

= Homer Badman =

" Homer Badman " , also known as " Homer : Bad Man " , is the ninth episode of The Simpsons ' sixth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on November 27 , 1994 . It was written by Greg Daniels and directed by Jeffrey Lynch . In the episode , Homer is falsely accused of sexual harassment after a babysitter mistakes him grabbing a gummi candy stuck to her pants for a sexual pass at her , resulting in Homer becoming public enemy number one . Dennis Franz guest stars as himself .

= = Plot = =

Homer and Marge attend a candy convention and hire Ashley Grant , a feminist graduate student , to babysit Bart , Maggie and Lisa . At the convention , Homer outfits Marge with an oversized trenchcoat and is vigilant in smuggling out as much candy as possible in her pockets , including a rare gummy Venus de Milo .

That night , Homer searches for the gummy Venus amongst his smuggled goods , but is unable to find it . Marge reminds him to take Ashley home and Homer grudgingly obliges . As Ashley is exiting Homer 's car , he sees the gummy Venus stuck to the backside of her jeans . Homer innocently grabs the candy , and Ashley turns around to see Homer drooling lustfully at the piece of candy . Misinterpreting his poor tact and drooling as a deliberate sexual advance , Ashley runs off screaming in terror while Homer gleefully eats the candy .

The next morning , an angry mob marches onto the Simpsons ' lawn and claims that Homer sexually harassed Ashley . The crowd refuses to listen to Homer , who was trying to tell his side of the story . When Rock Bottom , a tabloid news show , asks to interview him about his predicament , he agrees in the hope that it will clear his name . However , the interview is heavily ( and poorly ) edited into a totally inaccurate segment where Homer is portrayed as a pervert . Things go from bad to worse as a media circus arrives at the Simpson home to provide 24 @-@ hour coverage of things such as Marge letting the cat out and the family watching TV ; Fox even produces a TV movie , Homer S. : Portrait of an Ass @-@ Grabber , starring Dennis Franz as a lascivious Homer . Lisa and Marge suggest Homer videotape himself telling his side of the story to air on a Public @-@ access television cable TV , but all he succeeds at accomplishing is angering an old @-@ time bicyclist . It was to appear Homer will most likely be guilty .

However , Groundskeeper Willie also saw Homer 's speech , and arrives at the Simpson home with a video tape of what happened the night Homer took Ashley home . The tape clearly shows that Homer was grabbing the Gummy Venus , and upon seeing it , Ashley and the media apologize for labeling Homer a monster . Later on , the Simpson family is watching a " Rock Bottom " episode that labels Willie as a disgusting voyeur and Homer immediately declares that he is evil . Marge asks Homer if he learned anything from his experiences , to which Homer replies that he has not learned a thing . After the rest of the family leaves the room , Homer embraces the television and quietly says to it , " Let 's never fight again . "

= = Production = =

Greg Daniels , the writer of the episode , originally pitched this episode as being more centered on Lisa and Homer 's opposing ideas on feminism . Eventually , the episode became more of a satire of the media and shows like Hard Copy . David Mirkin , the show runner at the time , felt very strongly about the " tabloidization of the media " and has said that the episode is as current today as it was at the time and things have since gotten worse . Several gags in the episode are based on what real life shows like Hard Copy would do , such as making people look to be guilty without a trial as well as a complete invasion of privacy by setting up camp outside people 's homes . The talk show " Ben " , which is hosted by a bear named " Gentle Ben " wearing a microphone on its head , reflects the writers ' feeling that anyone could host a talk show because all they need is a microphone and an audience .

Dennis Franz was the writers ' second choice for the role of Homer when the first choice pulled out . According to the DVD commentary , the original actor was more " barrel chested . "

= = Cultural references = =

The action sequence at the Candy convention is " based on every Bruce Willis movie ever made . " Homer 's imagination of living underwater is a parody of the song " Under the Sea " from the Disney film The Little Mermaid . David Mirkin says he thought the sequence would be funny because Homer would eat all of the characters from The Little Mermaid . Groundskeeper Willie is referred to as Rowdy Roddy Peeper , a reference to " Rowdy " Roddy Piper , a wrestler who used a Scotsman gimmick . When Homer is found naked by an invasive camera crew outside his bathroom window underneath his clear shower curtain , ( the helicopter camera crew startled Homer as he was taking his shower causing him to rip the curtain and fall underneath it ) , A channel 6 journalist reports that Homer sleeps under an oxygen tent giving him sexual powers , is a reference to the rumor about Michael Jackson sleeping in a hyperbaric oxygen chamber to extend his life . The talk show Ben , hosted by a bear named " Gentle Ben " , refers to the 1960s television series Gentle Ben about a wild black bear who became a little boy 's best friend . Among the TV shows parodied during the episode : Hard Copy , Sally Jessy Raphael , the Late Show with David Letterman and media coverage of the O.J. Simpson standoff .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " Homer Badman " finished 50th in ratings for the week of November 21 ? 27 , 1994 , with a Nielsen rating of 9 @. @ 5 , equivalent to approximately 9 @. @ 1 million viewing households . It was the highest @- @ rated show on the Fox network that week , beating Married ... with Children .

According to David Mirkin , this episode is very highly ranked among Simpsons fans . In Entertainment Weekly 's top 25 The Simpsons episodes in 2003 , " Homer Badman " was placed eighteenth . The Quindecim , a college newspaper , made their own top 25 list , with this episode at 15th place . The Daily Telegraph characterized the episode as one of " The 10 Best Simpsons TV Episodes . "