

= Simpsoncalifragilisticexpiala (Annoyed Grunt) cious =

" Simpsoncalifragilisticexpiala (Annoyed Grunt) cious " , is the thirteenth episode of The Simpsons ' eighth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on February 7 , 1997 . After Marge becomes stressed , the Simpsons hire a new nanny , a Mary Poppins parody , Shary Bobbins (voiced by Maggie Roswell) , who tries to help them become better people . It was directed by Chuck Sheetz and was written and executive produced by Al Jean and Mike Reiss . It would also prove to be the last episode for which Mike Reiss received a writing credit . In 2014 , Al Jean selected it as one of five essential episodes in the show 's history .

= = Plot = =

After discovering that she is losing hair at an alarming rate , Marge visits Dr. Hibbert , who informs her that stress is the cause . The Simpson family decides to hire a nanny who can help clean the house and take care of the children . They start interviewing candidates , but none of them are right for the job (as Homer believes every candidate is a man in drag , à la Mrs. Doubtfire) . Bart and Lisa sing a song about what they would consider to be the perfect nanny , and their wishes are answered when a woman with an umbrella glides down from the sky and introduces herself as Shary Bobbins , an obvious parody of Mary Poppins , which she vehemently denies . She seems perfect and is immediately hired .

Shary Bobbins proves to be very helpful for the Simpson family , helping the kids clean their rooms , singing them to sleep , and even making Mr. Burns happy . Marge recovers from her stress , and her hair returns to normal . The next day , as the reformed Simpsons sit down to a perfect dinner , Shary Bobbins declares that her work is finished and leaves the house . Just as she is starting to miss the Simpson family , she sees Homer strangling Bart as they are smashed through the living room window , Maggie attempting to put out a fire , and Marge losing her hair again ; the family has instantly reverted to its previous state of dysfunction . Shary realizes that she must stay .

The family now starts to treat her rudely and lose interest in her songs and zest for life . Declaring that the Simpsons would be the death of her , she becomes depressed and starts drinking (while singing " Margaritaville ") with Barney . The family realizes that they have " crushed her gentle spirit " , and Marge admits to Shary that nothing can be done to change the Simpsons ; through song , the family state that they are happy just the way they are . Shary accepts this , and leaves using her magical umbrella . As Shary glides away , Lisa asks whether they will see her again , and Homer is positive that they will ; both unaware that behind them , Shary is sucked into a jet engine .

= = Production = =

Although the majority of the season eight episodes were executive produced by Bill Oakley and Josh Weinstein , former executive producers Al Jean and Mike Reiss had signed a deal with Disney that allowed them to produce four episodes of The Simpsons . The idea for this episode originated several years before its airdate when Jean and Reiss were the regular showrunners . The idea was pitched at a writers ' retreat by Al Jean , but nobody had wanted to flesh it out . After being allowed to come back to produce some Simpsons episodes , Jean and Reiss decided to write this episode . At first , Mike Reiss was against the episode and had felt that it was a bad idea . He felt that the plot was slightly ridiculous and that the show should not feature any magic ; except for a few moments , he largely kept magic out of the episode . He now considers it one of the best liked episodes that he co @-@ wrote .

At the time , " Simpsoncalifragilisticexpiala (Annoyed Grunt) cious " had more music in it than any other episode . While writing , Jean thought that the songs would stretch out and make the episode the proper length , but it was considerably shorter than required . Several additional scenes , such as the Itchy & Scratchy segment , were added to pad out the episode . There was originally a sequence where Bart , Lisa and Shary Bobbins visit Patty and Selma who sing " We Love to Smoke " , a parody of " I Love to Laugh " . The song was cut because it wasn 't getting any laughs , but the

full version was included on the album Go Simpsonic with The Simpsons and a brief animated version was included as a deleted scene on the Season 8 DVD . During the end song , Homer can be seen dancing along but not singing ; this was because the producers forgot to record Dan Castellaneta .

Many of the scenes were animated by Eric Stefani , a former member of No Doubt , who specialized in animation for musical numbers .

= = = Casting = = =

Julie Andrews (who portrayed the titular role in Mary Poppins) was originally slated to appear in the episode as Shary Bobbins , but in the end , the producers went with series regular Maggie Roswell after hearing Roswell 's reading for the part .

Quentin Tarantino was also asked to guest star , but he did not want to deliver the lines required , believing them to be insulting . Instead , regular Dan Castellaneta did the voice . Tarantino now regularly wears a " bootleg Itchy & Scratchy T @-@ shirt , " which was made by a Simpsons / Tarantino fan , Lisa S. Amsell and given to him in 2001 at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood during a screening of Pulp Fiction .

= = Cultural references = =

The plot of the episode is a reference to Mary Poppins ; Shary Bobbins is based on the character Mary Poppins and the episode title is a spoof of the word " Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious " . Several songs are also direct parodies of songs from the film , including " The Perfect Nanny " , " The Life I Lead " , " A Spoonful of Sugar " , " Feed the Birds " and a deleted scene featured Patty and Selma singing their version of " I Love to Laugh " . The montage of Marge losing her hair features the song " Hair " from the musical Hair (though the version heard is The Cowsills version) . Homer says he has seen Mrs. Doubtfire and believes that some of the candidates for the role of nanny are men in drag . Homer 's imagination is a parody of the dancing characters in Steamboat Willie and features the song " Turkey in the Straw " . While walking in the park , Groundskeeper Willie (dressed like Bert in Mary Poppins) is seen singing a cover version of " Maniac " by Michael Sembello . The scene where Principal Skinner attempts to sell Jimbo is a reference to a similar scene in the story Oliver Twist . The Itchy & Scratchy short " Reservoir Cats " is a parody of the scene in Reservoir Dogs where Mr. Blonde cuts off the ear of the police officer . The sequence features the same setting , camera angles and same music ? " Stuck in the Middle With You " by Stealers Wheel . At the end , Itchy and Scratchy dance in a manner similar to that seen in the film Pulp Fiction . Shary Bobbins and Barney Gumble sing a drunken rendition of Jimmy Buffett 's " Margaritaville " , with Barney wearing an aloha shirt and shaking salt in his mouth after finding the " lost shaker of salt " .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " Simpsoncalifragilisticexpiala (Annoyed Grunt) cious " finished 38th in ratings for the week of February 3 ? 9 , 1997 , with a Nielsen rating of 8 @. @ 8 , equivalent to approximately 8 @. @ 5 million viewing households . It was the third @-@ highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week , following The X @-@ files and King of the Hill .

Alf Clausen received an Emmy Award nomination for " Outstanding Music Direction " for this episode .

In 2014 , The Simpsons writers picked " Reservoir Cats " from this episode as one of their nine favorite " Itchy & Scratchy " episodes of all time .