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grey's
ANATOMY

Will they make the cut?



This fall, Meredith Grey and her fellow interns discover what they are made of

Photo: Christine Ma

grey's ANATOMY



Welcome to Seattle Grace Hospital. Where surgery is the game, surgeons are the all-stars and the interns...

...well, the interns are exhausted.

Meet Meredith Grey.

Through her eyes, we get a fresh peek into the personal and professional lives of four surgical interns as well as the residents and attendings who train them. In small but powerful doses, Meredith speaks directly to us in voice-over. Her funny, insightful and always irreverent voice guides us through this new terrain, revealing that – metaphorically - everyone is naked under their scrubs.

Like a more grounded version of Carrie's articles in Sex and The City, the surgeries in Grey's Anatomy set the theme for the character story lines of each show. Exciting surgical cases are married with the personal lives and relationships of our characters. In short, medicine serves as a vivid backdrop to our characters' lives. Episodes take place both inside and outside the hospital. For instance, Meredith's home is a major location in our show as is a local bar frequented by residents. Grey's Anatomy is not so much about people training to be surgeons as it is about people who are trying to live out their lives **DESPITE** the fact that they are training to be surgeons.

Oh, and it never hurts to tell you once again that this show is warm, funny, hopeful and most of all, young.

THE DOCTORS

Meredith

It's not easy being Meredith – no matter what any of the other interns think. At the hospital, Meredith gains ground quickly. With each new challenging case on the OR, she's becoming more confident in her skills. But her life is complicated. There are the two interns (George and Izzie) who share her house, there's the secret of her mother and then there's a certain surgeon...

Meredith and Derek make an attempt at being “just friends”. They are doomed to fail, of course; there's too much sexual heat between them. Meredith, determined not to get involved with the man who is essentially her boss, tries to date other men. But there's a reason surgeons rarely have long term relationships with “civilians”. When she finally does give Derek a shot, the stress of hiding the relationship and the reaction of Meredith's friends make her question her decision. It's only when Derek becomes her confidante about her mother that Meredith begins to trust him and the relationship moves to deeper territory. But just when everything seems ride-off-into-the-sunset wonderful, there's an unpleasant surprise. Derek's estranged wife (yes, I said wife) arrives. She's a skilled, beautiful, kind surgeon -- exactly the kind of woman we all hope doesn't exist and wish we were shallow enough hate properly. She's at Grace to oversee a complicated obstetrics operation -- at least that is her excuse. She's actually here to win her husband back.

Meredith finds herself being taken under the wing of the Chief of Surgery Richard who knows her mother from their own intern days. Having a mentor is a blessing; having a mentor who knows her mother is not. The reality of Ellis Grey and the Alzheimer's she suffers from becomes more of a burden as Meredith attempts to keep it a secret from everyone. After a lifetime living in the shadow of a famous surgeon mother with whom she never really got along, Meredith is determined that Ellis' illness not taint her attempt to stand on her own. Having huge shoes to fill is difficult enough without adding pity to the equation. In addition, Meredith constantly struggles for a connection with a mother who once viewed her as a disappointment. Any ground gained between them is lost moments later -- because Ellis has forgotten. Through Ellis' scattered statements, Meredith uncovers startling facts -- most importantly that Ellis had an affair with Richard that caused Meredith's father to walk out on them.

Cristina

Cristina's a mass of mysterious contradictions for the other interns. She's fiercely unforgiving of weakness but can't help championing George. She cautions Meredith against dating Derek but doesn't hesitate to sneak off for sex in a supply closet with an attending. And at Thanksgiving, the girl who rants about preferential treatment flies home in a private jet.

Residency is going to test Cristina in ways she never imagined. For the first time since she entered med school, Cristina will be faced with uncertainty when her surgical skills fail to make up for her lack of people skills. Dealing with patients is going to drive her insane -- they're so...human.

Confident to a fault, she's going to begin a purely sexual but totally antagonistic relationship with Preston Burke -- and start to become undone when she realizes that she's beginning to care for him. Her ambition will bring those feelings for Burke to a grinding halt when she accidentally gets pregnant -- putting her plans for a stellar career in jeopardy. Her worries over the pregnancy will be surpassed by a larger concern when, in the last episode of the first 13, she has a serious motorcycle accident. She'll miscarry and we'll be left unsure of her chances for survival...

...HEY! Don't worry -- she'll recover. But not until after she's suffered the indignities that come with being treated by the same interns she's been competing against. There's something pretty depressing about knowing your colleagues have seen you naked...

