

= Road to Rupert =

" Road to Rupert " is the ninth episode of the fifth season of Family Guy . It originally aired on Fox in the United States on January 28 , 2007 . The episode follows Brian after he inadvertently sells Stewie 's teddy bear , Rupert , during a yard sale . In an attempt to retrieve him , Stewie and Brian travel across the United States , eventually discovering he is with a child living in Aspen , Colorado . Meanwhile , Peter has his driving license revoked for careless driving and is forced to be driven around by Meg , which annoys him .

The episode was written by Patrick Meighan and directed by Dan Povenmire . It received divided reviews , with the negative reviews going to the " personal driver " plot and the positive going to the " Rupert " plot . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 8 @. @ 8 million homes in its original airing . The episode feature guest performances by Max Burkholder , Phil LaMarr , Rob Lowe , Ted McGinley , Stephen Stanton , Connor Trinneer , Audrey Wasilewski , George Wendt and Dave Wittenberg . SpongeBob SquarePants voice actors Tom Kenny and Bill Fagerbakke lent their voices to the episode as SpongeBob and Patrick respectively from archive music of the " Campfire Song " from the episode The Camping Episode , but remain uncredited .

= = Plot = =

The Griffins have a yard sale to sell off household items that they no longer need , but Brian accidentally sells Stewie 's teddy bear , Rupert , causing Stewie to think Rupert has been kidnapped . Brian takes Stewie to the toy store to try to find a replacement , but ends up admitting he accidentally sold it , after which Stewie exclaims : " You son of a bitch ! " . He attempts to retrieve Rupert by tracking DNA samples against the federal database from the money Brian was paid for Rupert . They discover the man who bought Rupert lives in Quahog , but upon arrival ? they discover the house is deserted . After seeing the moving truck and following it , with Mayor West driving , they discover the man now resides in Aspen , Colorado , meaning West drives them no further , only stopping in the Connecticut state line . To get over the mountains , the pair rent a helicopter after discovering " to rent a helicopter , you can pay with cash , check , or a jaunty tune " . Stewie then performs a dance for the man in the office ( with help from Gene Kelly ) , but when Brian crashes the helicopter into the mountain , the two end up next to the entrance to Aspen .

Reluctant to give Rupert back to Stewie , Stanford Cordray ( the buyer , voiced by Rob Lowe ) and his family organize a skiing race down the mountain , so if Stewie is the first down , they are allowed to take Rupert away with them and if Stanford wins , he can have Brian . Stewie cheats by installing rockets in his skis , and relaxes to watch his progress . Stewie then crashes into a tree and loses the race . He tells Brian that maybe this means he should give up Rupert , but he proceeds to grab Rupert after telling his personal butler Crohn to throw a cup of hot tea on the child 's face , forcing him to drop the bear . The two make a run for it before the child 's parents notice , then realize they still need to get back to Quahog ( which , by looking at a highway sign at the end , is 2112 miles away , a reference to the Rush 1976 album ) , so they carjack a passing driver in the city and drive home .

Meanwhile , Peter purchased his own Evel Knievel gloves at his own yard sale . He decides to use the family car to jump over a row of cars , but is unsuccessful and results in his drivers license being revoked by Joe . Lois arranges for Meg to become Peter 's personal driver , and he makes numerous attempts to annoy Meg , including setting her hat on fire when traveling with his friends . When another car rear ends her and she is insulted by the driver , Meg takes out her repressed rage with Peter on the driver by beating him up ; Peter is impressed , and the two bond in the car . In the end , Joe stops by Peter 's house to reinstate his license . Meg worries that Peter will begin treating her badly again , but Peter says that while he will only do so in front of the family to keep up appearances , and that they will now be " secret best friends . "

= = Production = =

This episode was written by Patrick Meighan , in his first episode of the season , and , like all Road to .. episodes from 2000 ? 2007 , directed by Dan Povenmire , in his second episode of the season .

