

= Mattress ( Glee ) =

" Mattress " , also known as " Once Upon a Mattress " , is the twelfth episode of the American television series Glee . The episode premiered on the Fox network on December 2 , 2009 . It was written by series creator Ryan Murphy and directed by Elodie Keene . In " Mattress " , the glee club discovers that they are going to be omitted from the school yearbook . Club member Rachel Berry ( Lea Michele ) has the team cast in a local mattress commercial in an attempt to raise their social status . Glee club director Will Schuester ( Matthew Morrison ) discovers that his wife Terri ( Jessalyn Gilsig ) has been faking her pregnancy .

The episode features cover versions of four songs , studio recordings of three of which were released as singles , available for digital download , and are also included on the album Glee : The Music , Volume 2 . " Mattress " was watched by 8 @.@ 15 million US viewers , Glee 's series high at that point . It received mixed reviews from critics . The conclusion of the fake pregnancy storyline attracted praise , as did Gilsig and Morrison 's acting , however Liz Pardue of Zap2it expressed dismay that so few songs were performed , while Raymund Flandez of the Wall Street Journal deemed " Jump " " the only memorable song of the episode " .

= = Plot = =

Cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester ( Jane Lynch ) convinces Principal Figgins ( Iqbal Theba ) not to include a photograph of the glee club in the school yearbook , as in previous years , glee club photographs have been heavily defaced in the library copy of the yearbook by fellow students . Club director Will Schuester ( Matthew Morrison ) personally buys a meager section of advertising space in the book so that a photograph featuring at least two members can be included . Fearing unpopularity , the club nominates Rachel ( Lea Michele ) to represent them in the photograph . Rachel convinces Finn ( Cory Monteith ) to appear alongside her , but after being teased by his peers , he drops out . When it transpires that the school photographer ( John Ross Bowie ) is soon to direct a commercial for his brother @-@ in @-@ law , a local mattress store owner , Rachel convinces him to cast the glee club in it , believing that local celebrity status will prevent the other students from mocking them .

Will is dismayed to learn that his close friend , guidance counselor Emma Pillsbury ( Jayma Mays ) , has arranged to marry her fiancé , football coach Ken Tanaka ( Patrick Gallagher ) , on the same day the glee club will compete at sectionals . Will goes on to discover that his wife Terri ( Jessalyn Gilsig ) has been lying to him for months about her supposed pregnancy . She actually experienced a hysterical pregnancy and hid the truth from him by wearing a pregnancy pad under her clothes , while planning to secretly adopt Quinn 's ( Dianna Agron ) baby . Will walks out on her and spends the night at the school , sleeping on one of the mattresses given to the glee club in payment for their commercial .

Sue informs Will that the club receiving payment for the commercial revokes their amateur status , and thus their eligibility to compete at sectionals . Quinn , who has been trying to convince Sue to let her appear in the cheerleaders ' photographs despite being removed from the team due to her pregnancy , reminds Sue that as their coach she has often given the cheerleaders perks which would also render them ineligible for competition . She demands that Sue sacrifice one of the cheerleaders ' six pages in the yearbook to the glee club . Sue agrees , and accepts Quinn back onto the cheerleading team , but Quinn tells her she no longer wishes to be a cheerleader . Will announces that he will not be accompanying the club to sectionals , as he was the one who accepted payment , and as such they will only be allowed to compete without his involvement . The glee club then has their group photograph taken for the yearbook , but the copy in the library is subsequently defaced by hockey player Dave Karofsky ( Max Adler ) and football player Azimio ( James Earl ) .

= = Production = =

" Mattress " was written by series creator Ryan Murphy and directed by Elodie Keene . Recurring characters who appear in the episode are glee club members Brittany ( Heather Morris ) , Santana Lopez ( Naya Rivera ) , Mike Chang ( Harry Shum , Jr . ) and Matt Rutherford ( Dijon Talton ) , Principal Figgins ( Iqbal Theba ) , football coach Ken Tanaka ( Patrick Gallagher ) , local news anchors Rod Remington ( Bill A. Jones ) and Andrea Carmichael ( Earlene Davis ) , hockey player Dave Karofsky ( Max Adler ) and football player Azimio ( James Earl ) . John Ross Bowie guest @-@ stars as school photographer Dennis , and Chuck Spitler plays his brother @-@ in @-@ law , mattress store owner Randy Cusperberg .