George

Poor George. He's the well-meaning guy who always manages to do and say the exact wrong thing at the wrong time. He has no idea how he became the underdog and no idea how to redeem himself. But he's trying like hell to keep his head above water.

George lives and dies by his patients' fates -- and in the process, continually questions his skills and his choice of surgery as a career. When Burke's moment of weakness arrives, George is forced to run an OR long before his time. And he surprises himself and the other interns by succeeding. He's on the path to discovering that he's a better surgeon than he ever dreamed and that his bedside manner is a gift, not a curse.

The torch he carries for Meredith -- well, more like the bonfire -- is his not-so-secret secret. He forever tries to work up the courage to make a move with her but never quite allows himself to seize the right opportunity. Instead, to his eternal horror, he finds himself treated as "one of the girls". To his amazement, Izzie will be the girl George finally scores with. Stuck in the hospital during a quarantine, the two end up quelling their boredom with a lot of sex. The aftermath of intense awkward pauses is humiliating. His friendship with Izzie will never be the same. George will never be the same.

Izzie

At first glance, anyone would underestimate Izzie. She's blonde, she's pretty, she's young -- even Izzie underestimates Izzie. Raised by mother bewildered by her choice to be a doctor instead of a model, Izzie's smart but low on self-confidence. Bailey's the first person to ever demand that Izzie rise to a higher standard. Izzie grows up -- and fast -- as she learns to survive in Bailey's world and navigate the terrain of surgery. With each new case, she discovers she's stronger than she thought and starts to come into her own.

The peace-keeper and the party-planner, Izzie is the glue that holds our four interns together. Her off-beat maternal influence is both comic and warm. She packs lunches and does laundry but she still has plenty of wild oats -- and we'll get to watch her sow each and every one.

Izzie's been involved in a long-distance relationship with a guy from home for years. As an intern, she discovers how hard it is to maintain that connection with a civilian and finds herself questioning her commitment. But when she steps outside the safety of a long-term boyfriend, Izzie suffers the hurdles of dating more than most. She's asked out often enough but she's no good at it – she's too quirky and socially awkward for small talk. Trapped at the hospital during a quarantine, George's complementary hang-ups become too attractive for Izzie to avoid – well, George's hang-ups and the fact that she's facing her five month anniversary of no sex. She attacks him. And regrets it for a long time after.

Derek

These days, Derek is all about redemption. He left private practice in Manhattan for Seattle Grace when he got old enough to realize a house in the Hamptons is not a substitute for a soul. Grace gives him a chance to practice the kind of medicine he can believe in. A chance to enjoy the OR again. Derek is a golden boy at Grace -- saving lives, inspiring the interns, winning Richard's approval. But when he faces tough cases with no clear answers, Derek's confidence is challenged – especially when he loses a patient he was certain he could save.

Derek has two loves – surgery and women. And he has the best of intentions with both. The road to hell is paved with guys like him. At Grace, he falls for Meredith; his pursuit of her is more than just a game. An attending dating an intern is never a good idea and, for Derek, his inability to put the brakes on his pursuit of Meredith jeopardizes his standing with Richard. A surrogate father of sorts, Richard sets a higher standard for Derek than he often sets for himself. Richard's approval means everything to Derek; he doesn't want to disappoint. And he doesn't want to ruin his chance of one day filling Richard's shoes as Chief of Surgery.

The drive to be Chief sparks competition with Burke. As both men jockey for position with Richard, their dislike of one another evolves into a humorous, respectful camaraderie – soldiers from opposing sides who meet for drinks to check out the competition. When Burke is in real trouble, however, Derek steps up to help cover for him. Whether they want to admit it or not, they are friends.

As for Derek's wife...well, in his defense, he's as surprised to see her as Meredith is.

Burke

Burke's arrogant for a reason – he's good at what he does and he knows it. But his arrogance belies a surprising kindness. He tortures George to force him to be a better surgeon and he's cool with patients to protect himself when they die. He doesn't have many friends and that's the way he likes it. It's clean, his life.

Once Richard's right hand, Burke struggles with being ousted by Derek's arrival. There's a darker personal history between Richard and Burke...but we'll uncover that over time. For now, Burke is eager to regain his position as top dog any way he can. His rivalry with Derek will be on-going.

