

rape | victim | safety |
respect | victim blaming |
rape culture | date rape |
yes | no | aftermath | slut
shaming | rape kit | ptsd |
survivor | support | trauma |
rapist | sexual assault |
#metoo | double standards |
abuse of power | self
doubt | pop culture | women
supporting women |
education | rape=defining |
adoption | consequences |
stereotypes | children of
rape | prosecution |
offender | informed
consent | Greys Anatomy |
season 15 episode 19

INPOP

CULTURE

Grey's Anatomy



7.6/10

TV Series (2005-present)

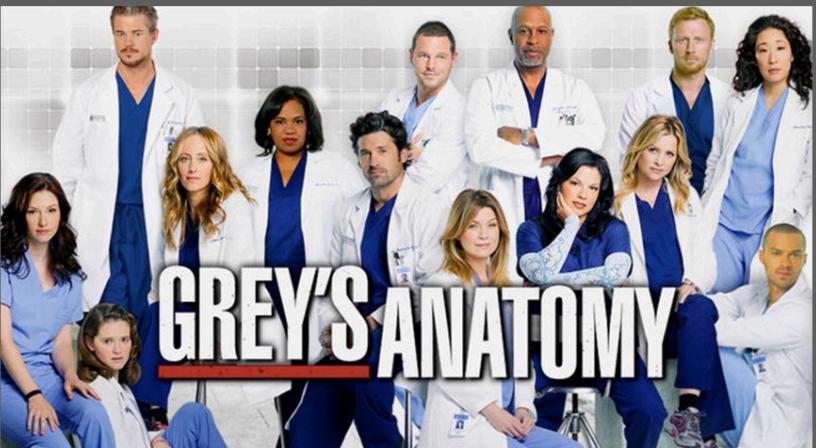
16 seasons

353 episodes

TV-14

Drama, Romance

Medical drama series focusing on the personal and professional lives of a group of doctors from Seattle Grace hospital.



GREY'S ANATOMY



Silent All These Years



9.6/10

Season 15 | Episode 19

Aired March 28 2019

43 min

A unique episode by Grey's Anatomy which presents a non-linear story line:

Jo Karev visits her birth mother to get an understanding about why she was left at a firehouse as a newborn. During their visit, Jo's birth mom reveals that she was date raped, resulting in her pregnancy with Jo.

Jo and her coworkers treat a sexual assault patient.

In this same episode, Bailey and Ben learn that their son has begun dating. Due to this information, Ben and Bailey decide it is time to have a conversation with their son about what makes a good and healthy relationship.

