

= Something , Something , Something , Dark Side =

" Something , Something , Something , Dark Side " is a direct @-@ to @-@ video special of the animated series Family Guy which later served as the 20th episode of the show 's eighth season and is part of the series ' Star Wars parody trilogy Laugh It Up , Fuzzball . It originally was released on DVD and Blu @-@ ray Disc on December 22 , 2009 , and later aired on Fox in the United States on May 23 , 2010 . The episode is a retelling and parody of the film The Empire Strikes Back , recasting characters from Family Guy into roles from the film .

The episode was written by Kirker Butler and directed by Dominic Polcino . It received high praise from critics for its accurate depiction of the original film , as well as its inclusion of many cultural references . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 6 @.@ 13 million homes in its original airing . The episode featured guest performances by Jon Benjamin , John Bunnell , James Caan , Jackson Douglas , Joe Flaherty , James Greene , Phil LaMarr , Kevin Michael Richardson , George Rogan and James Woods , along with several recurring guest voice actors for the series .

= = Plot = =

As the Griffin family is watching television , the power suddenly goes out , leading Peter to retell the story of The Empire Strikes Back .

After the " opening crawl " an Imperial Star Destroyer deploys a series of probe droids in search of the Rebel Alliance . One of the probe droids (Joe) lands on the ice planet Hoth , where the Rebels have set up a base . Rebel commander Luke Skywalker (Chris) is patrolling when he is attacked by a large wampa (Cookie Monster) and taken back to its lair . At the base , Han Solo (Peter) announces his intention to leave the Rebellion to Princess Leia (Lois) and Carlisle Rieekan (Dr. Hartman) , with Leia objecting to his decision , however she denies it when confronted , saying she would rather kiss George Takei . When he finds out that Luke has not yet returned , Han sets out on his " Dondon " to find him . Luke escapes the wampa lair and has a vision of his late mentor Obi @-@ Wan Kenobi (Herbert) , who tells him to go to the Dagobah system to learn the ways of the Force from Jedi Master Yoda , after offering him a bowl of Zima soup . Han quickly locates Luke , and the two are rescued soon after .

Soon after , the Empire discovers the Rebel base , and Darth Vader (Stewie) orders an attack . The Imperial fleet exits hyperspace too early , giving the Rebels time to evacuate the base while Luke leads his squadron of snowspeeders to hold off the Empire 's battalion of Imperial Walkers . Imperial stormtroopers break into the base , forcing Han to escape in the Millennium Falcon with Leia , C @-@ 3PO (Quagmire) and Chewbacca (Brian) , while Luke escapes in his X @-@ wing with R2 @-@ D2 (Cleveland) , stopping to see R2 's niece 's violin recital . The Millennium Falcon enters an asteroid field and Han decides to dock inside a cave to repair the ship . They flee when they discover they have actually landed in the belly of a space slug (Meg) . Meanwhile , Luke crash @-@ lands in the swamps of Dagobah and finds Yoda (Carl) amid the foggy landscape . Yoda trains Luke , guiding him through a series of training exercises , including watching " sweet @-@ ass DVD releases " , and a training montage that parodies Rocky IV .

Darth Vader is ordered by the Emperor (Carter) to capture Luke and turn him to the dark side of the Force . Vader recruits bounty hunters to track down and capture Luke 's friends , intending to use them as bait to trap Luke , including Raggedy Andy , whom he orders to leave . With the Millennium Falcon 's hyperdrive broken , Han and company escape by hiding amongst a field of disposed trash , but are tracked by Boba Fett (Ernie the Giant Chicken) , after hitting a " space bum " collecting some of the garbage . Luke has a premonition that his friends are in danger and leaves Dagobah to save them , although he has not finished his Jedi training . Yoda initially doesn 't want him to go , but encourages it after Luke suggests Yoda fight Vader himself .