The affair with Cristina comes as a surprise to him. But the coolly casual secret sex suits them both – neither is interested in the messiness of a relationship. He avoids admitting any feelings for her until Cristina is seriously injured. The news of her pregnancy and the threat of her death provide the first real cracks in Burke's armor. Burke's clean life is now messy. How he deals with it is anybody's guess.

THE EPISODES

101 GET OFF OF MY CLOUD

"Okay, we'll flip for it. Heads, I try not to kill her. Tails, you try not to kill her."

-Cristina to Meredith, during a fight over a patient.

THEME: BOUNDARIES

MEREDITH (V.O.)

Everyone has a part of their lives that's off-limits. Personally, professionally or romantically -- we're all drawing lines in the sand and praying no one crosses them.

Life at the hospital has turned into a tug of war. Both attendings and interns are fighting for the best cases on Trauma rotation.

- Burke poaches a hot Trauma case from Derek to show off his skills to Richard. In the macho world of surgeons, poaching is an invitation to war that Derek can't help but accept. A dramatic and funny pissing contest ensues as the two men fight for territory in the OR. Each unwilling to back down, Derek and Burke take the highly unusual step of simultaneously operating on the patient. They save a life but end up called before Richard.
- Both Meredith and Cristina call dibs on a patient brought in with a pipe sticking out of her side. Forced to toss a coin, Meredith wins -- but has no idea how to treat the patient. After a futile search for answers with the clock ticking, Meredith attempts to pull the pipe from the patient's body, with disastrous and terrifying results. Cristina puts aside her ego to help Meredith rush the dying woman to the OR. There are some lines she simply won't cross. They scrub in to assist on the surgery together -- on the same side once again.
- Meredith's personal lines are being crossed at every turn. She takes on George and Izzie as roommates. Suddenly, there are people talking to her before she's had coffee, using all the hot water and turning her favorite shirt pink in the wash. Worse, Meredith's forced to work harder than ever to hide the truth about Ellis' illness. She keeps her distance from the roommates, sure she made a mistake asking them to move in. But after a difficult day at the OR, her appreciation for their presence grows -- they dispel the loneliness of an empty house.
- And then there's Derek. Meredith can't shake him. She's trying to keep her head but the heat between them is something neither can control. Meredith's tempted by him -- who wouldn't be? At the end of the shift, Meredith and Derek find themselves alone together in the locker room. That heat still there, the offer from Derek obvious but unspoken. But Meredith walks away. She can't cross that line again -- her life is complicated enough.



AGAIN SURGEON

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Photo: Christian Marie

102 DANCES WITH WOLVES

"I'm the pitcher. I AM THE PITCHER. I'M THE FREAKING PITCHER!!!!!!"

-Bailey to Richard when, as coach, he's forced to bodily remove her from the softball game.

THEME: COMPETITION

MEREDITH (V.O.)

The things we do for glory. Whoever said winning isn't everything never held a scalpel. Anyone who works in a hospital knows a surgeon will do anything to get ahead of the competition. But when the competition is God, cheating isn't an option.

Everyone's pursuing glory when the interns spend their first full day in the operating room on Lump & Bump Day (the day patients come to have lumps and bumps removed).

- Bailey battles the Boys Club mentality that plagues surgery by engaging in contest with a macho resident to see whose interns can do more L&Bs in a day. The quick routine procedures, good for learning interns, make for a lively day in the OR. Meredith, Izzie, George and Cristina each have a chance with the scalpel and every new patient brings an opportunity to one-up another's speed and skill. But when a man codes on the table for no obvious reason, the fun comes to a halt. Forced to crack the patient's chest, the team faces medical crisis after crisis as they struggle to keep the man alive over the course of the episode. Bailey's competitive edge is both part of the cause of the crisis and, ultimately, what saves the man's life. She refuses to let her interns buckle under pressure; together, they prove themselves to be up to the challenge. It's a major victory -- the interns leave the OR with the distinction of being the only interns to perform a major procedure. And Bailey earns a measure of respect from the male senior residents.
- When a patient's routine lump turns out to be cancerous, Cristina has to deliver the news. Her attempt at compassion would be comical -- if the situation weren't so serious. She's left to face the fact that there are parts of being a surgeon she's no good at.
- The residents take it upon themselves to punish the "soft" interns by forcing them to take part in the Richard's pet early morning softball league -- despite their exhaustion. The game, wildly competitive and funny, only highlights the killer instincts of surgeons.
- Derek makes the decision to pursue Meredith. He can't take the heat anymore. Meredith rebuffs him but he's unwilling to give up on her. And Meredith finds herself seriously contemplating the idea of seeing him again.