Letter from

Dear zine viewers,

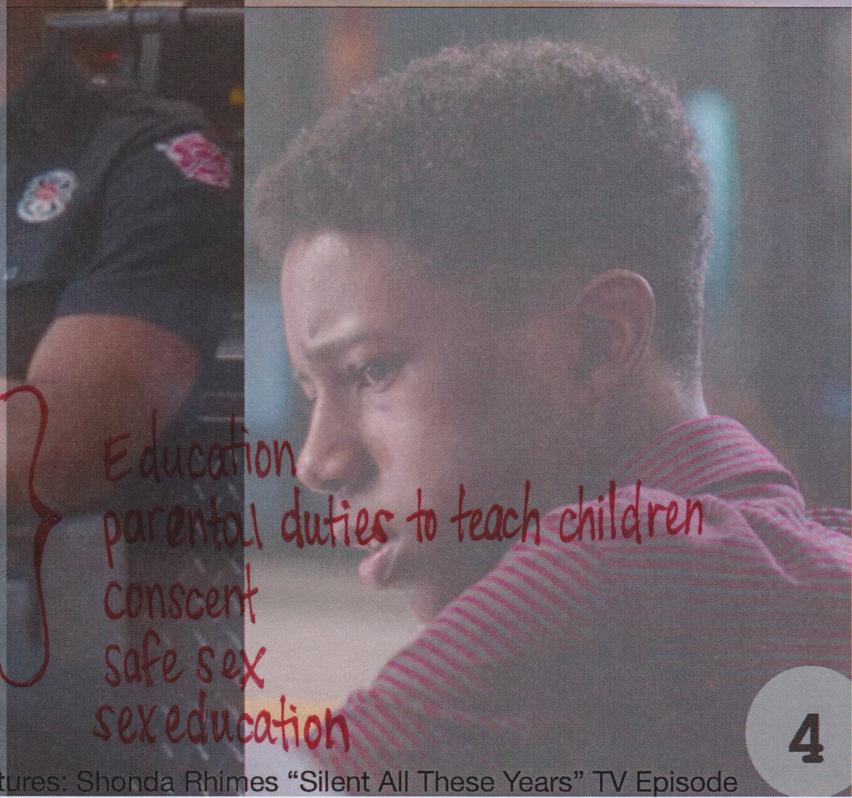
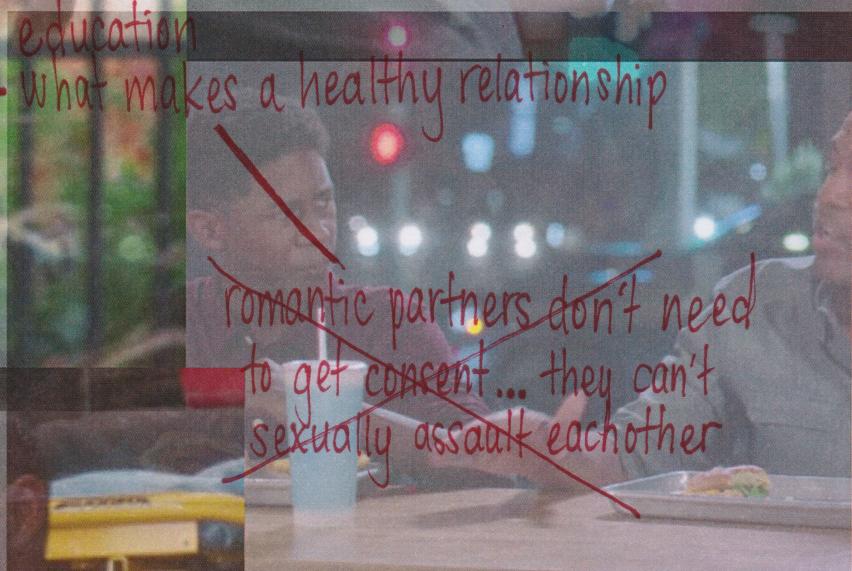
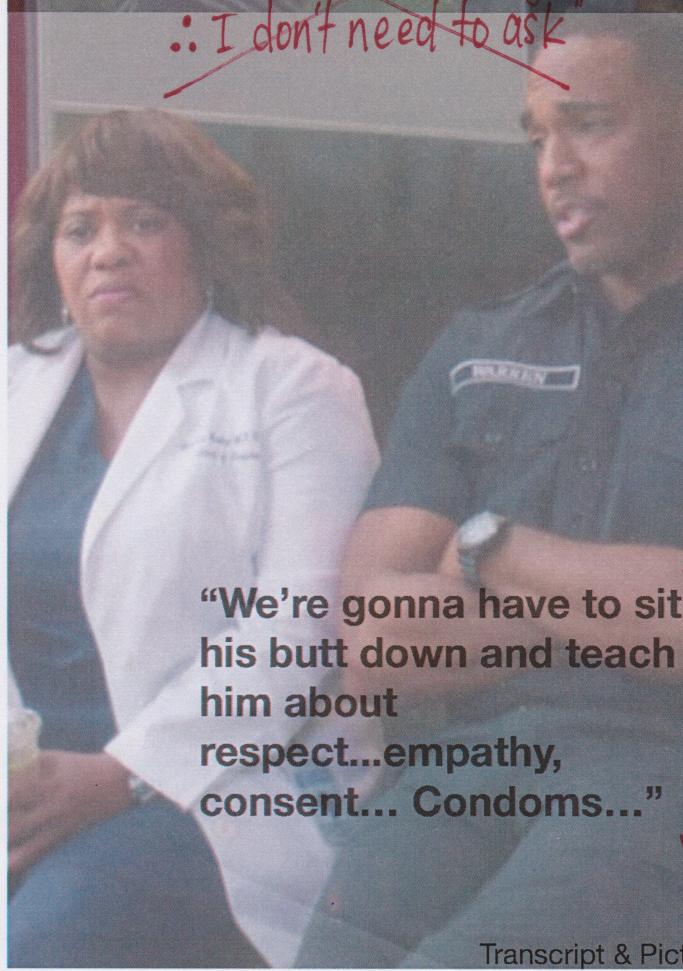
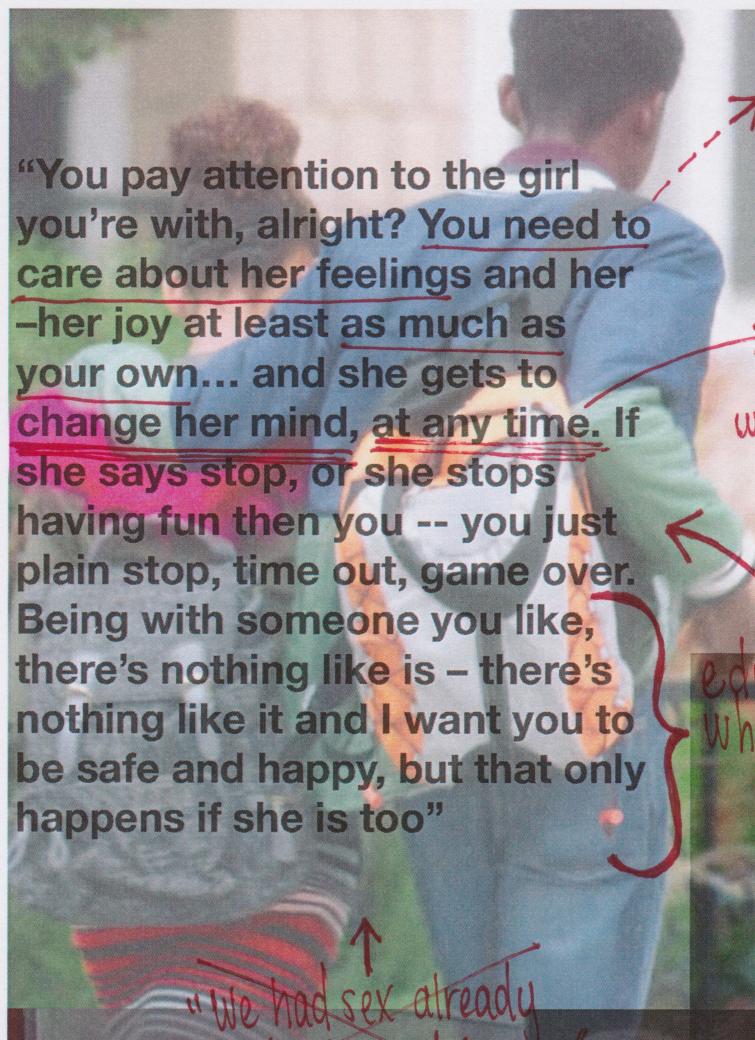
Grey's Anatomy is a show I have watched for years, for as long as I can remember. A show I have watched 3 or 4 times now. So, you could say that I am a Grey's fan. I'm not sure what drew me to watch Grey's... the simple explanation could be the drama-filled episodes and its diverse characters... But I know it has become more than just a show. First, it was my mom and I who bonded over our love of Grey's, setting aside that one evening each week dedicated to watching the newest episode of Grey's Anatomy. Then my little sister joined along. But, most recently, a friend of mine, who I met in first-year residence, has joined in our Grey's Anatomy tradition. Thursday's are no longer called Thursday, they are called Grey's Anatomy day because Thursday's are the day that Grey's plays. It's episodes like "Silent All These Years" that make me proud to be a Grey's fan. It's episodes like these that keep me coming back after all of these years, all of these seasons.

