

= The Splendid Source =

" The Splendid Source " is the 19th episode of the eighth season of the animated comedy series Family Guy . Directed by Brian Iles and written by Mark Hentemann , the episode originally aired on Fox in the United States on May 16 , 2010 . The episode follows Peter , Joe and Quagmire as they set out on a journey to find the ultimate source of all the world 's dirty jokes . Along the way , the group is reunited with their old friend , Cleveland Brown , while traveling through Stoolbend , Virginia . Their journey becomes much more difficult than expected when they are kidnapped and taken to a remote island . There , they discover a secret society of the world 's greatest geniuses at the center of all the world 's dirty jokes . The plot is based on a short story of the same name written by Richard Matheson and first published in the May 1956 edition of Playboy magazine .

The episode was a follow @-@ up to the departure of main character Cleveland Brown , who was removed from Family Guy to become the center of the spin @-@ off The Cleveland Show . Former series writer and cast member Mike Henry returned to the series to provide the voice of Cleveland . The episode also featured the first official crossover between Family Guy and The Cleveland Show , and included cameo appearances by several of The Cleveland Show 's main characters . The episode was first announced at the 2009 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International .

Critical response to the episode was favorable . Critics praised the episode for its original premise , and its under @-@ reliance on cultural references , but criticized the episode 's plot . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 7 @.@ 59 million homes in its original airing . The episode featured guest performances by Marc Alaimo , Gary Cole , Ioan Gruffudd , Sanaa Lathan , David Lynch , Kevin Michael Richardson and Wally Wingert , along with several recurring guest voice actors for the series . " The Splendid Source " was released on DVD along with ten other episodes from the season on December 13 , 2011 .

= = Plot = =

As Peter and Lois discuss a family trip to Maine , Chris alerts his parents that he has been suspended indefinitely from school for telling an inappropriate joke . Assuring Principal Shephard it will never happen again , Chris reveals that he learned the joke from Quagmire .

Peter confronts Quagmire at the Drunken Clam later that day , but he enjoys the joke so much that he accidentally defecates . Quagmire and Joe soon discover that Peter soils his pants every time they tell him the joke , and they try to make him defecate himself repeatedly . Quagmire hires Freddy Krueger from the Nightmare On Elm Street film series to make Peter soil himself in his dreams as well . When Lois berates Peter for soiling the bed , he realizes " when you poop in your dreams , you poop for real . "

Tired of Joe and Quagmire 's antics , Peter wears Quagmire 's pants to the bar the next day , discouraging them from making him laugh . Peter asks where Quagmire heard the dirty joke in the first place , and Quagmire reveals that he heard it from Bruce . Locating Bruce at his job at the bowling alley , the group discovers that the joke has been transmitted by a large number of people including Consuela , Dr. Hartman , Mayor Adam West , Angela , Opie , Tom Tucker , Bender from Futurama , Al Harrington , and REO Speedwagon frontman Kevin Cronin . Cronin tells them that he heard the joke from a Virginia bartender .

The Griffins , the Swansons , and Quagmire prepare for a road trip , ostensibly for a vacation in Maine . Quagmire distracts Bonnie and Lois as Peter alters course to Virginia instead . The group arrives at a bar in Stoolbend , Virginia , and discover that it was Cleveland who told the bartender the joke . Peter asks Cleveland where he first heard the joke , and Cleveland reveals that a Washington , D.C. , bellhop named Sal Russo told it to him . The group sets out for D.C. with Cleveland in tow . They are attacked by a black car , whose occupants fire guns at them to prevent them from learning the joke 's origin . Joe shoots out one of the car 's tires , causing it to spin out of control and flip onto its roof . The Quahog group arrive at a Washington hotel and locate Sal , who is reluctant to reveal the source of the joke . He races away on a handcart through Washington . Losing track of Sal , they are soon captured by several men in black suits who pistol @-@ whip

them until they are unconscious .

Kidnapped and thrown on a plane , they land on a remote island . They are led by the men in suits through a jungle wilderness to a large stone temple . The Dean of the Secret Order of Dirty Joke Writers appears from the shadows and leads the group into a large library , where the world 's greatest geniuses study . The Dean explains that the world 's greatest thinkers have come together to create dirty jokes , and distribute them throughout the world by a network of agents like the bellhop . The Dean takes them into a dark room . He reveals that they will not be permitted to leave the island now that they know the source of all the world 's dirty jokes . They are locked in a jail cell . As a diversion , Peter stabs Cleveland with a pencil . When the guard opens the door to investigate , the prisoners escape . They are recaptured by the Dean and his armed guards immediately . As they are about to be shot by the guards , an old man claims he has just written the world 's greatest dirty joke and then suddenly dies . Peter snatches a small piece of paper that the man dropped as he died , containing the joke . The prisoners escape with the joke on a small plane . As they fly over the secret enclave , it is destroyed in a fireball resulting from a burning drapery that Peter had set alight with a candle . Quagmire bemoans that they destroyed the source of all dirty jokes . They quickly realize that as long as there are people there will be dirty jokes . Peter , Joe , Cleveland and Quagmire then fly off into the sunset , before finding out the supposed greatest joke ever written is " Guess what ? Chicken butt ! " Peter doubts that that is really the world 's greatest joke . Cleveland replies , " No , this is ! , " and then stabs Peter with a pencil and requests to be taken to Virginia .