103 NO MAN'S LAND

"You, ovaries. Me, gonads. So if you could just refrain from walking around in your underwear...I'd really appreciate it. REALLY."

-George to Izzie, upon seeing her Hello Kitty panties in the kitchen one time too many.

THEME: INTIMACY

MEREDITH (V.O.)

The need for intimacy in medicine, the fear of intimacy between sexes, the desire for respect of intimacy between roommates -- look, there are some things you just don't want to know.

- Squeamish Izzie is slammed by Bailey when she attempts to wiggle out of dealing with a less than pleasant patient suffering the most intimate of illnesses -- prostate cancer. Over the course of the episode, Bailey rides Izzie through diagnosis and surgery forcing Izzie to step up to the plate and operate. Izzie -- who claims to hate being seen as "girly" but whose actions prove otherwise -- realizes she can't have it both ways.
- Cristina is forced to monitor one of Burke's patients. When he pushes her to the breaking point, she fights back. Already long-standing enemies, they argue over the case, vicious. Right up until the moment they have sex in a supply closet. After, they go their separate ways, never discussing what happened. Having sex is one thing; talking about it is just too personal.
- Derek helps Meredith through the ordeal of calling her first Time of Death. A very private, devastatingly intimate act -- the family waits just outside the door. The medical intimacy between Derek and Meredith plays against the romantic distance she's been trying to maintain. They make the decision to start over at square one which makes them both a little nervous -- after all, how do you have a first date when you've already seen each other naked?
- Living in a house with two women is just too intimate for George. Meredith and Izzie walk around in their underwear, ask him to pick up tampons on his grocery run, Izzie even comes into the bathroom to brush her teeth when he's in the shower. Being treated as one of the girls drives him crazy. But George finds he's drawing the admiration of the other male interns for living with "the two hot chicks". And he can't help but allow the guys to believe he's living the dream. Emboldened, he takes a stand at home, locking Izzie out of the bathroom. As for the women walking around in their underwear, he stops protesting. After all, he's not *stupid*.

104 THE ROOF IS ON FIRE

"By the way, thanks. For what you did for George. Oh, and for the sex."

-Cristina to Burke, zipping her jeans and slipping out of the closet.

THEME: DISTURBANCES

MEREDITH (V.O.)

Going into your internship is like leaping into a fire. But, after a while, you get used to the heat. You find your place. Life starts to take on a kind of...order. A routine. It's not until that routine is disturbed that you realize your hair has been on fire the whole time.

A big accident floods the OR with cases and everyone scrambles to cover them.

- George has finally gotten the hang of Burke. But when one of Burke's accident victims dies post-surgery due to George's "grey area" mistake, he is caught off guard. The case is serious enough to be slated for review at the Mortality and Morbidity Conference. Worried that this will further disturb the delicate balance of his relationship with Richard, Burke's furious. George is terrified this may be the end of his own career. But at M&Ms, Burke surprises all by taking responsibility for the patient's demise and alleviating any blame from George. Burke attains pariah status for his efforts with Richard but has proved his integrity. It's only after Cristina thanks him during more secret sex for helping George that he gets George alone to tear him apart. He doesn't want to be seen as weak.
- The lack of available residents during the emergency leaves Izzie alone with a female patient her age with seemingly minor injuries. When the girl dies suddenly, Izzie's unprepared – she's never had a young patient die on her. Unsettled, she copes in an odd way by planning a party at Meredith's house. She's obsessive with the details and the party is a huge roof-raising success. But for Izzie, the victory is not allowing death to keep her from living.
- Meredith and Derek try to make time to date. But pages, shift schedules, and emergencies get in the way. And when Derek tags along like a charming but uninvited guest on Meredith's precious day off, she's thrown. Her plans are disrupted -- she can't even visit her mother. Things come to a head when Derek shows up at her house during party preparations. She's upset with him for putting their secret at risk with her roommates, for not giving her any space. But the growing heat between them leads to hot, great sex at the party – until Bailey accidentally walks in on them. Meredith is horrified.
- As for Bailey, when Meredith approaches her, she maintains that she heard nothing, saw nothing and remembers nothing. And she wants to keep it that way. Which is why she's loading Meredith with a lot of extra grunt work...

