

= Lovely (Desperate Housewives) =

" Lovely " is the fifteenth episode of the sixth season of the American comedy @-@ drama series , Desperate Housewives , and the 126th overall episode of the series . It originally aired on ABC in the United States on February 21 , 2010 . In the episode , former stripper Robin Gallagher (Julie Benz) interacts with each of the women of Wisteria Lane , drastically affecting their lives . She grows particularly close to Katherine Mayfair (Dana Delany) , with whom she shares a kiss during a bar outing .

The episode was written by David Schladeh and directed by David Warren . It included the second in a string of guest appearances by Benz , who had recently departed as a regular from the Showtime drama series , Dexter . " Lovely " introduced an ongoing storyline of Katherine exploring her sexuality , a subplot which was met with enthusiasm by actress Delany . The pairing between Robin and Katherine was the first lesbian relationship in Desperate Housewives .

" Lovely " received generally mixed reviews , with detractors criticizing it for failing to advance the show 's plotlines . According to Nielsen ratings , the episode was seen by 10 @.@ 9 million viewers , and matched the series low rating from the previous episode , " The Glamorous Life " , although the subsequent episode , " The Chase " , drew even poorer ratings . Viewership for " Lovely " suffered because of competition from the 2010 Winter Olympics .

= = Plot = =

= = = Back story = = =

Desperate Housewives focuses on the lives of several residents on the suburban neighborhood of Wisteria Lane . In recent episodes , Susan Mayer (Teri Hatcher) has encouraged a stripper Robin Gallagher (Julie Benz) to quit her job and turn her life around . Susan invited Robin to move into her house until she gets back on her feet . Katherine Mayfair (Dana Delany) has been admitted to a psychiatric hospital after suffering a mental breakdown stemming from the breakup of her relationship with Mike Delfino (James Denton) , who has since married Susan . Orson Hodge (Kyle MacLachlan) has recently learned that his wife , Bree Van de Kamp (Marcia Cross) , was having an affair with Susan 's ex @-@ husband Karl Mayer (Richard Burgi) . Orson has been using a wheelchair since Christmas , as a result of a small passenger plane crash landing into a building he and Karl were inside ; Karl died as a result of the accident . Angie (Drea de Matteo) and Nick Bolen (Jeffrey Nordling) recently moved onto Wisteria Lane to escape circumstances that are yet to be fully explained ; however , Gabrielle (Eva Longoria) and Carlos Solis (Ricardo Antonio Chavira) overheard the Bolens arguing about their circumstances , and have grown concerned about their niece Ana (Maiara Walsh) dating the Bolens ' son , Danny (Beau Mirchoff) .

= = = Episode = = =

As Robin becomes integrated into Wisteria Lane , she gradually begins to affect the lives of several of her new neighbors .

Lynette Scavo (Felicity Huffman) , who is in the middle of celebrating her wedding anniversary with Tom (Doug Savant) , grows angry when she learns her son Parker (Joshua Logan Moore) is spying on Robin while she showers next door . Lynette rudely confronts Robin , who tells Lynette that Parker offered her money to have sex with him . Later , Parker tells his parents he is the only one of his friends who have not had sex . Tom assures him it will happen when the time is right , and Lynette apologizes to Robin .

Later , Robin learns Bree has had trouble connecting with Orson due to her recent affair . Robin suggests Bree restart their sex life , prompting Bree to later try giving Orson a lap @-@ dance . The dance proves awkward , especially when Bree falls over and Orson runs over her foot with the wheelchair . Bree explains she wants to become intimate with her husband again , and the two

share a romantic moment .

Meanwhile , Gabrielle and Carlos plot to break up Ana and Danny . Gabrielle arranges for an old photographer friend in New York City to help Ana with her modeling career , but she turns down the offer because of her relationship with Danny . After Robin tells Gabrielle that she gave up a career in ballet for a boy in her youth , only for the boy to break up with her two months later , and that she then got in a car crash ruining her chances of a future in ballet , Gabrielle convinces Robin to tell the story to Ana . Ana breaks up with Danny and leaves for New York , but after Robin realizes she has been used , she speaks to Danny , who secretly leaves town in a taxi to chase after Ana .

Susan grows jealous when Robin starts giving Mike massages to ease his sore back . Susan tries to give Mike a massage , but being the klutz that Susan is , ends up putting him in the hospital . Susan confesses her jealousy to Robin , who decides to preserve their friendship by moving out .

Robin becomes a roommate to Katherine , who is still feeling depressed after her recent stint in a mental hospital . Robin encourages Katherine to go out to a bar , and the two have a great time . When two men hit on Robin and show no interest in Katherine , Robin shows them up by kissing Katherine on the lips . Katherine initially laughs at the funny moment , but later learns Robin really is a lesbian . Katherine insists she is not interested in women when Robin suggests she explores the possibility , but later it appears that Katherine may be intrigued by the idea .

