

= Lord of the Pi 's =

" Lord of the Pi 's " is the eighth episode of the third season of the American mystery television series Veronica Mars , and the fifty @-@ second episode overall . Written by executive producer Diane Ruggiero and directed by Steve Gomer , the episode premiered on The CW on November 21 , 2006 . The series depicts the adventures of Veronica Mars (Kristen Bell) as she deals with life as a college student while moonlighting as a private detective .

In this episode , Veronica and Keith (Enrico Colantoni) look into the mysterious disappearance of a wealthy heiress and college board trustee , Selma Rose (Patty Hearst) . The pair eventually find her in hiding in order to avoid a complex scam in which her husband would cheat her out of money in a divorce settlement . Meanwhile , Veronica investigates and eventually finds out some startling information related to the radical feminist Lilith House ? that they faked several of the rapes supposedly perpetrated by the Hearst serial rapist . In addition , Logan and Veronica 's relationship becomes even more tumultuous , with Logan eventually coming to the realization that they need to break up .

Patty Hearst guest stars in the episode , something that was planned since July 2006 . Hearst did not know that she would be appearing on the show until after she was chosen due to a lack of communication between her and her agent . She was reluctant to appear as a character similar to herself , but she eventually agreed . In addition , Hearst 's character was initially scheduled to have a lesbian kiss with Keri Lynn Pratt 's character , but the scene was vetoed by the network for unknown reasons .

" Lord of the Pi 's " was viewed by 2 @.@ 57 million viewers in its initial airing and received a polarized reaction from television critics , with commentators being divided over Kristen Bell 's performance , Hearst 's appearance , and the plot twist that the feminist Lilith House faked several rapes . Eric Goldman of IGN thought that it was the best episode so far of season three , while Rowan Kaiser of The A.V. Club thought that it was too varied tonally .

= = Plot synopsis = =

After two people find Chip Diller (David Tom) , the president of the Pig Sigma fraternity , passed out , Veronica gets hired as a photographer for the Hearst newspaper . Logan (Jason Dohring) requests that Veronica stop looking into the serial rapist case , but she denies and they fight . The Hearst board of trustees is going to decide whether or not to shut down the fraternities , but an important member , Selma Rose , goes missing in the middle of the party . Dean O ? Dell (Ed Begley , Jr .) immediately believes that she ? s gone missing , asking Veronica and Keith to help . Veronica speaks to one of the feminist Lilith House girls , while Keith speaks to Selma ? s husband . Veronica poses as a reporter to get news from Sheriff Lamb (Michael Muhney) on the case . Veronica speaks to Dick (Ryan Hansen) , who says that Chip Diller had a Roman numeral easter egg implanted in his anus , and Veronica suspects the Lilith House girls .

Keith finds out that Selma might have disappeared to get away from her husband . Veronica shows Wallace the Roman numerals , and they deduce that it is a date , and Veronica learns that a sorority house member died on that day . Veronica confronts a sorority girl about the dead member , and she implies that others believe that something happened to her . After finding out that leaving her husband after ten years would be beneficial to Selma , Veronica and Keith break into the Roses ? house and find Selma on the couch . Selma tells the pair why she has ? disappeared ? : Mr. Rose is trying to scam her for more money and has blackmailed her with knowledge of a lesbian affair with her dog walker .

Chip Diller gets into a fight with the other Pi Sigs , and Veronica gets involved . However , Veronica is pulled away by a security guard hired by Logan . Veronica is angry with Logan about this , but they eventually reconcile and say ? I love you ? to each other . Sheriff Lamb arrests Mr. Rose when Selma is found in the guesthouse , and Selma forces Mr. Rose to give her a favorable settlement . Selma decides to dissolve the Greek system . Veronica discusses the girl who fell off the roof , and she attempted suicide when the Pi Sigs mistreated her . Veronica states her belief that the Lilith

House girls faked more than one rape , and Logan becomes distraught when he sees Veronica decline his phone call .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Diane Ruggiero and directed by Steve Gomer , marking Ruggiero 's fifteenth writing credit , and Gomer 's fourth and final directing credit for the series . The episode features a guest appearance by Patty Hearst , a wealthy heiress and famous kidnapping victim . Series creator Rob Thomas came up with the idea for Hearst 's storyline in July 2006 , stating , " If we can get Patty Hearst to play a board of trustees member ? what if she got kidnapped ? That would be a pretty great story to tell . It 's not an idea we 've broken , but it 's up on the wall as a possibility . " Hearst had recently appeared on single @-@ episode parts on Boston Common and Son of the Beach . Due to a miscommunication between Thomas , Hearst , and her agent , Hearst was booked for Veronica Mars before she knew about the guest role , with Thomas telling TV Guide that she was playing a character that was similar to herself . Hearst described reacting to the casting news : " I was on the computer one day and read that I was going to be on Veronica Mars . Rob Thomas was giving an interview and happily saying , ' Oh yes , and we ? re very excited . ' " After hearing this news , Hearst contacted her agent and jokingly asked her when the agent was planning on telling her that she would be appearing on the show .

