

= Simon & Marcy =

" Simon & Marcy " is the fourteenth episode of the fifth season of the American animated television series Adventure Time . The episode was written and storyboarded by Cole Sanchez and Rebecca Sugar , from a story by Patrick McHale , Kent Osborne , and Pendleton Ward . It originally aired on Cartoon Network on March 25 , 2013 together with the fourth season episode " I Remember You " , and as such was advertised as a half @-@ hour special .

The series follows the adventures of Finn (voiced by Jeremy Shada) , a human boy , and his best friend and adoptive brother Jake (voiced by John DiMaggio) , a dog with magical powers to change shape and grow and shrink at will . In this episode , Marceline the Vampire Queen (voiced by Olivia Olson) reveals that 996 years prior to the events of the series , she and the Ice King (voiced by Tom Kenny) ? then a human named Simon Petrikov ? wandered the post @-@ apocalyptic land after the cataclysmic Mushroom War .

" Simon & Marcy " was the last episode to feature Sugar as a storyboard artist . She left after completing the episode in order to create her own series , Steven Universe . The episode received critical acclaim ; many praised its balance of humor and emotions , as well as its exploration of the Ice King 's character . The episode was viewed by 2 @. @ 6 million viewers and received a 0 @. @ 6 rating among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . The episode was later nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for Short @-@ format Animation at the 65th Primetime Emmy Awards , but lost to Mickey Mouse episode " Croissant de Triomphe " .

= = Plot = =

= = = Background = = =

In the context of the series , Marceline the Vampire Queen is a thousand @-@ year @-@ old vampire . The Ice King is a recurring antagonist of the series , and frequently kidnaps princesses throughout Ooo ; although he is often at odds with Finn and Jake , he is generally not a serious threat . In the fourth season episode " I Remember You " , it was revealed that Marceline and the Ice King had originally met following the events of the mysterious Mushroom War , a cataclysmic war that destroyed modern human society .

= = = Events = = =

While playing basketball at Marceline 's house , Finn and Jake are surprised to learn that Marceline invited the Ice King to play as well . After the two inquire , Marceline reveals that she had known the Ice King when he was still a human man named Simon Petrikov , 996 years before the timeframe of the episode .

The episode then flashes back 996 years , following the destruction of civilization in the mysterious Mushroom War . Simon and Marceline ? who Simon affectionately called Marcy ? wander the outskirts of a destroyed and unidentified city . After hearing a rustling from the woods , Simon is forced to put on the mysterious ice crown . The crown gives the wearer ice @-@ related magic powers but also drains them of their sanity . Using the power of the crown , Simon freezes what was making the rustling : a deer . Marcy eventually manages to snap Simon out of his bout of craziness , and later that night Simon sings the theme song from the sitcom Cheers to cheer her up . While laughing , Marcy begins to cough , and Simon realizes she is in need of medicine .

The two make their way into the ruins of the city looking for chicken soup in order to cure Marcy 's illness . Inside the ruins of a soupory , Simon and Marcy run into some sort of mutated slime @-@ creature , but Simon manages to knock it out with this crown . The two flee and eventually discover what they believe is a food cart . Hopeful , Simon approaches it , only to realize that the vehicle is actually a mobile clam delivery service . Frustrated , Simon kicks the doors , which alerts several more slime creatures inside the vehicle . Simon , scared and hoping to protect Marcy , pushes the

vehicle off of a bridge , and the resulting sound alerts a horde of the mutants . Simon and Marcy run into an alley , but are trapped . As a last resort , Simon places Marcy in an abandoned car and puts the crown on his head . In order to maintain his sanity , he sings the theme to Cheers while he unleashes a blast of ice which stops the mutant hordes in their tracks . Simon is able to eventually snap out of his insanity , and a mysterious sentient mass of bubblegum ? presumably one of Princess Bubblegum 's ancestors ? subsequently gives him a can of chicken soup . Marcy tells Simon that she loves him . Simon hugs her back saying he loves her too , but calls her Gunter .

In the present , Marceline concludes her tale , to a shocked Finn and Jake and an oblivious Ice King . Marceline notes that Marcy and Simon " lived happily ever after " , and Finn , Jake , and herself watch as the Ice King dunks several baskets , still unable to remember his former self .

