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### Greys Anatomy : Season 2 Episode 27

Grey's Anatomy (season 2 episode 27), created by Shonda Rhimes showcase medical ethical and moral dilemmas in modern times. Grey's Anatomy's real-world implications include inspiration of viewers. When the show first became popular about 2 years ago, everyone wanted to be Meredith Grey. Viewers longed for a romantic love that also allows you to fulfil your dream job. Beyond this phase of inspiration, the show has given a different insight to what goes on behind the closed doors of a hospital. The surgical interns in particular were always getting themselves into trouble. Leading many to wonder how are moral or ethical questions in Season 2, episode 27: *losing my religion* of Grey's Anatomy misleading to today's viewers?

Grey's Anatomy showcases many aspects of 5 surgical intern's lives " In many respects, the show is reminiscent of 'coming-of-age films, in which a group of friends find their way through college; it chronicles their challenges, learning experiences, personal relationships and exploits, and their interactions with older students and administrators " ( Czarny 2). Life is not always happy and fun for these interns. Through ought the show " perhaps more than in real life, most of the characters are involved in sexual relationships, and the interactions between interns, residents, attendings, nurses and other hospital staff are characterized by a high level of familiarity and less by professionalism " (Czarny 2). This causes countless problems in the work place making their lives harder and their patients sicker in some cases." Therefore, the significant deviations from norms of professionalism may not seem as unreasonable as they would in an

actual clinical setting. Bioethical issues are frequently set apart, however, and are usually recognized by the characters as an important dimension of medical care that requires attention ” ( Czarny 2). Season 2 episode 27: losing my religion showcases first-hand the interactions with others. For example, the other interns constantly try to get Izzy to change her mind moments before she decides to cut the wire. Izzy also interacts with the patient in a more emotional way than the other 4 surgical interns do. Here in this episode we observe as she sets aside a bioethical issue because she is in love with her patient.

Grey’s Anatomy gives an exacerbated view of the medical field leading to an unrealistic view of all hospitals. For example, in this episode of Grey’s Anatomy the patient, Denny Dukett, was in critical condition and only received the heart transplant he needed because his condition was worse than the other patient. Denny’s condition was worsened because one of his nurses cut a wire helping his heart. By not realistically depicting the medical field the producers gives viewers a dishonest idea about how the hospital operates. This can frighten some patients when they have similar cases as the one’s they watched on tv. “ Inaccurate or unrealistic depictions of ethical issues and a lack of professionalism by television physicians may adversely affect public perceptions as well as healthcare professionals in general ” (Czarny 1). Another insight available from viewing the show is the ethics of watching a surgery on television. Watching this episode could allow viewers to be concerned with the privacy of their records, considering the surgeons each discuss multiple cases with each other. Researchers agree that there is an abundant amount of information we can learn by watching someone else. “ It is, of course, in accordance with the principles in question that surgical operations should have been presented to the viewer on the television screen ” ( Mathias 2). In this episode one of the surgical interns, Izzy Stephens, cuts a wire that is keeping a man alive. Viewers watch as the patients slowly worsens so that he can

receive a heart transplant. These actions were procedurally wrong and there was no supervision until the end of the dilemma. In the real world is showing this footage, real or not, ethically right?