the Editor

Thus, it is in this zine, that I will highlight some of the reasons why you too should be a Grey's Anatomy fan and learn to appreciate the social and political references throughout the show.

Sincerely,
Julia

Creator, Publisher & Editor



man in power
power dynamic

"He hurt me...he was a TA when I was a freshman in undergrad. He chased after me for weeks for a date, he sent me flowers and proclamations until finally I said yes. I said yes to that date. I said yes to going to Brayden's Point to watch the sunset and then he started kissing me, and touching me, and I said no and I continued to say no and I fought him, I fought as hard as I could but he would not take no for an answer. So, nine months later I had a baby, I had you and then five days later I didn't"

consent

consent needed for every step
→ withdrawing consent

"I actually had to work through calling it rape to begin with because I did say yes to that date and I did say yes to getting into that car. But someone, somewhere along the way, a man most likely, decided they wanted to qualify this word rape. You know date rape, acquaintance rape."

Somehow, it's not as real unless it happens to a woman whose running through the park at night or walking down a dark ally. As somehow because I knew him, what he took from me didn't matter. But it did matter"

societal beliefs
societal myths

"victims asking for it"

"...I was so terrified imagining that you'd be a boy and that you'd have his face and his voice. And every day, every kid, every movement it just reminded me where you came from..."

