

= My Sister , My Sitter =

" My Sister , My Sitter " is the seventeenth episode of The Simpsons ' eighth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on March 2 , 1997 . In the episode , Marge and Homer go to a party and leave Lisa to babysit Bart. Being unhappy with this , Bart does everything he can to annoy Lisa . Eventually , Bart becomes injured and Lisa must find him medical attention without losing her reputation as a good babysitter .

The episode was written by Dan Greaney and directed by Jim Reardon . The script was written to focus on the relationship between Bart and Lisa and the episode has further been used to discuss the difficulties in letting children babysit themselves . The episode received mostly positive reviews .

= = Plot = =

Inspired by " The Babysitter Twins " books , Lisa decides to become a babysitter . However , because of her age , no one takes her seriously . One day , Ned mentions that Maude has been taken hostage in Lebanon and he must leave to get her released , and he agrees to let Lisa babysit Rod and Todd . After a relatively uneventful night , Ned puts out the good word for Lisa , who experiences a business boom .

Meanwhile , the Springfield Squidport reopens and throws a gala . Marge and Homer decide to go and they leave Lisa to babysit Bart and Maggie . Bart is offended by the fact that his younger sister is going to be babysitting him . To complicate things further , Bart torments her by , among other things , ordering an oversized sub , hiring Krusty for a bachelor party , dialing 9 @-@ 1 @-@ 1 for a " sisterectomy " , and having Maggie eat coffee ice cream for dinner . Eventually , Lisa angrily attempts to jump at Bart , but misses , causing him to fall backwards down the stairs , dislocating his arm and getting a large bump on his head . Bart then realizes that if Lisa does not take him to a hospital , she will not be able to babysit anymore . To make his condition worse , Bart locks himself in his room and hits his head on the door " to make the lump bigger " , then falls unconscious .

Lisa tries to call for an ambulance , but the 9 @-@ 1 @-@ 1 operator refuses to assist her due to Bart 's earlier prank call . Lisa considers asking Dr. Hibbert , but thinks better of it when she realizes that her reputation as a good babysitter will be ruined . Ultimately , she takes the unconscious Bart to Dr. Nick Riviera 's clinic in a wheelbarrow , bringing Maggie along in a pet carrier . There is a long line in the waiting room , and Lisa fails to get an appointment . She then tries to wheel Bart to the hospital , but en route , Bart rolls down a cliff and into a muddy river right in front of the crowded Squidport . Everyone assumes that Lisa is on drugs , and that she has murdered Bart and is about to drown the caged Maggie . The scene then fades to the following day , when Bart , whose injuries have been treated , apologizes to Lisa for causing her trouble . She forgives him , but is still distraught that her reputation as a babysitter is now ruined . However , she soon receives babysitting requests from Dr. Hibbert and Ned due to their difficulty finding sitters , much to Lisa 's delight .

= = Production and themes = =

The episode was directed by Jim Reardon and written by Dan Greaney . Like numerous preceding episodes , " My Sister , My Sitter " deals with the relationship between Bart and Lisa . Greaney specializes in writing Bart and Lisa episodes from the perspective of a kid . Elaine E Sutherland , who is a member of the Law Society of Scotland 's Family Law Sub @-@ Committee and Professor of Child and Family Law at the Law School , Stirling University , used the episode to describe the potential problems of letting one of your kids babysit the rest . While one child may be mature enough to babysit , it is not certain that the other kids accept the babysitters authority . According to Alan S. Brown and Chris Logan , the writers of the book The Psychology of the Simpsons : D ? oh ! , the episode is an example of how feminine anger rarely solves the problem on The Simpsons . ? Here , Lisa ? s rage and ongoing frustration contribute to her difficulty in making good decisions about what to do with her emotion , ? they write . Keeping with the babysitter theme , there are

cultural references to The Baby @-@ Sitters Club : Lisa reads book # 14 - The Formula Formula , while Janey is on book # 20 - The President 's Baby Is Missing .

The idea of revamping the waterfront came from cities like Baltimore , who were always trying to fix formerly horrible places . Chris Turner , the author of the book Planet Simpson , writes about the scene at the Squidport : " The " satirical " setting seems almost documentary " . The Squidport is a local revitalization project , which recast a historic industrial area as a pedestrian mall . He calls this an example of how ? hyper @-@ consumer culture of Springfield moves front and center ? On the waterfront , Rainier Wolfcastle opens a restaurant called " Planet Hype " . This is a parody of the international theme restaurant franchise Planet Hollywood . Wolfcastle is a parody of Arnold Schwarzenegger , who launched Planet Hollywood along with Sylvester Stallone , Bruce Willis , Demi Moore and Whoopi Goldberg in 1991 . According to Matt Groening , the show had written an entire episode around Planet Hollywood , which featured the voices of Schwarzenegger , Stallone , and Willis as The Three Stooges type of characters . The episode was never animated , because it turned out that it was only the publicist of Planet Hollywood 's idea and the actors did not want to participate .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " My Sister , My Sitter " finished 47th in ratings in a tie with Melrose Place for the week of February 24 - March 2 , 1997 , with a Nielsen rating of 9 @.@ 0 , equivalent to approximately 8 @.@ 7 million viewing households . It was the fifth highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week . Since airing , the episode has received mostly positive reviews from television critics . The authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide , Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , called it " a clever episode , if a little disjointed ? the two stories don 't gel as well as normal . " Tim Raynor of DVDTown.com said that the episode " is full of the usual , fun antics that you would expect from Bart or any of the other dumb Simpsons . " DVD Movie Guide 's Colin Jacobson said that " the segments in which Lisa babysits the various kids in town are a delight " and that the episode " mixes wacky moments with reality as it places Lisa in a logical position . Her conflict with Bart creates realism and also brings out the comedy . "

= = Cultural references = =

The episode 's name is taken from the 1994 movie Sister My Sister . When Dr Hibbert accuses to Lisa is a reference to the chapter " The Music Box " (1977) , from Little House on the Prairie series .