

## = A Totally Fun Thing That Bart Will Never Do Again =

" A Totally Fun Thing That Bart Will Never Do Again " is the 19th episode of the 23rd season of the American animated television sitcom The Simpsons . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on April 29 , 2012 . In the episode , the Simpson family goes on cruise after being convinced by a bored Bart. He enjoys himself on the vacation until Rowan Priddis , the director of the cruise , performs a song called " Enjoy It While You Can " that makes him realize the cruise is soon to be over and he has to return to his boring life . Bart decides to trick the crew and the passengers on the ship that the world is coming to an end back on land because of a pandemic and that the ship therefore has to stay out at sea . He manages to do this with the help of a large television screen , on which he displays a scene from the film The Pandora Strain that features a general officer named William Sullivan warning humanity about a deadly virus .

Treat Williams guest starred in the episode as film character William Sullivan , while Steve Coogan made a guest appearance as the cruise director Rowan Priddis . " Enjoy It While You Can " was produced for the episode by Broadway composer Robert Lopez , who also co @-@ wrote the song with the writers of The Simpsons . Other songs played in the episode include " Boy from School " by Hot Chip and " Winter 's Love " by Animal Collective . Since airing , " A Totally Fun Thing That Bart Will Never Do Again " has received generally positive reviews from television critics , being praised for showing an emotional side of Bart. Around five million viewers tuned in to watch the episode during its original US broadcast .

## = = Plot = =

After another boring week in his life , Bart sees a commercial on television for a fun cruise and begs Homer and Marge for a family vacation . They tell him that the family is low on cash , so Bart chooses to sell everything he owns to fund the vacation himself . He comes up well short of the needed amount , so Marge and Lisa help by selling one valuable item apiece . Together the three have enough money to book the family into an economy cabin ; once the cruise starts , though , a series of free upgrades places them in a deluxe cabin . They enjoy the wide range of activities onboard , but Bart 's spirits sink when he hears the cruise director , Rowan Priddis , sing a song to the passengers telling them to enjoy the rest of the cruise while they can before they go back to their normal lives . Bart fears that the remainder of his life will be painfully boring and decides to make the vacation last forever .

Later , a huge onboard television screen displays an emergency message from a military officer , warning the crew and passengers about a deadly virus that has started to spread on the mainland . He says that all ships must remain at sea to ensure that humanity survives . The message is actually taken from a movie in the Simpson cabin 's DVD library , set up by Bart to broadcast all over the ship . He also disables communications with the mainland by pouring hot fudge on a control panel . As the ship stays at sea , conditions deteriorate and the food supply starts to run out . Eventually , the cruise turns into a post @-@ apocalyptic civilization , with gladiator arenas , marauders , capital punishment , and Priddis claiming kingship over the passengers .

Marge and Lisa discover Bart 's deception and inform the passengers that the virus is a hoax . As punishment , the furious passengers maroon the Simpsons in Antarctica and head home . While hiking toward a research station for help , they notice a group of penguins ; Lisa is fascinated by the chance to see them up close , but Bart thinks that their lives are boring and says that the ice slide they are riding down is just one isolated moment of fun . Lisa tells him that capturing and enjoying the best moments in life can make it fun , and Bart realizes she is right after Homer pushes him down the ice slide , with the whole family joining in . The final scene is a flash @-@ forward to an elderly Bart in a retirement home , commenting on how much fun his life has been .

## = = Production = =

" A Totally Fun Thing That Bart Will Never Do Again " was written by Matt Warburton and directed

by Chris Clements as part of the 23rd season of The Simpsons ( 2011 ? 12 ) . The title and parts of the plot are a reference to the 1997 essay " A Supposedly Fun Thing I 'll Never Do Again " by American writer David Foster Wallace that describes his experiences on a cruise . In one scene , a character appears in the background that supposedly resembles Foster Wallace . American actor Treat Williams guest starred in the episode as himself playing William Sullivan , the character in the film The Pandora Strain that Bart uses to trick everyone into believing a deadly virus has actually spread .

