

= Another Simpsons Clip Show =

" Another Simpsons Clip Show " is the third episode of The Simpsons ' sixth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on September 25 , 1994 . In the episode , Marge reads a romance novel in bed , and it prompts her to have a family meeting , where the Simpson family recall their past loves in form of clips from previous episodes .

The episode was written by Jon Vitti (credited as " Penny Wise ") and directed by David Silverman . It is the second Simpsons episode featuring a clip show format and uses clips from all the previous five seasons . The episode features cultural references to the 1992 book The Bridges of Madison County and the 1967 film The Graduate . The episode has received rather negative reviews , since clip shows tend to be the least favorite episodes among fans . It acquired a Nielsen rating of 8 @. @ 7 and was the fourth highest rated show on the Fox network that week .

= = Plot = =

Marge is reading The Bridges of Madison County one night and wakes up Homer to ask if he thinks the romance has gone out of their marriage . He grumbles , saying that he was working all day , but Marge points out that it is actually Saturday night at 9PM ; Homer ignores her and tosses the book into the newly built fireplace in their bedroom . Marge groans and falls asleep .

In the morning , Marge gets the family together to discuss romance , but they can only come up with vignettes from their failed relationships (and in the parents ' case , near @-@ extramarital affairs) in the form of clips from previous episodes . Homer , however , saves the day when he brings up how he and Marge got together (in clips from the second season episode " The Way We Was ") . Ultimately , the kids do not care for this one and wind up watching Itchy & Scratchy while Homer and Marge share another special moment .

= = Production = =

As the title of the episode suggests , it is second clip show episode of The Simpsons after " So It 's Come to This : A Simpsons Clip Show " , the 18th episode of the fourth season . It was written by Jon Vitti , who used the pseudonym Penny Wise in the closing credits because he did not want to be credited for writing a clip show , and it was directed by David Silverman . The episode also includes contributions from John Swartzwelder , Frank Mula , David Richardson , Jeff Martin , Bill Oakley , Josh Weinstein , Matt Groening , Sam Simon , Al Jean , Mike Reiss , Jay Kogen , Wallace Wolodarsky , Nell Scovell , David M. Stern , George Meyer , Conan O 'Brien , Robert Cohen , Bill Canterbury , and Dan McGrath .

During the early years of the show , the staff was forced by the Fox network into doing clip shows to save money . There was originally intense pressure on the producers of the show to create extra episodes in each season , and the plan was to make four clip shows per season to meet that limit . Writers and producers , however , felt that this many clip shows would alienate fans of the series . The Fox network 's reasoning was that clip shows cost half of what a normal episode cost to produce , but they could sell syndication rights at full price .

= = = Referenced clips = = =

This flashback episode uses clips from episodes released during the first five seasons :

= = = Cultural references = = =

At the beginning of the episode Marge is reading " The Bridges of Madison County " , also when Bart , Lisa , and Maggie are watching Itchy & Scratchy , Marge says they watch the same shows all the time , while Lisa says that the Itchy & Scratchy cartoons are just pasted together from pieces of old episodes (and pointing out that Ren and Stimpy do it all the time) . This comment is a sly joke

about the construction of this episode ; the blackboard and couch gags are taken from other episodes , there are clips from past episodes , and the interstitials are actually clips from past episodes that feature the family members talking in the kitchen . These three aspects support the idea of this episode being a clip show to the extreme .

In the clip from " Lady Bouvier 's Lover " , Grampa tries to stop the wedding between Jacqueline Bouvier and Mr. Burns by banging on the window while shouting " Mrs. Bouvier ! " , which is a reference to the 1967 film *The Graduate* . Marge is seen reading the 1992 book *The Bridges of Madison County* by Robert James Waller .

The Arab Strap song *First Big Weekend* refers to this episode , stating " Sunday afternoon we go up to John 's with a lot of beer in time to watch the Simpsons . It was a really good episode about love always ending in tragedy except , of course , for Marge and Homer . "

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " Another Simpsons Clip Show " finished 68th in the ratings for the week of September 19 to September 25 , 1994 , with a Nielsen rating of 8 @. @ 7 . The episode was the fourth highest rated show on the Fox network that week , beaten only by *Beverly Hills , 90210* , *The X @-@ Files* , and *Married ... With Children* .

The episode has received rather negative reviews , since clip shows tend to be the least favorite episodes among fans . Nevertheless , it is considered one of the better clip show episodes of *The Simpsons* . The episode has been described as " framed in such a way as to still make [it] worth watching , [...] like a slideshow that 's not quite so boring , " " another clip show , although not the worst of them , " or as " the episode title pretty much says it all " . Colin Jacobson of *DVD Movie Guide* said in a review : " The romance related storyline fizzles . That leaves us with a good collection of clips , but since we can already watch them in their original episodes , why bother with this cheap excuse for product ? "

Lisa 's comments " romance is dead , it was acquired in a hostile takeover by Hallmark and Disney , homogenized , and sold off piece @-@ by @-@ piece " ? have been used in case studies of the cultural representations of organizations .

Scottish indie @-@ rock band Arab Strap referred to this episode in the lyrics of their debut single " *The First Big Weekend* " (" Sunday afternoon we go up to John 's with a lot of beer in time to watch *The Simpsons* - it was a really good episode about love always ending in tragedy except , of course , for Marge and Homer . It was quite moving at the end and to tell you the truth my eyes were a bit damp ") .