105 DEATH ROW DETAILS

“Okay. Derek’s seen you naked. Bailey’s seen you naked. And now George has seen you naked. You’re like...the naked chick now. You realize that, right? Is that you want to be? The naked chick? Because the naked chick does not win the Nobel Prize.”

-Cristina to Meredith, after George accidentally walks in on Meredith changing in the laundry room.

THEME: PROCRASTINATION

MEREDITH (V.O.)

Why do we put things off? Fear of failure. Fear of rejection. Fear of revelation. And sometimes, it’s because we’re too damn lazy...

At the hospital, the interns deal with patients who are unwilling to face tough realities:

- Meredith and Derek are on the case of parents who refuse to pull the plug on their brain dead child. They perform several life-sustaining surgeries while trying to talk the parents into organ donation. In the end, they fail in their mission and the child remains alive suffering on life support. Meredith is angry but Derek’s experience makes him take a risky step -- taking the child in for a final surgery and letting the child die on the table. In the end, the parents are devastated but grateful.
- Cristina and Izzie try to reason with a woman who continually puts off a life-saving hysterectomy. Izzie employs every kind method possible to get the woman to sign off on the surgery. When that fails, Izzie is sorry for the woman but resigned. Unwilling to accept defeat, Cristina terrorizes the woman with graphic descriptions of her impending death until the woman signs off. Izzie’s horrified. Cristina’s saved the woman’s life but is left to question whether the end justifies the means.
- Meredith’s put the brakes on any relationship with Derek after Bailey’s discovery of them. He’s frustrated but Meredith is adamant -- she won’t be the girl who screws her boss. Cristina encourages her -- even though she continues to have secret sex with Burke all over the hospital. Cristina keeps planning to break it off but never manages to get around to it.
- Meredith’s been putting off the inevitable -- she must go through her mother’s boxes and decide what she wants to keep. And yet...she can’t bring herself to open the first box. At the same time, George decides to face his growing attraction to Meredith by asking her on a date. But his efforts are wildly awkward and finally, he covers by asking if she wants help with the boxes. Meredith hesitates a beat but then she too gives up. Instead of opening the boxes, she asks George to help her seal them and pack them way in the attic. They’ll both face reality some other time.

106 THANKFULLY

"Look, sitting here with some dead guy's kidney on my lap isn't my idea of a vacation either. So shut up, eat your turkey burger and have a happy Thanksgiving."

-Meredith to Cristina, riding in an ambulance on the way to Grace where they'll deliver a kidney for transplant.

THEME: ROOTS

MEREDITH (V.O.)

Thanksgiving is supposed to be about giving thanks. About food, family and home. We're reminded that where we come from is just as important as where we are going. But what happens when we can't find our way back home?

- Both Meredith and Cristina avoid their family responsibilities on Thanksgiving by working the organ transplant team at the hospital. In a small town, they help harvest a kidney from an old man. Picking up an organ turns into a vivid race against the clock as they struggle to bring the organ back to Grace in time for transplant. The experience leaves them tired, hungry and feeling sorry for themselves; perhaps they were wrong to avoid their families. Seeing what all the work was for helps – the kidney will save the life of a young boy.
- George has been looking forward to Thanksgiving with his family. The wildly traditional group treats him almost like returning hero – their son, the doctor. But he finds that once he's home, the only place he can think about is the hospital. That's his home now.
- Home for Izzie is a single mom in a trailer park and there's nothing warm about it. The only amazing fact is that Izzie ever escaped this nightmare. But when her relationship with her hometown boyfriend hits rocky ground, she discovers an unexpected ally in her new life – her mother.
- Thanksgiving dinner for Cristina and Meredith is spent in the hospital cafeteria with Bailey, Derek and Burke. The food is bad, there are all of the usual arguments and insults, everyone jockeys for positions of power – it's oddly comforting. It feels exactly like Thanksgiving dinner with any family in America.

107 THE SELF-DESTRUCT BUTTON

“What’s in my hair? That would be crap. Actual human crap. How much do I love being a doctor right now?”

--Izzie to every single person who asks.

THEME: SELF-INFLICTED WOUNDS

MEREDITH (V.O.)

There are the injuries that happen to us.
And then there are the ones we inflict on
ourselves. Some of those are accidental.
But more often than not, the injury is the
result of a deliberate act. To put it
bluntly: we bring this shit on ourselves.

The OR floor deals with patients who turn their backs on Mother Nature in favor of science.