Han and the others go to Cloud City on the planet Bespin to obtain help from Han 's friend Lando Calrissian (Mort) , " the only black guy in the galaxy " , only to be turned over to Darth Vader . Han willingly reveals the location of Luke and the Rebel base but is tortured by being forced to listen to Paula Cole 's " Where Have All the Cowboys Gone ? " , as punishment for clogging a toilet on the

16th floor of Cloud City , which forced Vader to use the " little pig people 's " bathroom . Han is used to test a carbon freezing chamber Vader intends to use on Luke to take him to the Emperor . Leia professes her love to Han , but Han tells her to fuck off and is then frozen in carbonite for posterity . Lando later double @-@ crosses the Empire , freeing Leia , Chewbacca and C @-@ 3PO , motivating the guards with a pizza party . Despite R2 @-@ D2 having sex with the combination lock , and subsequently being discovered by her husband , to get the door open , they are too late to stop Boba Fett from flying off with Han . Luke arrives at Cloud City and , after being briefly interrupted by Ryan Seacrest on American Idol , engages Vader in a lightsaber duel . Vader cuts off Luke 's right hand . With Luke cornered and defenseless , Vader goads Luke to join the dark side , revealing that he is his father . Luke casts himself into an air shaft and , after discovering that a worker has shoved his severed hand down his pants , ends up hanging on an antenna beneath the city , calling out to Ben , Leia , and Tom Selleck . Leia senses Luke 's call from within the Millennium Falcon and has him rescued . On board a Nebulon @-@ B frigate , Luke is fitted with an artificial hand , but told to practice masturbating with a hot dog first , while Lando , dressed in Han 's clothes , sets off with Chewbacca on the Millennium Falcon to rescue Han . Before the story ends , Luke is angry because of the way the story ends . Then he receives a letter from Doc Brown , a reference to the ending of Back to the Future Part II .

In the Griffins ' home , the power returns as Peter finishes his story , only to get into another argument with Chris over Robot Chicken . Chris vows to not let Peter get his goat this time , but eventually storms off when Peter brings up Without a Paddle .

= = Production and development = =

The episode was written by series regular Kirker Butler , before the 2007 ? 2008 Writers Guild of America strike , and before his leave from the series in order to become co @-@ executive producer of the Family Guy spinoff series The Cleveland Show . Butler wrote the first draft of the episode in four weeks , under the guidance of series creator Seth MacFarlane . The episode was directed by Dominic Polcino , who had previously directed " Blue Harvest " . This was the last episode in the series to use hand @-@ drawn animatics , before transitioning to computer @-@ designed animatics .

In addition to the regular cast , voice actor Jon Benjamin reprised his role as Carl , who portrays Yoda , and Sheriff John Bunnell made his second appearance in the series , the first being in the eighth season episode " Quagmire 's Baby " . Actor James Woods , in his third appearance in the series , as an exaggerated version of himself , guest starred . Actors James Caan , Jackson Douglas and Joe Flaherty , along with voice actors James Greene , Phil LaMarr , Kevin Michael Richardson and George Rogan made appearances . Recurring guest voice actors Johnny Brennan , Chris Cox , Ralph Garman , Wally Wingert , writers Kirker Butler , Danny Smith , Alec Sulkin , John Viener , writer and showrunner Mark Hentemann , and producer Chris Sheridan also made minor appearances in the episode . Live @-@ action clips of actor Dolph Lundgren , actress Brigitte Nielsen and actor Michael Pataki from the film Rocky IV , and actor Tom Selleck from the film Her Alibi were also used in multiple sequences throughout the episode .

The DVD release of " Blue Harvest " on January 15 , 2008 , contained an easter egg of a brief read through of bits from " Something , Something , Something , Dark Side " , as well as a teaser trailer for the episode as another easter egg .

