

= Selma 's Choice =

" Selma 's Choice " is the thirteenth episode of The Simpsons ' fourth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on January 21 , 1993 . In the episode , Selma decides to have a baby , inspired by her late aunt 's wish that she would not spend her life alone . She experiences what life with children is like by taking Bart and Lisa to the Duff Gardens amusement park , which does not go as planned . It was written by David M. Stern and directed by Carlos Baeza .

= = Plot = =

After watching an advertisement on television for Duff Gardens , Homer , Bart and Lisa decide to go . As they prepare to leave , Marge tells them that spinster Great Aunt Gladys died and they will be going to her funeral instead . The Simpsons , along with Patty and Selma , drive to Littleneck Falls to attend her funeral and the reading of her will . On the video will , Great Aunt Gladys tells Patty and Selma not to die alone , as she did . Selma hears the ticking of her biological clock , and decides she wants a child . Selma tries video dating , but gets rejected by Groundskeeper Willie . She goes to a psychic who tries to sell her a love potion . The psychic ingests it , blurts out the innocuous ingredients and discovers that she accidentally drank a truth serum . Selma dates Hans Moleman after revoking his license at the DMV . All goes well until Hans tries to kiss her goodnight ; Selma envisions herself as the mother of several ugly , blind children and kicks Hans out of the car to prevent that future from happening . Lisa then suggests to Selma that she go through artificial insemination .

When the day comes for Homer to take Bart and Lisa to Duff Gardens , he falls ill from food poisoning after eating a hoagie that became spoiled days after he took it home from a company picnic . In an attempt to give Selma a taste of motherhood , Marge nominates her to take the kids to Duff Gardens while she stays home to look after Homer .

When the trio arrives at Duff Gardens , Bart and Lisa wear Selma out , especially when they go on the Little Land of Duff ride and Bart dares Lisa to drink the toxic " water " . Lisa is confused , but Bart mocks her until Selma intervenes , shouting at Bart to shut up and ordering Lisa to drink the water . When Lisa takes a sip , she hallucinates , grows violent and paranoid , and wanders away from the ride , tripping out to the parade music . While Selma is looking for Lisa , Bart gets on a roller coaster called The Barrel Roll and ends up having to be rescued after the car stops in the center of one of the inversions . Lisa is soon found swimming nude in the Fermentarium , returned to Selma and given pills by an unlicensed doctor .

After Bart and Lisa return home , Selma decides she can live without children for now and adopts Jub @-@ Jub , Gladys ' pet iguana .

= = Production = =

Writer David Stern said he wanted to go back to a " Patty and Selma episode " , because it was sustained so well when he wrote " Principal Charming " . He thought it was important to " keep these characters (Patty and Selma) alive . " The animators had trouble with the size of the characters ' pupils during the season . In this episode , they are noticeably larger . When the family watches the video will , Julie Kavner did five voices in the scene . When Gladys shows off her collection of potato chips , the scene was inspired by an actual guest on The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson , who was showing off her collection of chips that looked like famous people . Jub @-@ Jub made his debut appearance in this episode ; the name of the iguana Jub @-@ Jub came from Conan O 'Brien .

Though research is usually done when real languages are used on the show , the language heard on Selma 's ham radio is fictional .

= = Cultural references = =

Marge 's flashback of her and her sisters swimming in a lake is based on The Prince of Tides . The singers at Duff Gardens , Hooray for Everything , are a tribute to Up with People . The group is seen performing a kid @-@ friendly version of the Lou Reed song " Walk on the Wild Side " . Homer and Bart start to sing " Ding Dong ! The Witch is dead " from The Wizard of Oz . The poem that Great Aunt Gladys reads at the start of her video will is " The Road Not Taken " by Robert Frost . The song and ride that Bart , Lisa , and Selma go on , with animatronic kids from all over the world singing is a parody of the song " It 's a Small World " . The Duff Gardens parade is a parody of Disneyland 's Main Street Electrical Parade . Lisa 's hallucination where she sees Selma after drinking the water on the ride is based on the work of artist Ralph Steadman , particularly in the novel Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas . When Lisa says " I am the Lizard Queen ! " , it is a tribute to Jim Morrison 's poem " Celebration of the Lizard " . After acquiring Jub @-@ Jub , Selma sings " (You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman " , a reference to the season four finale of the sitcom Murphy Brown , in which reporter Murphy Brown sings the song after giving birth to her baby .

= = Reception = =

" Selma 's Choice " finished 27th in the weekly ratings for the week of January 18 ? 24 , 1993 with a Nielsen rating of 14 @.@ 2 .

The authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide , Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood said , " A nice episode for Selma and good for Marge and Homer as well . But it 's the kids who provide the highlights in this one , with their antics at Duff Gardens . " The author of Planet Simpson : How a Cartoon Masterpiece Documented an Era and Defined a Generation , Chris Turner said it " Fills in with the usual grab bag of great gags " and " The episode had some crowd @-@ pleasing moments . " He went on to say , " The last few minutes of the show played out to continuous laughter (in the pub he was watching it in) " .