- Izzie assists Bailey with a man’s botched gastric bypass surgery. He’s adamant that the bypass not be reversed but simply repaired – despite the risks. The gastric bypass repair, intricate and tedious, is a pain in the ass for Izzie and Bailey. To make matter worse, the patient, failing to follow protocol, filled up on food in preparation for his coming starvation. When his bowel explodes during surgery, the contents rain down on the OR.
- Burke counsels a man requesting series of preventative surgeries. The man is blasé about subjecting his body to unnecessary torture. Burke makes the decision not to operate. Not in the business of removing healthy organs, he chooses to reserve his skill for those who need it. The man can waste the time of a lesser surgeon.
- George and Meredith work the case of a man who stepped on a nail. It’s an exciting case as George makes his first difficult diagnosis – the man’s leg is infected with a flesh-eating parasite. He and Meredith must find a way to save the man’s leg from amputation. For George, it’s a much-needed validation of his skills. For Meredith, immersing herself in medicine is a way of avoiding her personal life.
- Stuck at an impasse, Meredith and Derek decide to date other people. But when Meredith meets a great guy, she fails to make the necessary effort – returning calls, showing up on time, not falling asleep during dinner. She claims medicine as her excuse but the truth is she feels no chemistry. And she’s left oddly disappointed when she sees Derek dating another woman.
- Ellis is deteriorating, worsening exponentially. Memory loss is joined by disturbingly inappropriate behavior. Visiting becomes an exercise in torture for Meredith. She’d rather avoid the nursing home altogether but the guilt... After one last visit, Meredith makes the decision to stay away from the nursing home. It’s too painful. For now, her time is better spent researching her mother’s case. Meredith’s research on Alzheimer’s has Derek curious. He can’t help but pursue information. And that’s how he finds Ellis Grey.

108 UNDER COVER

"Do I seem like a nice person to you? Because, if so, I'm clearly doing something wrong. BACK OFF."

-Cristina to Derek, responding to his attempts to pump her for information about Meredith's last date.

THEME: WHAT WE CAN'T HIDE

MEREDITH (V.O.)

Secrets can't hide in science. Medicine has a way of exposing lies. Within the walls of the hospital, the truth is stripped bare. What we do with that truth outside the hospital...that's a little murkier.

- An unidentified car crash victim undergoes multiple surgeries and then lapses into a coma. As he sleeps, the interns dub him "Coma Babe" – even sick, he's gorgeous. Izzie creates an entire persona for him, attracted to the man she decides he must be. George and Izzie hunt for clues to his identity, using medical details to puzzle together the truth. When Coma Babe wakes without much memory, what little info he can give confirms what George has begun to suspect. Izzie's hurt by the truth -- Coma Babe is a dangerous wanted criminal. But post-coma, he's nothing more than a sweet docile man. Izzie struggles with whether to reveal what she knows to police or keep the info to herself and allow the man a fresh start. When she does decide to turn him in, she has the most difficult task of all -- explaining to the sweet, docile man that, in truth, he's actually a monster.
- The husband of Bailey's close friend comes to her for medical help. But when the results of a colonoscopy show that the man has been engaging in sex with other men, Bailey has to decide what to do with the information. Confidentiality means she cannot tell her friend. But she also can't pretend she doesn't know the truth. She deals with it the Bailey way -- confronting the husband and threatening him within an inch of his life. The man is forced to agree to tell his wife the truth. Bailey's small but scary.
- Derek's keeping the secret of Ellis' condition -- not even telling Meredith that he knows. What started as simple curiosity about Meredith turns into something deeper as Derek begins to hunt research studies which could halt Ellis' symptoms. When he finds a drug, he pulls strings to have it provided to Ellis' doctor. Helping Meredith is his secret for a while.
- Meredith has finally gotten into the swing of dating. Her string of guys drives Derek crazy. He tries dating Izzie to spark Meredith's jealousy but the plan backfires. Izzie's the date from hell, talking about her boyfriend and dreaming of Coma Babe. And it makes Meredith more resolved to date than ever. He tries to pump Cristina

for information; she won't give up anything. She hasn't got time for him; she has problems of her own.

- Cristina is sick, sick, sick as dog on shift when she's been promised a big surgery. She's not going to give anyone a chance to call her weak by admitting she's sick. Locking herself in an empty exam room, she sets about trying to diagnose herself. When she finally gets to the truth, it's the last thing she expected or wants. She's pregnant with Burke's baby.

