

= Partial Terms of Endearment =

" Partial Terms of Endearment " is the 21st and final episode of the eighth season of the animated comedy series Family Guy . Directed by Joseph Lee and written by Danny Smith , the episode originally aired on BBC Three in the United Kingdom on June 20 , 2010 , and has not been allowed to air in the United States on Fox , the original television network of the series , due to its controversial nature . This is the last episode that is presented in standard format , the rest of the series uses high definition format and it is the final episode to have the current opening sequence which was updated during the second season . In the episode , Lois is approached by an old friend from college who asks her to become a surrogate mother . After arguing with her husband Peter who is against the idea , Lois decides to become a gestational carrier and undergoes in vitro fertilisation . However , while Lois is pregnant , the biological parents are killed in an automobile accident . Lois and Peter have to decide whether to abort the fetus , or carry it to term and give the baby up for adoption . Peter attempts to persuade his wife to get an abortion but changes his mind after pro @-@ life activists convince him that abortion is murder . Despite Peter 's objections , Lois goes ahead with the abortion .

The episode was banned from airing on the Fox Broadcasting Company due to concerns over its portrayal of the controversial subject of abortion . This is the second episode of Family Guy to be prevented from airing during the episode 's respective regular season run ; the first episode was the third season 's " When You Wish Upon a Weinstein " . Unlike that episode , Cartoon Network 's adult @-@ oriented block Adult Swim refused to air it upon Fox 's request . It was first announced at the 2009 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International .

Critical responses to the episode were mostly positive ; critics praised the storyline , cultural references and its assessment of the subject of abortion . The episode was watched in just under a million homes in its original airing in the United Kingdom . Guest performances included Gary Beach , Jackson Douglas , Phil LaMarr , Will Sasso , Julia Sweeney , Wil Wheaton and Michael York , along with several recurring guest voice actors for the series . " Partial Terms of Endearment " was released on DVD in the United States , along with Seth and Alex Almost @-@ Live Comedy Show , on September 28 , 2010 . Even though this episode was placed at the end of season 8 , the episode was placed between " Go Stewie Go " and " Peter @-@ assment " in the UK .

= = Plot = =

While attending her college reunion at Salve Regina University with Peter , Lois spots her old roommate , Naomi Robinson , with whom she had a brief lesbian relationship in college . Peter is shocked but excited to discover that Lois was bisexual in college . Naomi indicates that she would like to discuss an important matter with them at their home . Assuming that he will participate in a threesome with Lois and Naomi , Peter sends Chris , Meg , Stewie , and Brian out of the house . After Naomi arrives , she introduces her husband Dale . Peter expects that they will now be participating in an orgy , and tries to seduce the three of them while dressed in various costumes . When they clear the air to a dismayed Peter that they 're not there for sex , Naomi and Dale tell Lois and Peter they 've had trouble conceiving and ask Lois to be a surrogate mother for them , and Lois considers the matter .

As the family eats breakfast the next morning , Lois reveals her intention to become a surrogate mother for Naomi and Dale , causing Peter to become upset at the thought of her being pregnant for nine months . Despite this , Lois decides to go to Dr. Hartman to have the in vitro fertilization performed , enduring more of Dr. Hartman 's shtick involving celebrity crossbreeds and having a tribe of bush men implant the egg with blowguns . A pregnancy test comes back positive the next day , and a furious Peter attempts to cause Lois to have a miscarriage before ultimately confronting her about the pregnancy . While she continues asserting her intention to provide a child to Naomi and Dale , Quahog 5 News suddenly reveals that Naomi and Dale died in a car crash . Devastated by the announcement , Lois questions whether she should have an abortion or continue with the pregnancy and put the baby up for adoption .

In an attempt to come to a decision , Lois and Peter decide to visit the local family @-@ planning center , and ultimately decide to abort the embryo . However , as Peter exits the center he encounters an anti @-@ abortion rally , where he is shown an anti @-@ abortion video by one of the protesters . The video causes him to reconsider about aborting the unborn baby . Returning home , Lois continues to advocate her right to choose , while Peter now attempts to argue the unborn child 's right to life and whether Lois has the responsibility of carrying it to term . At their wits ' end , the two decide to discuss the matter , once and for all . The next day , Lois talks with the family about " the wonderful new member of the Griffin family " , but then , after a few seconds of silence , Peter turns to the camera and says to the audience " We had the abortion " , promptly ending the episode .

