

= Have You Seen This Snail ? =

" Have You Seen This Snail ? " , also known as " Where 's Gary ? " , is the third episode of the fourth season and the 63rd overall episode of the American animated television series SpongeBob SquarePants . It was directed by Alan Smart and Tom Yasumi , written by Aaron Springer and Paul Tibbitt . Springer also functioned as storyboard director . The episode originally aired on Nickelodeon in the United States on November 11 , 2005 . Actress and comedian Amy Poehler guest starred in the episode as the voice of Grandma . Musician Stew performed the featured song " Gary , Come Home " .

The series follows the adventures and endeavors of the title character and his various friends in the underwater city of Bikini Bottom . In this episode , Gary , SpongeBob 's meowing sea snail , runs away from home after feeling neglected by an angry SpongeBob and is adopted by a new owner . After realizing the error of his ways , SpongeBob sets out with his best friend Patrick to search for his adored pet and bring him back to his rightful home .

The episode garnered a viewership of eight million , achieving the highest number of cable television viewers aged six to eleven years old for 2005 . " Have You Seen This Snail ? " received generally positive reviews from television critics upon release .

= = Plot summary = =

SpongeBob receives a paddle ball sent to him in the mail and decides to play it . He is totally consumed by the challenge and forgets Gary for ten days . Gary feels neglected and runs away from home . SpongeBob is shaken from his infatuation with the arrival of Patrick , and cannot find Gary . SpongeBob finds a note saying that Gary has left in search of a new owner . Meanwhile , Gary has wandered into a new city , encountering a gang of snails . A kind old lady discovers Gary and mistakes him for one of her own pets , Miss Tuftsy . Gary is showered with love and food while SpongeBob goes to work , sad that Gary is still missing . Mr. Krabs encourages SpongeBob to work , but SpongeBob misinterprets him , and he takes the day off to look for Gary . He and Patrick puts up posters and signs everywhere in the hope of finding Gary .

Gary , at the old lady 's house , has been fed a lot . The old lady puts out fresh sheets of flyers given to her by Patrick . Upon reading them , Gary realizes that SpongeBob truly loves him and wants him back . He tries to leave , but instead of doing that , he ends up going to the closet , filled with empty snail shells . When the old lady tries to feed him again , Gary finds that the old lady most likely has sinister motives ? she is possibly trying to fatten and then eat him . He makes his escape , but the old lady chases him out onto the streets . Gary quickly finds one of the gangster snails he saw before , which the old lady now mistakes for Miss Tuftsy , and takes home instead . Back home , SpongeBob gives up on his search for Gary , and tries to forget about him by taking a walk , but his memories keep coming to mind and upsetting him . He is constantly reminded as the streets are filled with posters and signs for Gary . SpongeBob then hears a meow . At first he thinks he is imagining Gary is there , but then he turns around to find Gary is actually at his side , and he is overjoyed to see his beloved pet again .

= = Production = =

" Have You Seen This Snail ? " is a half @-@ hour special episode written by Paul Tibbitt , with Aaron Springer serving as writer and storyboard director , and Alan Smart and Tom Yasumi serving as animation directors . The episode originally aired on Nickelodeon in the United States on November 11 , 2005 . Prior its premiere , Nickelodeon released a preview clip and bonus coverage of the episode on Nickelodeon 's broadband online platform TurboNick , available on Nick.com. Nickelodeon also launched the " Trail of the Snail " flash game .

In a press release on November 1 , 2005 , Nickelodeon officially announced the episode and promoted it as the " Where 's Gary " special . According to the network , " It 's a sad day in Bikini Bottom when SpongeBob learns that his beloved pet snail Gary is missing and that he may be at

fault in the mollusk 's disappearance . " Marjorie Cohn , Executive Vice President of Development and Original Programming for Nickelodeon , said " Kids love their pets and there 's certainly some relatability here in the relationship between SpongeBob and Gary -- skewed though it may be [...] It 's fun to see Gary express a whole range of emotions using only his signature ' meow . ' "

In addition to the regular cast , American comedian and Saturday Night Live actress Amy Poehler guest starred in the episode as the voice of Grandma , a sweet old woman who adopted Gary after running away . " Have You Seen This Snail ? " featured an original piece of music written for the episode by the American musician Stew , entitled " Gary , Come Home " .

Nickelodeon supported the episode with a month long off @-@ air marketing campaign including print , outdoor and consumer product partner support . Nickelodeon also launched an on @-@ air sweepstakes called " Where 's Gary " . Every night for five days leading to the episode 's premiere , Patchy the Pirate (a character portrayed as the president of the SpongeBob SquarePants Fan Club played by Tom Kenny) , and other celebrity guests searched in various locations for Gary . By visiting Nick.com , the viewers could receive a " Trail of The Snail " tracking card to enter Patchy 's search locations in order to win the sweepstakes . The prize was a trip to the Nickelodeon Animation Studios to meet the production team of the show and to sit in on a voice recording session with the series cast .

On November 15 , 2005 , " Have You Seen This Snail ? " was released on the DVD compilation called Where 's Gary . In addition , the compilation features six other episodes : " The Lost Mattress " , " Skill Crane " , " Krabs vs. Plankton " , " The Great Snail Race " , and " Good Neighbor " . " Have You Seen This Snail ? " was also included series ' season four DVD compilation . It was also included on SpongeBob SquarePants : The First 100 Episodes DVD , alongside all the episodes of seasons one through five . The DVD was released on September 22 , 2009 .

= = Reception = =

" Have You Seen This Snail ? " was viewed by eight million people . It was the highest @-@ rated program on all TV with children aged two @-@ eleven for the year of 2005 behind the Super Bowl and the Super Bowl kick @-@ off , and the highest @-@ rated program on all of cable with children aged two to eleven and children aged six to eleven in 2005 .

" Have You Seen This Snail ? " received mostly positive reviews from television critics . Tom Shales of The Washington Post called the episode deeply hilarious and described the plot as a " bittersweet riot " . He drew attention to how the story is similar to the plot of " Dumped " , an earlier episode in which Gary deserted SpongeBob . David Johnson of the DVD Verdict positively reacted to the DVD release of the episode and said " I 'm not sure what to say , here . Mr. Squarepants is so ridiculously popular , this disc will most definitely sell itself . " Aida Ekberg of Yahoo ! Voices ranked Amy Poehler on her " Top 10 SpongeBob SquarePants Guest Stars " list and said " I 'm surprised more comedians haven 't been guest stars on SpongeBob . Amy Poehler does a great job with her creepy grandma voice , playing pure evil masked behind plate after plate of chocolate chip cookies . " Paul Mavis of DVD Talk loved the scene " [...] When Gary realizes he has to escape from her crushing love (which equals constant overeating) or die like the other snail shells he finds [...] " He said " it 's both funny and rather touching . "

A television critic writing for the St. Petersburg Times was not so positive about the episode however , criticizing how SpongeBob 's disappointed and sad character for " Have You Seen This Snail ? " is quite different from the character 's normal bright personality . Blogger and Blogcritics founder Eric Olsen said " the episode itself is rather wan and slack , notably lacking in the air of giddy zaniness that millions of men , women and , um , children so happily cleave to . "