

= Rock Bottom ( SpongeBob SquarePants ) =

" Rock Bottom " is the 17th episode of the first season of the American animated television series SpongeBob SquarePants . It originally was produced in 1999 and aired on Nickelodeon in the United States on March 15 , 2000 . The series follows the adventures of the title character in the underwater city of Bikini Bottom . In the episode , SpongeBob becomes stranded in a hadopelagic zone called Rock Bottom .

The episode was written by Paul Tibbitt , Ennio Torresan , Jr . , and David Fain , and was directed by Tom Yasumi . Upon release , " Rock Bottom " was viewed by two million households and received positive reviews from media critics .

= = Plot summary = =

SpongeBob and Patrick board a bus to go home from Glove World , which is a glove @-@ themed amusement park . They accidentally board the wrong bus , which then takes them to a 90 @-@ degree cliff . The cliff leads to a hadopelagic zone called Rock Bottom , which is inhabited by many strange deep @-@ sea animals .

Patrick gets on the bus to go home but accidentally leaves SpongeBob behind . After several unsuccessful attempts to get on the bus , SpongeBob heads to a bus station and waits in a very long line . By the time he gets to the front , he finds out that the last bus to leave for the night is already gone , and he is stuck there until morning . He gets scared by a raspberry sound coming from nowhere , and he dashes back to the cliff . The raspberry sound 's maker reveals himself to be a friendly @-@ looking anglerfish creature , who has SpongeBob 's balloon from Glove World . The creature blows up the balloon , ties it to SpongeBob 's wrist , and allows him to rise up the cliff and back to Bikini Bottom . The episode concludes with Patrick on his way back to Rock Bottom , thinking SpongeBob is still there .

= = Production = =

" Rock Bottom " was written by Paul Tibbitt , Ennio Torresan , and David Fain , with Tom Yasumi serving as animation director . Tibbitt and Torresan also worked as storyboard directors . The episode originally aired on Nickelodeon in the United States on March 15 , 2000 , with a TV @-@ Y7 parental rating .

Series head writer of the first season Merriwether Williams said the episode 's story is " so simple . " She remarked " To me , it 's one of the best episodes . It just stayed with one idea . " The episode was about " how he [ SpongeBob ] keeps missing the bus and how that makes him feel . " Williams said the episode was " so small that you could explore gags and opportunities for gags . " The episode was an example of " a good outline " in the series where the storyboards and humor were done easily . Williams said " it was great for the board guys . " She added " In many ways , my job was to create situations where the board guys could be funny , to create a situation that could be funny , and let them go for the actual , specific jokes . "

" Rock Bottom " was released on the DVD compilation called SpongeBob SquarePants : The Complete 1st Season DVD on October 28 , 2003 . On September 22 , 2009 , the episode was released on the SpongeBob SquarePants : The First 100 Episodes DVD , alongside all the episodes of seasons one through five .

= = Reception = =

" Rock Bottom " was watched by 2 @.@ 1 million viewers upon its release . It received very positive reviews from media critics . Nancy Basile of About.com gave the episode a positive response and ranked it No. 4 on her " Best SpongeBob SquarePants Episodes " list . Basile said " The raspberries and SpongeBob 's increasing frustration make this an hilarious episode . " She cited the episode as a " running up against Murphy 's law over and over again " and said " so it 's very relatable . " Basile

's favorite scene was " SpongeBob tries to extract a snack from the vending machine before the bus across the road drives away . "

Emily Estep of WeGotThisCovered.com ranked the episode No. 5 on her " Top 10 Episodes of SpongeBob SquarePants " list . She said " While Rock Bottom is mostly a goofy episode , it 's also one of the scarier episodes of SpongeBob . " She also said the episode has " the ideal balance of cuteness and sheer terror ? like SpongeBob running from a mysterious character , saying , ' Well , that place will be there tomorrow . I guess I 'd better keep walking . Running . Better start running . Running . Sprinting ! Yes , I just gotta keep sprinting ! ' ( Before he hits a wall ; ' Sitting , sitting , bleeding . ' ) " that made the episode " so well @-@ remembered . " Bill Treadway of DVD Talk gave the episode a 3 out of 5 rating .

= = Other media = =

" Rock Bottom " served as an inspiration for the SpongeBob SquarePants Rock Bottom Plunge ride . The ride first opened on March 15 , 2008 at the Mall of America 's Nickelodeon theme park re @-@ branded from the Mall of America 's Park at MOA , formerly Camp Snoopy , to Nickelodeon Universe in the Minneapolis @-@ St. Paul suburb of Bloomington , Minnesota .

The SpongeBob SquarePants Rock Bottom Plunge features vertical lifts and 90 @-@ degree turns providing the riders a 60 @-@ plus foot drop , a maximum speed of over 40 miles per hour and a 4 @.@ 4 maximum G @-@ force rating . The ride time is approximately two minutes and is the shortest Gerstlauer roller coaster built yet .