

= Three Kings ( Family Guy ) =

" Three Kings " , alternatively spelled " 3 Kings " , is the 15th episode of the seventh season of the animated comedy series Family Guy . It originally aired on Fox in the United States on May 10 , 2009 . The episode is split into three segments , parodying films based on three Stephen King stories : Stand by Me , Misery and The Shawshank Redemption .

The episode was written by Alec Sulkin and directed by Dominic Bianchi . The episode received mostly positive reviews for its break from the usual storyline in the series , in addition to receiving some criticism from the Parents Television Council . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 6 @. @ 47 million homes in its original airing . The episode featured guest performances by Richard Dreyfuss , Roy Scheider and George Wendt , along with several recurring guest voice actors for the series .

= = Plot = =

The episode opens with Peter sitting in a study , explaining that " Lois has been bitching that I watch too much TV and don 't read enough books . " He then picks out three novels by " the greatest author of the last thousand years , " Stephen King , and proceeds to share them with the viewer .

= = = Stand by Me = = =

In the summer of 1955 , four 12 @- @ year @- @ old boys ? Petey LaChance ( Peter , with Richard Dreyfuss 's voice in his head narrating the story ) , Quag Chambers ( Quagmire ) , Joey Duchamp ( Joe with Roy Scheider 's voice in his head , who starts talking with Dreyfuss until Joe stops them ) , and Cleve Brown ( Cleveland ) ? set out to find a dead body in the woods , following a set of railroad tracks to find it . At the start of their trip , they try going through Old Man Pressman 's ( Stewie ) junkyard , only to be chased out by Pressman and his dog Chopper ( Brian ) . As they travel further down the tracks , they are chased across a bridge by a train , which ends up running over Joey 's legs , as does another train that follows closely behind , which effectively cripples him . The others end up going all the way back to Pressman 's junkyard to get him a wheelchair .

Upon finding the body ( Meg Griffin ) , they are confronted by the town bully Ace ( Mayor West ) and his gang , consisting of Beast @- @ Man , Mer @- @ Man , and Norm from Cheers , who come to take credit for finding the body . Ace threatens the boys with a knife , but Petey pulls out a gun to intimidate Ace , who swears he will come back for revenge and could get a gun tomorrow . However , since their next meeting will be inevitable , as they live in the same neighborhood , Petey lets Ace have the body to avoid further consequences . Upon returning home , the boys go their separate ways ; Joey comes to terms with being crippled and creates a new wheelchair rugby game called " Don 't @- @ Feel @- @ Sorry @- @ For @- @ Us @- @ Ball " , Cleve grows up to marry Rebecca Romijn ( who is the real @- @ life wife of Jerry O 'Connell , who played the character of " the fat kid " in the actual film ) , and Quag grows up to become a famous Hollywood actor who eventually dies of a drug overdose ( a reference to the fact River Phoenix , who played Chris Chambers in the actual film , went the same way and the unseen adult version of Chris dies , but in a different manner ) , while Petey 's fate becomes a mystery .

= = = Misery = = =

Famed writer Paul Sheldon ( Brian ) has just finished his latest and final installment in his series entitled Snuggly Jeff , a series of children 's books in which he kills off the titular character so he can focus on more serious work , despite objections from his agent , Marcia ( Lois ) . While driving through a snowstorm , Paul accidentally hits Stephen King with his car , causing Paul to swerve off the road and crash into a snowbank , while King gets the idea for another novel within seconds and manages to finish writing the plot in just a few seconds before hitting the ground completely

unscathed .

Paul is rescued by Stewie Wilkes ( Stewie ) , Paul 's self @-@ proclaimed number @-@ one fan , who takes the injured Paul to his remote cabin . Upon finding and reading the manuscript of Paul 's latest Snuggly Jeff book , Stewie is infuriated about the main character 's death and forces Paul to rewrite it and bring Snuggly Jeff back to life , holding him hostage until he manages to do so . Stewie rejects the idea of bringing Snuggly Jeff back to life with a child 's wish , calling it bad storytelling and comparing it to a plot hole in the film Contact .

After sending Stewie out for more paper , Paul finds several news articles in an album that imply Wilkes is actually a serial killer . Just then , the local sheriff ( Joe ) appears , and is surprised to find Paul there . Before he can help him , however , Stewie blows his legs off with a shotgun . The sheriff then complains that he will now have to spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair , only to be shot again and killed by Stewie . Paul finally finishes the book and demands Stewie let him go , but Stewie refuses , knowing he will try to turn him in to the police and tell them he kidnapped him , held him hostage , and fondled him in his sleep , which Paul did not know originally . Paul 's ultimate fate is left ambiguous as the story ends with a Magnum , P.I.-style credits roll .

