

= Betty ( Adventure Time ) =

" Betty " is the forty @-@ eighth episode of the fifth season of the American animated television series Adventure Time . It was written and storyboarded by Ako Castuera and Jesse Moynihan , from a story by Kent Osborne , Pendleton Ward , Jack Pendarvis , Adam Muto , and Moynihan . It originally aired on Cartoon Network on February 24 , 2014 . The episode guest @-@ stars Lena Dunham as the eponymous character , Betty . The entry also saw the return of Miguel Ferrer , Steve Agee , Duncan Trussell , and Maurice LaMarche as various characters .

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 this episode , the Ice King reverts to Simon ( both voiced by Tom Kenny ) after being exposed to an anti @-@ magic being named Bella Noche , and gets help from Finn , Jake , and Marceline in order to get Betty , his former fiancée , back . Once he succeeds in bringing her back , however , he begins to die , forcing Betty herself to defeat Belle Noche .

An episode centered on Betty had been promised by the crew at San Diego Comic @-@ Con International in 2012 . Due to the subject matter and length of the episode , several scenes had to be cut or trimmed for time , since so much was being placed in the episode . A review by Oliver Sava of The A.V. Club was complimentary towards the story , and Sava also applauded Dunham 's voice @-@ acting .

= = Plot = =

= = = Background = = =

In the context of the series , the Ice King is a recurring antagonist of the series , and frequently kidnaps princesses throughout Ooo ; although he is often at odds with Finn and Jake , he is generally not a serious threat . In the third season episode " Holly Jolly Secrets " , it is revealed that the Ice King was originally a human archaeologist named Simon Petrikov who , after placing a mysterious ice crown on his head , became crazed with magic and scared off the love of his life , Betty , whom he never saw again . In the fourth season episode " I Remember You " , it was revealed that the Ice King and 1000 @-@ year @-@ old Marceline the Vampire Queen had originally met following the events of the mysterious Mushroom War , a cataclysmic war that destroyed modern human society , and " Simon & Marcy " revealed that the two shared a father @-@ daughter bond .

= = = Events = = =

After Laser Wizard , Bufo , Forest Wizard , and ? unwittingly ? Ice King help a being named Bella Noche pass over into Wizard City , it reveals itself to be a creature of pure anti @-@ magic . As such , the jewels from Ice King 's crown are stripped of their magic , and Ice King reverts to his former self : Simon Petrikov ( both voiced by Tom Kenny ) . Simon , initially unaware of where he is , steals a magic carpet from Ash ( voiced by Steve Agee ) , flies to the Ice Kingdom , and enters a hidden sanctum wherein elements of his previous life ? such as books , artifacts , and his clothing ? have been preserved . He phones Marceline , telling her to rush over and bring her stuffed teddy bear Hambo .

Marceline arrives with Finn and Jake , and the trio learn that Simon is dying since he is over a thousand years old . As such , he wants to create a portal to the past and apologize to his fiancée Betty for making her leave him . Hambo , filled with sentimentality , is the key to the portal . Marceline , realizing that Hambo will be destroyed but that she will enable her former protector to see the love of his life for one last time , agrees . The portal is opened just moments after Simon had first put on the ice crown and scared Betty . Simon from the future appears to her , explains the situation , and apologizes . Betty , realizing what has happened jumps through the portal and kisses

Simon , only for the portal to close and Simon to collapse .

Betty instantaneously realizes that Simon needs magic in order to survive , so she places him on the magic carpet and flies it to Wizard City . On the way , Death ( voiced by Miguel Ferrer ) appears to Simon in a vision , offering his one and only chance of escaping the curse of the crown . Simon refuses , and Betty attacks and eventually destroys Bella Noche . Simon reverts to Ice King , unaware of what happened . Later , he recounts the events to a captured Muscle Princess , while Betty ? who survived the struggle with Bella Noche ? watches sadly from a window and flies off on the magic carpet .

= = Production = =

" Betty " was written and storyboarded by Ako Castuera and Jesse Moynihan , from a story by Kent Osborne , Pendleton Ward , Jack Pendarvis , Adam Muto , and Moynihan . Art direction was handled by Nick Jennings , whereas supervising direction was co @-@ helmed by Nate Cash and Muto . An episode centered on Betty had been promised by the crew at San Diego Comic @-@ Con International in 2012 . Moynihan had originally submitted an idea to the outline writers , who in turn worked with him and rewrote it to produce the final episode . Moynihan later noted that his personal intention for the episode was to " convey the idea that for Simon , death was preferable to life as Ice King , but that love and sacrifice to another person could provide hope for a future . " Huntress Wizard , a character popular with the Adventure Time fanbase , was originally supposed to be featured in the episode . Because " Betty " was already " jam packed " , everything " non @-@ essential " had to be cut out of the storyboard , which left Moynihan " heartbroken " . He later used the " deleted scene " for the episode 's promotional artwork .

" Betty " stars comedian and Girls creator Lena Dunham as Betty . Dunham and Adventure Time head writer Kent Osborne were Facebook friends , and knew each other from the independent film scene . When the crew approached her , she was excited and interested because she had a goddaughter who was a fan . She recorded her lines while she was in production for Girls in New York . The episode also marks the return of several guest stars . Miguel Ferrer reprises his role as Death , and Steve Agee returns as Ash . Ferrer had last appeared in the fourth season episode " Sons of Mars " , whereas Agee had appeared in the third season episode " Memory of a Memory " . Comedian Duncan Trussell reprises his role as Ron James ; he had previous appeared in the fifth season episode " Wizards Only , Fools " . Maurice LaMarche reprises his recurring role voicing the Grand Master Wizard ; he also voices Belle Noche in the series .

= = Reception = =

" Betty " aired on February 24 , 2014 on Cartoon Network . The episode was watched by 1 @.@ 713 million viewers , and received a Nielsen household rating of 1 @.@ 2 . Nielsen ratings are audience measurement systems that determine the audience size and composition of television programming in the United States , which means that the episode was seen by 1 @.@ 2 percent of all households at the time of the broadcast . The episode was the 4th most @-@ watched episode aired by Cartoon Network for the week of February 24 to March 2 , 2014 .

Oliver Sava of The A.V. Club awarded it an " A " and called it a " huge episode for the Ice King " , because it marked " a major shift in the character 's future by reconnecting with his past lover " , Betty . Sava noted that it was designed to " jump @-@ start the momentum by introducing new characters and storylines for future episodes " , and that its premise opens up various storytelling avenues for the future of the series . He also applauded the casting of Dunham as Betty , noting that she " finds the emotional truth underneath the absurd situation to balance the drama and comedy of the script . " Nexi Pandell of Wired magazine named the episode one of " Episodes You Can ? t Skip " .