

= Charlie Don 't Surf ( Veronica Mars ) =

" Charlie Don 't Surf " is the fourth episode of the third season of the American mystery television series Veronica Mars , and the forty @-@ eighth episode overall . Co @-@ written by executive producer Diane Ruggiero and Jason Elen and directed by Jason Bloom , the episode premiered on The CW on October 24 , 2006 .

The series depicts the adventures of Veronica Mars ( Kristen Bell ) as she deals with life as a college student while moonlighting as a private detective . In this episode , Veronica and her father , Keith ( Enrico Colantoni ) take on three cases ? they figure out who is taking Logan 's ( Jason Dohring ) trust fund money while Veronica gets involved in the accusing of the Pi Sigma fraternity in the rapist case and Keith helps a woman , Harmony Chase ( Laura San Giacomo ) track down her possibly cheating husband .

" Charlie Don 't Surf " featured several notable guest stars , including Matt Czuchry , Ryan Eggold , and San Giacomo , who plays Harmony Chase , a romantic interest for Keith . Actor Enrico Colantoni , who plays Keith , wanted San Giacomo to play the role of Harmony because of the actors ' ongoing friendship since their show Just Shoot Me ! Both actors enjoyed the guest appearance so much that they lobbied the show 's production team to continue the characters ' romantic storyline in the future . The episode received mostly positive reviews from television critics .

= = Synopsis = =

Logan comes over for dinner at Veronica ? s house , and Keith becomes increasingly annoyed when Logan refuses to answer some questions . Veronica goes into Parker Lee 's ( Julie Gonzalo ) room , where Veronica reveals that she was raped as well . A journalist interviews Parker , while Logan discusses finances with his accountant . Logan asks Veronica for help in searching through records in an attempt to catch the accountant . Meanwhile , a woman asks Keith to investigate her husband , who may be having an affair . Wallace informs Veronica that there was a Pi Sigma fraternity party the night of every rape . Later , Dick ( Ryan Hansen ) asks Veronica to prove that the fraternity is innocent , and Veronica agrees just to infiltrate the fraternity . Keith sees the husband getting into a car with several other women . He contacts Harmony , the woman , and presents the evidence .

Veronica talks to the fraternity boys , and one of them tells her information that leads to her suspecting a boy named Chip . Keith and Harmony flirt , and Harmony shows a good amount of true romantic interest in Keith . Logan ? s family has been donating \$ 10 @,@ 000 a month to ? Aaron ? s Kids ? , which Veronica learns is not actually a charity . Veronica talks to Chip , who says that he was with another girl , who admits it while saying that she ? ll never say so openly . Veronica turns her suspicion on Dick . After doing more digging , Veronica says that the money is going to Logan ? s illegitimate brother , Charlie Stone . Parker insults Veronica for supposedly working with the fraternity . Keith catches Harmony ? s husband kissing another woman . After talking to one of the other rape victims , Veronica discusses Claire with a slightly offbeat clerk , who says that Claire went in with a guy . Logan meets Charlie ( Matt Czuchry ) , and they connect over surfing . However , Veronica notices some inconsistencies at Charlie ? s private school job .

Veronica learns that ? Charlie ? is in fact a reporter who is doing a story on Logan , and Logan punches him . Keith tells Harmony that her husband was not in fact cheating after all . Veronica obtains proof that another person , not one of the fraternity members , was with Claire the night she was raped . While retrieving Logan ? s watch , Veronica learns that Logan actually has a half @-@ brother .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by executive producer Diane Ruggiero and Jason Elen and directed by Jason Bloom , marking Ruggiero 's fourteenth writing credit , Elen 's first and only writing credit for

the show , and Bloom 's third directing credit for the series . The episode features several notable guest stars . Matt Czuchry appears as Vanity Fair reporter Norman Phipps , who poses as Logan 's half @-@ brother for a story . Czuchry was a series regular at the time for Gilmore Girls , the lead @-@ in show for Veronica Mars . Ryan Eggold appears as Charlie Stone , Logan 's actual half brother . According to Variety , the role was initially scheduled to be a recurring one . Series regular Tina Majorino filmed scenes for the episode , although they were deleted in post @-@ production .

In her first appearance , Laura San Giacomo plays Harmony Chase , a woman who hires Keith to investigate her cheating husband . The two were both series regulars on the NBC sitcom Just Shoot Me ! . The two actors had maintained a close friendship after their sitcom was cancelled , and when Rob Thomas brought up a romantic storyline for Keith to Colantoni , he suggested Giacomo for the role . Giacomo accepted the role , later stating , " It was kind of a no @-@ brainer situation for me . I love Rico , love working with him , and it was just as much fun as I thought it would be . " In addition to sharing in @-@ jokes about Just Shoot Me ! while on set , Colantoni also remembered what a good actress he thought she was in their earlier days . After the first appearance , both Colantoni and Giacomo lobbied for more storylines together . Thomas was open to the possibility , saying , " I wouldn 't hesitate to go back to this , because I was really happy with how it played out . " Giacomo would go on to appear on three episodes of the show .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original broadcast , " Charlie Don 't Surf " was viewed by 3 @.@ 33 million viewers , ranking 97th of 104 in the weekly rankings . This figure was an increase in 0 @.@ 21 million viewers from the previous episode , " Wichita Linebacker " , which received 3 @.@ 12 million .

= = = Reviews = = =

The episode received mostly positive reviews . Eric Goldman of IGN gave the episode a 7 @.@ 5 out of 10 , indicating that it was a " good " episode . He was positive towards the Logan and Keith storylines , writing " the other main storylines , featuring Logan and Keith , were nice ones for the respective characters , " calling the half @-@ brother plotline " interesting " . On the advancing of the rapist plot , Goldman praised the increase in Veronica 's personal involvement with the case , while continuing to criticize the portrayal of the feminists in the episode . " At this point , neither we , nor Veronica , seem to be meant to have nearly any sympathy for them . And yet , shouldn 't we all naturally be able to connect more to a group of girls who are passionately seeking to stop a serial rapist on campus ? " Price Peterson of TV.com gave the episode a very positive review , lauding the Logan 's half @-@ brother storyline , calling it " Top quality stuff . I loved the moment when Veronica realized Logan 's brother was an imposter and in the next scene we saw the two guys surfing together . So much suspense ! " Television Without Pity gave " Charlie Don 't Surf " a " B + " . The reviewer was very positive towards the plot involving Logan and his supposed half @-@ brother , writing , " since Logan actually knows how to find Charlie in person , perhaps this all doesn 't have to be quite as tragic as it 's coming off . Still , in my opinion ? Best episode of the season so far . "

Alan Sepinwall was very positive towards the episode on his blog What 's Alan Watching , calling Czuchry 's casting " genius " and that " the heavier focus on the rape storyline was welcome , though the amount of time spent on Logan Squared robbed it of some urgency . " In addition , he wrote that " The ' Just Shoot Me ' reunion gave an interesting twist to the usual private eye infidelity case . " Rowan Kaiser , writing for The A.V. Club , gave a mostly positive review , writing that it struck a good balance in a storyline that could go wrong very quickly . " This happens with emotionally charged criminal cases . Mass public scapegoating is an all @-@ too @-@ human reaction , one studied by a bunch of social sciences ( Salem Witch Trials , anyone ? ) . And it ? s certainly interesting to have Veronica trying to be the voice of reason . I think that largely works here

, but it ? s a delicate balance . This could easily go so very wrong . "