

## = The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs =

" The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs " is the second episode of the fourteenth season of the American animated television series South Park , and the 197th overall episode of the series . It originally aired on Comedy Central in the United States on March 24 , 2010 . In the episode , the South Park boys write a vulgar book with the sole intention of getting it banned . When Stan 's parents discover the manuscript , the boys accuse Butters of writing it , then are enraged when it is hailed as a literary masterpiece .

The episode was written and directed by series co @-@ creator Trey Parker , and was rated TV @-@ MA L in the United States . It serves as a satire of pop culture criticism , and mocks people who find hidden messages in works where there are none . The episode includes other themes , including the lack of interest in reading among American youths , and mocks the idea that a book alone causes people to commit violent crimes .

The novel The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger plays a major part in the episode , as the South Park boys are inspired to write their own book when they feel Salinger 's book does not live up to its controversial reputation . The episode also mocks actress Sarah Jessica Parker and the Kardashian family from the reality series Keeping Up with the Kardashians .

" The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs " received generally positive reviews , with many commentators praising the episode 's themes of the over @-@ analysis into works of culture , although some said the vomiting jokes were too old and grew redundant . According to Nielsen Media Research , the episode was seen by 3 @.@ 24 million viewers . After the episode aired , Kim , Kourtney and Khloé Kardashian praised their portrayal and on @-@ screen deaths .

## = = Plot = =

The students at South Park Elementary are assigned to read The Catcher in the Rye , and grow excited when Mr. Garrison tells them that the book has caused so much controversy , it has been banned from public schools in the past . However , after reading the book , Stan , Kyle , Cartman , and Kenny are angry to find the content completely inoffensive , and feel the school has " tricked " them into reading . They decide to write their own offensive novel , The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs ( which they originally called The Tale of Scrotie McDickinass ) , with the intention of disgusting as many people as possible . Later , Stan 's parents find the first draft and read it . They find it so disgusting that they repeatedly vomit while reading . However , they both consider it the best book they have ever read . Fearful they will get into trouble for the book 's content , Stan and the boys tell Butters he actually wrote the book . Butters believes them because ever since reading The Catcher in the Rye , he has been entering into altered states of consciousness that make him want to kill John Lennon , before he finds out Lennon is already dead . Later on , after learning that The Catcher in the Rye inspired someone to shoot Ronald Reagan , Butters tries to kill him too but is disappointed by the fact he is dead as well .

Butters confesses to writing the novel himself . However , Stan and the boys are furious to learn that not only do the South Park adults love the book , a publisher has agreed to sign Butters for a book deal . The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs becomes a huge success , and everybody who reads it vomits profusely , but declares it a masterpiece nonetheless . As Butters becomes a literary icon , the four boys unsuccessfully campaign to have the book banned . They are angered to find readers interpreting passages from the novel as allegories for contentious political issues , even though the boys never intended to convey such messages . Since the book made many references to the unattractiveness of actress Sarah Jessica Parker , Cartman and Kenny plan to get her killed , believing the negative publicity will cause the book to be banned . They dress Parker as a moose ( they just put antlers on her as she already resembles a moose ) , then lead her into the woods during hunting season .

Butters soon does , in fact write a novel of his very own , The Poop That Took a Pee , which consists solely of simple descriptions of scatological acts . The four boys are convinced the book will be a disaster and expose Butters as a fraud over the first book . However , much to their surprise ,

readers actually find it an even deeper , more profound book , and continue reading their own allegorical messages into the text . After finishing the book , one crazed reader storms on to the set of reality television series Keeping Up with the Kardashians and murders the entire Kardashian family with a pump @-@ action shotgun . Both The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs and The Poop That Took a Pee are banned as a result , and Butters is horrified because he considered Kim Kardashian " the most beautiful woman in the world " ( along with her sisters ) . Stan and Kyle suggest that instead of reading books and possibly discovering the wrong message in them , people should simply watch television instead . Cartman also claims Sarah Jessica Parker has also been killed because Butters accidentally dressed her in a moose costume while sleepwalking . Butters is at first horrified , but then decides he does not care because she was ugly .

= = Production and theme = =

" The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs " was written and directed by series co @-@ founder Trey Parker , and was rated TV @-@ MA in the United States . It originally aired on Comedy Central in the United States on March 24 , 2010 . The episode serves primarily as a satire of pop culture criticism . Although the South Park boys wrote The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs simply to shock and offend people , readers delve too deeply into the meaning behind the book , finding hidden allegories and symbolism that the actual authors insist are not present . People with conflicting philosophies , including liberals and conservatives , and pro @-@ choice and pro @-@ life advocates , attempt to claim that the same work conveys and validates their own ideology . The script serves as a criticism of people who take such works of pop culture too seriously . Although this is demonstrated specifically through literary criticism in the episode , the theme can be extended to film criticism and television criticism as well . The episode suggests people are so desperate for inspiration , they are willing to impose their hopes and dreams into works of art , even if they completely lack those qualities . Some commentators thought South Park creators Parker and Matt Stone were implicitly mocking the amount of analysis into deeper meaning South Park itself often receives in its reviews . Others have suggested this over @-@ analysis is a reference to the number of adult themes identified in the Harry Potter and Twilight young adult novel series .

