

= Love , Blactually =

" Love , Blactually " is the first episode of the seventh season of the animated comedy series Family Guy . It originally aired on Fox in the United States on September 28 , 2008 . The episode features anthropomorphic dog Brian as he meets a fellow atheist named Carolyn (Kat Foster) at a book store , and the two begin dating . Heeding advice from Stewie (also voiced by MacFarlane) , Brian decides not to have sex with her . Carolyn is led to believe that Brian does not want a substantive relationship , so she begins to date Cleveland (Mike Henry) .

The episode was written by Henry , and directed by Cyndi Tang . It received generally positive reviews from critics for its storyline . According to Nielsen ratings , it was watched by 9 @. @ 2 million viewers in its original airing . The episode featured guest performances by Foster and Meredith Baxter , along with several recurring voice actors from the series . " Love , Blactually " was released on DVD along with eight other episodes from the season on June 16 , 2009 . This was also the first episode where Chris is not seen or mentioned , and the second for Meg after Believe It or Not , Joe 's Walking on Air .

= = Plot = =

During a costume party , Lois suggests Brian to find a girlfriend . After going to the bookstore to buy The God Delusion , Brian meets an atheist named Carolyn , who happens to be looking for the same book . Brian becomes interested in Carolyn , and the two begin to date . When she invites him to her house , Stewie apprehends Brian and tells him that his relationships fail because he has sex with his girlfriends immediately when they meet . Brian realizes that Stewie is right and decides to listen to his advice . However , he finds out that Carolyn has begun to date Cleveland , since Brian did not want to have sex for the three weeks they have dated . A heartbroken Brian tries to deal with his loss , but keeps running into Cleveland and Carolyn having sex in various locations . Blaming Stewie for his advice that cost him a relationship with Carolyn , Brian is about ready to give up on love . Apologizing for his botched attempt to help him out , Stewie suggests that he can convince Cleveland 's ex @- @ wife , Loretta , to reconcile with him .

The two visit Loretta in her own room and find out that she feels guilty for cheating on him with Quagmire . Brian feels uncertain that he should carry out this plan , but Cleveland announces plans to elope with Carolyn in Hawaii , which makes their friendship tense . Realizing that Loretta may be his only hope to get Carolyn back , Brian asks for her help and she agrees to help him . She invites Cleveland to meet her at her hotel room , asking him to let her explain herself and if he can forgive her for her adulterous affair . Thinking Brian is up to no good , Peter recruits Quagmire to have sex with Loretta just to keep Cleveland and Carolyn together . Quagmire meets her at the hotel , but this time , Loretta resists his advances and tells him to leave . When Cleveland shows up to her hotel room , Loretta apologizes for her actions and tells her former husband that she wants to start a new life with him . Cleveland forgives her , but insists that it is time for the both of them to move on while still remaining friends . Loretta finally agrees to move on without him . When Cleveland visits Carolyn , he finds her and Quagmire having sex . Since both Brian and Cleveland have been cheated on by the same woman , Cleveland apologizes to him for stealing Carolyn and they make amends , with the former revealing himself to have received a genital wart .

= = Production = =

" Love , Blactually " is the season premiere of the seventh season of Family Guy . It was written by one of the show 's main voice actors Mike Henry , in his first episode of the season . The episode dealt a lot with the character of Cleveland Brown , which is one of the characters for which Henry provides the voice . The episode was directed by Cyndi Tang , who has been with the show since its fifth season . Series regulars Peter Shin and James Purdum served as supervising directors for the episode . The episode is one of the last to concentrate on the character of Cleveland , since he would be moved to The Cleveland Show (which Henry co @- @ created) .

" Love , Blactually " , along with the first eight episodes of the seventh season were released on DVD by 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment in the United States and Canada on June 16 , 2009 , one month after it had completed broadcast on television . The " Volume 7 " DVD release features bonus material including deleted scenes , animatics , and commentaries for every episode .

In addition to the regular cast , actress Kat Foster portrayed the voice of Carolyn , and actress Meredith Baxter portrayed herself . Recurring voice actors Ralph Garman , writer Danny Smith , writer Alec Sulkin , and writer John Viener also made minor appearances . Then @-@ series writer and regular voice actress Alex Borstein portrayed the voice of Loretta Brown .

= = Cultural references = =

The episode begins with a costume party , where Brian and Stewie are both dressed as Snoopy from Peanuts , Quagmire dresses up as Napoleon Dynamite , Peter as Laura Bush , Lois as Michael Dutton Douglas , Joe as Mark Spitz (although people believe he is a crippled Thomas Magnum) , and Cleveland as Charlie Chaplin . Woodstock , another character from Peanuts also makes a cameo appearance . The popular conversation between Stewie and Brian which draws attention to a hard " h " consonant sound is directly sourced from dialogue within the film Hot Rod . Stewie finds a book entitled Horton Hears Domestic Violence in the Next Apartment and Doesn 't Call 911 ! , a parody of Horton Hears a Who ! Cleveland 's deadpan exclamation of " ... and boom goes the dynamite " is a reference to the popular catchphrase which became an Internet sensation . Cleveland and Carolyn meet at a Starbucks . Peter doesn 't remember the name of Cleveland 's ex @-@ wife (Loretta) and he guesses that it 's Jennifer Hudson . When Brian lies and says that he thinks Loretta is beautiful and that her personality is only slightly abrasive his nose grows , which is a reference to a scene in the film Airplane ! , which in turn is a reference to Pinocchio . When the family is mediating with Cleveland on whether or not to get back with Loretta , Peter accuses Brian of pushing Cleveland back with Loretta just so he himself could have Carolyn , and Peter says , " You know , Brian , sometimes I don 't believe I know you , " in a low and harsh tone ; this is a quote from The Sound of Music , where Captain Von Trapp utters the same thing to Max Detweiler in response to his indifference to the Nazi invasion of Austria . When Quagmire tries to seduce Loretta , he strips naked and says , " Eh @-@ neek @-@ chock " , to enlarge his penis , which is a reference to Apache Chief and is implied to enlarge , along with the sound effects accompanying the phrase. When Quagmire runs into Cleveland at the hotel where Loretta is , Cleveland asks why he is nude . Quagmire responds , " What ? ! People have been telling me that I have been wearing robes made from the most beautiful silk ! " That is a reference from a book , The Emperor 's New Clothes .

The title is a reference to the British romantic comedy film Love Actually .

= = Reception = =

The episode was watched by 9 @.@ 2 million viewers , compared to 9 @.@ 3 million that tuned in to The Simpsons and 7 million that watched King of the Hill for their season openers on Fox . The episode received positive reviews . Ahsan Haque of IGN praised " Love , Blactually " , writing that it had " many memorable scenes , quote @-@ worthy dialogue , politically incorrect references , and great storyline " . He graded the episode 8 @.@ 9 out of 10 . Steve Heisler of The A.V. Club wrote that the episode was " pretty funny overall " with " some great meta @-@ commentary " , and graded it B + . In contrast Robin Pierson of The TV Critic gave the episode a negative review , saying that Family Guy has become like the shows it mocked in its earlier seasons and he ended his review by stating that it has become " predictable , stale and irritating to watch " and he gave it a 29 out of a possible 100 .