The title of this episode is a reference to a specific line from the season five episode " Barely Legal " , which was used in a cutaway relating to Star Wars . The line is an inside joke relating to the Emperor " figuring out the formula for great dialogue " for Star Wars . While the Emperor talks to a kneeling Darth Vader , he says " Something , something , something , dark side . Something , something , something , complete " . " Barely Legal " was written by Kirker Butler , who also wrote this episode .

= = Cultural references = =

As the episode opens with a shot of the Griffin family , they are seen sitting in front of the television watching a parody of several Aaron Sorkin shows , including Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip , entitled The Kitchen . Once the scene ends , the power unexpectedly goes out , to which Stewie responds by asking " What are we in , Iraq ? " Reminiscent of the previous Star Wars @-@ inspired episode , " Blue Harvest " , Meg insists her father tell another story about Star Wars . Peter then begins to retell the film Black Snake Moan before being interrupted by Stewie and Chris .

In the same fashion as the original Star Wars films , the story opens with a large , yellow crawl of text , with the text in this variation calling out 20th Century Fox for their lack of foresight in terms of merchandising rights , thus allowing George Lucas and Lucasfilm to keep all the rights to every film in the Star Wars franchise . The text then addresses the stockholders of 20th Century Fox , and cites Family Guy 's two cancellations as another example of the company 's short @-@ sighted decisions , and spending budget money in a useless manner . As the Imperial Fleet approaches , a Star Destroyer deploys Elroy Jetson , a character from the Hanna @-@ Barbera animated sitcom The Jetsons , along with a series of probe droids . Elroy Jetson proceeds to the Little Dipper School , in imitation of the original intro to The Jetsons . One of the probe droids , portrayed by Joe Swanson , then lands in the snow near Luke Skywalker . Luke mistakes the droid for a meteorite and approaches the device , before being attacked by a snow beast , which looks like Cookie Monster from PBS ' Sesame Street . The character had previously appeared in the fourth season episode " Model Misbehavior " as a " cookie addict " .

Before leaving , Han Solo runs into Princess Leia , who insists on Han staying with her . Apologizing to Leia for having to leave her , Han gives her his e @-@ mail address , which is hosted by the nearly defunct company CompuServe at " hansolo64 @ compuserve.com. " Han Solo then questions why Leia wants him to stay , and suggests that she is afraid that she will not get a " goodbye kiss " before he leaves . Leia then mulls over the thought , and tells him that she would rather kiss Star Trek actor George Takei . Abruptly entering , C @-@ 3PO and R2 @-@ D2 alert Han Solo of Luke Skywalker 's disappearance . Han goes out to look for Luke on his " Dondon " , which has the body of a tauntaun , and the head of the late actor Don Knotts . Once Han locates Luke , the late comedian Rodney Dangerfield appears , to which Han responds , " There are way too many elderly comedians out here in the snow . " Before being rescued , Han first appears in a 1980s commercial for the chewing gum Juicy Fruit , with the original audio from the commercial and Juicy Fruit 's current logo . The sequence was originally planned for the fifth season episode " Road to Rupert " , with Stewie and Brian taking the place of Peter .

Continuing on their approach to the Hoth system , the Imperial Fleet passes by a mailbox with the surname ' Nimoy ' on it . Darth Vader , as portrayed by Stewie , hits the mailbox with a baseball bat as the ship passes . As the Imperial Walkers , or " robot camels " , begin to approach the rebels , one of the rebels looks through his binoculars at the group of robots and spots one of the Walkers wearing Crocs , a type of shoe reminiscent of the wooden clog but made out of plastic . When Luke 's aircraft is shot down during the battle , he contacts OnStar , a company that provides vehicle security . As Han decides to outrun a series of TIE fighters , Sheriff John Bunnell then begins narrating the chase , in a parody of World 's Wildest Police Videos , which Bunnell hosted from 1998 to 2002 . This is Family Guy 's second reference to the show , as well as Bunnell 's second appearance in the series . His first appearance was in " Quagmire 's Baby " , which first aired shortly before the DVD release of " Something , Something , Something , Dark Side " . Han then seemingly goes through an asteroid field , much to Leia 's chagrin . Han responds by stating that it is better than going through the nearby strawberry field , with The Beatles members John Lennon , Paul McCartney , Ringo Starr and George Harrison then appearing . The other Beatles are then seen teasing Paul about Heather Mills having one leg , calling her " Peg " and " Eileen " . After much maneuvering , Han is able to escape the TIE fighters , eventually parking in a handicapped zone , citing vertigo as his medical condition . This leads Leia to question Han 's decision making , and causes Han to film a " video confession " similar to those on the MTV reality show The Real World .

