

= Brian & Stewie =

" Brian & Stewie " is the 17th episode of the eighth season of the American animated television series Family Guy , and 150th episode of the series overall . It originally aired on Fox in the United States on May 2 , 2010 . The episode features anthropomorphic dog Brian and baby Stewie after they are accidentally trapped inside a bank vault over a weekend . The two are ultimately forced to reveal their true feelings about each other , and eventually go on to question each other 's existence and purpose in life . Brian and Stewie become even closer to each other as time goes on , and climactically help each other survive being trapped inside the vault . The episode breaks from the show 's usual set @-@ up , and is the only episode of the series not to use any cutaway gags with Brian and Stewie being the only two characters featured in the entire episode . In repeats of the episode there is no main title sequence , nor is any music played over the end credits .

The episode was written by Gary Janetti and directed by Dominic Bianchi . It received mostly positive reviews from critics for its serious dialogue , but poor reviews for its gross @-@ out humor , in addition to receiving criticism from the Parents Television Council . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 7 @.@ 68 million homes in its original airing . The episode aired along with a series of musical numbers from throughout the show 's eight seasons . " Brian & Stewie " was released on DVD along with ten other episodes from the season on December 13 , 2011 .

= = Plot = =

Brian and Stewie visit the local Quahog bank so that Brian can deposit holiday money in his safe deposit box . Stewie then wants to go to a store to return a \$ 3 @,@ 000 Thom Browne sweater . While they are still inside the vault , the door closes at the end of the work day and locks them inside until the next morning . Frightened , Stewie soils his diaper . Worried he will get a rash from the dirty diaper , Stewie desperately tries to make Brian eat his feces by threatening him with a gun that Brian had stored in his deposit box . They discover that Stewie has a cellphone in his pocket , but there 's only enough charge in the battery for one short phone call . Unfortunately , Stewie uses the last of the phone 's battery charge to call the clothing store rather than for help . Enraged , Brian strikes Stewie , throws his phone on the ground ( thus damaging the phone ) , and yells at Stewie , making him cry . Instantly remorseful and wanting to repair his relationship with Stewie , Brian reluctantly agrees to eat Stewie 's feces in order to provide him with a clean diaper and make up for making Stewie cry . While watching Brian eating , Stewie becomes nauseated and throws up ; Stewie then convinces Brian to eat the vomit . Realizing that he has nothing to clean his bottom with , Stewie manages to convince Brian to clean his bottom with his tongue in order to avoid infection , much to Stewie 's pleasure . Afterward , they both decide to take a nap , but soon they realize that the next day is Sunday , meaning that they will have to wait another day before they can be released from the vault .

Awaking from his nap , Brian decides to drink a bottle of scotch that he had stored in his safety deposit box . He offers Stewie a sip , and they both become so drunk that Brian agrees to pierce Stewie 's ear with a pin from his sweater , leaving Stewie with a bloody ear for the rest of the episode . Stewie and Brian discuss The Dog Whisperer and Cesar Millan , and Brian explains that he is inspired by the philosophy about dogs ' instinctive ability to live in the present and with purpose . Stewie , however , points out that Brian himself does not appear to live with any specific purpose . Angered at the implication , Brian begins insulting Stewie , who bitterly retaliates by revealing that he could have gone all day without having his diaper changed , and only thinks of Brian as a passing amusement . Stewie dares Brian to shoot him with the revolver in the deposit , which Brian earlier said to be bullet @-@ free . It is revealed that Brian lied , and he attempts to shoot Stewie . The two then find a security camera hanging on a wall of the vault . Brian tries to use it to call for help , but Stewie points out if there was someone out there , they would have been saved . Brian then realizes that the camera has recorded him cleaning Stewie , which amuses the infant , but Brian is upset about gaining a laughingstock reputation . Stewie then prematurely causes the gun to discharge , causing the bullet to randomly ricochet off the vault walls , smashing Stewie 's already @-@ broken

phone and the bottle of Scotch , and forcing the two under the table .

Soon after sobering up , Stewie stretches and takes out a Jenny Craig Anytime Bar from his shopping bag . Brian loses his temper with Stewie for not revealing that he had been storing food the entire time . After Brian calms down , Stewie asks him why he had the gun in the first place , eventually coaxing Brian into revealing that he keeps the gun in case he ever wants to commit suicide . Brian confesses that he cannot find his purpose in life , and finds comfort in knowing he has the option of killing himself . He admits that the Scotch was to be a last drink . Stunned , Stewie admits that he would be lost without Brian , claiming he is the only person in the world that he really cares about , and he eventually confesses that he loves him as an irreplaceable friend , and that he gives his life meaning . Brian tells Stewie he loves him back . In addition , Stewie reminds Brian that maybe making someone else happy is enough , because it is the best gift one person can give , for which Brian thanks him . Stewie falls asleep as Brian reads the beginning of David Copperfield to him . The following morning , the vault door opens , and Brian carries a sleeping Stewie and their belongings out of the room in silence . The credits also roll in silence .

= = Production and development = =

The episode was written by series consulting producer Gary Janetti as his second episode of the season , and directed by series regular Dominic Bianchi , also in his second episode of the season . In an interview with Forbes , series producer Kara Vallow revealed that the plot was inspired by an episode of the CBS sitcom All in the Family entitled " Archie in the Cellar , " in which Archie Bunker is locked in a cellar , breaking from the show 's usual storyline . Vallow and Family Guy creator Seth MacFarlane were fans of All in the Family during its original airing and came up with the original concept for the episode . Vallow went on to state that the episode " [ is ] like a one @-@ act stage play in a way , " because it " [ doesn 't ] rely on our standard cutaways and gags . " In a first for the series , the only voice actor to perform in the episode was series creator and executive producer Seth MacFarlane , who portrays both characters . In addition , neither composer Ron Jones nor composer Walter Murphy contributed any background music to the episode whatsoever . The writer of the episode , Gary Janetti , wrote the episode based on a loose script written by MacFarlane , as well as various phone conversations about the structure of the storyline , and the various acts .