= = Production and development = =

The episode was first announced at the 2009 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International on July 25 , 2009 , by series creator and executive producer Seth MacFarlane . It was written by fellow executive producer and series regular Danny Smith and directed by Joseph Lee , during the show 's eighth production season . The storyline was pitched by series regular Tom Devaney , and periodically references Billions and Billions (1997) , a book of essays by Carl Sagan . Seth MacFarlane asked Danny Smith to read Sagan 's essay , " Abortion : Is It Possible to Be Both ' Pro @-@ Life ' and ' Pro @-@ Choice ' " , before beginning to write the script . The episode was originally intended to air along with the rest of the eighth season schedule , and was approved for production by 20th Century Fox . However , the Fox Broadcasting Company asserted their right not to air the episode due to the subject matter . This was the second time that MacFarlane had been warned by Fox about the sensitive nature of an episode 's subject . Previously , the network had also disapproved of the season 3 episode " When You Wish Upon a Weinstein " , which was originally prevented from airing on Fox , but finally aired on Adult Swim , and eventually on Fox more than four years after it was rejected . Thinking the same would happen with " Partial Terms of Endearment " , MacFarlane believed that Fox would eventually run the episode on their network , stating , " Most of the time these things turn out to be nothing . " In a statement released by Fox , they noted their full support of " the producers ' right to make the episode and distribute it in whatever way they want . "

At the 2009 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International , MacFarlane announced that the episode would become available on a special DVD release , with series producer Kara Vallow confirming the release would be available on September 28 , 2010 , along with Seth and Alex 's Almost Live Comedy Show . A month after the announcement , Kevin Reilly , President of Fox Entertainment , stated that the final decision not to air the episode was largely due to concerns about finances and advertisers : " Of all the issues , [abortion] is the one that seems to be the most of a hot button . Particularly at that moment in time , the economy was really struggling and there were a lot of very tough conversations going on with clients . " Reilly said that " the advertisers know what they ? re getting " with Family Guy , and he thought that the episode handled the subject fine , but " this one felt like it could cause trouble , and it was just not worth it . " Despite the concerns in the U.S. about the episode , it aired on June 20 , 2010 , on BBC Three in the UK , as a part of the season 's regularly scheduled Sunday night run on the station . Although it was originally speculated that Adult Swim might air the episode , Fox stated that there were no plans to air it on their network . Several months before the episode debuted on television , the script was performed in a live table read at the Ricardo Montalbán Theatre in Hollywood , California on August 12 , 2009 . The special reading was attended by Academy of Television Arts and Sciences voters on the heels of the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards . Family Guy was nominated for Outstanding Comedy Series , becoming the first animated program to be nominated in the category since The Flintstones in 1961 . Commenting about the event , MacFarlane said , " We did this to drum up Emmy votes , so we could lose by fewer votes . "

In addition to the regular cast , actor Jackson Douglas , husband of Alex Borstein , appeared in the episode as Dale Robinson , actress Julia Sweeney appeared as Naomi Robinson , actress Rutina Wesley appeared as Cheryl , actor Wil Wheaton cameoed as an anti @-@ abortion protester and

actor Michael York voiced the nature narrator . Actor Gary Beach , voice actor Phil LaMarr , and comedian / actor Will Sasso guest starred as various characters . Recurring guest voice actress Alexandra Breckenridge , actor Ralph Garman , and writers Danny Smith , Alec Sulkin and John Viener made minor appearances throughout the episode . Recurring guest cast member Patrick Warburton guest appeared in the episode as well . This episode marked Sweeney 's first guest appearance since the season two episode " Wasted Talent " .

" Partial Terms of Endearment " , along with Seth and Alex Almost @-@ Live Comedy Show , was released on DVD in the United States on September 28 , 2010 . The set includes a brief audio commentary by Seth MacFarlane , voice actress Alex Borstein , writer Danny Smith and director Joseph Lee , as well as animatics , a table read of the episode , and nine downloadable original Family Guy songs . It was also released for digital retail in the United States the same day without the bonus features included on the DVD .

