

= Wake Up / Escape from the Citadel =

" Wake Up " and " Escape from the Citadel " are the first two episodes of the sixth season of the American animated television series Adventure Time . " Wake Up " was written and storyboarded by Andy Ristaino and Cole Sanchez , whereas " Escape from the Citadel " was storyboarded by Tom Herpich and Steve Wolfhard . Both episodes ' stories were developed by Kent Osborne , Pendleton Ward , Jack Pendarvis , and Adam Muto . The two episodes originally aired on Cartoon Network on April 21 , 2014 . The episodes guest star Kumail Nanjiani as Prismo , M. Emmet Walsh as the Cosmic Owl , Miguel Ferrer as Death , Ron Perlman as the Lich , and Stephen Root as Martin .

The series follows the adventures of Finn (voiced by Jeremy Shada) , a human boy , and his best friend and adoptive brother Jake (voiced by John DiMaggio) , a dog with magical powers to change shape and grow and shrink at will . In " Wake Up " , Finn and Jake try to commit a cosmic crime in order to gain access to a multiverse prison called the Citadel to meet Finn 's father is trapped . Prismo (voiced by Nanjiani) offers to help them , but he is murdered by the Lich (voiced by Perlman) . In " Escape from the Citadel " , Jake , Finn , and the Lich are transported to the Citadel , where Finn and Jake meet Martin (voiced by Root) , Finn 's father , who is not what Finn expected . The three are forced to run from the Lich , as he begins to destroy the Citadel . At this time , Martin flees , and Finn tries to give chase , but his grass sword takes over his entire arm , causing Finn to lose it . Despite Finn 's loss of his father and limb , Finn and Jake are vindicated when the Lich is turned into a giant baby .

Both " Wake Up " and " Escape from the Citadel " , were met with critical acclaim . Robert Lloyd of the Los Angeles Times felt that the episode was exciting , whereas Oliver Sava of The A.V. Club applauded the episode 's use of humor as a way of balancing out the heavier aspects of the plot . Many of the reviews also praised Nanjiani 's return as Prismo . Reviews were also complimentary towards the darker nature of " Escape from the Citadel " . Both episodes were watched by 3 @.@ 321 million viewers .

= = Plot = =

= = " Wake Up " = =

Jake is partying with Prismo (voiced by Kumail Nanjiani) . At the party , Peppermint Butler (voiced by Steve Little) and Death (voiced by Miguel Ferrer) note that the Lich (voiced by Ron Perlman) is sitting ominously in the corner . Prismo explains that , after the events of an earlier episode , the Lich , an entity driven by the pursuit of causing mass death , is now harmless , functioning like a machine without a purpose . Later , Finn confronts Jake about the revelation that his father is still alive . Jake convinces him to ask Prismo to send them to the Citadel . Prismo explains that the only way to gain access to the Citadel is to commit a cosmic crime ; he instructs Finn and Jake to find and wake a certain old man who is asleep in the debris surrounding his Time Room .

It is revealed that this man is the actual , corporeal Prismo , and the version Finn and Jake are familiar with is merely a dream . Prismo explains that killing a wishmaster ? as in , waking up the man ? is a cosmic crime , but that he will return when his corporal body falls back asleep . At that instant , the Lich springs into action , physically waking and destroying Prismo , killing him . Suddenly , an interdimensional being arrives and begins taking the Lich to the Citadel , to which Finn and Jake give chase .

= = " Escape from the Citadel " = =

Finn and Jake grab hold of the captured Lich as he is transported to the Citadel . Once there , they discover a human figure encased in a crystal @-@ like substance , who they conclude must be Finn 's father . Meanwhile , the Lich uses his malevolent magic to begin melting the Citadel and turning its prisoners to his will . Finn 's father , Martin (voiced by Stephen Root) , is eventually freed by the

Lich 's actions , and as the Citadel guardians battle the escaping prisoners he , Finn , and Jake try to escape . One of the Citadel guardians , however , uses its laser and melts away part of Martin 's flesh on his leg . Finn retrieves some guardian blood , which repairs and heals Martin . However , Finn starts to realize that his father is not the hero that he thought he would be .

Soon thereafter , Martin leaves Finn and Jake to save himself and the Lich appears , ordering Finn to fall . He delivers a monologue , explaining his desire to extinguish all life in the universe . Finn , overcome by the Lich 's power , feebly tries to fight back and ends up throwing some of the guardian blood on the Lich , which causes him to grotesquely begin growing flesh . With the Lich disposed of , Finn pursues his father , who is hitching a ride with escaping criminals on a loose piece of the Citadel , still held on by a vein . One of the criminals cuts the vein , but Finn holds on , causing his grass sword to envelope his arm and eventually rip away , severing it . Martin escapes , and Finn and Jake share a somber moment . Jake eventually reveals to Finn that the Lich has now been turned into a large humanoid baby ; the two leave him on the doorstep of Tree Trunks (voiced by Polly Lou Livingston) and Mr. Pig 's house .

