

= The Devil Wears Nada =

" The Devil Wears Nada " is the fifth episode of the twenty @-@ first season of The Simpsons . It first aired on the Fox network in the United States on November 15 , 2009 . In the episode , Marge and a group called the " Charity Chicks " pose for a history @-@ oriented calendar in hopes of raising money for charity , but Marge becomes the talk of the town due to the erotic poses she made after a few drinks of red wine . Meanwhile , Carl is chosen as the newest supervisor at the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant , and hires Homer to be his personal assistant .

The episode was written by Tim Long and directed by Nancy Kruse . It was broadcast soon after the character Marge had appeared on the cover of Playboy , though there was no connection between the episode and the cover ; the idea for the episode was conceived first , and Marge 's appearance was due to an unrelated offer from Playboy . Since airing , " The Devil Wears Nada " has received mixed reviews from television critics . It was watched by approximately 9 @.@ 04 million viewers during its original broadcast . Clips showing the satirical appearances of French president Nicolas Sarkozy and his wife Carla Bruni in the episode became Internet hits in France , with hundreds of thousands of views on Dailymotion and YouTube .

= = Plot = =

The episode opens at a retirement party for the current Sector 7G supervisor at the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant . Just as Homer , Lenny , and Carl are celebrating their freedom from supervision , plant owner Mr. Burns arrives and chooses Carl as the new supervisor , after quickly deducing that he is the only semi @-@ competent employee of the three . Meanwhile , in an effort to raise money , Marge and her " Charity Chicks " philanthropic group decide to follow the Springfield Police Department 's lead and pose for a history @-@ themed " sexy " calendar . At the photo studio , however , Marge does not want to show any skin . The photographer loosens her up with red wine , and she ends up revealing more than she planned . Marge and her erotic poses are soon the hottest talk in town .

Back at the plant , Carl makes Homer his new executive assistant . That evening , Marge 's libido pumped up by the male population 's positive feedback on her calendar is running high , but Homer is too overworked and exhausted to satisfy her . This becomes an unhappy trend , and Marge feels ignored . Homer tries to make up for it by taking Marge out to a hotel . During their attempt to have a romantic night together , Homer receives a phone call from Carl who tells him they are going to Paris on a business trip . When Homer leaves the Simpsons ' house the next morning , a frustrated Marge throws a mallet after his retreating taxicab , and she accidentally knocks out neighbor Ned Flanders instead and invites him and his children over for a family dinner by way of apology .

In Paris , Carl is having a great time flirting with a beautiful woman , and he reveals to Homer that he plans to extend their stay indefinitely . Homer is devastated , and walks forlornly through the streets where everything reminds him of Marge . Back in Springfield , Bart and Lisa bail on Marge 's dinner , and Ned shows up alone because Rod and Todd have been grounded . The innocent dinner soon turns romantic , and Marge and Ned nearly kiss , until Marge catches sight of her wedding photo in Ned 's glasses and realizes that it would be wrong . Homer , meanwhile , has forced Carl to give him his old job back by revealing that the woman Carl has been flirting with is actually Carla Bruni , the wife of Nicolas Sarkozy , the President of France . Homer arrives home just as Marge is bidding Ned goodnight , and Homer and Marge make love , undisturbed at last .

= = Production = =

" The Devil Wears Nada " was written by Tim Long and directed by Nancy Kruse . It is partly based on the film The Devil Wears Prada , especially the scenes that feature an overworked and over @-@ utilized Homer . The episode aired soon after the character Marge had appeared on the cover of the real @-@ life adult magazine Playboy . Executive producer Al Jean told the Toronto Sun that this episode was " a little bit of a reference to Marge 's recent encounter with Playboy " . Jean

explained , though , that the writers came up with the storyline for " The Devil Wears Nada " over a year before the episode aired and they did not know back then that Marge would become a Playboy cover girl . Jean said that was " an independent offer from Playboy . But we thought , to be smart , we should probably have the episode and Marge 's cover come out around the same time . " In regards to Marge 's explicit plotline in the episode , Jean commented that the Simpsons staff is " always a bit nervous when we push the boundaries or do something unusual and I usually think that 's where we do our best stuff , and this episode is definitely one of those cases . "

= = Reception = =

During the episode 's original broadcast on the Fox network in the United States on November 15 , 2009 , it was watched by approximately 9 @. @ 04 million viewers . In the demographic for adults aged 18 ? 49 , the episode received a 4 @. @ 2 rating (up 2 % from the previous episode) and a 10 % share . It was the second @-@ highest rated television series in the 8 : 00 p.m. timeslot , following Football Night in America , which received a 5 @. @ 3 rating and 15 @. @ 1 million viewers .

