

= Marge on the Lam =

" Marge on the Lam " is the sixth episode of The Simpsons ' fifth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on November 4 , 1993 . When Marge invites her neighbor Ruth Powers to attend the ballet with her , the two become friends and begin to go out , making Homer jealous as he wants Marge to spend time with him . Ruth and Marge agree to remain friends but not go out together after a large police pursuit with Chief Wiggum . It was written by Bill Canterbury and directed by Mark Kirkland . Phil Hartman , Pamela Reed and George Fenneman guest star .

= = Plot = =

After donating money to public television , Marge receives complimentary ballet tickets . She asks Homer to accompany her , and much to Marge 's surprise he agrees , confusing ballet with a circus . On the day of the ballet , however , he inadvertently gets his arm stuck in a vending machine while trying to steal a can of soda from it and then gets his other arm stuck in a candy machine , and so is unable to attend the ballet as a result . In disbelief about Homer 's story , Marge invites her neighbor , Ruth Powers to attend with her . They both enjoy themselves and arrange to go out again the next night . Marge and Ruth 's friendship annoys Homer , who feels Marge should be spending time with him instead . However , ignoring Homer 's protests , Marge and Ruth visit bars and clubs in Springfield , and Ruth later shows Marge how to use a pistol .

Homer , attempting to prove to himself he can have a good time without Marge , leaves Bart , Lisa and Maggie under the supervision of Lionel Hutz and goes out by himself . Finding Moe 's Tavern more depressing than usual , Homer visits the hilltop where he and Marge used to come to on dates before they got married . Ironically , Marge has also taken Ruth there to finish the night , but they leave just before Homer arrives . Chief Wiggum finds Homer depressed and offers him a ride home , which Homer accepts . As Ruth and Marge are driving home , Chief Wiggum , with Homer as a passenger in his patrol car , spots Ruth 's car and claims that one tail light is slightly smaller than the other . He decides to pull them over . Reluctant to stop , Ruth reveals to Marge that the car she 's driving actually belongs to her ex @-@ husband , and that she had stolen it as revenge for stiffing her on child support (although Marge points out that Ruth could 've just reported him to child services) . Ruth leads the police on a high @-@ speed chase rather than turning herself in . Homer realizes it is Marge in the car , and believes she is leaving him after discovering that she can have a better time without him . Ruth successfully evades Wiggum by turning off her headlights , which leads him to believe her car is a ghost car .

After seeing Marge and Ruth again while cooking breakfast on his car engine , Wiggum continues his chase of the two , aided by other Springfield Police vehicles . After noticing a cliff ahead , Homer believes that Marge and Ruth are attempting suicide because of him and , using a megaphone , apologizes to Marge for all the mistakes he has made in their marriage and urges them not to drive into the chasm . Ruth , who had not noticed the chasm , slams on the brakes and stops in time ; however , Homer and Wiggum fail to stop and fly over the edge of the cliff only to crash into a landfill . The episode ends with a description of the fates of each of the characters involved in the episode .

= = Production = =

Dan Castellaneta actually used a bullhorn to record his part when Homer was talking on one . The sunset shown when Marge and Ruth are at the café was airbrushed in , although the episode was done before computer animation was put into practice .

= = Cultural references = =

Much of the plot , including Ruth 's blue convertible and Homer and Wiggum 's fall over the chasm , is a parody of the Ridley Scott film *Thelma & Louise* . Crystal Buzz Cola is a reference to the fad

drink Crystal Pepsi , and when Homer reaches into the vending machine , a can of Fresca is seen in a skeletal hand . The comedian who performs at the telethon who the Simpson family does not find funny is a parody of Garrison Keillor . Ruth mistakenly inserts Lesley Gore 's song " Sunshine , Lollipops and Rainbows " into her car stereo before beginning her and Marge 's wild night out ; later , Chief Wiggum plays the song on his police cruiser 's stereo as " appropriate " car chase music . After extracting the wrong tape , Ruth pops in " Welcome to the Jungle " by Guns N ' Roses . The scene when Homer is in Moe 's Tavern is emulated from Thelma & Louise . Quimby dancing in a night club is in reference to the Kennedys . When Marge gets hit on in the bar , the guy who does not talk is a caricature of show runner David Mirkin . The old man that comes out when Marge is shooting his cans is a parody of Walter Brennan . The episode 's closing sequence is a reference to Dragnet . George Fenneman recorded the ending in the same fashion as he did on Dragnet .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " Marge on the Lam " finished 32nd in ratings for the week of November 1 ? 7 , 1993 , with a Nielsen rating of 13 @.@ 1 , equivalent to approximately 12 @.@ 2 million viewing households . It was the highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week , beating Beverly Hills , 90210 .

The authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide , Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , said " Marge getting to let her hair down is always a treat , and in Ruth Powers she seems to have a real friend . A pity we don 't see more of her " . The A.V. Club named Homer 's line " Stupid TV ! Be more funny ! " as one of the quotes from The Simpsons that can be used in everyday situations . On their 2000 album And Then Nothing Turned Itself Inside Out , indie rock band Yo La Tengo has a song entitled " Let 's Save Tony Orlando 's House " ; the song is named after a telethon in Troy McClure 's fictional CV seen in this episode .