

= Now You Know ( Desperate Housewives ) =

" Now You Know " is the fourth season premiere episode of the American comedy @-@ drama series , Desperate Housewives , and the 71st episode overall . The episode premiered on American Broadcasting Company ( ABC ) on September 30 , 2007 . It was written by series creator Marc Cherry and directed by Larry Shaw .

In the episode , Susan ( Teri Hatcher ) learns that she is expecting a child while Bree ( Marcia Cross ) continues to fake her own pregnancy . Gabrielle ( Eva Longoria ) begins an affair with her ex @-@ husband , Carlos ( Ricardo Antonio Chavira ) and Lynette ( Felicity Huffman ) tries to conceal her cancer from her friends and children . The episode also introduces Katherine Mayfair ( Dana Delany ) , Susan 's old friend who returns to the neighborhood after being away for 12 years .

" Now You Know " drew over 19 million viewers , becoming the fourth most watched program of the week across all networks . Nevertheless , it was the least watched Desperate Housewives season premiere at the time . The episode received positive reviews from critics , who agreed that the episode showed significant improvement over the show 's third season . Critics also praised the addition of Delany to the cast . ABC and the show 's producers received viewer backlash due to an alleged slur against Filipino doctors included in the episode .

= = Plot = =

= = = Background = = =

Desperate Housewives focuses on the residents living in the suburban neighborhood of Wisteria Lane . In previous episodes , Bree Hodge ( Marcia Cross ) sends her pregnant teenage daughter , Danielle ( Joy Lauren ) , to a convent and fakes her own pregnancy . Bree plans to raise Danielle 's child as her own . Lynette Scavo ( Felicity Huffman ) is diagnosed with Hodgkin 's lymphoma . Susan Mayer ( Teri Hatcher ) and Mike Delfino ( James Denton ) marry while Carlos Solis ( Ricardo Antonio Chavira ) breaks up with Edie Britt ( Nicollette Sheridan ) , leading her to seemingly hang herself . Gabrielle Solis ( Eva Longoria ) marries Mayor Victor Lang ( John Slattery ) ; however , after overhearing him confess that he only married her to secure the Latino vote for his potential candidacy in the election for governor , she seeks comfort with Carlos , her ex @-@ husband .

= = = Episode = = =

Edie 's suicide attempt is revealed to be a ploy to manipulate Carlos into staying in their relationship ; however , when Carlos does not show up in time to rescue her , she almost dies . He brings her to the hospital and is forced to call off plans to run away with Gabrielle .

One month later , former Wisteria Lane resident Katherine Mayfair ( Dana Delany ) moves back to the neighborhood after twelve years of absence with her husband , Adam ( Nathan Fillion ) , and teenage daughter , Dylan ( Lyndsy Fonseca ) . Katherine had known Susan before moving away under mysterious circumstances . Susan 's daughter , Julie ( Andrea Bowen ) , is puzzled to learn that Dylan has no recollection of their childhood friendship or of her life on Wisteria Lane . Later , in a cryptic conversation , Adam asks Katherine if they made a mistake in moving back , and Katherine reminds him that they did not have a choice .

Lynette and her husband , Tom ( Doug Savant ) , have been keeping her cancer a secret from their children and friends . She wears a wig to hide her baldness from the chemotherapy . Muriel ( Julia Campbell ) , an uptight PTA mother , nags Lynette to organize a school event , forcing Lynette to reveal her illness to everyone . After recovering from her suicide attempt , Edie discovers that Carlos has \$ 10 million in an offshore bank account . She promises he can trust her with the secret , just as she can trust him not to break her heart . Meanwhile , Victor confronts Gabrielle about her unwillingness to sell her house and commit to their marriage . Dissatisfied with their relationships , Carlos and Gabrielle reignite an affair .

Bree and her husband , Orson ( Kyle MacLachlan ) , find it increasingly difficult to stage her fake pregnancy . Their hoax is almost revealed at a neighborhood barbecue when a fork stabs her pregnancy stomach pads . Orson suggests coming clean to avoid the humiliation if their lies were to be discovered , but Bree tells him that this child is her second chance at successfully raising a child . Meanwhile , Susan worries that Mike is dissatisfied with their marriage , especially after Adam , her new gynecologist , reveals that she may be entering menopause . However , Adam later informs Susan that his earlier assessment was a mistake and that she is pregnant .