While departing Hoth , Luke meets Flash Gordon , the title character to the 1954 television series that inspired Lucas to create Star Wars . When Luke reaches the Dagobah system , he crash lands into a swamp , prompting Allstate spokesperson and actor Dennis Haysbert to appear , in a parody

of his commercials . Haysbert was reportedly approached to voice himself , but rejected the offer for unspecified reasons . Later getting out of the crashed ship , R2 @-@ D2 is eaten and spat back out by a swamp monster , prompting R2 to question what else is located beneath the swamp water . The Legion of Doom lair then rises from the swamp , which angers Luke . After Luke meets him , Yoda , as portrayed by Carl , reveals that the secret to mastering the Force is to " check out sweet @-@ ass DVD releases " , and goes on to reference several films , including National Lampoon 's Van Wilder and Iron Man , as well as Iron Man 's director Jon Favreau . A montage depicts Luke performing various athletic feats under Yoda 's guidance , interlaced with clips of Dolph Lundgren as Ivan Drago from the 1985 film Rocky IV . Going on to test Luke 's knowledge of various films , Yoda begins to ask the best and worst " naked chick " scenes , with Luke responding by citing the best as Rebecca De Mornay in Risky Business , and the worst as Kathy Bates in About Schmidt . Yoda then asks about the best scene in the 1985 film Teen Wolf and Luke picks the scene in which Michael J. Fox in wolf make @-@ up opens the bathroom door to see his father is also a werewolf . Yoda says Luke is correct , but that he also would have accepted the end celebration in which an extra allegedly exposes himself .

Once the Emperor , portrayed by Carter Pewterschmidt , contacts Darth Vader , he first begins by telling him that he is getting rid of all his CDs because he is " downloading all his music to his new iPod " , then proceeds to list several albums , including singer Natalie Merchant 's 1995 album Tigerlily , Alanis Morissette 's album Jagged Little Pill , and finally Richard Marx 's single " Hold On to the Nights " , the last of which Darth Vader excitedly agrees to take . Calling upon various bounty hunters , Darth Vader reviews a lineup of auditioning hunters , including Dog the Bounty Hunter , IG @-@ 88 , Zuckuss , Bossk , Boba Fett as portrayed by the Giant Chicken , and finally Raggedy Andy , who Vader angrily dismisses . During a confrontation with Han , Darth Vader deflects lasers using his gloves and sings the theme song from the Wonder Woman television series . Once Han Solo is captured by Darth Vader , he is tortured into confessing his clogging one of the bathrooms on Cloud City . Vader then forces Han to listen to Paula Cole 's " Where Have All the Cowboys Gone ? " on full blast . When Luke lands on Cloud City to fight Vader , he is first subjected to appearing on the popular reality competition American Idol , with Ryan Seacrest as host of the ensuing " lightsaber battle " before he is quickly killed by Luke . After losing his battle against Darth Vader , Luke falls to the bottom of the floating city and calls out for Leia , along with Obi @-@ Wan and actor Tom Selleck , the last of which is then seen briefly looking up from his book in a real @-@ life cameo from the movie Her Alibi . Sensing this , Leia then orders Chewbacca to turn the ship around , prompting a parody of Vicki Sue Robinson 's single " Turn The Beat Around " , reworded to " Turn the Ship Around " .