109 RISKY BUSINESS

"My hair is greasy, my scrubs are covered in morgue juice and I smell like old feet. But if you wanna do it...yeah, I'm in."

-George to Izzie, responding to her proposition for sex during a 72 hour hospital quarantine.

THEME: RISK

MEREDITH (V.O.)

We know the clichés. No pain, no gain. You gotta spend money to make money. It's better to have loved and lost...blah, blah, blah. No matter how it's said, it's all about risk. The chances we take and the ones we don't. And what we lose in the process.

The hospital is locked down with patients and doctors inside when a possible virus is found in the hospital. And as the hours tick away with no end in sight, everyone is engaging in risky business.

- A wheelchair-bound patient insists on a risky operation over the objection of medical staff and the family. The surgery could improve his quality of life if successful – he may even be able to walk again. But it could also kill him. Meredith tries to talk the patient out of the procedure but he's adamant – better to gamble than not to play. Burke decides to take the risk and operate. And the patient dies on the table. Even though he gambled and lost, Meredith's left with a grudging respect for his courage.
- Burke tries to open up to Cristina and share something of his past. But Cristina doesn't do warm. And Burke doesn't do vulnerable. When she finally asks him to shut up, Burke is relieved. It's a risk they vow never to take again. Cristina never considers telling Burke she's pregnant. After all, she's not exactly sure she's told herself. Instead of doing any more talking, they do what they do best – have sex in the supply closet.
- Meredith discovers that Derek has been interfering with her mother's care. Derek attempts to explain but Meredith is done with him. Why did she ever think he was worth risking her career to date? But after the quarantine, Meredith sees how well Derek's experimental drugs are working. Ellis actually recognizes her. And Meredith understands that Derek's invasion of her privacy was a worthy gesture of goodwill. She returns to the hospital, finds Derek. She's ready to take the risk to gain whatever lies ahead with him.
- George and Izzie spend the quarantine in an empty OR commiserating about their lives. Something clicks between the two of them and, before George knows it, Izzie's attacking him. They have more sex in the next four hours than either has had all year.

110 – REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

"We're playing cards. I'm winning. Mainly because she thinks we're playing chess. But still, I'm winning. I take my victories any way I can get 'em."

-Meredith to George, when he comes upon her sitting with Ellis at the end of the long ugly day.

THEME: LOSS

MEREDITH (V.O.)

Most of the time, it's not until we search for something that we learn it is lost. A photograph, an old love letter... And when what we lose is less tangible – a heart, a memory, a friendship – it's not until we lose it that we discover how important it is. But what happens when we lose something we never even knew we had? What's the lesson then?

- When Ellis begins to become more confused instead of improving, Meredith must bring her to Grace for tests. Derek and Meredith search to discover the cause of Ellis' disorientation. Has the medication failed? Has the Alzheimer's progressed? Or is there another culprit?
- Meredith's desperate to keep Ellis' illness a secret in the hospital but, when Ellis wanders off alone, that becomes impossible. Her secret is outed. In losing her mother, she's lost control of the situation. As Meredith hunts down her mother, Derek hunts down a cause for Ellis' confusion.
- Through Ellis' eyes, we straddle the present and the past. We get a picture of who Ellis used to be. As she confuses Burke for Richard, Derek for her ex-husband and Cristina for a close friend, Meredith is given a vivid and disturbing look at how the choices her mother made then affect Meredith's present life.
- Ellis is having an effect on the interns as well. In front of Meredith, she asks Cristina to perform an abortion, revealing that she doesn't want children. The conversation hits too close to home for Cristina who knows she's going to have to make a decision one way or the other soon. Ellis' encounter with Izzie makes clear how different surgery was for women in the 70s versus now. Ellis automatically assumes Izzie's a nurse and treats her dismissively. George seems to have the best effect on her. She's calm with him and something Meredith overhears her say to him sticks with her. Meredith's clued into the idea that there is something more to find out about her past.
- Derek has an answer. Ellis is suffering from an easily treatable viral infection which enhanced the symptoms of her Alzheimer's. Meredith heads out of the hospital with

Derek. Drained. His compassion during this long difficult day ignites something deeper between the two of them. They have more than just heat now.

- Ellis' illness hits Richard hard. But he avoids her floor; he makes no move to see her. That night, late after everyone's gone, Richard pays a visit to Ellis' room. He's devastated to see the change in her from the vital woman he once knew in their intern days. But Ellis recognizes him immediately. He sits down on the bed, holds her hand. They were close back then. Very close.