" The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerBalls " portrays young children as almost entirely uninterested in reading . The South Park boys only exhibit excitement for their reading assignment based on the promise of offensive and controversial material in the book . Rather than finding any merit in the book , the boys are angry when they find the material inoffensive , prompting Cartman to declare he has been " tricked " into reading an entire book . Through the rise and fall of Butters ' career as an author , the episode also demonstrates the perils of literary success and hoaxes . The episode also mocks the idea that a book can be identified as the sole causation for a reader to commit violent crimes , particularly through Butters ' reaction to The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs . Butters experiences blackouts after reading The Catcher in the Rye and plans to kill both John Lennon and Ronald Reagan , until he disappointedly learns they are already dead .

= = Cultural references = =

The Catcher in the Rye , the 1951 novel about teenage confusion and alienation by J.D. Salinger , plays a large part in " The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs " . The episode references the controversial reception the book has received over the years for its risqué elements and vulgar language . Mr. Garrison tells the students the book has only recently been lifted from the South Park Elementary 's banned books list , a reference to past censorship the book has received in public schools . The episode also refers to the alleged role The Catcher in the Rye played in inspiring Mark David Chapman to shoot and kill musician John Lennon , and John Hinckley , Jr. to attempt to assassinate former U.S. President Ronald Reagan . Lennon , a former member of The Beatles and long @-@ time peace activist , is referred to by Cartman as " the king of hippies " . Butters and the eventual murderer rail against ' phonies ' in the same manner as Holden Caulfield in Salinger 's book . " The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs " aired two months after the death of author J.D.

Salinger , and just weeks after letters by J.D. Salinger went on display at The Morgan Library & Museum in New York City .

The episode also prominently features the Kardashian family , who are the focus of the E ! reality series Keeping Up with the Kardashians . Sarah Jessica Parker , an actress who has been mocked on South Park before , is also lampooned in the story .

During one scene , Butters appears on Today , a morning talk show on NBC ( referred to as HBC in the episode , but with NBC 's peacock logo ) , to promote his book . Television hosts Matt Lauer and Meredith Vieira are featured in the scene , during which both vomit for a particularly long time in response to some of the more vulgar passages in The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs . Morgan Freeman , an actor known for his narration work , conducts a reading in the episode of Butters ' second book , The Poop That Took a Pee . Trey Parker provided the voice of Freeman in " The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs " . During one scene , Butters ' father can be seen reading a newspaper with a front page story about a historic health care bill passing , a reference to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act , which was passed and signed the same week the South Park episode first aired .

= = Release and reception = =

In its original American broadcast on March 24 , 2010 , " The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs " was watched by 3 @. @ 24 million viewers , according to the Nielsen Media Research , making it the most watched cable television show of the night . The episode received an overall 1 @. @ 9 rating / 3 share . Among viewers between ages 18 and 49 , it received a 1 @. @ 8 rating / 5 share , and among male viewers between 18 and 34 , it received a 3 @. @ 5 rating / 12 share . As a result of the episode , the phrase " Scrotie McBoogerballs " was the top trending topic for March 25 on the social networking and microblogging website Twitter . " The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs " , along with the thirteen other episodes from South Park 's fourteenth season , was released on a three @-@ disc DVD set and two @-@ disc Blu @-@ ray set in the United States on April 26 , 2011 .

" The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs " received generally positive reviews . Carlos Delgado of iF Magazine called the episode a potential classic and a " phenomenal follow up showing " to the season premiere " Sexual Healing " , which he did not enjoy . Delgado said the script was intelligent and praised the theme of over @-@ analyzing art . He also praised the vomiting jokes , and said he could not remember the last time he laughed so hard during a South Park episode . Entertainment Weekly television columnist Ken Tucker said it was better than the season premiere , which he also praised . Tucker particularly enjoyed the satire of pop culture criticism , and wrote , " I 'd compare the Scrotie episode to the work of Rabelais , Henry Miller , and Dennis Cooper , but then I 'd be part of the boys ' satire , wouldn 't I ? " .

TV Fanatic said the episode was not as strong as previous seasons , but an improvement over " Sexual Healing " . The site praised the emphasis on Butters and the pop culture references to The Catcher in the Rye , John Lennon , Sarah Jessica Parker and " the useless Kardashian Klan " . The A.V. Club writer Sean O 'Neal said he " chuckled a few times " , but found the vomit jokes acted like a substitute for " actual dialogue " . However , O 'Neal praised the satire of people looking too deeply into the meaning of meaningless art , and how easily that theme can be applied to South Park itself . Not all reviews were entirely positive . Ramsey Isler of IGN said Butters was " awesome , as usual " , and thought the jokes about the Kardashians were funny , but that the positive elements of the episode were " not enough to balance out the failures " . He particularly criticized the Sarah Jessica Parker jokes as " flat and random " , and the constant vomiting as " just one long @-@ running ' joke ' that was just plain awful " .

The day after " The Tale of Scrotie McBoogerballs " aired , members of the Kardashian family responded positively to their portrayal and on @-@ screen deaths . On her blog , Kim Kardashian wrote that the family found the episode very funny and were honored to be featured in the episode . She wrote , " We were all dying when we saw this clip from South Park that aired last night ... literally , LOL . They killed us all ! ! ! " She also wrote , " I managed to survive the longest ... of course ! " Kourtney Kardashian joked on her Twitter page , " How rude ! Southpark ! ! " , Khloé

Kardashian wrote she did not know about her appearance on the show until she suddenly received numerous messages on her Twitter page . Khloé also said she found the scene funny , and laughed at how unattractively she and her sisters were portrayed , although she said the Bruce Jenner cartoon looked very realistic . She wrote , " Even though we all weren 't portrayed as the most attractive South Park characters , I was still so flattered since I love that show haha . "