

= Lady Bouvier 's Lover =

" Lady Bouvier 's Lover " is the twenty @-@ first episode of The Simpsons ' fifth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on May 12 , 1994 . In the episode , Abe Simpson falls in love with Marge 's mother , Jacqueline Bouvier , and they start dating . However , on a night out in town , Mr. Burns takes her away from him . Abe is broken hearted when he learns that Jackie is going to marry Mr. Burns .

The episode was written by Bill Oakley and Josh Weinstein , and directed by Wes Archer . It was recorded in October 1993 at the Darryl F. Zanuck Building on the 20th Century Fox lot in West Los Angeles . The episode features cultural references to films such as The Gold Rush and The Graduate , and songs such as " Moonlight Serenade " and " Sing , Sing , Sing " . Since airing , the episode has received mixed reviews from television critics . It acquired a Nielsen rating of 10 @. @ 0 , and was the third highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network the week it aired .

= = Plot = =

The Simpson family gathers to celebrate Maggie 's birthday . After the party , Abe feels depressed , so Marge sets him up for a date with her mother , Jacqueline Bouvier . Eventually , the couple falls in love , which enrages Homer ; his argument is that if the pair married , he and Marge would be brother and sister and the children would look like freaks . To impress Jackie , Abe takes her out on the town , but when he does , Mr. Burns steals her from him . Abe is heartbroken . Mr. Burns declares that he is in love with Jackie , and they are going to get married , against both Marge 's interest . Meanwhile , Bart buys a \$ 350 Itchy & Scratchy animation cel with one of Homer 's credit cards . In order to pay Homer back , Bart blackmails Mr. Burns for \$ 350 .

On the day of the wedding , Mr. Burns and Jackie attempt to marry . However , Abe crashes the ceremony and asks that Jackie marry him instead of Mr. Burns . Partly due to Mr. Burns 's boorish behavior , she decides not to marry either man . Deciding that Jackie 's decision is good enough for him , Abe grabs her and they hop on a bus , leaving Mr. Burns lonely . As the bus pulls away from the stop , " The Sound of Grampa " plays on the bus driver 's radio . Abe shouts to the driver to turn off the noise , but the driver ignores the request . They both take their seats at the back of the bus to view the departing crowd at the church . The screen fades to black as the ballad of " The Sound of Grampa " continues to play in the background .

= = Production = =

" Lady Bouvier 's Lover " was written by Bill Oakley and Josh Weinstein , and directed by Wes Archer . The episode was inspired by the fact that The Simpsons has many elderly characters , which the writers felt was unique for network television , so they sought to highlight those characters . Originally , the episode was supposed to be about Misery . One of the ideas was that Grampa would get injured on Mr. Burns 's property and get stuck there , leading Grampa to think that Mr. Burns would kill him when he was discovered there . However , this idea was cut out in production because the script was over 85 pages long .

The episode was recorded at the Darryl F. Zanuck Building on the 20th Century Fox lot in West Los Angeles , where the cast and crew of The Simpsons gathered on a Monday morning in October 1993 . Before the recording session took part , the main voice actors of the show (Dan Castellaneta , Harry Shearer , Julie Kavner , Yeardley Smith , Nancy Cartwright , and Hank Azaria) sat down with executive producer David Mirkin and a crew of writers at a table reading to determine what shape the script was in . There was " genuine hearty laughter at various points " during the script run @-@ through , said Ray Richmond , a reporter for the Los Angeles Daily News . Immediately after the reading , the crew of writers hurried to make script changes based on what got laughs and what did not , while the actors waited impatiently . Mirkin told Richmond that the script would require the equivalent of ten rewrites : " At every step , there are amendments and additions and refinements . " Richmond commented that as the recording session started , the " astounding versatility " of the

actors became clear ; " Castellaneta bounces from being Homer to Grampa to Barney without taking a breath and minus any evident vocal similarities . " Mirkin said the episode was also a tour de force for Kavner , who in one scene voices Marge , Marge 's two sisters , and Marge 's mother . He added that even though she enjoyed the process , it was tough on Kavner 's voice because those characters talk with " gravelly voices " .

= = Cultural references = =

The episode 's title is a play on the 1928 D. H. Lawrence novel *Lady Chatterley 's Lover* . Grampa is hassled twice by lawyers representing the estates of deceased entertainers : the first time representing Charlie Chaplin , for his " unauthorized imitation " of the bread roll dancing scene from the 1925 silent film *The Gold Rush* , and the second time he is approached by them is after imitating Jimmy Durante . Grampa banging on the church window while shouting " Mrs. Bouvier ! " , and the subsequent getaway on the bus , are references to the film *The Graduate* , as is the closing song , a parody of " *The Sound of Silence* " by Simon and Garfunkel . Mrs. Bouvier says her friends , Zelda Fitzgerald , Frances Farmer and Sylvia Plath , were jealous of her good looks and it drove them crazy . All three women were known for having been institutionalized , Fitzgerald and Farmer for schizophrenia and Plath for a breakdown that resulted in suicide . Mrs. Bouvier 's favorite tune ? played during the dance at the Springfield Community Center and later by Grampa at the wedding ? is Glenn Miller 's song " *Moonlight Serenade* " . The swing tune played during Mrs. Bouvier and Mr. Burns 's dance is the 1936 song " *Sing , Sing , Sing* " , written by Louis Prima and performed by Benny Goodman . Bart and Lisa sing the 1980s advertising jingle used for Armour and Company 's brand of hot dogs . Everyone then sings the advertising jingle for *Chicken Tonight* , complete with chicken dance moves .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " *Lady Bouvier 's Lover* " finished 50th in the ratings for the week of May 9 to May 15 , 1994 , with a Nielsen rating of 10 @. @ 0 . The episode was the third highest @- @ rated show on the Fox network that week , following *Beverly Hills , 90210* and *Melrose Place* .

Since airing , the episode has received mixed reviews from television critics . DVD Movie Guide 's Colin Jacobson called the episode a " generally good program , though not one of the year 's best " . Jacobson said he dislikes Marge 's mother ; " she 's one of the series ' less interesting characters , which is probably why she appears so rarely . " However , he thinks Grampa is " always fun " , and " it 's nice to see him in an ebullient mood , at least for a while . " Patrick Bromley of DVD Verdict gave the episode a B ? grade and said he is " never terribly interested in episodes that revolve around [Grampa] Simpson " . He believes Grampa is " great as a background character , but less so when he takes center stage " . He added : " I 'm also especially uninterested in episodes revolving around Marge 's mother . Having said that , this episode does have a number of inspired moments ? notably the subplot involving Bart 's pursuit of an Itchy & Scratchy cel , as well as one of the series ' many homages to *The Graduate* . " Bill Gibron of DVD Talk gave the episode a score of 4 out of 5 . The authors of the book *I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide* , Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , wrote : " Homer 's nightmare vision of Bart , Lisa and Maggie as ordinary kids is a highlight of this especially crazy ? surreal jokes , flashbacks and dream sequences whizz by at an alarming rate ? installment . "