

= Treehouse of Horror XXI =

" Treehouse of Horror XXI " is the fourth episode of The Simpsons ' twenty @-@ second season . It first aired on the Fox network in the United States on November 7 , 2010 . This is the 21st Treehouse of Horror episode , and , like the other " Treehouse of Horror " episodes , consisted of three self @-@ contained segments : In " War and Pieces " , Bart and Milhouse discover a real @-@ life board game that they must win to return home ; in " Master and Cadaver " , Marge and Homer go on a honeymoon on a sailboat , and rescue a mysterious castaway named Roger ; and in " Tweenlight " , Lisa falls in love with a vampire named Edmund .

" Treehouse of Horror XXI " was written by Joel H. Cohen and directed by Bob Anderson . Daniel Radcliffe and Hugh Laurie both guest starred in the episode . The first segment references Jumanji , the second is a loose parody of Dead Calm and the third satirizes the Twilight novel and film series . The episode also contains references to The Office , A Clockwork Orange and Sesame Street .

In its original airing on the Fox Network during the November sweeps period , the episode had a 3 @.@ 7 Nielsen rating viewed in approximately 8 @.@ 2 million homes . Critical opinion of the episode was mixed , with " Tweenlight " generally being regarded as the best of the three segments .

= = Plot = =

While carving pumpkins , Bart takes a knife and etches a smile into Homer 's pants . Homer responds by choking Bart , and Bart puts a flaming pumpkin on Homer 's head . Professor Frink then welcomes the audience and warns them of the content of the show , presenting a TiVo remote control to fast forward through the scary stuff . But after accidentally fast forwarding to the end of the special , and exposing spoilers , a shameful Frink uses the remote on himself and fast forwards his life until he is turned to a pile of dust . The Frankenstein 's Monster who was created by Frink makes a reference to The Office , and remembers his days working at " Monster Mifflin " with the Mummy , the Wolf Man , a zombie and a witch .

= = = " War and Pieces " = = =

In a parody of Jumanji , Marge , worried about the effects of excessively violent video games , encourages Bart and Milhouse to try playing some of the classic board games in the attic . After rejecting the " lame " ones , they discover an old board game called " Satan 's Path . " Upon playing it , all the rejected games come to life turning the town into a giant game board . Lisa reads the instructions , which are in Latin , and says the two must beat all the games to finish Satan 's Path and restore everything to normal . Milhouse dies during the game of Scrabble , but Bart manages to finish it , returning everything back to normal ( even bringing Milhouse back to life ) . Bart and Milhouse state that they will just play hangman but the game brings the hangman to life . With only one more letter remaining ( WHEEL \_ F F \_ RTUNE ) , Milhouse guesses the number 3 , which results in Bart and Milhouse being hanged .

= = = " Master and Cadaver " = = =

In a parody of Dead Calm , Homer and Marge set sail on a romantic second honeymoon . Their time together is interrupted when they rescue a castaway . Introducing himself as Roger , the castaway explains that he was a chef on a yacht called the Albatross , and was knocked out after attempting to stop a poisoning on his ship . Roger makes them a pie , but Homer becomes convinced that Roger poisoned the guests on the Albatross . He grabs the pie from Marge and throws it out the window . Marge chastises Homer , but looks out a window and sees a dead shark with the pie pan in its mouth . Homer and Marge take matters into their own hands as they seemingly kill Roger using a metal pole , and knock his body overboard . However , finding the Albatross , they realize Roger was telling the truth and that some of the passengers are still alive ,

as one of the people administered an antidote . Roger appears and explains that the shark they saw had died from a fuel leakage from Homer and Marge 's boat . Homer then kills Roger , the surviving Albatross crew , and a pelican , to cover their tracks . However , unable to bear the guilt , Marge eats the poisoned pie , much to Homer 's horror . The story is then revealed to be Maggie 's imagination while she is taking a bath . Homer asks Marge what Maggie thinks about while bathing , which she responds , " Just sugar plums and buttercups . " Maggie then shadily moves her eyes ( revealing eyeliner over one eye ) , puts on a hat , and drinks milk like Alex from A Clockwork Orange as the theme from the movie briefly plays in the background .

= = = " Tweenlight " = = =

In a parody of Twilight , Lisa falls in love with a mysterious new student named Edmund . After saving Lisa from a bus , two cars , a bicycle and a Segway PT , Edmund reveals he is a vampire . Lisa is not frightened by this and the two begin a romance , much to the dismay of Milhouse , who turns into a were @-@ poodle . Marge invites Edmund and his father , Count Dracula , to dinner . Edmund and Lisa are both embarrassed by their fathers and decide to leave . Homer and Dracula track them down to a cathedral in " Dracula @-@ la Land " . They see Edmund climbing up a tower with Lisa , so Homer forces Dracula to carry him up . Lisa wants to become a vampire , but has second thoughts after learning that she would be eight years old forever . Edmund says that " the blood @-@ lust is upon him " and he has to bite something . Homer stops Dracula with a cross , and is amazed to learn vampires love their kids also . Edmund and his father reconcile , and Homer saves Lisa by offering himself up in her place as the two vampires feast on him . However , they both die from the bad cholesterol in Homer 's blood as he is turned into a vampire . Transforming into a bat to fly home , Homer 's fat causes him to fall to his death . His body is carried off by were @-@ poodle Milhouse while Lisa watches in dismay .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Joel H. Cohen , and it was his first sole writing credit for a Treehouse of Horror episode . He previously wrote the " Hex and the City " segment of season 13 's " Treehouse of Horror XII " . Bob Anderson served as director . It was his third Treehouse of Horror episode , the first two being season seven 's " Treehouse of Horror VI " and season 20 's " Treehouse of Horror XIX " . Daniel Radcliffe , star of the Harry Potter film series , guest starred as Edmund in the third segment which parodies the Twilight novel and film series . Radcliffe said that he is a fan of the show and guest starring is " a huge honour . The Halloween episode has become a big tradition in The Simpsons so I 'm very excited to be part of it . There was a time when I was 12 or 13 when 50 percent of everything I knew about the world came from The Simpsons , so this is a big deal . " Hugh Laurie of Blackadder and House guest starred as Roger in " Master and Cadaver " .