Since airing , " The Devil Wears Nada " has received mixed reviews from television critics . AOL TV 's Jason Hughes was positive about it , commenting that " everything about the episode worked , from Marge 's sexy calendar to Ned Flanders ' role in the final moments . " He added that he thought the episode featured " the heart I felt was missing all season . The love between Homer and Marge dominated this episode , coming in equal strength from both sides . " Hughes concluded that " The Devil Wears Nada " featured " good moments for humor " and that it was " perfectly balanced , written and executed " .

Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club was less positive , giving the episode a C + rating . He commented that because there have already been so many episodes about Homer and Marge 's marital troubles , it becomes more difficult every time to make the episodes emotional . VanDerWerff added that " while the flip side of the usual husband / wife sexual dynamics had a few promising jokes in it and while there were the usual funny sight gags and one @-@ liners , the entirety of the episode felt stale . [...] There 's no way Homer or Marge will ever cheat on each other , and that makes a story like this essentially boring . " IGN 's Robert Canning gave the episode a rating of 6 @. @ 2 out of 10 , calling it disappointing . He commented that he enjoyed the first act of the episode because it had a lot of potential storylines , but it went downhill from there and became boring . Canning added : " This was another case of the series returning to familiar storylines . It 's tough to get away from this one ? trouble in the bedroom ? as they are a married couple and this is , essentially , a sitcom . Unfortunately , ' The Devil Wears Nada ' doesn 't give the story anything new . " Similarly to VanDerWerff , Canning did not find the episode enjoying because it was obvious that Marge and Ned would not have " a night of passion " since " Marge is too loving a wife and Ned is too good a Christian " .

= = = Reaction in France = = =

" The Devil Wears Nada " features the satirical appearances of French president Nicolas Sarkozy and his wife Carla Bruni . In the episode , Carl is approached by Bruni at a reception at Élysée Palace , the official residence of the president , where she tells him that she wants " to make love , right now . " Homer later reveals to Carl that the woman he has been seeing is Bruni , and threatens to tell Sarkozy if he does not get his old job back . Carl does not believe Homer will tell , so Homer calls Sarkozy (who is seen eating cheese and drinking red wine in his office with Bruni) . Sarkozy answers the phone saying " You 're getting cosy with Sarkozy . " At this point , Carl gives in , and Homer hangs up the phone .

Unlike other high @-@ ranking politicians such as Tony Blair , who have guest starred on The Simpsons , the couple did not actually lend their voices to the show and the appearances were made without their permission . Agence France @-@ Presse wrote that as a result , it was a " harsher " parody in comparison to the parodies on the show of people that have provided their own

voices . The Daily Mail described Bruni 's portrayal in the episode as a " sex @-@ mad femme fatale " and " chain @-@ smoking man @-@ eater " , and the French newspaper Le Figaro said she was characterized as " a nymphomaniac with an exaggerated French accent " . Bruni had previously attracted media attention in the United States because of her many reported partners and lovers . A reporter for The Times in Paris , Charles Bremner , wrote that her " sulphurous former image as the girlfriend of rock stars and celebrities was mocked by [the episode] . "

Clips on YouTube and Dailymotion showing Sarkozy 's and Bruni 's appearances were viewed hundreds of thousands of times in France , becoming Internet hits . According to Agence France @-@ Presse , the cameos " passed largely unnoticed in France until Friday [November 22] , when news websites started linking to pirated clips of the episode , creating a buzz which saw more than 117 @,@ 000 fans linking to the DailyMotion site alone . " As of Saturday November 23 , the Dailymotion clip had received 440 @,@ 000 hits . Reactions to the clips were mixed from the French viewers . The Daily Mail wrote that a spokesman working for the Élysée Palace said in November 2009 that " they had no comment to make on the latest mockery of their first couple " . Bruni 's spokeswoman did not respond to requests for comment either , but Bremner reported that Bruni " laughed when asked about the programme " .

The French news website Rue 89 commented that the episode provided the writers with a good opportunity to mock all the French clichés , including the accent , the cheese , the cheek kissing between men , and the supposed nymphomania . This was not the first time that France had been made fun of on The Simpsons . For example , the writers had previously come up with the derogatory phrase " cheese @-@ eating surrender monkeys " as a description of the French people , and had made fun of the French in the first season episode The Crepes of Wrath .