

= Losing My Religion (Grey 's Anatomy) =

" Losing My Religion " is the twenty @-@ seventh and final episode of the second season of the American television medical drama Grey 's Anatomy , and the show 's 36th episode overall . Written by Shonda Rhimes and directed by Mark Tinker , the episode was originally broadcast with " Deterioration of the Fight or Flight Response " , in a two @-@ hour season finale event on the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) in the United States on May 15 , 2006 . Grey 's Anatomy centers around a group of young doctors in training . In this episode , Dr. Izzie Stevens (Katherine Heigl) and her fellow interns have to plan a prom for Dr. Richard Webber 's (James Pickens , Jr .) niece Camille Travis (Tessa Thompson) . Further storylines include Dr. Preston Burke (Isaiah Washington) recovering from his gunshot wound and Denny Duquette 's (Jeffrey Dean Morgan) death following his seemingly successful heart transplant surgery .

The episode marked Sara Ramirez 's (Dr. Callie Torres) final appearance with recurring billing , as she would be upgraded to a series regular in season three . Morgan , Ramirez , Thompson , Brooke Smith , Sarah Utterback , Loretta Devine , and Chris O 'Donnell reprised their roles as guest stars , while Hallee Hirsh and Tiffany Hines made their first and only appearances . The episode received mixed to negative reviews from television critics , who disapproved of the storyline involving Grey and Shepherd and the show 's lack of repercussions for the interns , but lauded Dr. Cristina Yang 's (Sandra Oh) storyline along with Heigl 's performance . " Losing My Religion " was also included in several " best episodes " lists . Upon its initial airing , the episode was viewed 22 @.@ 50 million Americans , garnered an 8 @.@ 0 / 22 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , ranking fifth for the week in terms of viewership , and registering as the week 's second highest @-@ rated drama .

= = Plot = =

Dr. Derek Shepherd (Patrick Dempsey) and Dr. Richard Webber (James Pickens , Jr .) finish Dr. Preston Burke 's (Isaiah Washington) surgery to remove a pseudo @-@ aneurysm in the subclavian artery that threatened the functioning of his arm and which was caused by a gunshot wound . At the same time , Dr. Erica Hahn (Brooke Smith) successfully transplants a heart into Denny Duquette (Jeffrey Dean Morgan) . The interns face Webber , who orders them to plan a prom for his dying niece , Camille Travis (Tessa Thompson) , until the one who cut Duquette 's left ventricular assist device (LVAD) comes forward . With the instructions of Camille 's friends , Claire (Hallee Hirsh) and Natalie (Tiffany Hines) , they prepare the prom as they each struggle with their own personal problems . Trying to recover from his injury , Burke finds a tremor in his right hand .

Dr. Meredith Grey 's (Ellen Pompeo) love interest Dr. Finn Dandridge (Chris O 'Donnell) , the vet of Doc ? the dog she shares with Shepherd ? informs her that Doc has had several seizures due to his bone cancer and that she and Shepherd have to make a decision . Webber interrogates the interns individually about Duquette 's LVAD wire , but only learns about their personal problems instead . Dr. Izzie Stevens (Katherine Heigl) finally accepts Duquette 's marriage proposal . At Dandridge 's office , Grey and Shepherd , joined by Dr. Addison Montgomery @-@ Shepherd (Kate Walsh) , decide to put Doc to sleep .

The hospital staff begins to arrive at the prom and Dr. Callie Torres (Sara Ramirez) and Dr. George O 'Malley (T. R. Knight) discuss the status of their relationship , which leads to the former admitting her love and commitment . During the dance , Grey and Shepherd escape Dandridge and Montgomery to have a heated argument that leads to sexual intercourse . In the meantime , as Duquette waits for Stevens alone in his room , he experiences a sudden sense of pain , and unexpectedly dies . While Webber is sitting in the operating room gallery and reflecting on his career , Dr. Miranda Bailey (Chandra Wilson) announces Duquette 's death .

News of the death spreads , and the interns hurry to his room to find a shocked Stevens , lying on the bed , clinging to his still form . As they each try to comfort her , the cause of his death is revealed to have been a blood clot that led to a fatal stroke . Stevens says that if she had taken less time to dress , she would have arrived at his room sooner and could have been with him while he