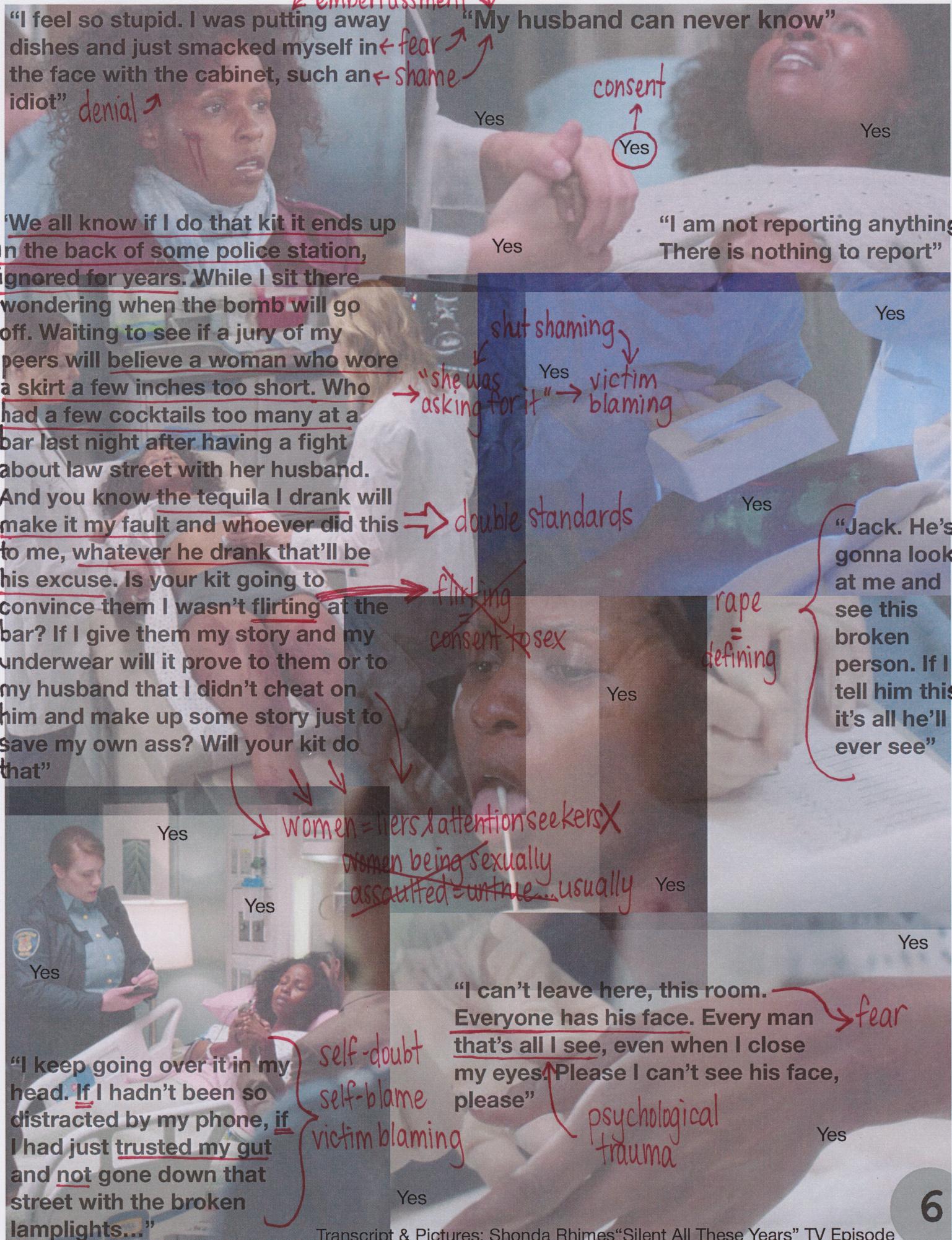
multi-generational effects

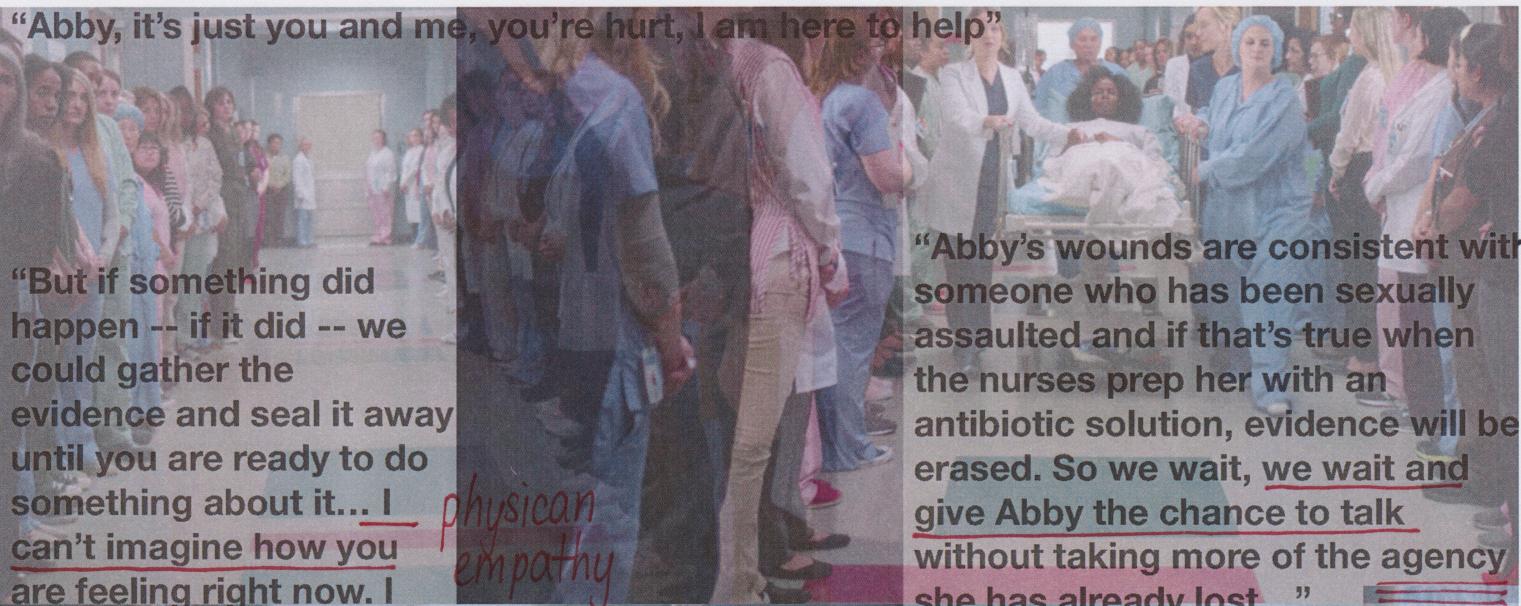
non verbal cues of no consent

"That night that – that he held me down, screaming. That night that he had his hands around my throat until I stopped screaming, when I was hovering over my own body while he was tearing away at me. That night that he smiled, and he forced me to say that I liked it. When he laughed and promised that we could do it any time that I wanted to. That was the night that I lost my right mind. He stole control it from me and for nine months – for nine months I pretended I was fine. I pretended that I wasn't a zombie, that I wasn't numb or dead inside. My mind that took years to come back. In fact, part of it never did."