= = = The Shawshank Redemption = = =

Andy Dufresne ( Peter ) is sent to Shawshank Prison , though none of the inmates think much of him , particularly Red ( Cleveland , who narrates the story ) . A month passes before Andy literally says two words to Red , and later asks him for a rock hammer , claiming he carves Star Wars figurines out of stone . He also suggests in a poorly veiled manner that he will use the hammer to tunnel out of the prison . Andy and Red end up becoming fast friends , and Red provides him with the rock hammer . One day , the prison 's stern warden Samuel Norton ( Carter ) takes a liking to Andy 's figurines and offers to sell them so he can take all the money for himself , crippling Bogs ( Joe ) , one of the inmates who had raped Andy in the shower , as a sign of good will ( despite Andy saying that he liked him ) . Andy is then given permission to clean Norton 's office , and , while doing so , plays a record of " Hollaback Girl " across the whole prison , which utterly confuses all the inmates and infuriates Norton , who calls Andy into his office and places him in solitary confinement for two months after Andy indirectly insults him .

Afterward , Andy grows determined to escape from Shawshank , and informs Red that he is going to Zihuatanejo in Mexico , telling him that if he should ever get out of prison , he should go to a hayfield in Buxton , Maine , and there will be a volcanic rock , and a gift for him under it . During an inspection the next day , Andy has disappeared without a trace . In a fury , Norton throws one of Andy 's rocks at a suggestive poster of David Cassidy on the wall of Andy 's cell , tearing a hole through Cassidy 's rectum . Norton then pulls the poster off , discovering a tunnel that Andy had made his escape through the night before . Andy is then shown breaking into a sewage pipe while Norton is distracted by watching an episode of Friends , allowing him to crawl out to freedom . Sometime later , Red is brought before a parole board and complains that the concept of rehabilitation is just a way for the board members to make themselves feel important , and declares he will start killing people as soon as he is released ; for no apparent reason , Red is put on parole anyway and released from Shawshank . Red goes to the field in Buxton with the volcanic rock to fulfill his promise to Andy , finding a box beneath the rock containing money and a postcard asking if he remembers the name of the Mexican village Andy told him about ; unfortunately , to Red 's annoyance , he does not . Andy is then shown preparing a boat on a beach in Zihuatanejo , eagerly waiting for Red to arrive , though Red never does .

At the end of the show , Peter thanks Stephen King and says they will see him in court , then tells the viewers to " stay tuned for whatever FOX is limping to the barn with . "

= = Production = =

In his second episode for the season , the first being " Stew @-@ Roids " , the episode was written by series regular Alec Sulkin , and directed by Dominic Bianchi before the conclusion of the seventh

production season . It was the last episode to be handdrawn in animatics .

The three stories were chosen , according to series creator Seth MacFarlane , mostly due to their " iconic " movie stature . Before producing the episode , writer Stephen King was approached by the Family Guy production team to create the episode , and obtain his written permission to create it ; with King agreeing to allow the show to create the parody . King later stated that he enjoyed the episode and found it funny .

In addition to the regular cast , actor Richard Dreyfuss , actor Roy Scheider ( who recorded his part in the episode shortly before his death in February 2008 ) , and actor George Wendt guest starred in the episode . Recurring guest voice actors Chris Cox , actor Ralph Garman , writer Danny Smith , writer Alec Sulkin , and writer John Viener also made minor appearances . Actor Adam West guest starred in the episode as well .

= = Reception = =

In its original airing in the United States , " Three Kings " was watched by 6 @. @ 47 million homes and acquired a 3 @. @ 2 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , beating The Simpsons , American Dad ! and King of the Hill . The Parents Television Council named Family Guy the Worst TV Show of the Week because of the episode 's " violence , sexual references and contribution to the coarsening of contemporary culture . "

The episode received generally positive reviews from television sources and critics . Ahsan Haque of IGN rated the episode an 8 @. @ 4 / 10 , calling the change of pace from the show 's usual random storytelling " pleasant " . The Misery segment was criticized as being flat , but was made up for by the other two , particularly The Shawshank Redemption . Steve Heisler of The A.V. Club gave it a B- and called the Stand by Me story " too earnest to turn into much of a comic romp " and that the gags in The Shawshank Redemption were " too expected " . He called Misery a " hoot " , stating : " Anything where Brian is held in the palm of diabolical Stewie works wonders for me " .