died . Dr. Alex Karev (Justin Chambers) then talks to Stevens , picking her up and hugging her . Afterward , Dr. Cristina Yang (Sandra Oh) , who did not know how to handle Burke 's situation , goes to his room and puts her hand on his to show him her support . As the episode ends , Stevens confesses to Webber that she was the one responsible for the LVAD wire cut , and claiming she cannot be a surgeon , quits the program . After everyone begins going their separate ways , Grey remains torn on who she should follow : Shepherd or Dandridge .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by series creator Shonda Rhimes and directed by filmmaker Mark Tinker , while Ed Ornelas edited it . It was the last episode to feature Sara Ramirez as a guest star , as she began receiving star billing in the season three premiere . Morgan , Ramirez , Thompson , Smith , Utterback , Devine , and O 'Donnell reprised their roles as Duquette , Torres , Travis , Hahn , Harper , Adele , and Dandridge , respectively , while Hirsh and Hines made their first and only appearances as Claire and Natalie , respectively . The soundtrack of the episode consisted of Pete Droge 's " Under the Waves " , Dressy Bessy 's " Side 2 " , Amos Lee 's " Colors " , Masha Qrella 's " Destination Vertical " , Kate Havnevik 's " Grace " , and Snow Patrol 's " Chasing Cars " . The American profile of Northern Irish band Snow Patrol increased after their single was used in this episode . Lead singer Gary Lightbody was initially uncertain about licensing a song for the soundtrack , but has since admitted that the publicity had a positive effect .

Rhimes entitled the episode " Losing My Religion " because she felt " that is what happens to each intern in this episode . Each intern lets go of the things they 've held onto all season . George lets go of loving Meredith . Cristina lets go of her well @-@ checked emotions . Izzie is forced to let go of her idealism . And that leads to her letting go of medicine . Alex lets go of his rage against Izzie . And Meredith ... well , Meredith just lets go . " The costumes were designed by Mimi Melgaard ; Rhimes noted that everyone was dressed in dark funeral colors to the prom , except Stevens who was dressed in pink . Stevens ' dress was an Amsale creation . Monologues done by the five main characters were used in this episode . Rhimes commented : " this was something we 'd never done and I wasn 't sure would work . But you place those pages into the hands of the actors and each and every one of them layered their characters ' souls right into the dialogue . " The episode 's theme was the prom ; Rhimes said she wanted to do it since the beginning of the season .

= = Reception = =

" Losing My Religion " was originally broadcast on May 15 , 2006 in the United States on the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) , along with " Deterioration of the Fight or Flight Response " . The episodes were watched by a total of 22 @.@ 50 million Americans . It represents a slight decrease in comparison to the episode airing the previous night , " 17 Seconds " , which garnered 22 @.@ 60 million viewers . The episode received an 8 @.@ 0 / 22 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , ranking fifth for the week in terms of viewership , and registering as the week 's second highest @-@ rated drama . The episode 's rating outranked CBS 's The New Adventures of Old Christine and CSI : Miami , the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) ' s The Apprentice , and the Fox Broadcasting Company 's 24 .

The episode received mixed to negative reviews among critics . Joel Keller of The Huffington Post expressed mixed opinions on the episode , putting the emphasis on Yang 's development , whom he deemed " transformed " by the end of the episode . He applauded Torres ' evolution throughout the episode , and also praised Heigl 's performance and dress . Keller criticized the non @-@ realism of the punishment the interns received , Grey and Shepherd 's storyline being tiresome , and the cliffhanger , calling it a " lame cliché " . Writing for the Chicago Tribune , Maureen Ryan gave a negative review of the episode , stating : " overall , the whole thing just fell a little flat . " Though Ryan appreciated the scene of Doc 's death , she was critical of Torres ' underdevelopment , the lack of chemistry with O 'Malley , and her prom dress . Abigail Chao of Television Without Pity was also critical of Torres ' dress , but liked Heigl 's pink dress . She also applauded Karev 's intervening

to calm Stevens down , and agreed that Grey 's cliffhanger was not good .

Eyder Peralta of The Houston Chronicle criticized Stevens ' ethics for cutting Duquette 's LVAD wire , writing that she " should not be practising medicine " . Alan Sepinwall , a former television columnist for The Star @-@ Ledger , commented favorably on Karev " finally displaying some humanity " in the scene following Duquette 's death . He was critical of Shepherd 's arc , however , and on the absence of severe consequences for Stevens having cut the LVAD wire , an action he called " insane and dangerous " . This episode was included on the list for the " 25 Sexiest TV Shows on DVD " by magazine Entertainment Weekly . It was also listed in Entertainment Weekly 's " 20 Unforgettable Proms " and in Starpulse 's " Top Ten TV Proms " . AOL TV placed the hook @-@ up scene involving Grey and Shepherd on its Top 20 of TV 's Sexiest Scenes . In 2009 , TV Guide ranked " Losing My Religion " # 63 on its list of the 100 Greatest Episodes . In 2013 , the magazine named Duquette 's death one of TV 's Most Heartbreaking Deaths . In December 2011 , Wetpaint named " Losing My Religion " one of the five best episodes of the series .