

= Peter 's Progress =

" Peter 's Progress " is the 16th episode and the season finale of the seventh season of Family Guy . It originally aired on Fox in the United States on May 17 , 2009 . In the episode , a psychic reads Peter 's palms and discovers he led a fascinating past life as Griffin Peterson , a dignified gentleman in 17th @-@ century England , who was the original founder of Quahog .

The episode was written by Wellesley Wild and directed by Brian Iles . It received mixed reviews from critics for its storyline and many cultural references . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 7 @. @ 33 million homes in its original airing . The episode featured guest performances by John Ross Bowie , Neil Patrick Harris , Brody Hutzler , Derwin Jordan , Keri Lynn Pratt , David Pressman , Josh Radnor , Martin Savage , Jason Segel , Alexander Siddig and Erik von Detten , along with several recurring guest voice actors for the series . This episode marks Cleveland Brown 's final regular appearance on Family Guy until the episode ' He 's Bla @-@ ack ! ' in season 12 where he made his official return to the show .

= = Plot = =

Cleveland introduces his Jamaican cousin Madame Claude to Peter , Joe , and Quagmire saying she is a psychic . Cleveland offers to have her read their palms and determine past lives they have had . Madame Claude then determines that Joe was once an octopus whose tentacles were bitten off by a shark , and Quagmire was Jack the Ripper . When Claude reads Peter 's palm , she discovers that he was Griffin Peterson , the supposed founder of Quahog where the previously @-@ mentioned history of Quahog was a myth . Most of the episode follows the story of this past life , the main characters therein having the appearance of regular Family Guy characters .

In 17th @-@ century England , Griffin Peterson proposes to the love of his life Lady Redbush (Lois) upon getting the approval from Carter Redbush . The ruthless King Stewart III (Stewie) has the court jester (Brian) tell him some jokes after " deleting " How I Met Your Mother from his " TiVo " (represented as archers killing Josh Radnor , Jason Segel , and Neil Patrick Harris) . While being carried around in his litter , King Stewart spots Lady Redbush strolling through town with Griffin Peterson and decides that she should marry him instead . While Griffin Peterson is on the way to his wedding , Stewart secretly kidnaps him , exiling him to the New World on one of the outgoing ships . As Lady Redbush waits in growing angst , King Stewart walks into the church . He tells Lady Redbush that Griffin Peterson is dead and proceed to marry her himself .

At sea , Griffin Peterson meets fellow exiles Joe (exiled for pleasuring himself in front of a carving) , Quagmire (exiled for having sex with an underage girl) , and Seamus . Upon reaching the New World , Griffin Peterson establishes the colony of Quahog , which eventually grows into a thriving settlement . Griffin Peterson moves on with his life , even marrying another woman (Meg) .

Back in London , Later Redbush suffers a dull sexless marriage with King Stewart since they 're never available to each other . Lady Redbush continues to lament Griffin 's supposed death until the jester reveals the truth by showing her the newspaper about Quahog 's founding . The jester stated that he was to keep quiet about this under threat of execution . Lady Redbush and the jester immediately depart for Quahog on one of the slave ships . In Quahog , Griffin Peterson has grown irritated with his current wife until Lady Redbush arrives . Griffin Peterson and Lady Redbush are reunited and Griffin " divorces " his current wife by killing her with a musket .

Six months later , King Stewart learns that Redbush is gone and he makes his way to Quahog to reclaim his wife and kill Griffin Peterson . King Stewart 's army arrives in Quahog where they terrorize the colony (similar to a scene from Blazing Saddles) . King Stewart orders Cockney First Lieutenant (Chris) to search every house for them . Upon being discovered by the First Lieutenant , Griffin Peterson and Lady Redbush are confronted by King Stewart . Griffin Peterson threatens to kill the officer , while King Stewart threatens to kill Redbush . After exchanging threats without getting anywhere , Griffin and Stewart decide to settle their dispute with a talent show , with the winner winning Lady Redbush 's hand in marriage , and ownership of the town of Quahog . For his act , King Stewart steals his jester 's mostly unfunny jokes about his Aunt Frieda . However , Griffin ,

Quagmire , Joe , Cleveland , Mort , and Seamus effectively steal the show with a techno @-@ rock number from Revenge of the Nerds . This was enough to defeat King Stewart in the talent show . After King Stewart and his army leaves , Griffin and Redbush remain in Quahog to live happily ever after .

