

= Snow Falls =

" Snow Falls " is the third episode of the American fairy tale / drama television series Once Upon a Time . The series takes place in the fictional seaside town of Storybrooke , Maine , in which the residents are actually characters from various fairy tales that were transported to the " real world " town by a powerful curse . This episode centers on the first meeting of Snow White (Ginnifer Goodwin) and Prince Charming (Joshua Dallas) , when the former steals his mother 's ring ; Charming hunts her down , but they later part amicably . Meanwhile , Snow 's Storybrooke counterpart , Mary Margaret (Goodwin) , develops a personal bond with a comatose John Doe (Dallas) while reading him fairy tales . During the night , he awakens and escapes the hospital ; Mary Margaret locates the amnesiac man , but is dismayed to learn that he is married .

The episode was written by co @-@ executive producer Liz Tigelaar , while being directed by Dean White . It featured the first appearance of David Anders as Dr. Whale and Anastasia Griffith in the dual role of Kathryn Nolan and Princess Abigail . " Snow Falls " serves as a prequel to the pilot episode . Goodwin injured herself during filming and received facial stitches in a local emergency room , though she and Dallas still called the episode their favorite up to that point .

It first aired in the United States on ABC on November 6 , 2011 . An estimated 11 @.@ 4 million viewers tuned into the episode , and it placed second in its timeslot , though it garnered five percent fewer viewers than the previous episode . " Snow Falls " received generally positive reviews from television critics , with several calling it an indication that the series was improving over time . The chemistry between Goodwin and Dallas was particularly highlighted for praise . A novelization of the episode was released in 2013 .

= = Plot = =

= = = Opening Sequence = = =

A troll is shown in the forest .

= = = In the Characters ' Past = = =

In the Enchanted Forest , a guarded carriage carrying Prince Charming (Joshua Dallas) and his fiancée , Abigail (Anastasia Griffith) , is halted by a roadblock . Charming notices a fallen tree is blocking the road , and that it was cut on purpose . The carriage is ambushed by a hooded vagabond , who takes Charming 's bag of valuables , including a wedding ring . Charming pursues and knocks the mysterious thief off their horse . He discovers it is a woman , Snow White (Ginnifer Goodwin) . Before he can get an answer as to why she stole his bag , Snow hits him with a rock , surprising and cutting him to make her escape . Charming vows that he will find her .

Later , Charming tracks Snow and nets her in a trap . Snow reluctantly agrees to show Charming where she sold his jewels . Along the way , Charming discovers a wanted poster of Snow in her bag . Snow claims the Evil Queen (Lana Parrilla) blames her for ruining her life . Charming asks if this is true and she admits it is .

As they reach a river , Snow once again tricks Charming and escapes again , only to be captured moments later by the Queen 's henchmen . Their orders are to cut out Snow 's heart and bring it to the Queen . Charming attacks the henchmen with his sword , killing two . One henchman gets away with Snow , and Charming quickly dispatches him with an arrow . Now that he has saved Snow , she decides to trust him , and agrees to lead him to the place where she sold the items .

They reach the dilapidated bridge where Snow sold Charming 's goods to a group of trolls . When she asks the trolls if she can buy back the ring , the trolls become suspicious and discover the wanted poster of Snow , leading to a fight . Snow comes to Charming 's rescue by using fairy dust to turn the trolls into bugs . Charming is surprised that Snow saved him , but she wants to repay him for saving her life . As she hands him back the items , including the wedding ring , Snow looks at the

ring , then places it on her finger before handing it back to him as they go their separate ways .

= = = In Storybrooke = = =

In the present day , during a night out with Dr. Whale (David Anders) , Mary Margaret (Goodwin) tries to make a little conversation with him ; however , he is busy ogling Ruby (Meghan Ory) , prompting Mary Margaret to leave the cafe by herself . As she walks back to her apartment , she notices Emma Swan (Jennifer Morrison) in her car reading a newspaper and searching for a place to stay . Mary Margaret offers Emma a spare room at her apartment . The following day , Mary Margaret notices Henry (Jared S. Gilmore) looking at the comatose John Doe (Dallas) while they are setting up decorations at the hospital . Henry believes that John Doe is Prince Charming and Mary Margaret is Snow White . Henry asks her to read to Charming from the storybook , convinced that it will wake him up . Emma persuades Mary Margaret to go along with Henry 's wishes so that they can prove the stories aren 't real . At the hospital , Mary Margaret reads the stories to the patient , until his hand grabs hers , shocking Mary Margaret . She tells Dr. Whale that Charming might be waking up , but the doctor does not believe her . After she leaves , Dr. Whale calls Regina (Parrilla) , as he had been instructed to do should there be a change in John Doe 's state , revealing that he had been lying to Mary Margaret .

The next day , Emma , Henry and Mary Margaret stop by the hospital to see him , only to discover that the patient has left on his own and might be bleeding . Regina and Sheriff Graham (Jamie Dornan) have also shown up , since Regina is the emergency contact for John Doe . She claims that she had found him on the side of the road unconscious without any memory of what or who he was . As Regina takes Henry home , Emma , Mary Margaret , and the sheriff decide to investigate what happened and visit the security room . They encounter the janitor Leroy (Lee Arenberg) , and the security guard Walter , who was sleeping on the job (since he is actually Sleepy) . Emma and the others discover that John Doe went out into the woods .