= = Production = =

" Wake Up " was written and storyboarded by Andy Ristaino and Cole Sanchez , whereas " Escape from the Citadel " was storyboarded by Tom Herpich and Steve Wolfhard ; both episodes ' stories were developed by Kent Osborne , Pendleton Ward , Jack Pendarvis , and Adam Muto . Art direction was handled by Nick Jennings , whereas supervising direction was helmed by Elizabeth Ito (for " Wake Up ") and Muto (for " Escape from the Citadel ") . The design for the Citadel , which is featured in both episodes , was crafted by series storyboard artist Tom Herpich , who used Google SketchUp to design a 3 @-@ D model of the structure .

" Wake Up " featured the return of Kumail Nanjiani as Prismo , M. Emmet Walsh as the Cosmic Owl , and Miguel Ferrer as Death and one of the heads of Grob Gob Glob Grod . " Escape from the Citadel " featured the introduction of Finn 's father , Martin is voiced by Stephen Root . Root had previously voiced the characters Grimby and the Royal Tart Toter in the second season episode " The Other Tarts " . Ethan Maher voiced the baby version of the Lich . Herpich himself played the part of the Void Caster .

= = Cultural references = =

When the Lich is addressing Finn , he refers to the escaped criminals as " Ancients " , a reference to one of the many name for deities in H.P. Lovecraft 's Cthulhu mythos . Oliver Sava of The A.V. Club wrote that the transformation of Finn 's arm was similar to Tetsuo Shima 's transformation in the anime Akira . Jason Krell of io9 described similarities between the scene immediately following the loss of Finn 's arm and the end of the 1980 film The Empire Strikes Back .

= = Reception = =

" Wake Up " and " Escape from the Citadel " , first aired on Cartoon Network on April 21 , 2014 . The episodes were viewed by 3 @. @ 321 million viewers and scored a 0 @. @ 7 Nielsen rating in the 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ old demographic . Nielsen ratings are audience measurement systems that determine the audience size and composition of television programming in the United States , which means that the episodes were seen by 0 @. @ 7 percent of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds who were watching television at the time of the episodes ' airing . Furthermore , the episode was the 23rd most @- @ watched cable program on the night it aired . These episodes were the last to have been watched by over 3 million viewers .

Both episodes received largely positive reviews from television critics . Robert Lloyd of the Los Angeles Times , wrote that " Wake Up " and " Escape from the Citadel " form a " beautiful , strange and exciting " two @- @ part special episode of the series . He specifically cited the plot as a highlight , as well as the return to the series by Nanjiani as Prismo . Eric Kohn of IndieWire awarded

both this episode and " Escape from the Citadel " an " A ? " , writing that while the episode featured extremely dark material , it was never presented in a way so as to drive viewers away . Kohn wrote highly of the comedy and naturalistic dialogue that took place during Prismo 's opening party in " Wake Up " , and felt that the addition about Prismo 's origins helped the show slip " in a certain wise gaze [concerning] the fog of time " . In regards to " Escape from the Citadel " , he also noted that " the fate of the Lich takes an amusing new turn , " and that the storyline concerning " Finn 's cursed sword arm ? an ingredient that has festered in the sidelines for weeks ? reaches a beguiling new state . "

Oliver Sava of The A.V. Club awarded " Wake Up " and " Escape from the Citadel " an " A " . Sava praised Nanjiani 's " delightfully low @-@ key " performance in the former , noting that his " soft , smooth voice is perfect for a character that is so laid back he 's completely flat , and his casual delivery of ominous lines helps keep the tone light as the material gets heavier . " Furthermore , he noted that the jokes were more pronounced in this episode , making the opening scene during Prismo 's party that much funnier . Sava felt that the Lich 's monologue to Finn in " Escape from the Citadel " was " even creepier thanks to Ron Perlman 's gravely voice for The Lich and the evocative staging by writers / storyboard artists Tom Herpich and Steve Wolfhard " , who were able to " achieve a fascinating combination of terror and hope when Finn touches The Lich with Guardian blood and starts a grotesquely stunning transformation that strips the villain of his power by making him a giant baby . " Sava also complimented the episode for being full of harsh realizations concerning Finn 's father and the vulnerability of his body . Ultimately he concluded that " the developments of these two episodes dramatically alter the series ' status quo to give this season an added boost of momentum from the very beginning . "