In the final scene , Peter introduces footage of an ape scratching himself as a public service announcement from the March of Dimes Foundation .

= = Production and development = =

First announced at the 2009 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International in San Diego , California on July 25 , 2009 , by future showrunner Mark Hentemann , the episode was directed by Brian Iles , written by Hentemann , and based on a short story by Richard Matheson before the conclusion of the eighth production season . Series regulars Peter Shin and James Purdum acted as supervising directors of the episode , with Andrew Goldberg and Alex Carter working as staff writers for the episode . The episode saw the fourth re @-@ appearance , the first being an equally brief appearance in " Spies Reminiscent of Us " , the second in " Road to the Multiverse " and the third being " Go Stewie Go " , by former main cast member Mike Henry as the voice of Cleveland Brown . The actor had previously left the role on Family Guy , in order to star as the character in his own spinoff , entitled The Cleveland Show . This episode is also the first crossover with The Cleveland Show , which was created by Family Guy creator and executive producer Seth MacFarlane , voice actor Mike Henry , and former animated comedy writer Richard Appel .

" The Splendid Source " , 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 addition to the regular cast , actor Marc Alaimo , actor Gary Cole , actor Ioan Gruffudd , actress Sanaa Lathan , film director David Lynch , voice actor Kevin Michael Richardson and voice actor Wally Wingert guest starred in the episode . Recurring guest voice actors Chris Cox , actor Ralph Garman , writer Patrick Meighan , writer Danny Smith , writer Alec Sulkin , actress Jennifer Tilly , and writer John Viener also made minor appearances .

= = Cultural references = =

The dirty joke told through the episode by Glenn Quagmire is taken from a joke the character Marty Funkhauser told in an episode of Curb Your Enthusiasm . In one of Quagmire 's plots to have Peter

soil himself , Quagmire falls asleep and encounters Freddy Krueger , the principal character from the Nightmare on Elm Street series , in a dream and hires him to go into Peter 's dream , and tell the joke to him . The chain of the joke leads to the band REO Speedwagon , and the line " heard it from a friend who ... " from " Take It on the Run " is played , though the scene where the lead singer appears was not voiced by any of their actual members .

While tracking down the person who first told the joke , Peter and the gang find Bender , from the Fox / Comedy Central series Futurama , who is shown telling the joke . When Peter , Joe and Quagmire get to Virginia they meet up with Cleveland and his new family from The Cleveland Show . There is a scene where Cleveland chases after the other three guys in the car , which alludes to the opening from What 's Happening ! ! , and uses the music from the show 's opening as well . When the group gets to Washington D.C. , Peter , Joe , Cleveland and Quagmire see the Washington Monument , and next to it appears the Barack Obama Monument , which resembles the Washington monument , but is bigger and is colored black .

With the plane , they land on an island which has the source for every dirty joke ever made , the base looks similar to a temple @-@ compound from the 1979 film Apocalypse Now . The base is inhabited with many great minds including Warren Buffett ( who was in a deleted scene on the DVD ) , Bill Gates , and Stephen Hawking where they pass their time writing the world 's dirty jokes . It is shown that the first dead baby joke was written in the era of Ancient Egypt .

= = Reception = =

In a slight improvement over the previous episode , the episode was viewed in 7 @.@ 59 million homes in its original airing , according to Nielsen ratings , despite airing simultaneously with the season finale of Desperate Housewives on ABC , the season finale of Survivor on CBS and Celebrity Apprentice on NBC . The episode also acquired a 3 @.@ 8 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , beating The Simpsons , The Cleveland Show and American Dad ! , in addition to edging out all three shows in total viewership .

Reviews of the episode were mostly favorable , calling it " the only show with any sense of mystery . " John Teti of The A.V. Club found the episode to have a " fantastic premise for a Peter Griffin adventure " but went on to state that he gives the episode " points for a strong first half , but I wish that the writers had pushed themselves a little harder to make this one go the distance . " Ramsey Isler of IGN reiterated his own enjoyment of the premise of the episode , but went on to state , " While I can appreciate the point that good comedy does take a certain degree of wit and cleverness , this just wasn 't a very satisfying end to an idea that had so much potential . " In a much more positive review , Jason Hughes of TV Squad praised the underuse of cutaways , going on to note , " Reducing the reliance on cutaways seems to be the continuing trend for the series , and I think it 's a good move [ ... ] It forces smarter writing , and creates a better narrative structure . "