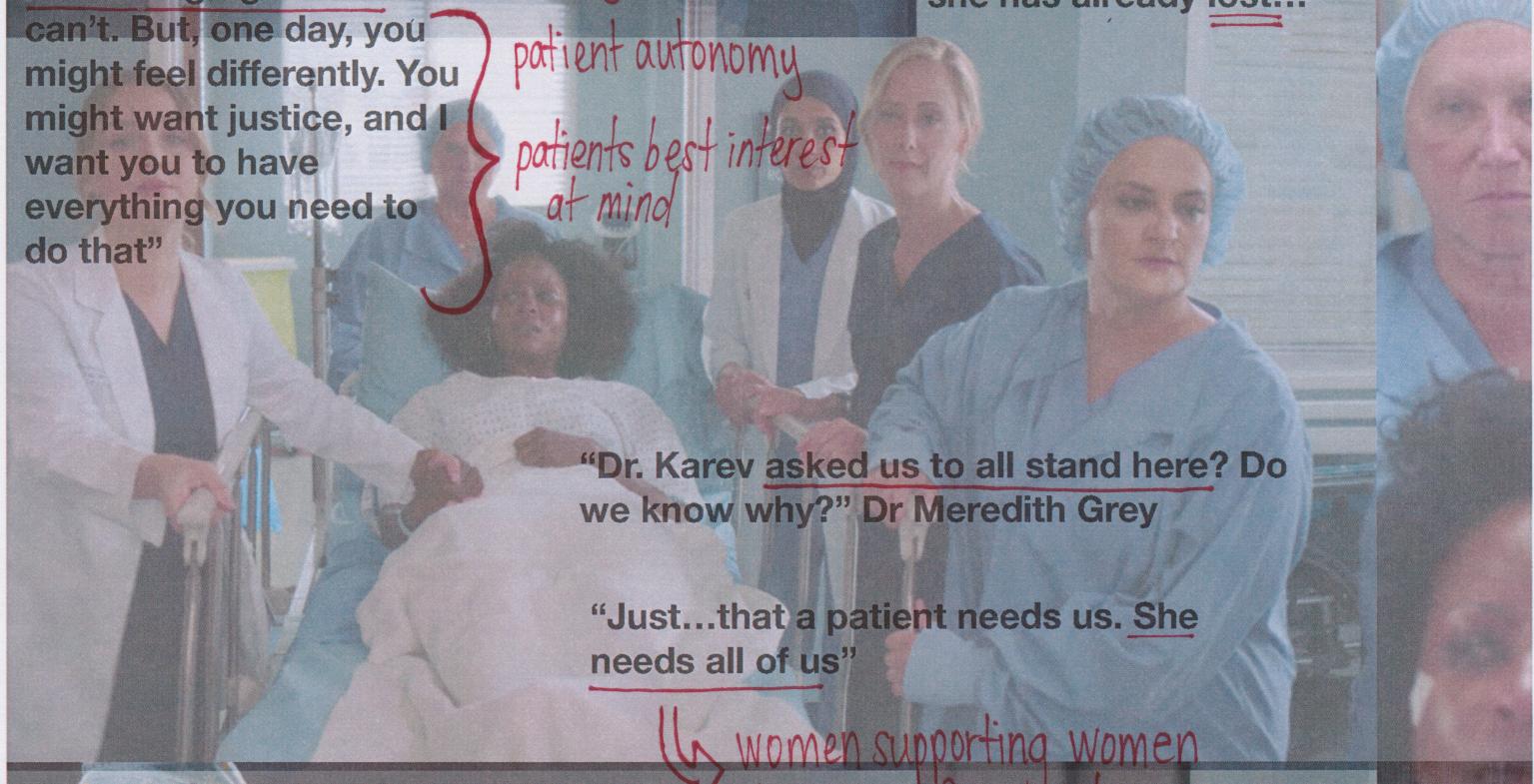
long-lasting effects

denial

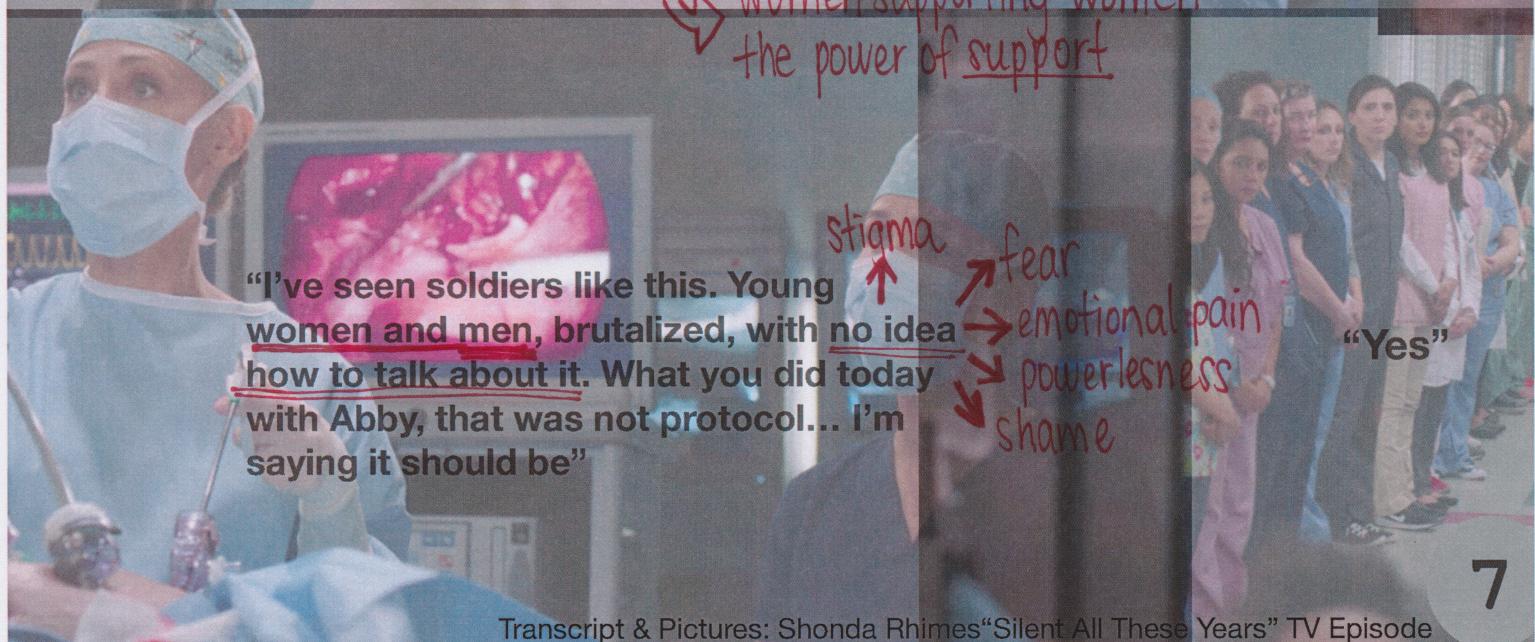




"Abby's wounds are consistent with someone who has been sexually assaulted and if that's true when the nurses prep her with an antibiotic solution, evidence will be erased. So we wait, we wait and give Abby the chance to talk without taking more of the agency she has already lost..."



women supporting women
the power of support



Reactions to “Silent



