

= Breaking Out Is Hard to Do =

" Breaking Out Is Hard to Do " is the ninth episode of the fourth season of Family Guy . It originally broadcast on July 17 , 2005 , guest @-@ starred Dat Phan and Brian Tochi , and was written by Tom Devanney . The episode sees Lois becoming addicted to the rush of shoplifting ; she , however , is soon arrested and sentenced to three years imprisonment . Peter successfully smuggles her out of the prison , and the Griffins begin a new life in " Asiantown " away from where they are high profile fugitives , only for Joe to track them down and attempt to arrest them . Overall , the episode was received positively by critics and media sources .

= = Plot = =

During a grocery shopping trip , Lois realizes she is short on money to pay for food . She pretends to return a ham to the meat department but decides to hide it in her purse instead . Hooked on the thrill of shoplifting , she begins stealing other items , quickly becoming addicted to theft . She begins to indulge in large shoplifting sprees , including stealing a Matisse painting , which arouses the suspicion of Brian . While attempting to steal from an auto parts store , Lois is caught by Brian , who tells her she is doing wrong and that her stealing is not going to solve problems . Lois accepts his reasoning , but as she loads up the car to return her stolen goods , she is caught by Joe and arrested .

In court , Lois is sentenced to serve three years in prison . The Griffin household turns to chaos in Lois ' absence , and the family realizes they need to break Lois out of jail . During a visit to Lois in the prison , Peter smuggles her out by stuffing her into his mouth . As Lois ' escape is realized , the Griffins jump into a laundry van , where they escape to Quahog 's Asiantown (which evokes the traits of Chinatown and Japantown) and rent a run @-@ down apartment to begin new lives .

Chris begins a career as a rickshaw driver , Stewie takes a job at sewing shoes (but is fired after sewing a shoe to his hand , and replaced with a baby) . Peter becomes a sumo wrestler , but is spotted by Joe on the television shortly afterward . Joe successfully tracks the family down and pursues them through Asiantown , leading them into the city sewers . Lois decides to surrender and face the consequences so that the rest of the family won 't have to , but as Joe attempts to detain her , he slips in the sewer and is almost swept off a nearby ledge . Lois pulls Joe to safety , and in gratitude , Joe manages to get Lois ' sentence cancelled , and life returns to normal for the family .

= = Production = =

" Breaking Out Is Hard to Do " is the first Family Guy episode to be written by Tom Devanney . When Stewie attempts to asphyxiate himself in the supermarket , he was originally meant to state " Either I was a C @-@ section or you 're Stretch Vagstrong " , which would have been a reference to the Stretch Armstrong action figure , but broadcasting standards prohibited them from showing it . During the " Take On Me " sequence , Family Guy had obtained full rights to use the " Take On Me " music video completely , but animators re @-@ produced the video to make it easier for production . Originally , a joke had been drafted showing Brian standing next to a tabloid newspaper with a picture of Kirstie Alley and commenting on her weight , only for her to enter the grocery shop in Godzilla @-@ like size and throw items from the shelves , but the sketch was removed to save time during the episode . The Matisse painting shown in the Griffins ' dining room is only animated similar to an actual Matisse painting due to a legal issue with the paintings . The episode production staff spent a lot of time deciding what would be Lois ' motivation for stealing en masse .

An unused scene was drafted showing Chris , directly after hearing Lois ' prison term , flashbacking back to him watching Six Feet Under , seeing a same @-@ sex couple kissing , and exclaiming " Oh , come on ! " The song based around Glen Quagmire was sung and recorded by professional studio singers who sing at events such as the Academy Awards . The scene following Peter saying to Lois : " I had to do , well you know , that thing that you usually do for me every Thursday night " showing Peter attempting to give himself fellatio , hitting his head on the wall and falling down the stairs was

repeatedly fought by broadcasting standards , but they eventually allowed the scene . In the original episode draft , Peter was to be seen falling down the stairs , and Stewie 's foot was to be lodged inside Peter 's anus , where he was to lose his shoe . Peter breaks the fourth wall and begins to speak with viewers during his interview with the sumo wrestling employee ; Executive Producer David A. Goodman comments in the episode DVD commentary that this is " one of the few times , maybe the only time , when [the show] can step out of format and point out the format . " The " CBS Asiantown " logo shown on the Griffins ' television was prohibited from broadcast on the televised version of the episode .

= = Cultural references = =

Chris is shown participating in the video " Take on Me " ? a song released by a @-@ ha in 1985 ? while fetching milk for Lois . He then breaks out on the other side , with no understanding of what just happened . Lois calls on Brian saying he was too busy eye @-@ balling Glenn Close on Redbook magazine . Peter riding Falkor the luckdragon is a reference to fantasy novel The Neverending Story . The chase sequence between Lois and Joe is a reference to a sequence from Raiders of the Lost Ark as Joe is pulled along by the attached garden hose and pulls himself under the moving car . Peter goes to a book club while Lois is gone , where the members are reading The Lovely Bones . The Griffins escaping out of their apartment to evade Joe is a reference to Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kids , with the rest of the chase through Asiantown being a reference to Revenge of the Pink Panther . The police helicopter pilot in Asiantown stating he pretends he is shooting at Jamie Farr and Alan Alda when firing rockets is a reference to the actors of M * A * S * H. Joe shooting down two TIE fighters while flying through the sewer is a reference to Star Wars . Characters from 1985 adventure ? comedy film The Goonies are seen talking with the Griffins in the sewer . The episode title is a reference to the Neil Sedaka song , " Breaking Up Is Hard To Do . "

= = Reception = =

This episode was the most @-@ watched Fox program on its airdate among adults 18 to 49 ; 5 @.@ 75 million viewers watched . In his review of the Family Guy volume 3 DVD , Francis Rizzo III of DVD Talk wrote " But if any moment stands out among this run , it 's the supermarket scene in " Breaking Out is Hard to Do . " When Chris is pulled into the " Take On Me " video by a @-@ ha , it 's a perfect blend of what this show does best , combining nonsense , the ' 80s and some neat animation . The lead @-@ in , the punchline and the execution of the whole scene is handled so well that it might be one of the show 's most memorable ever . " In her review of the episode , Kim Voynar of TV Squad wrote " This was , overall , a very funny episode . Lots of funny references ? the Trix Rabbit , Karl Malden , MASH , Star Wars , " Three 's Company " The funniest moment for me , was the bit with Stewie walking in on Brian cross @-@ dressing . That alone was worth the price of admission . "