= = Cultural references = =

In the opening scene of the episode , Peter and Lois are shown entering her alma mater at Salve Regina University in Newport , Rhode Island . Later , after they are approached by Lois 's ex @-@ roommate Naomi and her husband Dale , Lois announces her intention to carry the couple 's baby , causing Peter to question why Lois is the one who has to become the couple 's surrogate . Their daughter , Meg , suggests that she could carry the baby herself , but Lois objects due to Meg 's inability to have a boyfriend " for more than a few weeks . " Meg notes her relationship with Sesame Street character Count von Count , who only left her after discovering she had at least three nipples .

Before Lois prepares to undergo in vitro fertilization , Dr. Hartman shows her several photos of babies conceived by celebrity couples , including actress Shelley Duvall and singer @-@ songwriter James Blunt ; actress Hilary Swank and actor Gary Busey ; Olympic medalist Florence Griffith @-@ Joyner and physicist Stephen Hawking ; and actress , writer and comedian Tina Fey and actor Joaquin Phoenix . Beginning the procedure , Lois objects to Dr. Hartman 's method of embryonic insertion . In response , he replies , " Well , perhaps you could tell them ? if only you spoke Hovitos , " a reference to Raiders of the Lost Ark . Later , in an attempt to cause Lois to have a miscarriage , Peter lays down a series of Grey 's Anatomy DVDs in order to lure Lois into being punched in the stomach by the " Acme Miscarriage Kit " , a boxing glove attached to a crossbow . In a reference to the Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies cartoon series Wile E. Coyote and Road Runner , Peter ultimately ends up missing with the crossbow , causing the glove to bounce and hit a large rock and land inches in front of him as he is standing on a narrow cliff . The ground then drops out from underneath his feet , causing him to fall like Wile E. Coyote .

As Peter exits the abortion clinic , he notices a pro @-@ life rally nearby . At the rally , a protester shows Peter a video tape discouraging abortion (as a reference to the cult classic 1936 American propaganda exploitation film Reefer Madness) , portraying it as murder , larceny , jaywalking and securities fraud . The tape claims that abortion prevented Nazi leader Adolf Hitler 's would @-@ be assassin , a fourth Stooge brother , of The Three Stooges , and Islamic extremist Osama bin Laden 's America @-@ loving brother from being born .

= = Reception = =

The episode was viewed in just under a million homes in its original airing on BBC Three in the United Kingdom , earning an audience share of 5 @.@ 7 percent , despite airing simultaneously with Desperate Housewives on E4 . The reception of the episode represented a slight decrease from the previous week 's ratings . In a review of the episode 's original broadcast , The Mail on Sunday rated the double bill of " Partial Terms of Endearment " and " Go Stewie Go " as four out of five stars .

Reviews of the episode 's release on DVD were mostly positive , calling the episode " wickedly funny , no matter how offensive . " Frazier Moore of the Associated Press commented that " What ,

in other hands , could have been a serious , even heart @-@ wrenching story is on Family Guy a devilish burlesque ? not to mention a wickedly astute examination of the current abortion clash . " Moore also noted , however , that " the uninitiated , the faint @-@ of @-@ heart and , most of all , the anti @-@ abortion crowd should maybe choose to take a pass . " Dave Itzkoff of The New York Times deemed the episode " typical of that audacious Fox animated comedy , teeming with rapid @-@ fire jokes and willfully offensive non sequiturs about disabled animals , God , Nazis , bodily functions and the sexual habits of ' Sesame Street ' characters . " In a slightly more mixed review of the DVD release , Cindy White of IGN criticized the episode for its shock value , but appreciated " that the writers didn 't cop out in the end , and actually picked a side . " White went on to comment that it was " hard to believe that the writers ever expected ' Partial Terms of Endearment ' to make it to air " and that " even devoted , longtime fans of the show may be a little uncomfortable with the subject matter . " White gave the release a 7 out of 10 rating . Assessing Family Guy 's impact on television , Mary Elizabeth Williams of Salon commented on the portrayal of abortion : " That Family Guy , that doofy , generally unfunny bastion of sophomoric jokes , should be one of the few shows brave enough to even address the topic is bananas [...] And that Fox wouldn 't air the episode says we 're still a long way from having anybody on ' Glee ' or ' The Office ' or ' House ' look at those telltale lines on the stick and finally decide what millions of American women have ? that they 're just not ready for motherhood . "