

= I Remember You (Adventure Time) =

" I Remember You " is the twenty @-@ fifth and penultimate episode of the fourth season of the American animated television series Adventure Time . The episode was written and storyboarded by Cole Sanchez and Rebecca Sugar , from a story by Patrick McHale , Kent Osborne , and Pendleton Ward . It originally aired on Cartoon Network on October 15 , 2012 . The episode later re @-@ aired on March 25 , 2013 , together with the fifth season episode " Simon & Marcy , " and as such was advertised as a half @-@ hour special .

The series follows the adventures of Finn (voiced by Jeremy Shada) , a human boy , and his best friend and adoptive brother Jake (voiced by John DiMaggio) , a dog with magical powers to change shape and grow and shrink at will . In this episode , Marceline the Vampire Queen (voiced by Olivia Olson) collaborates with the Ice King (voiced by Tom Kenny) to write a song , and Marceline tries to get the Ice King to remember who he really is . This episode reveals that Marceline and the Ice King knew each other during aftermath of the Mushroom War , a cataclysmic event that occurred a thousand years previous .

Formerly titled " Help , " " I Remember You " helped expand upon and explore the Ice King 's previous life . The episode features four songs ? " The Fry Song , " " Oh Bubblegum , " " Nuts , " and " Remember You " ? all of which were written by Sugar , although Sanchez co @-@ wrote the lyrics on " Oh Bubblegum . " Sugar used an omnichord for the demo of the eponymous song , and her playing ended up as part of the episode . " I Remember You " was watched by 2 @.@ 535 million people and received universal critical acclaim , with many critics praising the story 's depth and its exploration of mental disorders , memory , and loss .

= = Plot = =

= = = Background = = =

In the context of the series , Marceline the Vampire Queen is a thousand @-@ year @-@ old vampire . The Ice King is a recurring antagonist of the series , and frequently steals princesses throughout Ooo ; although he is often at odds with Finn and Jake , he is generally not a serious threat . He was formerly a human archaeologist named Simon Petrikov who discovered a magic crown that gives him magical ice powers but eroded his memory and made him go insane . In addition , throughout the series , various character and events hint at the mysterious Mushroom War , a cataclysmic war that destroyed modern human society .

= = = Events = = =

The Ice King decides that he wants to enlist Marceline 's help in writing a song to woo princesses , taking pages randomly torn from an old scrapbook with him for later inspiration . He flies to her cave , and after a minor scuffle that involves Finn and Jake , Marceline finally relents and helps him write a song . At first , the Ice King simply sings a song he wrote about Princess Bubblegum , before breaking down , crying about his loneliness and damaging Marceline 's living room with his ice magic . Marceline tells him to stop acting crazy , and he pushes her , before timidly retreating to the top of her refrigerator . Marceline begins to lament , via the song " Nuts , " and notes that , despite his instability , she is glad to see him . The Ice King is surprised to find out that she " likes " him and asks for a hug . However , when he misinterprets her feelings and tries to kiss her , Marceline angrily confronts him and asks if he remembers his past by calling him by his actual name : Simon .

The Ice King is oblivious to his former self , and Marceline begins looking through the Ice King 's scrapbook pages to show him evidence of his former life . Among the pages is a picture of a young Marceline , with a message to her from a thousand years ago scrawled on the back . The message , written by Simon before his mind was completely consumed by the magic of the crown , asks Marceline to forgive him for whatever he does under the crown 's influence . The Ice King fails to

understand the context , and believes that he has written not a note of apology but lyrics , and attempts to add music to his " song " . Overcome by emotion , Marceline cries and begins singing along while the Ice King plays drums , oblivious as to what is actually going on .

While the eponymous song " Remember You " is being sung , the episode flashes back almost a thousand years before the events of the episode . A young Marceline is seen crying in the wreckage of a city , presumably after the cataclysmic Mushroom War . Simon Petrikov sees her from a distance and runs over . In an attempt to comfort her , he gives her Hambo , a teddy bear , that he finds in the ruins of a toy store . Marceline takes the stuffed animal , stops crying , and looks up in happiness .

= = Production = =

" I Remember You " was storyboarded by Cole Sanchez and Rebecca Sugar , from a story by Patrick McHale , Kent Osborne , and Pendleton Ward . The episode was directed by Larry Leichliter . The idea to create an episode based on a shared history between Marceline and the Ice King was Ward 's idea . Sugar had also been pushing for a Marceline and Ice King musical episode . Sugar was responsible for designing Marceline 's look in the episode . According to her , the shirt that Marceline wears was " loosely based off a stretched out old D.A.R.E. shirt . " The original working title for the episode was " Help " . Former storyboard artist and creative director for the series Adam Muto joked that the change was made due to the famous Beatles song of the same name .