“Silent All These Years” is one of the most difficult hours of television I’ve ever watched. But it was also one of the most honest and beautiful and necessary hours.
@camilluddington @MishkaForbes
@KhalilahJoi @KimRaver and Sophia Ali truly gave us a gift. @GreysABC

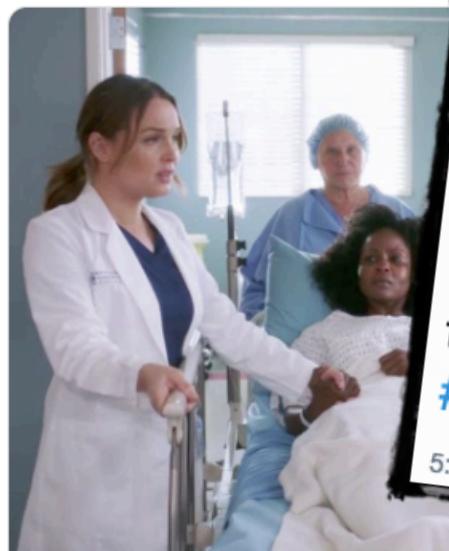
7:12 PM - 28 Mar 2019

324 Retweets 1,675 Likes



11 324 1.7K

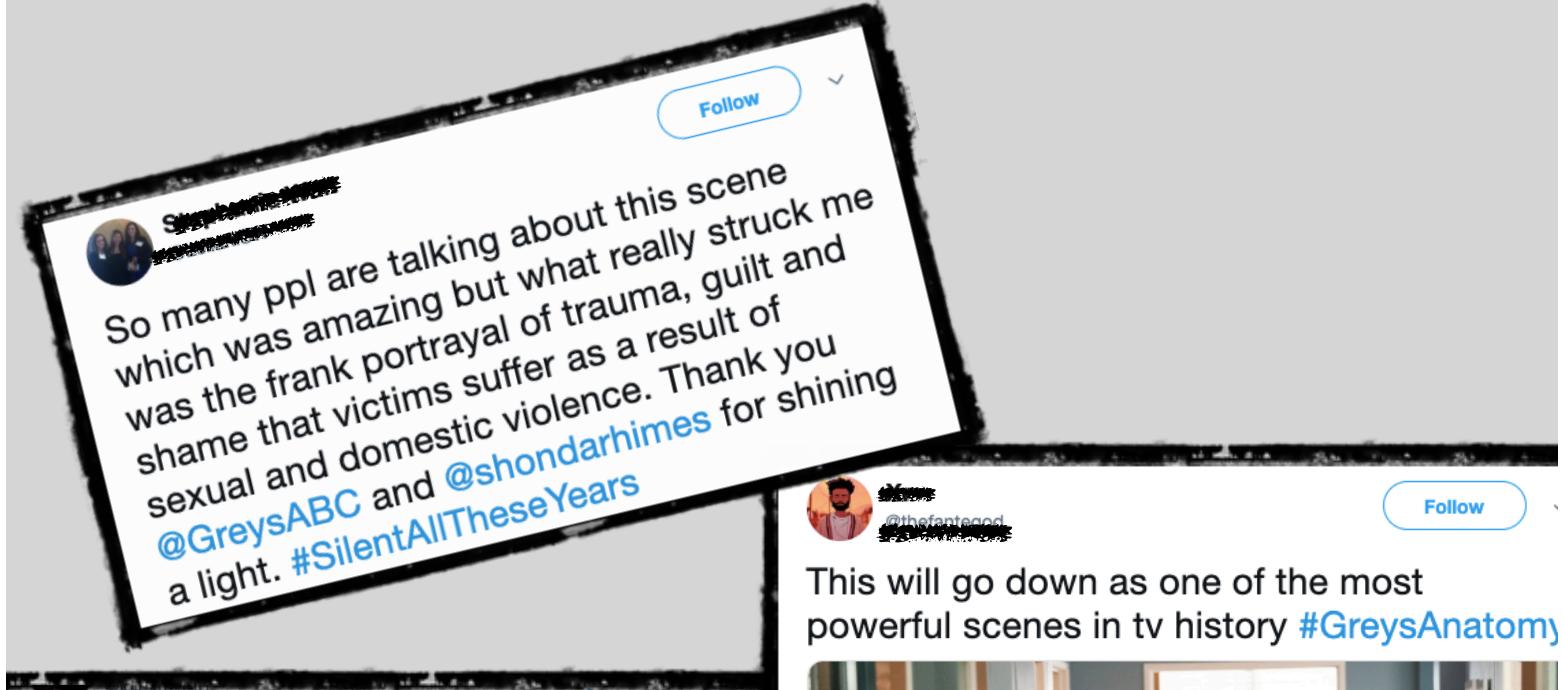
Everyone needs to see this rape kit scene,
whether they’re a #GreysAnatomy fan or not
buff.ly/2uwoSoM #GreysAnatomy15
#SilentAllTheseYears