As the story comes to a close , Luke interrupts the ending sequence and raises the viewer 's awareness to all of the " unanswered questions " that the movie leaves behind . The Western Union postal worker from the 1989 film Back to the Future Part II then appears , and hands Luke a message delivered by Doc Brown from the year 1885 , with the story then ending on the words " To be Concluded " , in the same fashion of Back to the Future . Composer Alan Silvestri allowed the producers to use his Back to the Future theme since he 's a fan of Family Guy .

The episode then cuts back to the Griffin family household , with Peter immediately rehashing the argument between him and Chris that first started in " Blue Harvest " , a joke grounded in the fact that Chris ' voice actor , Seth Green , is one of the creators and producers of the stop motion comedy series Robot Chicken . Peter begins by suggesting that Robot Chicken would never be able to top the story he had just told . Hearing this , Chris defends Robot Chicken . Peter continues to poke at Chris and finally states that he " may have more time to tell another story " entitled Without a Paddle , a critically panned movie in which Seth Green starred . Chris then angrily storms off yelling " Fuck you " to Peter .

= = Reception = =

In a significant decrease from the previous episode , " Something , Something , Something , Dark Side " was viewed in 6 @.@ 13 million homes in its first half @-@ hour , and 6 @.@ 39 in its

second (previous episode was viewed in 7 @.@ 59 million homes) . It aired simultaneously with the season finale of The Celebrity Apprentice on NBC , the series finale of Lost on ABC , and Brooks & Dunn ? The Last Rodeo on CBS . The episode acquired a 3 @.@ 0 and 3 @.@ 2 rating , in the first and second half @-@ hours respectively , in the 18 ? 49 demographic . The episode beat the season finales of The Simpsons and The Cleveland Show in both the 18 ? 49 demographic and in total viewership .

Reviews of the television broadcast were highly positive , praising its close attention to detail in parodying the original film . Jason Hughes of TV Squad found the episode to be " incredibly [impressive] , " going on to note , " As much as we fans love the films , we know they 're not perfect , and that they 're downright ridiculous in places . Family Guy managed to point out virtually all of those moments in this parody . " Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club found the episode to have " a lot of solid laughs " , and admired the show for " throwing itself into these outsized movie parody things " . Critics of the DVD and Blu @-@ ray Disc releases gave the episode high praise for its ability to accurately reflect the original film . Cindy White of IGN gave the episode an 8 out of 10 , noting that it " lives up to its predecessor and , like the film it spoofs , arguably exceeds it in some ways " . John Scott Lewinski of Wired praised the faithfulness to the original film , saying that it " becomes clear that MacFarlane and his writers are legit Star Wars fans " . Adam Rosenberg of MTV Movies Blog called the episode " hilarious " and Paul Semel of Metromix praised the episode for featuring " some very ribald humor " , and " [skewering] the original movie with some rather insightful moments " . In a subsequent review of Family Guy 's eighth season , Ramsey Isler of IGN listed " Something , Something , Something , Dark Side " as being a " pretty entertaining parody , and a safe way to wrap things up . "

= = Home release = =

On December 22 , 2009 , before the episode first aired , it was released on DVD in Region 1 , and ? in a first for the series ? the episode was available on Blu @-@ ray Disc . It was released on December 26 , 2009 in Region 2 , and on December 23 , 2009 in Region 4 . As with " Blue Harvest " , a limited edition version is available in the region 2 version , and comes with collectible items , including a T @-@ shirt of The Giant Chicken as Boba Fett . The Blu @-@ ray Disc release features a second disc containing a " digital copy " of the episode .

= = Sequel = =

With the success of " Blue Harvest " and " Something , Something , Something , Dark Side " , a sequel episode , entitled " It 's a Trap ! " and parodying the film Return of the Jedi , aired during the ninth season of Family Guy . The episode was written by David A. Goodman and Cherry Chevapravatdumrong , and directed by Peter Shin , in his first episode since the fourth season .