

= Lisa 's Wedding =

" Lisa 's Wedding " is the 19th episode of The Simpsons ' sixth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on March 19 , 1995 . The plot focuses around Lisa visiting a carnival fortune teller and learning about her future love . It was written by Greg Daniels and directed by Jim Reardon . Mandy Patinkin guest stars as Hugh Parkfield and Phil Hartman guest stars as Troy McClure . The episode won an Emmy Award in 1995 for Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Animated Program , becoming the third episode of The Simpsons to win the award .

= = Plot = =

The episode begins with the Simpson family visiting a renaissance fair . Homer eats eight different kinds of meat , and an embarrassed Lisa wanders off and eventually finds a fortune @-@ telling booth . Although Lisa is at first skeptical , the fortune teller gets her attention by telling Lisa the names of everyone in her family . She then uses tarot cards to predict Lisa 's future , and says she will tell Lisa the story of her true love .

The story then shifts to an Eastern University in 2010 (at the time of the episode 's broadcast , fifteen years in the future) , where a now 23 @-@ year @-@ old Lisa meets a English student named Hugh Parkfield . At first , the two quarrel over a book in the library and their respective academic talents , but the pair eventually fall madly in love . Hugh invites Lisa to come back to his home in England so she can meet his parents . While there , Hugh asks Lisa to marry him ; she immediately accepts .

The next day , Lisa calls home to tell Marge of the news ; Marge promises that she will prevent Homer from ruining the wedding . Marge is still a housewife , Bart (now 25) works as a successful building demolition expert , Maggie is a teenager who wears a necklace with her pacifier attached and apparently never shuts up (although each time she opens her mouth in the episode , she is interrupted) and Homer still works at the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant in Sector 7G , with Milhouse as his supervisor . Lisa and Hugh travel to Springfield , where Lisa is worried that her family will embarrass her . Things get off to a bad start when Bart and Homer accidentally set the British flag on fire , which they extinguish by throwing it on the ground and pouring compost on it .

At dinner , Lisa plans on going for a wedding dress fitting and Homer decides to take Hugh out to Moe 's Tavern . While there , Homer presents Hugh with a pair of cuff links (a bride and groom pig) that all Simpsons men have worn on their wedding day , asking him to continue the tradition ; Hugh reluctantly agrees to wear them during the wedding . Later that night , Lisa apologizes profusely for her family 's behavior ; although Hugh says it does not bother him , he appears worried . On the day of the wedding , Homer talks with Lisa and she discovers that Hugh did not wear Homer 's cufflinks . She finds Hugh and asks him to wear them . He agrees . The only condition however , is that after the wedding Lisa must leave her family behind because Hugh has felt embarrassed by them all along . Lisa is outraged , stating that she cannot marry him if he cannot understand that she still loves her family despite their shortcomings , and calls off the wedding , running off in anger and sorrow .

Back in the present , the fortune teller says that Hugh went back to England and never saw Lisa again , and that there is nothing Lisa can do to prevent it ? although she should " try to look surprised " . Lisa questions the fortune teller about her " true love " and the fortune teller reveals that although Lisa will have a true love , she " specializes in foretelling relationships where you get jerked around " . Lisa leaves the booth and finds her father , who is excited to tell her about his day at the fair . They walk off , hand in hand , as Lisa listens , happy and content .

= = Production = =

The idea for the episode came from James L. Brooks , who called David Mirkin and pitched the idea as traveling to the future and Lisa meeting the perfect guy , who in turn cannot stand her family . Believing that it would be a tough episode to write , Brooks gave the job to Greg Daniels , who was

enthusiastic about it and has said that was a lot easier and more fun to write than expected . The part involving Homer 's cuff links was not in the original draft , it was later added because the writers felt that something was needed to represent Hugh 's disdain for the Simpson family . The end theme was redone by Alf Clausen as a " Renaissance version " , including a harp .

Everything in the episode had to be redesigned , which included new sets and all of the characters had to be remodeled for their age . In most cases , the adults were made heavier , had a few lines added to the face and less hair . On Homer , the redesign was minimal , making him a bit heavier , removing one hair and placing an extra line under the eye . Homer also wears a shirt like George Jetson 's . Krusty 's design is based on Groucho Marx . The night sky was intentionally made a more reddish color in a subtle joke about how the producers thought the world would be much more polluted in 2010 . Nancy Cartwright 's Bart voice was electronically lowered a couple of notches .

This is the first of five future @-@ themed episodes . The others were " Bart to the Future " in season 11 , " Future @-@ Drama " in season 16 , " Holidays of Future Passed " from season 23 , and " Days of Future Future " from season 25 . While both " Lisa 's Wedding " and " Future @-@ Drama " were nominated for an Emmy , in 2003 Entertainment Weekly named " Bart to the Future " the worst episode in the history of the series .

= = Cultural references = =

The episode makes mention of " 40 classic films starring Jim Carrey " , which include The Mask and " Ace Ventura VI " . According to David Mirkin , this is a joke about how " huge " Carrey 's movies were at the time , and how he was not garnering much respect as an actor . The sounds of the car are the same as the ones used in The Jetsons . Wrist communicators are using same sounds as communicators in Star Trek . In this episode 's version of the future , apparently three of the major American television networks have been bought by ABC and merged into CNNBCBS . At the same time , Fox has gradually become a hardcore sex channel . Hugh Parkfield is a parody of English actor Hugh Grant . The beginning of Lisa and Hugh 's romance is similar to the one in Love Story . Martin Prince 's fate is a parody of The Phantom of the Opera . The song that he plays on the organ is a variation of " A Fifth of Beethoven " by Walter Murphy , a disco version of Beethoven 's " Symphony No. 5 " in C Minor .

= = Reception and legacy = =

In its original broadcast , " Lisa 's Wedding " finished 52nd in ratings for the week of March 13 ? 19 , 1995 , with a Nielsen rating of 9 @.@ 1 , equivalent to approximately 8 @.@ 7 million viewing households . It was the third highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week , following Beverly Hills , 90210 and Melrose Place .

" Lisa 's Wedding " won an Emmy Award in 1995 for Outstanding Animated Program , becoming the third episode of The Simpsons to win in the category . This episode is a favorite of James L. Brooks , who believes that it is one of the best written episodes and ranks near the top of Simpsons episodes . The emotion of " Lisa 's Wedding " is often compared with season 2 's " Lisa 's Substitute " . The Quindecim , a college newspaper , made their own top 25 list , ranking " Lisa 's Wedding " as the greatest episode of The Simpsons . They also criticized Entertainment Weekly for leaving this episode and " Lisa 's Substitute " off their top 25 list , saying it was the " equivalent of leaving the Sistine Chapel off a list of Michelangelo 's best work ... Serving well as bookends , these episodes are not only brilliantly funny , they 're among the most genuinely touching stories in the show 's entire run . "

Mandy Patinkin as Hugh is considered one of the best Simpsons guest spots by Chris Turner in his book Planet Simpson , who says that many of the best Simpsons guest stars have been lesser known celebrities . In a 2008 article , Entertainment Weekly named Patinkin one of the 16 best Simpsons guest stars . The Daily Telegraph characterized the episode as one of " The 10 Best Simpsons TV Episodes . "

On August 1 , 2010 , the day of Lisa 's wedding in the episode , the name " Lisa Simpson " was a

trending topic on Twitter , a microblogging website . Most of the Twitter users that tweeted her name wished her a happy wedding day .