

## = The Man with Two Brians =

" The Man with Two Brians " is the fifth episode of the seventh season of the animated series Family Guy . It premiered on Fox in the United States on November 9 , 2008 . The episode centers on anthropomorphic dog Brian after he is injured during a stunt being enacted by his owner , Peter , after he watches Jackass with his friends . The family comes to realize that Brian may be getting too old , so Peter brings home an optimistic new dog . Brian is prompted to leave when his family begins to favor New Brian over him .

The episode was written by John Viener and marked the directorial debut of Dominic Bianchi . It received generally favorable reviews from critics for its storyline and various cultural references . According to Nielsen ratings , the episode was viewed by 8 @. @ 60 million households in its original airdate . Johnny Knoxville , Will Sasso and Camille Guaty provided guest performances in the episode .

## = = Plot = =

After watching Jackass , Peter and his friends , Cleveland , Quagmire , and Joe are impressed into filming their own highly dangerous stunts . In one stunt , Peter attempts to jump a lake but instead crashes into a tree , causing him to fall into the lake and become incapacitated . Brian swims out to save him from drowning , but strains his back during the rescue and also ends up stranded in the water along with Peter , before being rescued by Joe . Lois berates Peter for his actions , since Brian is becoming old and has been smoking and drinking . Peter begins to grow upset about Brian 's age so he obtains another dog and names him New Brian . His positive attitude and desirable personality make Brian feel like an outcast and Brian becomes sad that he is now unloved , and rejected . For example in one scene , when the Griffins hear New Brian fart , they think it is cute and when Brian does it , they get furious and kick him out . He ultimately decides to leave the residence , while his family begins to miss him .

Meanwhile , New Brian 's constant cheerfulness begins to aggravate Stewie . Stewie pleads for Brian to return , but he informs him that as long as New Brian is there , he has no place in the Griffin household . Stewie reveals to New Brian that they do not like several of his traits , including how he humps the leg of one of their chairs , but New Brian replies by boasting about how he violated Rupert , Stewie 's teddy bear . Stewie then stabs New Brian to death off @-@ screen and forges a suicide note . The Griffins then ultimately accept Brian back , while Stewie , traumatized by what happened to Rupert , frantically washes him in the shower while comforting him .

## = = Production = =

" The Man with Two Brians " was written by John Viener and directed by Dominic Bianchi . In the storyboard animatic scene of Brian 's rescue of a drowning Peter , music from Rambo : First Blood Part II was used . The scene in which Peter broke his neck and the design of New Brian were both based on drawings by creator Seth MacFarlane . New Brian was supposed to be a Golden Retriever , but his color was changed so that he would stand out from the yellow kitchen . In the scene when Peter wears the costume from The Greatest American Hero , the theme from E.T. was originally used . Several scenes were cut when the episode aired on television , mostly due to lack of time . The song New Brian sang to Peter was written by series writer Alec Sulkin . The original ending for the episode was a Beverly Hills , 90210 basketball joke , but it was cut .

" The Man with Two Brians " , along with the first eight episodes of the seventh season were released on DVD by 20th Century Fox in the United States and Canada on June 16 , 2009 . The " Volume 7 " DVD release features bonus material including deleted scenes , animatics , and commentaries for every episode .

Johnny Knoxville , star of Jackass , provided his own voice in this episode , and Will Sasso and Camille Guaty guest starred as various characters . The episode 's writer , John Viener , provided the voice of New Brian . Recurring voice actors and writers Kirker Butler , Mark Hentemann , Danny

Smith and Alec Sulkin made minor appearances in the episode .

#### = = Cultural references = =

The television series Jackass is referred to frequently by Peter and his neighbors , and is the principal reason that they try to do stunts . Johnny Knoxville cameoes and takes a shotgun blast which blows off part of his face . In the episode , while being launched off a ramp and flying through the air , Peter wears the costume from The Greatest American Hero and sings that series ' theme song .

Peter dresses up like a stereotypical adolescent bully featured in 1980s films , and makes references to Pretty in Pink , No Retreat , No Surrender and The Karate Kid . He then looks at the ocean on a pier as Howard Jones ' song , " No One Is to Blame " , plays . In one scene , Stewie refers to " aging supermodel Carol Alt . " Before New Brian and Lois sing " Summer Nights " as featured in Grease , Peter sings R.E.M. ' s " Everybody Hurts " . Stewie reads and then rips apart Nancy Reagan 's memoir , My Turn . Mumm @-@ Ra , the antagonist from the 1980s cartoon Thundercats and its 2011 remake , appears in the scene where Cleveland Brown is making Brian go to the bathroom on a leash whilst staying at his house . Mumm @-@ Ra watches through his cauldron and laughs evilly before remarking , " I 'm watching you make stool ! "

#### = = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " The Man with Two Brians " was watched by 8 @.@ 60 million households according to the Nielsen ratings . The episode acquired a 4 @.@ 3 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , and was the most @-@ watched show in the Animation Domination block that night . Family Guy finished fourth in its timeslot , after NBC 's Sunday Night Football , ABC 's Desperate Housewives and CBS 's The Amazing Race .

The episode received generally favorable reviews from television sources and critics . Ahsan Haque of IGN gave the episode 7 @.@ 5 / 10 and said : " While it featured more than [ ... ] a couple of genuinely unfunny ideas , this episode succeeds for the most part . [ ... ] While this episode definitely won 't make anyone 's top ten list of great Family Guy , there was a much better balance between random humor and storytelling in this outing " . Genevieve Koski of The A.V. Club gave the episode an A- , and said that Family Guy " started things out on the wrong foot with an oh @-@ so @-@ relevant Jackass storyline . [ ... ] Most of the Jackass stuff was way too stale ? Peter jackknifing Quagmire into the crate of bees notwithstanding ? but thankfully it was just setup for a far superior storyline , the introduction of a younger ' New Brian ' " .

Robin Pierson of The TV Critic was more critical about the episode , and gave it 32 / 100 and said : " As usual the problem with this episode is that there is no point to it . [ The episode had ] some needless jokes but others which were bearable and a logical enough story even though it addressed nothing .