The episode features three new songs : " Oh Bubblegum " , " Nuts " , and the titular " Remember You " . Sugar composed the music for all four , and wrote the lyrics (Sanchez co @-@ wrote the lyrics for " Oh Bubblegum ") . Sugar recorded demos for the songs and Rob Sugar , Rebecca 's father , released the three new demos on his official YouTube account . For the demo for " I Remember You " , Sugar recorded vocals over a separate track of her playing an omnichord ; Sugar 's omnichord playing was eventually worked directly into the episode . According to Rob , the " off @-@ key notes were accidents of running out of power ? it took a lot of tries to make it happen on cue . " While Sugar was pitching the song , she played her songs but her omnichord started to lose power . Sugar and the crew realized that the sound of the omnichord losing power fit with the mood of the episode . For the eponymous song , Sugar noted that it " was so amazing to work with Olivia Olson and Tom Kenny on the songs for this episode , they had so much chemistry in the booth together ! " She wrote that she constructed the episode to " do them justice . " Olson noted that , despite the sad themes featured in the installment , recording the dialogue with Kenny and music for the episode was a fun experience . While the two were recording , Olson had to sing Kenny his melodies ; Kenny would then parrot the lines back in the voice of the Ice King .

In addition to the three new songs , the episode also features a modified version of " The Fry Song " , which had originally appeared in the second season episode " It Came from the Nightosphere " . During the recording of the aforementioned episode , Tom Kenny recorded his own version of the " Fry Song " for fun , which was later included in the third season episode " Holly Jolly Secrets " . This version later inspired Ice King 's alternate " Gunter " version in " I Remember You " .

= = Reception = =

" I Remember You " aired on October 15 , 2012 . It was viewed by 2 @.@ 535 million people , and received a 0 @.@ 5 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic . This means that it was seen by 0 @.@ 5 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds at the time of the broadcast . The episode later re @-@ aired on March 25 , 2013 , together with the fifth season episode " Simon & Marcy , " and was advertised by Cartoon Network as a " half hour special . " This special was watched by 2 @.@ 6 million viewers .

The episode received glowing critical reception . Charlie Jane Anders of io9 called the episode " one of the most intense things I 've seen in ages . " She specifically cited the final flashback as noteworthy , noting that " The final scene , where Marceline and Ice King have this weird duet , made me lose my shit and keeps popping into my head . It 's rare that any television show gets its

hooks into your brain like that , but especially a kid 's cartoon . " She concluded that the main reason that the ending was so powerful was that it showed the viewers the " immediate aftermath of the Mushroom War " and allowed the viewers to see " the way Marceline 's personal loss mirrors the wider loss of the end of the entire world " following the war .

Oliver Sava of The A.V. Club wrote that " never has an Adventure Time episode triggered waterworks like ' I Remember You ' . " He called it " one of the most touching stories this series has ever told , " and praised the way it took Marceline and the Ice King ? whom he called two of the show 's most tragic characters ? and put " them together in a way that hits like a sledgehammer . " He felt that the episode also served as a way to tell " a heartbreaking story about how mental illness can tear people apart , " noting that the Ice King 's condition is similar to how people with bipolar disorder behave . Eric Kohn of IndieWire , in an article explaining why " Adventure Time is the best sci @-@ fi show on TV right now " following the airing of " Simon & Marcy , " wrote that " I Remember You " was " the finest entry in the series ' history . " He further complimented the titular song , describing it as " heartbreaking " and " show @-@ stopping . "

Steven Aoun of PopMatters applauded the way the episode " focuses on two popular supporting characters , and foregrounds the relation between memory and identity . " Furthermore , the site noted that " the sound that takes you by surprise may be your own crying . " Novelist Lev Grossman , in an interview with NPR , praised the backstory of the Ice King and the exploration of his condition , noting that his origin is " psychologically plausible . " Grossman praised the way the series was able to tackle the issues of mental illness , saying : " It 's very affecting . My dad has been going through having Alzheimer 's , and he 's forgotten so much about who he used to be . And I look at him and think this cartoon is about my father dying . "

= = Media release = =

The episode first saw physical release as part of the 2013 Jake the Dad DVD , which included 16 episodes from the series ' fourth and fifth seasons . It was later re @-@ released as part of the complete fourth season DVD in October 2014 . In addition , the 2014 limited edition 12 " vinyl record release Marceline the Vampire Queen ? Rock the Nightosphere included both " Nuts " and " I Remember You " alongside other songs sung by Marceline .