

= Meet the Quagmires =

" Meet the Quagmires " is the 18th and final episode of the fifth season of the animated comedy series Family Guy . It originally aired on Fox on May 20 , 2007 . The episode features Peter after he goes back in time , in order to live the single life a little longer , before he meets future wife Lois . This causes Quagmire to make his own move on Lois , and they ultimately end up marrying and having children ; Peter is horrified by this " alternate timeline " and resolves to go back in time again and set things right .

The episode was written by Mark Hentemann and directed by Dan Povenmire and Chris Robertson . It received mostly positive reviews from critics for its storyline and many cultural references . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 9 @.@ 1 million homes in its original airing . The episode featured guest performances by Luke Adams , Jeff Bergman , Adam Carolla , Beth Littleford and Will Sasso , along with several recurring guest voice actors for the series .

= = Plot = =

After hearing Quagmire brag about his sexual exploits , Peter feels that he has missed out on enjoying the single lifestyle . Death is summoned to The Drunken Clam on a false alarm ( thinking that Horace had died ) , and decides to grant Peter 's wish by sending him , along with Brian , back to 1984 for one night . He notices his friend Cleveland , in his ' 80s look , who high @-@ fives him around the pool . He then sees 18 @-@ year @-@ old Lois Pewterschmidt walking around the country club pool , taking her high @-@ heeled shoes off and jumping off the diving board into the pool with " Mr. Night " playing in the background , a reference to the movie , Caddyshack . Appearing to others as his 18 @-@ year @-@ old self , Peter cancels his scheduled movie date to see Zapped ! with Lois , instead accepting an invitation from Cleveland to go and party at a bar . Peter enjoys the evening , and ends up making out with actress Molly Ringwald before Death appears to return him to the present .

Back in the present day , Peter discovers that his past actions have had drastic effects on the world : he and Molly have been married for 20 years ; Judd Nelson crashes at their house once or twice a week ; Lois is married to Quagmire ; Al Gore is now President ; Chris , Meg , and Stewie have Quagmire 's chin , nose , and mannerisms ; and Chevy Chase is the host of The Tonight Show . Brian explains to Peter that by missing out on his date with Lois and making out with Molly , he altered the time line . Despite Brian 's objections about leaving the " perfect " world ( in which there are flying cars that run on vegetable oil and Gore has killed Osama bin Laden by strangling him with his bare hands ) , Peter wants to go back to the past so he can undo his mistake . Brian says that this is impossible because Death can only be summoned if someone dies and thanks to Gore 's universal health care , people are living much longer along with a strong , well @-@ funded educational system and zero tolerance gun control that has eliminated street crime . However , when Jane Jetson suddenly falls on the sidewalk and dies , Death arrives and again grants Peter 's wish to return to the past . Back in the past , Peter is determined to accept Lois ' invitation but repeatedly blows his opportunity and ends up repeatedly asking Death for a do @-@ over . When Peter finally gets it right , he forgets a few hours later and parties with Cleveland instead of keeping the date . He asks Death for another chance but Death , fed up with Peter 's continued blunders , tells him that he will have to fix the problem on his own .

When Peter tries to apologize the next day , Lois is still upset with him for missing their date and has decided to go to the country club dance with Quagmire . Later that night , Peter and Brian sneak into the dance to prevent the kiss that caused Lois to fall in love with Quagmire . They get in by crawling through the air vent , but crash through and kill one of the guys playing in the band on the stage , so Brian has to play guitar and sing . Peter tries to convince Lois that they belong together but she stubbornly informs Peter that he had his chance and blew it , and therefore she loves Quagmire now . Peter almost gives up but Brian notices Chris , Stewie , and Meg disappearing from a family picture , indicating that they have fallen off the plane of existence and tells Peter it is his last chance to do something that proves he loves Lois . Peter then demonstrates his passion by

punching Quagmire and kissing Lois , showing that he cares deeply for her and wins back her love . He asks her to marry him and she accepts . In honor of this success , Brian and the band play " Never Gonna Give You Up " by Rick Astley . The episode ends with things seemingly back to normal , with the exception of Roger from American Dad ! apparently living with the family .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by series regular and future showrunner Mark Hentemann , and directed by Chris Robertson and series regular Dan Povenmire , who left the series after completing the episode , in order to create his own series for the Disney Channel entitled Phineas and Ferb , which has since been nominated for three Emmy Awards . Peter Shin , James Purdum and Chris Robertson acted as supervising director . Series creator Seth MacFarlane , David A. Goodman , Danny Smith , Mark Hentemann , Steve Callaghan and Chris Sheridan acted as executive producers . Alec Sulkin , Wellesley Wild , Alex Borstein and Mike Henry worked as supervising producers . Cherry Chevapravatdumrong and Patrick Meighan worked as executive story editors . The episode 's original premise was based on Cleveland 's divorce from his wife , Loretta , with Cleveland going on to become a hot bachelor in Quahog , causing Peter to become jealous , and desiring to become single again . Due to Warner Bros. ' s ownership of Hanna ? Barbera , the scene involving The Jetsons was completely reanimated by Povenmire , including the backgrounds and scenery for the sequence .