Hearst was reluctant to play a character similar to herself , commenting , " I 'd never gone in and done as cameo as myself or anything , and I wouldn 't do that . Yes , the college is called Hearst ? which I thought was funny , and it 's certainly not related to publishing . " Hearst had never previously accepted roles where she was asked to play herself , stating that it was a " pathetic attempt to get attention " when other celebrities played themselves or characters similar to themselves . Hearst had heard of Veronica Mars and seen several episodes prior to her appearance ; nevertheless , she still needed to talk to Thomas about the series and her character before agreeing to guest star , commenting that she discovered that the character 's background was not exceedingly similar to her own life , as " Selma 's situation is nothing like anything I 've had to deal with . " When reading the script for the first time , Hearst was amused by the fact that her character was the heiress to the " Hearst Mart fortune " , comparing it to Walmart ; she stated , " when I read that in the script , I burst out laughing . It was a spit @-@ take kind of thing . I almost fell over . " When asked whether or not the character would become a recurring one , she responded that the idea had not come up in discussions with the crew . However , she stated that she would accept if given the opportunity , and she particularly enjoyed working with Kristen Bell , Enrico Colantoni , and Ed Begley , Jr ..

On the day of the episode 's airing , Hearst expected that most Veronica Mars fans would not remember her kidnapping and the subsequent events , stating " I won 't be a distraction for them . They can focus in on the juicy story line . " Charles Shaughnessy appears as Selma Rose 's husband , Budd . The episode was initially written to feature a lesbian kiss between Hearst 's character and Keri Lynn Pratt 's character , Hallie , when the two were discovered to be having an affair . However , The CW , the network the series aired on , stepped in and decided to cut the scene before it was filmed . Hearst reported , " I meet Keri and I 'm like , ' Hello . ' We didn 't know until we were on the set we couldn 't actually kiss . We were all set for that . " AOL TV commented that the network might have made the choice to prevent " Lord of the Pi 's " from becoming a lesbian kiss episode involving an older woman , while AfterEllen.com called the choice " bizarre " .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , the episode received 2 @.@ 57 million viewers , ranking 84th of 89 in the weekly rankings and marking a decrease from the previous episode , " Of Vice and Men " , which was viewed by 2 @.@ 69 million .

The episode received a polarized critical reaction . Eric Goldman , writing for IGN , gave the episode an 8 @.@ 5 out of 10 , indicating that it was " great " . He called it " the best so far of

season three , as it did a nice job of going back and forth between the mystery of the week , the ongoing rape storyline , and Veronica 's personal issues , with each aspect well @-@ represented . While displeased with Hearst 's acting , he called the storyline " good , fun stuff " . He also enjoyed the emotional advancement of Veronica and Logan 's relationship , writing that he showed genuine emotion in the episode , in contrast to his usual sarcastic demeanor . Reviewer Alan Sepinwall , on his blog What 's Alan Watching , called it " one of the season 's strongest episodes . " He elaborated , " With Diane Ruggiero on script , you know there 's going to be the funny [sic] . [?] Plus , we did get a Veronica / Keith team @-@ up , just on the Mystery of the Week instead of the rape arc . " Television Without Pity gave the episode a " B " .

Other critics were more mixed or negative , with many criticizing the negative reveal of the feminist Lilith House . Keith McDuffee of AOL TV thought that the episode raised more questions than it answered : such as " [the Lilith House girls] seem to accept that several rapes were faked , and then Veronica seems to just leave without that question being answered , " arguing that the abrupt ending to the scene constituted an out @-@ of @-@ character moment (she should have acted more negatively) . In addition , he criticized Bell 's performance , commenting " Speaking of Veronica , she seemed like she was on something tonight . Just outright acting silly @-@ odd , dancing around with some pretty lame jokes . " Price Peterson of TV.com wrote , " Honestly , that fake @-@ rape reveal was enough for me to flip my television the bird . [?] Can we please end this nonsense and get into a main storyline that isn 't bad and offensive ? " However , he also added , " so yeah , other than the faked rapes , this was a largely entertaining episode . " Rowan Kaiser of The A.V. Club was very negative towards the episode , calling it " downright weird " and that it " veers wildly in tone " . He also was critical of Hearst 's plotline , saying that it was too referential to real @-@ life events and fictional works to stand well on its own . Concluding , the reviewer wrote , " The oscillations between drama and comedy , normally the show 's strength , seem excessive . [?] And the rape storyline continues to be tonally difficult at best , tone @-@ deaf at worst . "

Tanner Stransky , writing for Entertainment Weekly , enjoyed some aspects of the episode and disliked others . " Last night 's Veronica Mars was one of those love @-@ it @-@ or @-@ hate @-@ it episodes . " He enjoyed the development of the rape case , Veronica 's jokes , and Logan 's character development , while he disliked the reason that the rapes occurred , Patty Hearst 's acting , Veronica 's meanness , and Wallace 's absence . BuzzFeed ranked the episode as the worst of the series , calling it unmemorable .