After the story is told , Peter , Quagmire , Cleveland , Joe , and Madame Claude see a promo @-@ ad for " Cross @-@ Armed Opposites "

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Wellesley Wild and directed by Brian Iles . The live action sequences used throughout the episode to promote supposed shows on Fox was directed by Bones director Steve Beers . The night the episode aired , the " Animation Domination " block was co @-@ hosted by an animated version of rapper Eminem and Stewie Griffin . Eminem , who provided his own voice , said that it was a " thrill to work with Stewie " and that he is a " big fan of talking babies and their humor " .

In addition to the main cast , Josh Radnor , Jason Segel and Neil Patrick Harris guest starred in the episode as their characters from the CBS sitcom How I Met Your Mother . Family Guy writer John Viener was the voice of Cleveland 's cousin , Madame Claude . Recurring guest voice actor John G. Brennan and writers Alec Sulkin , Danny Smith , Tom Devanney and Mark Hentemann made minor appearances in the episode . Alexander Siddig , Martin Savage , John Ross Bowie , Brody Hutzler , Derwin Jordan , Keri Lynn Pratt , David Pressman and Erik von Detten guest starred as well .

= = Cultural references = =

The title is a reference to The Pilgrim 's Progress . When Madame Claude tells everyone who they were in a past life , she reveals that Quagmire was Jack the Ripper . Also , when Madame Claude first speaks , Peter says that she sounds like Sebastian the crab from Disney 's The Little Mermaid . King Stewart III orders to kill the cast of How I Met Your Mother after he is displeased with their performance . Griffin Peterson 's act in the talent show is a reference to the act the Lambda Lambda Lambdas perform at the homecoming in the 1984 film Revenge of the Nerds . As a running gag throughout the episode , Fox promos appear on the bottom of the screen for made up shows including Shovin ' Buddies , Slowly Rotating Black Man , and Cross @-@ Armed Opposites , parodying stereotypical types of Fox mid @-@ show advertising . Griffin says that he is " the happiest guy in the world because he 's got a girl and is 290 years away from the films of Kevin Smith " . A clip is shown of Madonna celebrating her sixteenth birthday , suggesting she is over 300 years old . During King Stewart 's invasion of the settlement the music and lyrics are identical to that of Mel Brooks ' Blazing Saddles , with Rock Ridge changed to Quahog . A lady says of King Stewart , " I didn 't vote for him , " alluding to Monty Python and the Holy Grail . Harry MacAfee from the film Bye Bye Birdie makes an appearance . Peter 's appearance is similar to Kajagoogoo frontman Limahl .

= = Reception = =

In its original airing in the United States , " Peter 's Progress " was watched by 7 @.@ 33 million homes , which was up from the previous episode , and was the most watched show in the " Animation Domination " block , beating the season finales of The Simpsons , American Dad ! and King of the Hill . It acquired a 3 @.@ 7 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , finishing third in its timeslot after the season finales of Survivor : Tocantins and Desperate Housewives .

The episode received mixed reviews from critics . Ahsan Haque of IGN said that " Family Guy has never really done anything particularly special for the last episode of any season [...] and despite the obvious efforts to increase the animation quality and try to tell a complete story in this episode , it didn 't turn out to be the winning effort that will keep fans eagerly awaiting the show 's return next season " . Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club gave the episode a D , and called it an " unfortunate

and unfunny flashback [...] with lots of incest gags [that] was genuinely queasy @-@ making , but not in a way that made anyone laugh from the shock of recognition or anything like that " , but said that Family Guy can be " damn funny when it wants to be " , referring to the Fox promos that take up the bottom quarter of the screen . Robin Pierson of The TV Critic gave the episode a positive review , stating : " Good fun story , good fun jokes " , but said that the end " felt flat " because of the Revenge of the Nerds music sequence .