The episode aired November 7 , 2010 , making it the tenth Treehouse of Horror episode to air after Halloween . The previous year 's episode had aired October 18 .

= = Cultural references = =

The opening segment ends with a parody of opening credits of The Office , featuring various monsters like the Frankenstein 's monster , the Mummy and the Wolf Man among others working in " Monster Mifflin " .

The plot of " War and Pieces " references the film Jumanji . Some of the board games referenced include Chutes and Ladders and Mouse Trap . Milhouse 's death , where he lets go of a ledge and sinks into water , is a reference to Jack Dawson 's death in Titanic . The answer for the hangman game Bart and Milhouse played is Wheel of Fortune .

The second segment , " Master and Cadaver " , is based on the film Dead Calm. the title is a reference to the film Master and Commander : The Far Side of the World . At the end of the segment , Maggie imitates Alex from the film A Clockwork Orange .

" Tweenlight " parodies the Twilight novel and film series . Edmund is based on Edward Cullen , the character portrayed by Robert Pattinson in Twilight and its sequels . Edmund 's father is Count Dracula . Count von Count from Sesame Street and Yogi Bear also have cameo appearances in the segment . Other famous vampires with cameo appearance are : Dracula from Bram Stoker 's Dracula , Grandpa Munster , Count Orlock , Blacula , Selene , Elvira , Mistress of the Dark and Count Chocula . At one point Edmund yells " You 're tearing me apart ! " to his father . This could be a reference to James Dean 's character in the 1955 film Rebel Without a Cause or Tommy Wiseau 's character in the 2003 film The Room .

= = Reception = =

In its original airing on the Fox Network during the November sweeps period , the episode had a 3 @. @ 7 Nielsen rating and 9 % share of the audience in the 18 @- @ 49 demographic , and was viewed in approximately 8 @. @ 2 million homes . The episode was up 23 % in viewership compared with the previous episode , " MoneyBART " , which aired October 10 .

The episode received mixed critical reviews , with " Tweenlight " generally being regarded as the best segment . John Griffiths of Us Weekly gave the episode three stars , writing that " the three oddball tales run from mildly amusing to flat @- @ out inspired . In one goofy vignette , Homer and a bikini @- @ wearing Marge pluck a scary mystery man from the sea . However , watching Lisa crush on a brooding vampire in a dead @- @ on poke at Twilight is the hilarious treat here . " Fred Topel of Screen Junkies wrote , " The best jokes in all the segments are actually not the spoofs . They ? re the cartoon physical comedy , the references to mundane frustrations like having to be the thimble when playing Monopoly . It ? s also super gory . [ .. ] I think ? The Simpsons ? are still on the creative upswing since The Simpsons Movie and this ? Treehouse of Horrors ? would hold up with classics like " The Shinning " and " The Homega Man . " Brad Trechak of TV Squad felt that it was one of the best Treehouse of Horrors in years . He wrote , " Of the three vignettes , the first segment ' War and Pieces , ' while not the best , was the most original despite being a variation of the plot of ' Jumanji . ' Unlike that book / movie , instead of the game coming into the real world , the game brings other board games into the real world . The satire on this show remains sharp as none of the games had the same name as their real world counterparts to prevent toy company litigation against Fox . [ .. ] The final segment ' Tweenlight ' ... was the best of the three . It felt a little less dated than the first two . "

Robert Bianco of USA Today was critical of the episode , writing " It is possible [ that The Simpsons ] has worn out the Treehouse franchise . [ The ] three installments just seem to be reaching for jokes that aren 't there , and falling in the attempt . [ ... ] As you 'd hope from The Simpsons , the segments all boast a few clever moments that will make you smile if not laugh . But they 're not scary , they 're not particularly funny , and outside of some tepid Twilight jokes , they 're no longer even trying to be real parodies of the original stories . " Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club also gave the episode a negative review , and felt that " There were laughs in all three segments , but the episode as a whole left something to be desired . The first [ ... ] eventually descended into a long string of mostly lame board game jokes , as if the writers had been coming up with board game puns for the last 15 seasons or something and wanted an excuse to unload a bunch of them all at once . The idea of Bart and Milhouse playing with a Ouija board ripoff was promising , so to see it descend into gags about Marge getting sucked into Clue was disappointing . There were fewer good gags [ in " Master and Cadaver " ] than in the board game segment , but it was balanced out by a fairly solid Hugh Laurie performance . Fortunately , the last segment , the inevitable Twilight parody , was funny across the board , both in how it took the piss out of the Twilight films and how it satirized vampire mania . [ ... ] Still , it wasn 't the best " Treehouse " ever , and you could make a good claim for it being the worst , particularly if the Twilight segment wasn 't in there . "

Alf Clausen 's score for the episode received a nomination for the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Music Composition for a Series at the 63rd Primetime Emmy Awards .