Meet the Quagmires , along with four other episodes from the fifth season , and the first seven episodes of the sixth season , were released under the title " Volume 6 " by 20th Century Fox in the United States and Canada on October 21 , 2008 , five months after they had completed broadcast on television . The DVD release also features bonus material including deleted scenes , commentaries , and a ' making of ' featurette .

In addition to the regular cast , the episode featured guest performances by voice actors Luke Adams and Jeff Bergman , actors Adam Carolla and Beth Littleford , and comedian and actor Will Sasso . Recurring guest voices include Alex Breckenridge , voice actors Johnny Brennan and Chris Cox , and writers Mark Hentemann , Alec Sulkin , and John Viener .

= = Cultural references = =

In the opening scene of the episode , Horace the bartender is suddenly knocked unconscious after falling off a ladder , causing Death to appear . After it is discovered that Horace is not actually dead , Death complains that he never likes to be too far from journalist Mike Wallace . Wallace was still alive as of the original airing date .

The Back to the Future trilogy is parodied and referenced throughout the episode , along with many other movies and famous people throughout the 1980s . Other cultural references include how after going back in time , Peter becomes excited about his new prospects in life , and states to Cleveland that he is going to " raise more hell than Hellraiser " from the 1987 horror film Hellraiser . It also depicts Pinhead as weak and ridiculous , stating that the worst he can do is unscrew a salt shaker and trick someone into using it , causing salt to come out all over their food . The first scene where Lois appears at the swimming pool is a reference to a scene from the 1980 film Caddyshack , featuring the song " Mr. Night " by Kenny Loggins . Once Lois appears , she asks Peter if he would like to see the 1982 film Zapped ! . Rejecting her offer , Peter decides to go partying with Cleveland instead and play the video game Menstrual Ms. Pac @-@ Man , in addition to making out with actress Molly Ringwald . While there , Brian gets into a fight , and instructs the bar patron to meet him on top of the World Trade Center to fight him at eight A.M. on September 11 , 2001 . While downstairs in the alternate universe , Peter makes a reference to the Twilight Zone episode , " The Eye of the Beholder . " The joke about the World Trade Center has been edited from current versions of the show accessible on Netflix as of January 2012 . Returning to the present , Peter and Brian decide to watch television , and are shocked to discover that actor Chevy Chase is now the host of The Tonight Show . They also discover that former Vice President Al Gore is now President

of the United States , and flying cars running on vegetable oil exist . A parody of the 1962 ABC animated series , Hanna @-@ Barbera 's The Jetsons , is then shown . In the alternate reality , Death refers to the Dick Cheney hunting accident , explaining that the " Chairman of Halliburton " accidentally shot and killed Karl Rove , Antonin Scalia , and Tucker Carlson ( Brian groans that Peter and he can 't change this wonderful future , but Peter flatly says " I don 't know who any of those people are " ) . The main plot of the episode , complete with the scene in which Peter and Brian are in the living room , with Brian explaining to Peter what happened using a chalk board , is a reference to the alternate universe scene in Back to the Future Part II .

In the past once again , Peter suggests to Lois that they see the 1983 film Krull instead . Later , Peter and Cleveland , dressed up as Michael Jackson in the iconic red jacket of his video clip " Thriller , " dance to the Beverly Hills Cop theme . In order to make everything right about the future , Peter and Brian decide to sneak into the prom through a vent . While inside it , Peter recites a line from the 1988 action film Die Hard . The sequence that follows is a parody of the 1985 film Back to the Future . After crashing through the vent to the stage , the band begins playing " Earth Angel " by The Penguins , and , after Peter kisses Lois , Brian sings the 1987 single " Never Gonna Give You Up " by musician Rick Astley . While Brian sings " Never Gonna Give You Up " , Rick Astley 's cousin Marvin calls him to say he 's found the " mediocre , generic sound " that Astley has been looking for , a reference to Back to the Future . In the closing scene of the episode Roger the alien from series creator Seth MacFarlane 's second show American Dad ! suddenly appears in the Griffin family home , inquiring about Pecan Sandies .

= = Reception = =

In a significant improvement over the previous week , the episode was viewed in 9 @.@ 15 million homes in its original airing , according to Nielsen ratings . The episode also acquired a 3 @.@ 2 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , slightly being edged out by The Simpsons , while significantly winning over American Dad ! , in both rating and total viewership .

Reviews of the episode were mostly positive , noting its ability to " capture some of the appeal from the pre @-@ cancellation days . " Ahsan Haque of IGN praised the episode 's story , writing that it had " a great storyline and the right combination of irrelevant and relevant jokes " , giving the episode an 8 @.@ 4 out of 10 . In another positive review , Brett Love of TV Squad called the episode " solid , " and praised the scenes set in 1984 , and the alternate world . Love went on to state , " The show has lost a little of the luster that it once had , but that 's no reason to count them out . There were enough bright spots to give hope for a return to that old form when season six comes around in the fall . " He graded " Meet the Quagmires " 5 out of 7 .

The episode was voted # 10 on BBC Three 's list of Top Ten Family Guy episodes .