The episode features cover versions of " Smile " by Lily Allen , " Jump " by Van Halen , " Smile " by Charlie Chaplin , and " When You 're Smiling " by Louis Armstrong . Studio recordings of each of the songs except " When You 're Smiling " were released as singles , available for digital download , and are also included on the album Glee : The Music , Volume 2 . Jenna Ushkowitz deemed " Jump " one of her favorite songs on the album , explaining that it was fun to perform on mattresses and comparing it to " Proud Mary " , performed in the episode " Wheels " , which utilized wheelchairs as props .

Jessalyn Gilsig referred to the confrontation between Terri and Will in " Mattress " as " The Reckoning " . She described it as sad to shoot , as she and Morrison were so invested in the storyline , and explained : " What I hope is conveyed is that you see the child inside Terri . You see the fear . " Gilsig commented that viewers had been wondering why Will was taking so long to discover Terri was not actually pregnant , explaining : " I think people have been asking ' How slow is this guy ? ! ' . But [ in " Mattress " ] Will finally reflects that he is a fully evolved human being and puts two and two together . " She noted that while Will and Emma " are adorable together " , she still believes in Terri and Will as a couple as : " I think that she really loves him . People do crazy things out of deep , deep insecurity . She 's obviously flawed , but I think she has love in her heart . " While fan reaction to her character had previously resulted in a backlash Gilsig found " tough " , she hoped that " Mattress " would be the episode in which " anti @-@ Terri fans joined Team Terri " .

= = Reception = =

" Mattress " was watched by 8 @.@ 15 million US viewers , Glee 's series high in the 2009 ? 10 television season at the time of its original broadcast . It achieved a 3 @.@ 6 / 10 rating / share in the 18 @-@ 49 demographic , again the show 's season high at the time , and a 4 @.@ 3 / 12 rating / share with adults 18 @-@ 34 , both its series high and the highest rating in the demographic for the night of broadcast . In Canada , it was the ninth most watched show for the week of broadcast , attaining 1 @.@ 8 million viewers . The episode received mixed reviews from critics . Entertainment Weekly 's Dan Snierson wrote that " Mattress " " felt like a step forward after last week 's all @-@ over @-@ the @-@ place hair toss " , and called the " poignant " ending " one of Glee 's best " . In contrast , Mike Hale of the New York Times wrote that with " Mattress " , Glee appeared to be " taking a break " ahead of the midseason finale episode " Sectionals " . Liz Pardue of Zap2it was relieved that " Mattress " brought the fake pregnancy storyline to an end . She noted , however , that she was still unsatisfied with the episode , as the conclusion to the storyline should have come sooner , and there were too few songs featured .

Bobby Hankinson of the Houston Chronicle called the episode " pretty good " noting that he " wasn 't crazy about any of the songs " but enjoyed the plot development , particularly the confrontation between Terri and Will . Raymund Flandez of the Wall Street Journal was happy to see the " convoluted " fake pregnancy storyline end , and called the performance of " Jump " " lively " and the stunts " incredible " , though he wrote that it was " the only memorable song of the episode " . Gerrick Kennedy of the Los Angeles Times noted that in previous reviews , he had " never been shy of [ his ] disdain for Mrs. Schuester " , but that his hatred of Terri " vanished " once the lie was over , praising the confrontation between Will and Terri . MTV 's Aly Semigran praised both actors , especially " a devastated Matthew Morrison " for having " nailed just what a scary , sad , and life @-@ altering moment " it was . She deemed " Jump " both " delightful " and the " giddiest musical number on the show to date " .