" Brian & Stewie " , along with the eleven other episodes from Family Guy 's eighth season , was released on a three @-@ disc DVD set in the United States on December 13 , 2011 . The sets include brief audio commentaries by various crew and cast members for several episodes , a collection of deleted scenes and animatics , a special mini @-@ feature which discussed the process behind animating " And Then There Were Fewer " , a mini @-@ feature entitled " The Comical Adventures of Family Guy ? Brian & Stewie : The Lost Phone Call " , and footage of the Family Guy panel at the 2010 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International .

In its initial airing , the episode aired with a framing device involving Stewie and Brian standing in front of a red curtain and addressing the television audience . The two begin the program by introducing the " very special " episode and , after the episode aired , conclude it by introducing a series of musical numbers . Together , the episode and musical number aired as an hour @-@ long special , in celebration of a week @-@ long " Fox Rocks " television event . The initial airing included musical numbers from the fourth season episode " The Fat Guy Strangler " , the sixth season episode " Play It Again , Brian " , and the eighth season episode " Business Guy " , as well as other numbers , including " You 've Got A Lot to See " from " Brian Wallows and Peter 's Swallows " , " Shipooopi " from " Patriot Games " , and " My Drunken Irish Dad " from the episode " Peter 's Two Dads " . In repeats of the episode the usual main title sequence is replaced by a still shot of the show 's logo on a black background , whilst the end credits are shown without any musical accompaniment .

= = Cultural references = =

In addition to " Archie in the Cellar " , the plot of the episode is inspired by the All in the Family

episode " Two 's a Crowd " , in which Archie and Mike are locked in a storeroom , drink brandy and share their deepest secrets . The episode also makes reference to an episode of The Twilight Zone entitled " Time Enough at Last " , in which a banker named Henry Bemis sneaks into a bank vault and is knocked unconscious . In the episode , Henry Bemis is reading a copy of David Copperfield , which Brian also reads during the episode .

= = Reception = =

In an improvement over the previous six episodes , the episode was viewed in 7 @. @ 68 million homes in its original airing , according to Nielsen ratings , despite airing simultaneously with Desperate Housewives on ABC , Celebrity Apprentice on NBC and Cold Case on CBS . The episode also acquired a 3 @. @ 7 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , beating The Simpsons , The Cleveland Show , as well as the accompanying musical special , which received a total rating of 3 @. @ 3 .

The episode received varied reviews from critics and viewers . Reviewers generally disliked the episode 's humor , but were positive about the more serious moments . Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club believed that the show 's concept , which allowed only two characters and a single scene , was " ambitious " but that the end result was " flaccid . " He commented that with no cut @-@ away gags or side plots , the episode was " basically everything critics of the show would like the show to have " but was deprived of Family Guy 's trademark fast pace and reduced to " a series of what amounts to grossout comedy sketches . " Television critic Ramsey Isler of IGN added that the gross @-@ out humor " didn 't work for me " and found the " more serious stuff " in the episode to be the most entertaining . Said Isler , " the addition of more dramatic themes and the elimination of the cutaway gags really showed what this show could be if Seth [ MacFarlane ] and team put more effort in . " In a subsequent review of Family Guy 's eighth season , Isler listed " Brian & Stewie " as being " surprisingly dramatic , " and , " had it not been for the extended poop @-@ eating jokes and rehashed musical numbers in the second half , I 'd say it was one of the better efforts the show has ever put out . " Jason Hughes of TV Squad was also " more than a little disturbed " by the amount of time spent on Stewie 's soiled diaper . However , he noted , " I didn 't laugh much at ' Brian & Stewie ' , but I found myself absolutely captured by their discussion throughout the episode . " Ken Tucker of Entertainment Weekly described the episode as " tedious , predictably vulgar , and , by the end , sentimental . " Adam Rosenberg of MTV wrote , " Beneath all of the more disturbing elements there 's actually some very thoughtful , mature discussion of suicide and what love means amidst it all . " Andrew Hanson of The Los Angeles Times found the soiled diaper gag " too sick to watch " and " the grossest " moment featured in Family Guy so far , but conceded that that may have been the producer 's intention . Still , Hanson described Brian 's suicidal confession as " deep " and stated , " It 's nice to see that Family Guy is still trying new things and going out on a limb even at episode No. 150 . " The episode was voted # 5 on BBC Three 's list of Top Ten Family Guy episodes .

The Parents Television Council , a conservative media watchdog group and frequent critic of MacFarlane @-@ produced programs , called on the Federal Communications Commission to investigate Family Guy after the episode aired , citing the scenes where Brian is talked into eating Stewie 's feces and vomit . PTC president Tim Winter said that , " Given the patently offensive depictions of one character eating excrement out of a diaper , then eating vomit , and finally licking the remaining excrement from a baby 's bottom ? while the baby expresses physical gratification from having his bottom licked ? we believe that the broadcast decency law has been broken . It seems as though Family Guy creator , Seth MacFarlane , carefully reviewed the legal definition of broadcast indecency and set out to violate it as literally as he could . " The Parents Television Council went on to name the episode as its " Worst TV Show of the Week " , ending the week of May 7 , 2010 , citing the extreme indecency of the episode .