111 MORE IS MORE

"We're sitting here hoping this guy needs emergency surgery. Oh, we are so guaranteed reserved seats on the express bus to hell."

-Meredith to the other interns, waiting for lab results on a critical patient.

THEME: TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

MEREDITH (V.O.)

Abundance. How much is too much? Can you have too much love, too much money, too much sex, too much knowledge? They say you can never have too much of a good thing...

- Cristina's diagnosing everything that moves, often choosing the most obscure disorders. Seeing Zebras is common with interns who know too much but have practiced too little. But when she convinces Burke to operate on a patient who turns out to have nothing more than gas, she goes too far. Burke, furious at the unnecessary procedure, is even more furious that he allowed himself to trust Cristina. She's beginning to affect his work. The two break off their closet romance, unwilling to admit it matters to either of them. Later, in a real moment of weakness, Cristina confides in Meredith that she is pregnant. Meredith tries to convince Cristina to tell Burke. But when Cristina sees Burke again, he's cold to her. She keeps her news to herself.
- For Derek, too much success in the OR, makes him lower his guard. So when a patient dies suddenly, he's unprepared for how devastating it can be. To his dismay, he loses his composure in front of the family as he informs them of the woman's death. They end up comforting him. It reminds him that surgeons keep their guards up for a reason.
- Meredith works the case of a man who seems to be dying without any visible cause. She and Bailey search every available option as the man becomes more and more of a mystery. Finally, they stop looking for big answers and start looking for small ones. The man has overdosed on too much water. He doesn't need surgery; he needs a catheter.
- George and Izzie decide to discuss what happened, but they go for too much honesty. They hear things about themselves and their "skills" that no one should have to hear. Horrified, they are driven further apart.
- Derek and Meredith are hot and heavy now. And whatever boundaries they set come down as their personal relationship begins to wash over into the work place. They're having too much fun together; rumors circulate. Richard makes the choice not to put a stop to the workplace relationship. He's not in any position to judge. Not with Meredith pursuing answers to the Ellis mystery. She knows there was another man in her mother's life; she's simply not sure who.

112 BROKEN

"See, I would swear that woman referred to herself as your wife. But maybe I'm wrong. Maybe I was smoking crack and got it wrong. But you know, I don't really feel very...crack smoke-y so -- yeah, I'm fairly positive she said wife."

-Meredith to Derek, upon the arrival of his wife at Seattle Grace.

THEME: KARMA

MEREDITH (V.O.)

Is there such a thing as karma? Does what go around really come around? And if it doesn't...why the heck not?

The interns are sure that they are the victims of karma; that every bad judgment they've made as doctors is coming back to haunt them.

- Cristina's karma is worse than the others. A page for the Trauma Team brings the interns and Burke into the Trauma Service to receive their next patient – Cristina. She lost control of her motorcycle, skidding under a bus. She's in bad shape, having a miscarriage and desperately in need of abdominal surgery. The news hits Burke hard. There's the miscarriage but there's also the hard fact that Cristina could actually die. He keeps his cool, sending Cristina to the OR with Izzie, Bailey and a team of surgeons who will try to save her life. Then he turns his attention to the next case. It's not until he's in the OR standing over an operating table with George at his side that he caves. Burke's meltdown freezes him and stuns his OR team so used to his professionalism. It's George who steps up to the table and takes over until Derek shows up to relieve him. Then George has to talk Burke down, convincing him to leave the OR. It's always sad when the great ones fall.
- Meredith finally gets to the bottom of the Ellis mystery man. The discovery that the man was Richard is difficult. She looks up to him, she feels betrayed. The discovery that Richard is the reason her parents' marriage broke up is devastating. In her mind, he's directly to blame for her father walking out when she was a child. The news causes havoc in Meredith's life and causes Derek to look at Richard differently. Richard's less than perfect.
- It also makes Derek wonder about his own bad karma. Just when she needs him most, Derek draws away from Meredith a little. He's trying to protect her but all he does is spark an argument. But in the wake of Cristina's accident, Derek and Meredith make up. He's not worried about karma anymore. Meredith is too important to him. They are sitting together in the hospital cafeteria waiting for news on Cristina when a woman approaches. She's beautiful. She's perfect. *And she's Derek's wife.*



This fall,
Meredith Grey
and her fellow
interns aren't
just *playing*
doctor.

grey's
ANATOMY.

Will they make the cut

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