= = Production = =

" Lovely " was written by David Schladeh and directed by David Warren . It marked the second in a string of at least four guest appearances by actress Julie Benz as Robin Gallagher , a former stripper seeking a new life . Benz joined the show soon after her departure as a regular cast member from the Showtime drama series Dexter , where her character Rita Morgan was killed in the fourth season finale , " The Getaway " . Benz said of her role in Desperate Housewives , " I love the show so much , and I am honored to be part of the whole [world] of Wisteria Lane . And to work with all these great , amazing women ! I 've done a lot of male @-@ dominated movies and television shows , so it 's so amazing for me to be a part of a show that is female @-@ dominated . "

" Lovely " introduced an ongoing storyline of Katherine Mayfair exploring her sexuality . Actress Dana Delany , who previously played a lesbian character in the Showtime series The L Word , said she felt the subplot was an excellent idea : " A lot of the ladies on the set have said , ' Why has this not happened before ? ' I think everybody wanted to be the one who got to do it . " In an interview with E ! Online , actress Marcia Cross jokingly said of the kiss scene , " I 'm a little jealous that I 'm not involved . What is going on ? " Delany said she did not know if the character would become a lesbian permanently , because the story lines change so often in Desperate Housewives , but that series creator Marc Cherry " is interested in playing the complexity of that " . The pairing between Robin and Katherine was the first lesbian relationship in Desperate Housewives .

Delany compared Katherine 's new realizations to that of actress Meredith Baxter , who realized she was a lesbian late in her life after entering into a relationship with a woman . Delany said she believed her character would be taken by surprise by the new feelings she is experiencing : " I think that she ? s still so emotionally vulnerable from getting out of the loony bin , and I think she and Robin connect on a kind of wounded , emotional level . And I think if anything , she ? s feeling this kind of emotional solace with her , and that draws her to Robin in a physical way , and that ? s confusing to her . " Delany and Benz were both sick when they filmed their kiss scene . Benz said of the scene , " Dana 's a great kisser . " Delany said more male crew members were present for the filming of the lesbian kiss scene than usual due to the sensuality of the scene .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast on February 21 , 2010 , " Lovely " was seen by 10 @.@ 9 million viewers , according to Nielsen ratings , which is 20 percent below the season average . Among viewers between ages 18 and 49 , it received a 3 @.@ 7 rating / 9 share ; a share represents the

percentage of households using a television at the time the program is airing . This rating matched the previous episode , " The Glamorous Life " , for the lowest rating for an individual episode of Desperate Housewives in series history . However , it held that distinction only two weeks before " The Glamorous Life " , and the subsequent episode " The Chase " , received even lower ratings . " Lovely " continued a downward trend in the ratings : " The Glamorous Life " was seen by 11 @. @ 82 million viewers , and the previous episode , " How About a Friendly Shrink ? " , was seen by 11 @. @ 2 million viewers and achieved the lowest rating of the series at the time . " Lovely " suffered in the ratings partially due to competition from the NBC broadcast of the 2010 Winter Olympics . The day " Lovely " was originally broadcast , the 2010 Winter Olympics drew an average of 24 @. @ 67 million viewers during the episode 's 9 p.m. timeslot . Desperate Housewives was also outperformed by the CBS reality series Undercover Boss which , in its third episode , drew 13 @. @ 6 million viewers .

" Lovely " received generally mixed reviews . Gerrick D. Kennedy of the Los Angeles Times said he was initially skeptical of the Robin and Katherine romance subplot , but said he liked how it was presented . " It wasn't contrived like other girl @-@ on @-@ girl scenes on television that we see I just hate it when it's used to seem ' edgy ' or to sell an episode , and I hope that isn't the case here . " Kennedy said the Bree and Orson scenes led to " a tender moment " , but said Susan was annoying and the Lynette plotline was somewhat insulting toward women . Isabelle Carreau of TV Squad said he was surprised Robin 's back story was fleshed out so quickly , and speculated it could lead to a permanent role in the series . Carreau said the pairing of Robin and Katherine could be " very interesting " , and that the best part of the episode was the comical conversation between Robin and Karen McCluskey (Kathryn Joosten) at the end .

Entertainment Weekly writer Tanner Stransky criticized " Lovely " for stringing together several uninteresting and unfunny segments rather than advancing existing plotlines or introducing new ones . He was particularly critical of the Susan and Lynette segments , but said the introduction of Katherine 's possible lesbianism was " intriguing for the moment " . Gael Fashingbauer Cooper of MSNBC also criticized the episode for failing to advance the plot , and sarcastically wrote of the Katherine development , " Oh , because lesbian storylines have worked so well on this show in the past , except , never . " Cooper said the segment involving Robin and Bree was the only one that didn't feel " stilted and sad " .