As Emma , Mary Margaret , and Graham search the wooded area for John Doe , they are joined by Henry . Henry believes that the patient is looking for Mary Margaret . They soon discover the patient lying near the bridge seen in the fairytale flashback , and Mary Margaret revives him . As they take him back to the hospital , Regina shows up with a woman named Kathryn (Griffith) , and states that she is his wife and that the patient 's name is David Nolan . This devastates Mary Margaret , as she had begun to develop feelings for the patient . Emma becomes suspicious of Regina 's ability to find Nolan 's wife and questions why Kathryn never bothered to search for him before . Although Regina claims that past hospital surveillance tapes had David mentioning Kathryn 's name in his sleep , Emma still believes that Regina is lying . Later that evening , Emma arrives at Mary Margaret 's place and agrees to take up the offer of staying with the teacher .

= = Production = =

" Snow Falls " was written by co @-@ executive producer Liz Tigelaar , while being directed by The Shield veteran Dean White . The episode features the first appearance of Anastasia Griffith as Abigail / Kathryn Nolan , a recurring role . Her casting was announced in early August 2011 , with her character being variously described as " spoiled " and " regal " . Actor David Anders also made his first appearance in this episode as Dr. Whale .

The episode serves as a prequel to the events of the pilot . In October 2011 , Ginnifer Goodwin told reporters that she was excited to portray the beginning of Snow and Charming 's relationship " because it is based more on animosity and manipulation and selfishness . " She added that " they have a very far way to go from their moment of meeting to falling in love , " making the episode " greatly challenging and fun . "

In the scene in which Snow White is captured by The Queen 's henchmen , Goodwin tweeted that the horse ran right into her , sending her flying and injuring her hand and face . Goodwin explained that " we go on quite an adventure and I came away with an actual , physical scar from it . " The incident required that the actress ' face receive stitches in a hospital emergency room . Goodwin

and Joshua Dallas said that it was their favorite episode up to that point , with Dallas saying it was " lot of fun to shoot and it ? s just great . " In another tweet , Goodwin commented that Jennifer Morrison taught her to perform CPR during a scene with Dallas , as Morrison learned the procedure while she was a regular on House M.D.

The episode was included in Reawakened : A Once Upon a Time Tale ? a novelization of the first season ? which was written by Odette Beane and published by Hyperion Books in May 2013 . The novel is intended to give " fans of the show a whole new look at their favorite characters and stories , " and is alternately set from the perspective of Emma Swan and Snow White , who narrate events in Storybrooke and the Enchanted Forest , respectively .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Snow Falls " first aired in the United States on November 6 , 2011 , earning strong ratings . It was watched by an estimated 11 @.@ 4 million viewers , five percent less than the previous episode . It earned a ratings share of 3 @.@ 7 among adults aged 18 to 49 and a 6 @.@ 6 score among overall viewers . The episode ranked second in its timeslot behind Football Night In America on NBC but ahead of The Simpsons on the Fox network and The Amazing Race on CBS . In Canada , the episode was watched by an estimated 1 @.@ 732 million viewers , a rise from the previous episode 's 1 @.@ 44 million . The show ranked 16th overall for the week .

= = = Reviews = = =

The episode was met with generally positive reviews .

Writing for Zap2it , Andrea Reiher stated that this episode was the best since the pilot , explaining that " if they continue to be this good , this show should be in for a long run . " Reiher cited Goodwin 's " wonderful , captivating " performance and the parallels between the Storybrooke and Enchanted Forest stories as particular highlights . In a review from TV Fanatic , writer Christine Orlando stated that the episode " had me on the edge of my seat and enjoying the ride , " giving particular praise to Snow and Charming 's chemistry @-@ filled early relationship . Orlando concluded , " Snow White , the character I had the least interest in two weeks ago , held her own and then some . Heck , I was so enthralled by her story that , for the first time ever , I can 't wait to learn more . " Sound on Sight 's Ricky D thought it wise that the episode focused on Snow and Charming , " without feeling the need to include multiple stories . " He felt that Goodwin had " excellent " chemistry with Dallas and that her performance saved the " silliness of the modern day plot , " especially in her developing relationship with Emma .

IGN 's Amy Ratcliffe gave " Snow Falls " a score of 8 out of 10 and felt that while " everyone delivered solid performances ... Goodwin stole the show " for playing a character who was " not an innocent , doe @-@ eyed girl . " Like Orlando , Ratcliffe also felt that " Goodwin and Dallas hit a perfect rhythm every time they share the screen , " but expressed concern about how the series would continue cutting between both worlds . Shaunna Murphy of Entertainment Weekly cited " Snow Falls " as evidence that the show was continuing down the " fortunate path of getting better each week . " Murphy was interested in Sheriff Graham , speculating that he might be the Huntsman from Snow White , which would be a " good , complicated role for him . " The A.V. Club reviewer Oliver Sava was less positive , giving the episode a grade of C- . He was pleased the plot moved forward , but felt the execution did not work ; he cited the " major problems " of " the lack of any sort of subtlety , nonsensical story developments , and Henry . " Sava derided the " corny dialogue " and use of flashbacks , but wrote that the " best thing " about the episode was the introduction of Dr. Whale and Kathryn Nolan , and also praised the acting .