= = Production = =

" Simon & Marcy " was storyboarded by Cole Sanchez and Rebecca Sugar , from a story by Patrick McHale , Kent Osborne , and Pendleton Ward . The episode was co @-@ directed by Adam Muto and Nick Jennings ; the former was credited as " supervising director " , whereas the latter handled the art direction . This was the last episode of Adventure Time to feature Sugar as a storyboard artist . She left the series after this episode in order to focus her attention towards her own series , Steven Universe . Sugar explained that she had been working on both Steven Universe and Adventure Time , but by the time she was storyboarding " Simon and Marcy " , she realized the workload was too much and that she had to step down from Adventure Time in order to focus on her own show . According to Sugar , Muto also contributed " additional scenes " to the episode ; she wrote on her official Tumblr that " he really did a lot on this one and put it over the top . " She also noted that " everyone [working on the series] was pitching in to make this one special " .

The episode features the voice of Ava Acres , who portrays the young version of Marceline . Acres had previously appeared in the third season episode " Memory of a Memory " . As mentioned above , the episode makes notable use of the 1982 song " Where Everybody Knows Your Name " by Gary Portnoy ? better known as the theme to the sitcom Cheers . According to Sugar 's father , Rob , on his official YouTube channel , the use of the song started merely as a placeholder . However , as the episode developed , Sugar decided to keep it in the episode . This was notable , as it required that the show purchase the rights to use the original . Muto later revealed that " According to Our New Arrivals " , the theme from the sitcom Mr. Belvedere , was also in the running .

= = Reception = =

" Simon & Marcy " aired on March 25 , 2013 , together with the fourth season episode " I Remember You " . As such , it was advertised by Cartoon Network as a " half @-@ hour special " . The episode was watched by 2 @. @ 6 million viewers , and received a 0 @. @ 6 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic . This means that it was seen by 0 @. @ 6 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds at the time of the broadcast . The episode was the 37th most @-@ watched cable program in the 18 ? 49 demographic on the night it aired . The episode first saw physical release as part of the 2013 Jake the Dad DVD , which included 16 episodes from the series ' fourth and fifth seasons .

" Simon & Marcy " was critically acclaimed . Oliver Sava of The A.V. Club awarded the episode an " A " , and wrote that " this episode is all about finding [a home] in a world that has been completely devastated . " He was particularly pleased with the manner in which the episode balanced serious ideas with comedy , writing that ? while the episode was not " super heavy " on laughs ? humorous moments like Simon pushing the " Clambulance " off a bridge helped to " lighten the mood " in an otherwise dark episode . The site later named the episode one of the ten additional installments of the series that illustrates that " emotional complexity " lies " beneath Adventure Time 's weirdness " . The staff of TV.com wrote that " it 's sort of amazing how Adventure Time has transformed the Ice King from an irritating antagonist to one of the most tragic figures on television " . Furthermore , they felt that the episode successfully balanced excitement and comedy , and that the use of the Cheers theme song were " incredibly poignant " .

After the episode aired , Eric Kohn of IndieWire published an article explaining why " ' Adventure Time ' is the best Sci @-@ Fi show on TV right now " . He praised the way in which the episode " deepen [ed] the world [of Ooo] in all kinds of morbidly fascinating ways . " Furthermore , he compared it to Cormac McCarthy 's book The Road , specifically citing the similarities between the mutant creatures in the episode and the " demented people " in the latter . Kohn ultimately concluded that the series ' " willingness to contemplate [the themes of the episode] while sticking to its unique combination of silliness and haunting beauty routinely transforms the show into a wondrous genre experiment . "

Kendra Beltran of MTV Geek wrote that the episode " pushed Ice King and Marceline 's history even more into the pits of your heart and twisted it ever so . " She ultimately concluded that the episode was " a touching notch in the Adventure Time realm " . Novelist Lev Grossman , in an interview with NPR praised the backstory of the Ice King and the exploration of his condition , noting that his origin is " psychologically plausible " . Grossman praised the way the series was able to tackle the issues of mental illness , saying : " It 's very affecting . My dad has been going through having Alzheimer 's , and he 's forgotten so much about who he used to be . And I look at him and think this cartoon is about my father dying . "

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