eventually , by taking pictures of different students ' homework and studying them , Gabrielle realizes the Leopards are actually advanced and the Giraffes are slow . When Susan realizes this , she confronts a teacher in public , and the secret code of the animal groups becomes widespread . While Susan and Gabrielle wait to talk to the principal , they both admit they got carried away and confess fears that they are letting their kids down .

Angie (Drea de Matteo) takes an instant dislike to her son Danny 's (Beau Mirchoff) new girlfriend , Ana (Maiara Walsh) , who she fears is too fun @-@ loving and not serious enough . However , Danny feels comfortable talking to Ana , who seems to understand what he has been through . Ana assures Angie she is not going anywhere . Meanwhile , Katherine (Dana Delany) speaks to her psychiatrist at a mental clinic . She says the medicine is working , but she now realizes the person

she has become and how much she has hurt her neighbors and friends . Karen (Kathryn Joosten) visits her and asks her to come back to Wisteria Lane , but Katherine says she will not come back because she does not feel she will be forgiven . Later , Karen returns with Bree , Lynette , Gabrielle and Susan , who comfort Katherine and say they will try to forgive her .

= = Production = =

" How About a Friendly Shrink ? " was written by Jason Ganzel and directed by Lonny Price . It first aired on January 17 , 2010 in the United States on ABC . The episode marked the return of Katherine Mayfair , who had been absent since the episode " Boom Crunch " , in which she suffered a nervous breakdown . Jane Leeves , who previously starred as Daphne Moon on the American NBC sitcom *Frasier* , made a guest appearance as Tom and Lynette 's therapist , Dr. Graham . She is slated to appear in at least one more episode .

Leeves is the third former star of *Frasier* to make a guest appearance in *Desperate Housewives* . Harriet Sansom Harris , who played talent agent Bebe Glazer on the sitcom , played recurring character Felicia Tilman in the first , second and seventh season of *Desperate Housewives* . Peri Gilpin , who played Roz Doyle in *Frasier* , has also appeared in the show , and Joe Keenan , former show runner on *Frasier* , serves as a consulting producer for *Desperate Housewives* .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast on January 17 , 2010 , " How About a Friendly Shrink ? " was seen by 11 @. @ 2 million viewers , according to Nielsen Media Research . At the time , it was the lowest rating for an individual *Desperate Housewives* in the series ' history . However , it held that distinction only two weeks before " The Glamorous Life " , and the subsequent episode " Lovely " , received even lower ratings . The viewership for " How About a Friendly Shrink ? " suffered due to competition from the 67th Golden Globe Awards on NBC (which drew 16 @. @ 9 million viewers) and the two @- @ hour seventh season premiere of 24 on Fox (which drew 11 @. @ 4 million viewers) . " How About a Friendly Shrink ? " received a 3 @. @ 7 rating / 9 share among viewers aged between 18 and 49 . The overall rating was a 21 percent drop in viewership from the previous week 's episode , " You Gotta Get a Gimmick " .

" How About a Friendly Shrink ? " received generally mixed reviews . Gerrick Kennedy of the Los Angeles Times praised the episode and was particularly excited by the guest appearance by Jane Leeves . She called the subplot between Gaby and Susan was " cute , but honest " , but felt the Orson and Katherine characters have " run their course " . Entertainment Weekly writer Tanner Stransky declared the reappearance of Katherine Mayfair was the only interesting element of the episode , and that it was touching to see her realize the damage she had done . Stransky wrote , " The rest of the story lines from last night just kind of sat there rather limply , " and said the Orson and Bree story , and Tom and Lynette 's therapy , " just seemed so dumpy for this once @- @ sexy show " .

DeAnn Welker of MSNBC complimented the Katherine homecoming , and said the best line of the episode was Karen McCluskey 's response when Katherine rejected visitors : " Who says I 'm visiting ? Maybe I 'm bonkers too . " Welker , however , was critical of the subplot between Gaby and Susan , who she said were " stuck in storylines @- @ that @- @ don ? t @- @ matter territory . " Glenn Diaz of BuddyTV felt the episode did little to advance the overall plot of the series , but included some strong scenes and good jokes . Diaz called the Orson and Bree subplot " heartbreaking " , and said he was able to empathize with Katherine for the first time in many episodes . Isabelle Carreau of TV Squad called Orson particularly unlikeable in the episode , but declared the Lynette and Tom subplot " fun and touching at the same time " , and said the Ana character showed new depths that had not been shown before .