A guest appearance by English actor and comedian Steve Coogan as Rowan Priddis , the director of the cruise , is also featured . In the episode , when the Simpsons are having dinner at the restaurant on the ship , the character makes a stage performance of a song called " Enjoy It While You Can " that prompts Bart to make sure the cruise lasts forever . This song was a contribution by Tony Award @-@ winning Broadway composer and lyricist Robert Lopez , who produced it in New York City in 2011 for the episode . Coogan recorded the song in New York as well . The writers of the show provided Lopez their suggestion for the song 's lyrics , which " he then tweaked " , according to William Keck of TV Guide . Lopez told Keck that he and the Simpsons staff decided to create something " cheesy that actually could be performed on a cruise ship . We went in a Carnival Cruise , ' Feelin ' Hot Hot Hot ' direction . " According to The Simpsons music editor Chris Ledesma , Lopez produced " Enjoy It While You Can " with a " synthesizer band " and The Simpsons composer Alf Clausen " added a Vegas @-@ style house orchestra arrangement for the final version . "

The episode features two songs in addition to " Enjoy It While You Can " . " Boy from School " by English electronic music band Hot Chip is played at the start of the episode during a montage that shows a boring week in the life of Bart , including his time at school . When the Simpsons go down the penguins ' ice slide at the end of the episode , " Winter 's Love " by American neo @-@ psychedelia band Animal Collective is heard . " A Totally Fun Thing That Bart Will Never Do Again " also includes two classical music pieces . Warburton decided to use French composer François @-@ Adrien Boieldieu 's " Concerto for Harp and Strings " for the first shot of the cruise ship in the episode . As described by Ledesma on his blog , this piece reappeared in a " more dire and dark treatment " later in the episode during a shot of the rundown ship . Russian composer Mikhail Glinka 's overture from his Ruslan and Lyudmila opera is played over a montage that shows Bart taking part in the fun activities on the cruise .

= = Release = =

The episode originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on April 29 , 2012 . It was watched by approximately five million people during this broadcast , and in the demographic for adults aged 18 ? 49 , the episode received a 2 @.@ 3 Nielsen rating and a seven percent share . The episode became the second highest @-@ rated broadcast in Fox 's Animation Domination lineup that night in terms of both total viewers and in the 18 ? 49 demographic , finishing higher than new episodes of The Cleveland Show and Bob 's Burgers but lower than a new Family Guy episode ( which acquired a 2 @.@ 8 rating and was seen by 5 @.@ 63 million people ) . For the week of April 23 ? 29 , 2012 , " A Totally Fun Thing That Bart Will Never Do Again " placed 17th in the ratings among all prime @-@ time broadcasts in the 18 ? 49 demographic , and sixth among all Fox prime @-@ time broadcasts .

Reception of the episode by television critics has been generally positive . Rowan Kaiser of The A.V. Club praised the episode , gave a A- and commented that it is " good to see The Simpsons try an ambitious episode , and great to see those ambitions largely fulfilled . " He added that episodes that " give Bart extra depth ( ' Bart Sells His Soul ' especially ) are among my favorite Simpsons half @-@ hours , " and noted that this episode features " a side of Bart that we rarely see : someone living outside the moment . Imagining himself on his deathbed and thinking of how his whole life outside of the cruise was wasted is the sort of device typically reserved for the Simpson women , particularly Lisa . " Alan Sepinwall of HitFix wrote that in the episode there " are elements that will be familiar ? it 's another episode where a Simpson family vacation verges on disaster ? but the main emotional storyline involving Bart is one The Simpsons hasn 't touched on before , as a fantastic

luxury cruise makes him uneasy about the state of the rest of his life . " Sepinwall concluded that he is " always a fan of single @-@ story Simpsons episodes , as well as ones built around an emotional issue facing a member of the family , and this has both ? in addition to being funny and sweet and clever in its depiction of the Best Cruise Ever . "