Moral and ethical viewpoints over power the law on this episode of Grey's Anatomy. Many debate that morals and ethics should take precedent over laws and regulations. "Care is superior to that of justice and those who argue that the ethics of care needs to be framed by an ethics of justice" (Stensöta 5). But just how far should morals and ethics be relied on, in Izzy's case should she have cut his wire? Izzy made a choice based on her own feelings and morals that could have drastically changed the outcomes for each patient in question. Who should be the judge on deciding if it was right for Denny to get the heart instead of the other patient? The other patient may have been able to use the heart instead of it going to waste due to the damage Izzy caused. Some agree that "Shows demonstrate how the privilege morality and human feeling over narrow the application of the law" (Hawes 1). With these circumstances her actions took a heart away from another sick patient who may have lived longer if he received the heart instead of Izzy's patients, Denny. This situation had a great impact on the student's resident, Bailey. She struggled with teaching her students and with the lesson "the responsibility of teaching the small body of law and etiquette which is regarded as indispensable to the practice of medicine" (Boyd 3) after she herself felt differently about what was the morally right thing to do. Shows like Grey's Anatomy puts more emphasis on the feelings of someone than the procedures set in place. Deshpande explains ethical behavior of coworkers, ethical optimism, and education in ethics all specifically correlate with ethical behavior of self in page 5 of his journal. Izzy's friends ended up helping her "steal the heart" because they wanted her to succeed and not get kicked out of the

program. This gives the readers a better understand of why her friends helped her and what morals they chose to honor over the law and protocol in place.

Debates also explain how Grey's Anatomy accurately depicts medical scenarios. Season 2 episode 27: *losing my religion* showcases some excellent doctors with the right understanding of management and morals. This episode also highlights the staff that doesn't quite meet those standards. Within this episode the difference between the types of workers also showcases the moral implications and each staff's ability to make a sound and comprehensive decision.

“Hospitals can expect those with personal skills like empathy, honesty, and self-management are more likely to make ethical decisions.” (Deshpande 3). If the show has staff that have empathy, honesty, and self-management there will be more positive ethical decisions. This is clearly exhibited when Christina refuses to help Izzy to ensure she is not putting herself in danger of losing her spot in the program. Critic says, “No doubt, the iteration above does not exhaust other justice, policy or efficiency factors that might be relevant” (Nwabueze 2) when referring to the accuracy of the scenarios being depicted in this episode. Nwabueze is saying that even though it may be morally correct to perform some action it is more important to procedurally do the right thing. However, each situation is different with every person involved. In this episode, if it was another intern the situation would be completely different. Some episode may be more realistic than others but when looking at the entire episode the majority is greatly inaccurate.

How can we determine if the moral and ethical decisions being made are right to make? Some say it is simple, “because they describe a particular experience rather than general truths, they have no need to justify the accuracy of their claims.” (Dahlstrom 3). This is a very relatable stance due to the fact that there really is not an error free way to make these decisions. However, these decisions have to be made at some point. There is a cost to every decision we make but

some are greater than others. In season 2 episode 27: losing my religion Izzy was in charge of making the decision, should it have been someone else? "Without a sensibility attuned to what people's lives are outside the auspices of medicine the best efforts of physicians to heal the sick are likely to be morally compromised " (McPhail 11). In season 2 episode 27 :losing my religion Izzy Stephens disregarded what she knew was going on around her to “steal” this heart in order for her patient, that she is in love with, to receive the heart transplant. This shows that moral and ethical questions are particular experiences, they vary with every person and situation. Every person understands and experiences challenging situations differently. What Izzy so easily did may not have been the same amount of ease for another intern like Alex Karev. If we analyze the questions being asked, we can determine how one case effected people and what we learned from that.

Each situation is different but should we put rules and regulations before compassion and humility. Moral and ethical dilemmas in Grey’s Anatomy are exacerbated and sometimes placed in front of protocol and procedure. Should a show like Grey’s Anatomy even be allowed to run if it poses potential worry to future patients and shows many signs of inaccuracy? There is no way to ensure the outcomes of anything but if we can help ease the mind shouldn’t we at least try? how moral or ethical questions in Season 2, episode 27: *losing my religion* of Grey's Anatomy mislead today’s viewers depends on how much the viewer allows themselves to relate their lives to the show. Season 2 episode 27: *losing my religion* highlights the biggest moral debate in the history of the show. The title of the episode alone infers that this episode is a key factor into character development. This poses many questions about how the surgical interns on the show handle moral and ethical dilemmas as well as their patients.

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