Lois mocking Stewie Griffin : The Untold Story ( or , as it 's called in the scene , Stymie Gruffin : The Untold Story ) , citing the movie as a middle finger to the audience by being three episodes slapped together under the guise of a movie ( followed by Brian calling in two bodyguards in suits to take Lois away ) was edited on TV for time reasons . A deleted scene showed one of Peter 's crimes being a hate crime , where during his stunt he hit a car with a Jewish driver . The televised scene changed the Jewish driver to a female virgin driver and the crime being a rape ( her airbag having busted her hymen when it deployed ) and not a hate crime . The scene of Stewie getting high on NyQuil to cope with losing Rupert and mistaking a throw pillow for a cat was cut from TV airings for time reasons . David Goodman noted that he feels the production crew may not have succeeded on this episode as everything falls into place easily , such as the box falling out of the moving truck . Every frame when Stewie is dancing in a montage of Anchors Aweigh took a large amount of work to produce .

The montage of Stewie and Brian visiting several U.S. states ( all of which are states where there 's nothing but cornfields ) was a DVD exclusive scene , removed from television for timing purposes . This scene was partially based on series creator Seth MacFarlane traveling the United States after the September 11 , 2001 attacks and realizing there is lots of corn throughout the U.S. A deleted scene directly after the helicopter crash had shown Stewie saying " come here , puss " for a second time , but this was replaced with another . Stewie and Brian carjacking somebody was added to the episode in a later rewrite and censored on television .

In addition to the regular cast , voice actor Max Burkholder , voice actor Phil LaMarr , actor Rob Lowe , actor Ted McGinley , voice actor Stephen Stanton , actor Connor Trinneer , voice actress Audrey Wasilewski , actor George Wendt ( who voiced Norm Peterson in the episode ) and voice actor Dave Wittenberg ( who voiced Woody Boyd in the episode , originally played by Woody Harrelson ) guest starred in the episode . Recurring guest voice actors Chris Sheridan , writer Danny Smith , writer Alec Sulkin and writer John Viener made minor appearances .

= = Cultural references = =

When speaking with Brian at the yard sale , Lois comments that Stewie Griffin : The Untold Story is not a real movie , rather just three individual episodes together , but altering the title to Stymie Gruffin : The Untold Story when discussing it with Brian .

The music performed at Stewie 's vision of Rupert 's funeral was the hymn Amazing Grace ( played on the bagpipes by Brian ) , while the funeral itself is a reference to Spock 's funeral in Star Trek II : The Wrath of Khan .

The ' My Black Son ' scene consisted of a number of 1970s and 1980s television programs , these being Diff 'rent Strokes , Family Ties , Punky Brewster , Laverne and Shirley , Perfect Strangers , Three 's Company , Who 's the Boss ? and Bosom Buddies . It also co @-@ starred Emmanuel Lewis .

After Peter crashes his car during his first car @-@ jumping stunt , he refers to Matthew Broderick 's car accident in Northern Ireland in 1987 in which 2 people died .

Peter watches an episode of SpongeBob SquarePants in the car which features " The Campfire Song " performed in the actual episode . It had been written by Dan Povenmire for the original SpongeBob episode , but it was allowed in the episode as Nickelodeon gave Family Guy permission to reproduce the music .

The entire scene of Stewie singing and dancing in order to secure rental of the helicopter is a reference to the 1945 musical film Anchors Aweigh . The reflection of the original character ( Jerry Mouse from Tom and Jerry ) can be seen on the floor .

When Stewie and Brian crash the helicopter down the mountain and Brian visualises Stewie as the devil , this is a reference to such a scene in Planes , Trains and Automobiles . The crash itself is caused by a sector whiteout .

The Herman 's Hermits song I 'm into Something Good is heard during Peter 's time with Meg .

= = Reception = =

In a slight improvement over the previous week , the episode was viewed in 8 @. @ 8 million homes in its original airing , according to Nielsen ratings . The episode also acquired a 3 @. @ 1 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , slightly edging out both The Simpsons and American Dad ! .

The episode received mixed comments from TV Squad , with Brett Love commenting that " the suspended license plot was a little thin , but that 's forgivable given that this was the b @- @ story for the episode , and there are only 22 minutes to work with . " Love comments positively on the Stewie and Brian relationship in the episode , commenting that , " the Stewie and Brian story is what made the episode for me . It was very well done , right down to the goofy little details . " IGN commented that , " ... for Family Guy to have a great episode , it takes a good story and humorous " manatee " gags . " Road to Rupert " was able to deliver on both these fronts , with the majority of the episode 's attention focused on Stewie and Brian 's road story , meshed with many laugh out loud gags . "