

= Old Money (The Simpsons) =

" Old Money " is the seventeenth episode of The Simpsons ' second season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on March 28 , 1991 . In the episode , Grampa 's wealthy girlfriend at the Retirement Castle passes away and leaves him with \$ 106 @,@ 000 . He heads for a casino to spend the money , but is stopped by Homer , so he decides to spend the inheritance money on renovating the retirement home instead .

The episode was written by Jay Kogen and Wallace Wolodarsky and directed by David Silverman . Audrey Meadows guest starred in it as Beatrice " Bea " Simmons , Grampa 's new girlfriend . Professor Frink also makes his debut in the episode . It features cultural references to films such as Tom Jones and If I Had a Million , and the Star Wars and Batman film franchises . Since airing , the episode has received mixed reviews from television critics . It acquired a Nielsen rating of 12 @.@ 3 , and was the highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network the week it aired .

= = Plot = =

After another Sunday with the Simpsons , Grampa meets Beatrice " Bea " Simmons , a resident at the Springfield Retirement Castle . They go on a date and fall in love . When Bea 's birthday arrives on a Sunday , Homer makes Grampa come on a family outing . The outing causes Grampa to miss Bea 's birthday . Grampa returns home expecting to see Bea . However , Jasper tells Grampa that Bea died of a burst ventricle while Grampa was out with the family . Left deeply depressed by her death , Grampa attends her funeral , where he angrily lashes out at Homer and refuses to speak to him .

Grampa receives Bea 's inheritance of \$ 106 @,@ 000 . After time contemplating how to spend the money , Grampa soon forgives Homer , and decides to spend the inheritance on improving the retirement home .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Jay Kogen and Wallace Wolodarsky and directed by David Silverman . The discount lion safari in the episode that the Simpson family visits was based on the drive @-@ through Lion Country Safari , located in Loxahatchee , Palm Beach County , Florida , that Kogen used to visit when he was younger . " Old Money " was the first episode to feature Grampa 's full name , Abraham Simpson . Matt Groening , creator of The Simpsons , named the main characters after his own family members (except for Bart , an anagram of brat , which he substituted for his own name) , but refused to name Grampa after his grandfather , Abram Groening . He left it to the writers to choose a name and they chose " Abraham " , not knowing that it was also the name of Groening 's grandfather .

The now recurring character Professor Frink makes his first appearance on the show in this episode . Frink was originally written as a mad scientist , but when cast member Hank Azaria ad @-@ libbed a voice for Frink , he did an impression of Jerry Lewis 's The Nutty Professor character , and the writing staff started making Frink more of a parody of Lewis . Frink was named after The Simpsons writer John Frink ; however , that was before he became a writer for the show . The episode features a guest appearance from American actress Audrey Meadows as Bea . Al Jean , a writer on the show , said Meadows was perfect for the role because she was very sweet , and the staff had a lot of fun during the recording sessions with her . This is the only episode to date where the closing credits actually states which characters each actor voices . This was done because the staff often received questions from fans regarding what characters each voice actor provided the voice for .

= = Cultural references = =

The scene with Grampa and Bea eating their pills seductively is a reference to the 1963 film Tom Jones . Two of the people waiting in line to ask for Grampa 's money are Darth Vader and the Joker

. When the family is suggesting places they could go , Homer suggests the Springfield Mystery Spot , a reference to the Mystery Spot in California ? although Lisa says that the Springfield Spot is simply a puddle of mud . They eventually decide to go the Discount Lion Safari , however . The Diz @-@ Nee @-@ Land amusement park that Grampa visits with Bea 's money has a sign that reads " Diz @-@ Nee @-@ Land ? Not affiliated with Disneyland , Walt Disney World , or anything else from the Walt Disney Company " . The shot of Grampa sitting at a diner resembles the 1942 American painting Nighthawks . Before Grampa attempts to bet all of his money on Roulette he quotes the poem " If ? " by Rudyard Kipling . The climax scenes , where Grampa uses the money to fix up the Springfield Retirement Castle , is a reference to the ending of the 1932 film If I Had a Million . Dr. Marvin Monroe 's ' Monroe Box ' is meant to be a spoof of B. F. Skinner 's Skinner Box .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " Old Money " finished thirty @-@ sixth in the ratings for the week of March 25 ? 31 , 1991 , with a Nielsen Rating of 12 @.@ 4 . It was the highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week . The episode was released in video collection on May 4 , 1994 , called The Simpsons Collection , together with the episode " Dancin ' Homer " .

Since airing , the episode has received mixed reviews from television critics . The authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide , Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , wrote : " A wonderful episode , very sad but ultimately uplifting , with great one @-@ liners (particularly from Grampa) . " Colin Jacobson of DVD Movie Guide was not as positive . He said , " With ' Old Money ' , we find easily the crummiest episode of season two . Actually , I ? d call this clunker the only bad show of the year . " He went on to say , " I guess ' Old Money ' wasn't a truly terrible episode , as it included a few funny moments . However , it seemed like one of the sappiest Simpsons episodes ever . The program became inundated with sentiment , and it did little to leaven that tide . In a generally strong season , ' Old Money ' stands out as the only real clunker . "