

= Upper West Side Story =

" Upper West Side Story " is the 12th episode of the third season of the American comedy @-@ drama television series White Collar , and the 42nd episode overall . It was first broadcast on USA Network in the United States on January 24 , 2012 . The episode was directed by Russell Lee Fine and written by Alexandra McNally and Jim Campolongo .

The episode features many themes of Shakespeare 's Romeo and Juliet , and contains various allusions to Shakespearean and Victorian @-@ era literature . After a student (Graham Phillips) at a prestigious prep school approaches Peter Burke and Neal Caffrey about missing scholarship funds , they begin investigating the father (Dylan Baker) of the boy 's crush (Elizabeth Gillies) .

According to the Nielsen ratings system , an estimated 3 @.@ 472 million household viewers watched the original broadcast of the episode , with 1 @.@ 1 million in the 18 ? 49 demographic . " Upper West Side Story " received mostly positive reviews .

= = Plot = =

Neal (Matt Bomer) and Peter (Tim DeKay) are approached by Evan Leary (Graham Phillips) , a student at the prestigious Manhattan Preparatory Academy . Evan explains that he believes the money from his scholarship fund was embezzled by a rich investor by the name of Andy Woods (Dylan Baker) . Peter quickly takes the case , realizing that Woods is already believed to be associated with a major cartel .

Peter visits the school under the guise of the parent of a potential student . Neal is to pose as his assistant , but he instead takes on the role of a substitute English teacher after learning that both Evan and Woods ' daughter , Chloe (Elizabeth Gillies) , are in the class . Woods soon discovers that Peter may not be who he says he is after learning that he lied about his hotel arrangements ; Peter covers for this by admitting that he spent the night with his mistress . Later , Neal tells Mozzie (Willie Garson) about Evan 's silent attraction to Chloe , and that he plans to set them up using a sonnet .

Peter discovers that Woods may be working with Graham Slater (John Rothman) , the school 's headmaster , in order to embezzle the funds . The following day , at the school , Neal sees Slater drop an envelope into Chloe 's locker . In order to check the contents of the envelope , Peter pulls the fire alarm . Neal finds the school 's quarterly finance report inside .

Chloe later asks Neal to tutor her at home ; he accepts and invites Evan to come as well . Woods invites Peter to dinner the same night , and asks that he bring his mistress along as well . Diana (Marsha Thomason) , posing as Peter 's mistress , accompanies Peter , and , while there , stages a quarrel . Peter , feigning frustration , opens a door to exit , setting off an alarm in the process . Woods turns the alarm off ; this allows Neal to easily break into his office and clone Woods ' hard drive . Chloe follows Neal into her father 's office and accidentally pocket dials Woods . Realizing something is wrong , Woods goes downstairs to his office and discovers Neal with Chloe . Evan quickly enters , taking the blame for the mistake .

The next day , Evan lets Neal know that Woods suspects something . Peter is taken hostage by Woods and held in the shop classroom , where Woods quickly discovers that Peter is with the FBI . Neal takes Chloe 's phone and calls Woods , forcing him to step out of the room . Neal and Mozzie create a smokescreen out of lab chemicals and free Peter ; Diana meanwhile arrests Woods . Neal explains to Chloe that her life will not be easy , and she begins a relationship with Evan after discovering roses and the sonnet left by Neal and Mozzie .

Later , Peter must give a statement to the commutation committee about Neal 's involvement with the Keller case . Although Neal 's actions had caused the kidnapping of Elizabeth (Tiffani Thiessen) , Peter opts to omit the details surrounding Neal 's theft of the art .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Alexandra McNally and Jim Campolongo . It was McNally 's fifth

episode since joining the series during the second season , and Campolongo 's sixth overall . It was their first time to collaborate on an episode . " Upper West Side Story " was directed by Russell Lee Fine , his third directing credit for the series after the episodes " Payback " and " On Guard " . Working titles for the episode included " Well Endowed " and " Hangin ' with Mr. Cooper " . It was first reported on July 11 , 2011 that Dylan Baker and Elizabeth Gillies would appear in an episode of White Collar as Andy Woods and his daughter . Other guest stars to appear in the episode include Graham Phillips .

Series star Tim DeKay stated that he enjoyed working on the episode , in part because it was primarily a standalone . Bomer said , speaking of " Upper West Side Story " , that he enjoys portraying different aspects of Neal 's undercover roles . Bomer stated that he received a phone call from Campolongo requesting that he memorize a Byron poem by the next morning . The poem was ultimately included in a scene in which Neal is teaching an English class . Kenny Herzog of The A.V. Club pointed out that the episode contained various references to Shakespearian and Victorian @-@ era literature , specifically mentioning Romeo and Juliet . He stated that these metaphors helped move the plot forward .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

The initial broadcast of the episode drew 3 @.@ 472 million viewers , and earned a 1 @.@ 1 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic . " Upper West Side Story " ranked seventh place among cable series for the night in the 18 ? 49 demographic and fourth in its timeslot , surpassed by Teen Mom 2 , Storage Wars , and The Game . The original broadcast of the episode overlapped with the 2012 State of the Union Address for the first 17 minutes ; however , viewership for the episode increased slightly from the previous week .

= = = Reviews = = =

" Upper West Side Story " received mostly positive reviews from critics , with many praising the mostly standalone format and the rebuilding of Neal and Peter 's relationship . Morgan Glennon of the Huffington Post called the episode " a really fun undercover romp that still deals with the fallout between Neal and Peter . " Michelle Carlbert stated that she " felt like it put Neal and Peter back on track " and that she enjoyed the standalone case . Brittany Frederick of Starpulse.com said that " this is an episode that reminds me why I fell in love with White Collar . " Frederick compared the episode to " Mr. Monk Goes Back to School " , an episode of USA Network 's Monk ; she likened Baker 's character to that of Andrew McCarthy 's in Monk , stating that as a villain , McCarthy was evil yet endearing , while Baker appeared genuinely evil . She also praised the series for utilizing comedy rather than drama . Kenny Herzog of The A.V. Club gave the episode a more mixed review , stating that while the series was " at its caper @-@ hatching best , " it was " also its most excessively ludicrous . " Like Frederick , Herzog praised the use of comedy , though he felt that Baker appeared to be more like " a cartoon bully . " He ultimately gave the episode a B- .