= = Production = =

" Now You Know " was written by series creator Marc Cherry and directed by Larry Shaw . The episode featured the debut of Dana Delany as Katherine Mayfair , a former Wisteria Lane resident who moves back to the neighborhood . Cherry describes the character as " a woman who was clearly different in the past ... an alpha female who goes up against all @-@ out women , especially Bree . " Cherry developed Katherine with the intention of making her " a character everyone loves to hate , " citing J. R. Ewing ( Larry Hagman ) from Dallas and Amanda Woodward ( Heather Locklear ) from Melrose Place as inspirations . Cherry ensured that character would have " a comedic point of view , " unlike the Betty Applewhite ( Alfre Woodard ) character from the series ' second season , stating : " In the second season we went to the mystery that was just kind of dark and stopped the action . [ This time ] we 're using humor , drama , pathos , everything [ the Mayfairs ] have to offer . "

Delany auditioned for the role of Bree for the series ' pilot episode in 2004 . Cherry offered her the role three times , but she rejected it , and Marcia Cross was hired soon after . Delany turned down the role because she believed the Bree character was too similar to her character on Pasadena . Cherry acknowledged that while Delany captured the slyness he had originally intended for the character , Cross ultimately became the better choice : " Marcia , who will be the first to tell you , ' I 'm not funny , I never get the joke , ' her Bree was kind of oblivious to her own Breeness . Interestingly enough , when we went forward with the show , it became a much funnier character than I envisioned . " While developing the Katherine character , Cherry immediately offered the role to Delany . " That 's unusual in Hollywood , " Delany commented . " Usually when you say ' no , ' they hold it against you for the rest of your career . I 've experienced that . "

Cherry offered Nathan Fillion the role of Katherine 's second husband , Adam . Fillion was asked to choose what type of doctor his character would be . He recalled , " I said I 'd be a gynecologist so I could interact with all the women . " Known mostly for his work in the sci @-@ fi genre , Fillion considered his role on Desperate Housewives a return to his roots , as he had acted on the soap opera One Life to Live earlier in his career . Tuc Watkins auditioned for the role and was cast as Bob Hunter on the series a few weeks later . Lyndsy Fonseca joined the cast as Katherine 's daughter , Dylan . Fonseca stated that her character 's mother keeps Dylan " on a rigorous schedule and a short leash . Almost like a dog . "

The episode continued Lynette 's cancer storyline , which Cherry intended to be both emotional and comical . He notes , " we established from very early on that she 's suffering from non @-@ Hodgkin 's lymphoma , so we never once let the audience think she 's going to die . It 's more about examining how your friends and family react to you when you 're sick . " " We don 't want to do some ridiculous she @-@ might @-@ die thing . That 's not our point in dealing with the disease . It was mostly to see what being sick does to you and the people around you . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Awards = = =

Marcia Cross submitted this episode for consideration of her work for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series for the 60th Primetime Emmy Awards . She was placed in the Top 10 , but did not

garner a nomination .

== Viewership and ratings ==

According to ABC , " Now You Know " was watched by 19 @. @ 32 million viewers . It held a 12 @. @ 2 rating / 18 share , the night 's best rating across all networks , and placed as the fourth most @- @ watched program of the week , behind CSI on CBS , and Dancing with the Stars and Grey 's Anatomy on ABC . " Now You Know " was the least @- @ watched season premiere of Desperate Housewives at the time , drawing about five million fewer viewers than the third season premiere a year earlier , a 23 percent decrease in viewership . According to The New York Times , viewership was down due to an increase in DVR usage .

== Critical ==

Entertainment Weekly 's Tim Stack praised the Bree storyline , calling its scenes the best of the episode . He was critical of the Lynette storyline and highlighted its implausibility , calling it " a cop @- @ out and just an excuse for drama . " However , he appreciated the scene in which Lynette reveals her cancer to her friends . Stack enjoyed the addition of the Mayfair family , stating that although he was not a fan of Delany 's acting , " seems perfect for this role and looks to be a choice adversary for Bree . " He also praised the set @- @ up for their mystery storyline . Stack was critical of the Edie character , opining : " She used to be funny and sexy , but now she 's just a big loon . " He dismissed Susan 's storyline as " lame " and deemed the character " obnoxious . " He also noted the significant absence of the Gabrielle character . Robert Bianco of USA Today declared that the show was " back in fine form . " He called the episode amusing , opining that the episode " launched a plethora of promising stories while introducing welcome new residents Dana Delany and Nathan Fillion . " TV Guide 's Matt Roush enjoyed the episode , complimenting the addition of the new cast members . Regarding the Katherine character , he wrote , " while she 's obviously harboring a dark secret , at least there 's no one trapped in the basement , " referencing the Betty Applewhite storyline from the second season . He identified the Susan and Mike storyline as problematic , as " She 's so annoying , and he 's so boring . " Roush also noted that Felicity Huffman was " making the most of her cancer storyline . "

== Filipino controversy ==

Following the episode 's broadcast , the show 's producers and ABC were criticized for including an alleged racial slur in the episode . In the scene in which the Susan character is informed she may be entering menopause , she replies : " OK , before we go any further , can I check these diplomas ? Just to make sure they aren 't , like , from some med school in the Philippines ? " Viewers called ABC to complain and an online petition had gathered 30 @, @ 000 signatures by October 3 , 2007 , three days after the episode 's original broadcast . Several politicians and medical professionals of Filipino descent , including Health Secretary Francisco Duque III on Manila , condemned ABC for airing the line . On October 4 , ABC announced that the episode had been removed from online platforms in order for the line to be removed ; the line was also removed from future broadcasts and DVD productions of the episode . Nevertheless , network boycotts and other forms of protest continued .