Dear @shondarhimes and the Greys writing room, please never stop running full speed into the tough conversations. Please never stop showing the harsh reality of life on prime time tv. Please never stop fighting for the people who can’t #GreysAnatomy
#SilentAllTheseYears

5:31 PM - 28 Mar 2019

All These Years"



Promise to myself: if I ever have kids, I'll give them a talk just like Ben gave Tuck. Everybody should do that. Teach your children that no means no. [@GreysABC](#) standing ovation for this incredible episode, and how you touched such a complex subject. [#greysanatomy](#)

11:10 PM - 28 Mar 2019

186 Retweets 1,159 Likes



I'm several weeks late on this, but the [#silentalltheseyears](#) Grey's Anatomy episode is one of the most powerful bits of TV I've seen in years. It dealt with rape in an authentic, powerful and fully supportive way - everyone everyone should see it(although definitely a TW advised)

8:44 AM - 14 Apr 2019

1 Retweet 7 Likes



This will go down as one of the most powerful scenes in tv history [#GreysAnatomy](#)



This episode touched on my emotions like none other, and I definitely cried. It showed such an extensive and real look at a subject that's ignored much too often.

[#greysanatomy #silentalltheseyears](#)

Grey's Anatomy @GreysABC
It's not alone. #GreysAnatomy

Creative Process behind “Silent All These Years”



Elisabeth R. Finch

American television writer
Producer and writer of
Greys Anatomy



Krista Vernoff

American screenwriter
Executive Producer of
Grey's Anatomy

“...Three years ago I went through what they call a story [inaudible] through the writers guild that they offered and a small group of us went to tour through the rape treatment centre in Santa Monica UCLA which is looked at as the gold standard both nationally, and I think international as well for how they treat victims of sexual assault. And I went thinking at some point I might come up with an idea for it and there where a couple moments that stuck in my brain that **I couldn't shake and let go** and when we, when Krista started working here, she, you know we started working around the same time as the Kavanaugh hearings started to be put everywhere, and the idea of wanting to talk about **consent**, and have those **conversations** about, as dynamic as possible, those conversations about how **long lasting** it can be, what the **impact** is, how we take care of people who are **survivors**, how **we listen** to survivors, and it just seemed like the perfect time to put it all together” Elisabeth (GoldDerby, 2019).

.....

“Yeah, we were working together on an episode that she wrote, and I directed when Doctor Blasey Ford gave her testimony. And we were so affected and I wrote to the writers when I said we have to do something about **consent**. Because it felt like the entire world, particularly of young people, people who were the age that Doctor Blasey Ford was when she went through this were being told that experience was **irrelevant**, and not to be believed, that consent was irrelevant. And listening to these pundits on television talk about how it was 30 years ago and how could she possibly remember, and maybe **she got the name wrong, the face wrong** and it felt like **we have this platform** and we have this opportunity to not engage politically but to **teach** people about consent, and to talk about rape, and to talk about what it is to **survive**, and how, how, **deep and long** that impact can be, and how **real** and how **memorable...**” Krista (GoldDerby, 2019).

My Review On “Silent All These Years”



9/10

“Silent All These Years” episode manages to address many different aspects of consent and sexual assault. I believe this episode is unique because the whole episode connects to the same theme, but it is so in a non-linear way through separate storylines, with different characters. I find it unique from the way that Grey’s Anatomy has done their episodes in the past and unique from the way that many shows do their episodes.

This episode does a good job of representing many aspects of consent: The Five W’s and the H of consent: What is consent? What constitutes as consent? Who needs to give consent? Who should be teaching consent? Who should learn about consent? When does consent need to be given? When can you say yes? When can you say no? Why does consent matter? How do you give consent? What non-consent means – rape/sexual assault. The effects of sexual assault, short term, and long-term: medical concerns, psychological trauma, unwanted pregnancy, multi-generational effects, social consequences (rape culture, societal judgement), systemic/systematic failures, justice, and support.

Quite honestly, “Silent All These Years” has integrated so many aspects of consent and sexual assault that I cannot highlight all of it here. But I have highlighted what I found to be most prevalent.

Another noteworthy aspect of this episode is the representation of cultural and societal myths and beliefs regarding sexual assault. This episode does a great job in displaying how deeply embedded these beliefs/myths are through representing this in all of the storylines; both victims, knowingly and unknowingly struggle with the deeply embedded norms, beliefs, and attitudes. Whereas, the storyline of Ben and his son, presents parallel opposites to the myths and beliefs when he educates Tuck on good behaviours for consent and healthy relationships.

One other reason I thought “Silent All These Years” was particularly unique was due to their comprehensive representation of the process involved in rape kits. As a fan of Criminal shows like Law & Order: Special Victims Unit and Criminal Minds, I can testify that I do not remember seeing an episode portraying rape kits in such an accurate and detailed way. Anytime that I have watched a show that includes a rape kit, they inform you that a rape kit is getting done, but they switch their focus to a different storyline or different characters, only returning to the rape victim after it is finished. Thus, you do not get a good idea of what a rape kit involves; how intensive they are, how thorough and how time-consuming they are. Even if my memory had failed me, and I had watched an episode that contained accurate, detailed representations of doing a rape kit, it was not memorable, therefore not effective. We need more episodes like “Silent All These Years” so people can have a better understanding and awareness.

Another distinctive aspect of this episode is the role the doctors play when treating the sexual assault survivor, Abby. More specifically, the persistent, arguably pushy, attempts Jo makes in order to get her patient to disclose the truth about her injuries. Jo's passionate approach continues when she tells her the repercussions of getting surgery (sterilizing her, limiting her options for justice) and suggests that she gets a rape kit, even though the patient had not admitted to her injuries being a result of rape. All of the above behaviours conveyed as good intentions on behalf of Jo.

But does “Silent All These Years” fall short in the representation of other central aspects involved in or closely related to the sexual assault and the #MeToo movement?

What about the popular question regarding sexual consent in education that has risen in response to the #MeToo movement? People have realized that consent is not just an issue with adults, it is also an issue with children. Some people suggesting that correct messages about consent should start in childhood through education. But this raises another big question and debate: how young is too young? Similarly, other discussions and suggestions, in response to the #MeToo movement are that parents and caregivers should play a role in providing children with the correct messages about consent. In this regard, Grey's Anatomy did an amazing job. However, I think Grey's Anatomy could have done a better job of include more of the conversation surrounding consent in education. This could include:

- Ben and Bailey's son, Tuck, goes to school and has his first lesson in sex-ed class about consent. Tuck comes home later on discussing this new curriculum with them, giving Bailey and Ben an opportunity to also provide a lesson about consent.

- Tuck's school has chosen to integrate consent lessons into their sex-ed curriculum. Due to the controversy parents are made aware of this addition. Ben and Bailey use this as an opportunity to discuss consent with their son. Over dinner, Ben and Bailey talk to Tuck about what he has been taught and try and contribute to this conversation and education.

- Tuck is going to a school that does not include the consent section of the sex-ed curriculum, and many of the students in the school are upset about it. Tuck goes home and discusses this debate with his parents. This provides Bailey and Ben the opportunity to give Tuck a lesson on consent and explain why it is important to be taught consent in school and family life.

The possibilities continue... I see as an easy solution to include the discussion surrounding consent education. However, by excluding consent in education, and including consent education in the home-life, Grey's Anatomy brings forth the suggestion that is often underrepresented.

#MeToo is often criticized for its representation of ‘model survivors’, due to the overwhelming number of key figures that are white, cis-gendered, privileged females. Thus, a big criticism of the #MeToo movement is that it is not as inclusive as it should be. Suggesting that the movement needs to include and reflect the LGBTQ community and their experiences of sexual assault.

In many ways “Silent All These Years” continues to perpetuate this idea of a model survivor through Jo’s biological mother, who is a white, cis-gender female, who was sexually assaulted by a man of power, continues to fit the model survivor that is often represented in the #MeToo movement. We also have Abby, the sexual assault patient, who is a cis-gender, heterosexual woman, which also represents many aspects of the ‘model survivor’. However, she does deviate from this ‘model survivor’ because she is not the white female who is often represented, but a person of colour. Once again, “Silent All These Years” does represent some of the underrepresented aspects, but for the most part, they represent the mainstream and miss opportunities.

I think the only logical explanation to all of my questions is that consent and sexual assault are such complex issues and trying to achieve a representation of these issues in only one episode will lead to certain people or aspects left out. In the interview with Marcus James Dixon, the senior editor at Gold Derby, Krista Vernoff admits the episode is “just a drop in the bucket, but anything that can influence towards supporting each other and towards not consistently being at a binary war is a beautiful thing” (GoldDerby, 2019). This leads me to my next question: why not extend the content in this episode into another episode? Why limit to making a drop in the bucket?

The topics addressed in “Silent All These Years” are very important and it is amazing that a mainstream television show would include topics of this matter. But what would make this episode more important and more meaningful is if they included aspects of consent, rape, and sexual assault that are not often heard in mainstream media.

I think the only logical explanation to all of my questions is that consent and sexual assault are such complex issues and trying to achieve a representation of these issues in only one episode will lead to certain people or aspects left out. In the interview with Marcus James Dixon, the senior editor at Gold Derby, Krista Vernoff admits the episode is “just a drop in the bucket, but anything that can influence towards supporting each other and towards not consistently being at a binary war is a beautiful thing” (GoldDerby, 2019). This leads me to my next question: why not extend the content in this episode into another episode? Why limit to making a drop in the bucket?

“Too often, trauma gets dismissed as ‘just in our heads.’ But the pain is real. We feel it...in our muscles, our cells, our hearts, our heads. And while there is no magic fix...no pill to make it disappear, we can ask for help. And we can tell our truth... whenever we’re ready”

Quote: Meredith Grey
Shonda Rhimes “Silent All These Years” TV Episode