

Production No. 9F01

The Simpsons

"HOMER THE HERETIC"

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TABLE DRAFT

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NOTE: FOR TABLE READ ONLY

"HOMER THE HERETIC"

Cast List

HOMER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MARGE.....JULIE KAVNER
BART.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
LISA.....YEARDLEY SMITH
MAGGIE.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
PATTY.....JULIE KAVNER
SELMA.....JULIE KAVNER
NED FLANDERS.....HARRY SHEARER
MAUDE FLANDERS.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
MOE.....HANK AZARIA
APU.....HANK AZARIA
REV. LOVEJOY.....HARRY SHEARER
KENT BROCKMAN.....HARRY SHEARER
CHIEF WIGGUM.....HANK AZARIA
BARNEY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
KEARNEY.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
BILL.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MARTY.....HARRY SHEARER
GROUNDSKEEPER WILLIE....DAN CASTELLANETA
JASPER.....HARRY SHEARER
GOD.....HARRY SHEARER
JAMSHED.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT

PAGE 2.

DALMATIAN.....DAN CASTELLANETA
INSURANCE AGENT.....HANK AZARIA
ANNOUNCER.....HARRY SHEARER
COMMENTATOR.....HARRY SHEARER
BORING GUY.....HANK AZARIA
WOMAN.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
SEXY PIRATE.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
DELIVERY BOY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
STOOG #1.....DAN CASTELLANETA
STOOG #2.....HANK AZARIA
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.....DAN CASTELLANETA
JIMI HENDRIX.....HARRY SHEARER

"HOMER THE HERETIC"

By

George Meyer

FADE IN:

INT. WOMB

BABY HOMER, nine months along, is floating peacefully in the womb. He does a few graceful somersaults and synchronized swimming moves to the accompaniment of CLASSICAL MUSIC.

HOMER

(DREAMILY) Ahhh, another beautiful day in the womb. (HOMER HOLDS UP THE UMBILICAL CORD) Free food... no dress code...strange muffled noises to keep me amused. (CONTENTED SIGH) They'll have to drag me out of here kicking and screaming.

Suddenly, the water level starts to drop. Baby Homer starts kicking and SCREAMING. A BIG HAND grabs his foot and he struggles desperately to resist.

HOMER

Leggo! Leggo!

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

The dreaming Homer is in bed. MARGE, wearing her Sunday best, is tugging on Homer's exposed foot.

HOMER

I don't know how to breathe!

MARGE

Get up, Homer. It's time for church.

HOMER

(UNDER THE COVERS) Don' wanna go.

MARGE

It's church. You have to go.

HOMER

You go twice.

MARGE

Homer...

HOMER

It's too cold out!

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

It's bitterly cold and snowy outside. A POLAR BEAR is going through the garbage cans. He pulls out a discarded fish and chomps it happily.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

HOMER

I might go, if you warm up my clothes in the dryer, and carry me to the car.

MARGE

(FIRMLY) I'm not going to bargain with you. Now, hurry up.

She slips Homer's church clothes under the covers.

HOMER

(GROANS)

We see Homer's outline grumpily pulling on his clothes under the blankets.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Stupid itchy church pants...

SFX: PANTS RIP

HOMER (CONT'D)

(ANNOYED GRUNT) Okay, Marge. That
was a sign from God. I'm not going.

MARGE

(FRUSTRATED MURMUR)

INT. SIMPSON CAR

A ticked-off Marge is driving LISA, BART and MAGGIE to church. The windshield keeps fogging up and Marge has to keep wiping a small patch to see the road. Maggie is CHEWING on a card marked "WARRANTY". After a BEAT...

BART

Hey, where's Homer?

MARGE

Your father is...resting.

BART

"Resting" hung over, "resting" got
fired..? Help me out here.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - HOMER'S BED

Only Homer's face peeks out from the cozy covers.

HOMER

Ahhh. I'm just a big toasty cinnamon
bun. I never want to leave this
bed. (EYES OPEN) Uh. Gotta take a
whiz. Think, man, think... (LONG
PAUSE) I better get up.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BATHROOM

We see Homer naked from the waist up, framed by the bathroom doorway.

HOMER (CONT'D)

I'm whizzing with the door open --
and I love it!

Homer gets in the **SHOWER** and starts to **SING**.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(SINGS) Whyyy, oh whyyy...Delilahhh?

Homer switches on a waterproof **SHOWER RADIO** marked "No Soap-Radio!" The "BILL and MARTY Show" is on.

MARTY (V.O.)

It's eleven KBBL degrees below zero.
I hope you're someplace warm.

HOMER

You bet your sweet...

Homer looks around, then smiles to himself.

HOMER (CONT'D)

...ass!

INT. CHURCH

It's freezing cold. The Simpsons are **SHIVERING**. **LOVEJOY** is wearing a bulky down parka over his vestments. You can see his breath, and there's frost on the pulpit. --

LOVEJOY

I'm afraid our furnace isn't working.
But don't worry, either: A) God will
look out for us; or B) God is just
testing us. Now, let's open our
prayer books to the Lamentation Of
Hezron, Long Version.

Bart and Lisa shoot each other looks of dismay.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Homer, in a bathrobe and fluffy bear-paw slippers, adjusts the thermostat to a hundred degrees.

CLOSE-UP Simpson stereo. Homer's hand reaches into the frame and pushes all the volume controls to "MAX".

We see Homer dancing around in underwear, white socks and slippers.

SINGERS (V.O.)

(SINGING) Who wears short shorts?

HOMER

(SINGING) I wear short shorts!

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN

Homer puts on an apron.

HOMER

The perfect chance to make my patented, space age, out-of-this-world Moon Waffles. Any objections?

(LISTENS) Then the motion carries!

He rummages through the fridge.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Let's see here...waffle batter...
caramels....liquid smoke...

He dumps everything into a waffle iron and closes the lid.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Three, two, one...we have waffles!

Homer opens the waffle iron and pries off a misshapen waffle - the ingredients haven't mixed well. He wraps it around a whole stick of butter and sticks in a fancy toothpick.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Could this be the best day my life?

A THOUGHT BALLOON reveals Homer's memories of: the day he and Marge got married; getting an award that reads "5th Place"; standing by the door with a stopwatch waiting for pizza delivery.

HOMER (IN THOUGHT BALLOON)

32 minutes...I don't have to pay!

DELIVERY BOY

But this comes out of my salary!

Homer **SLAMS** the door.

THE THOUGHT BALLOON VANISHES.

HOMER

Looks like we have a new champion.

Homer **BITES** the waffle.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Lovejoy is giving a fire-and-brimstone sermon in the chilly church. He brushes his hand against the altar flowers; the flowers **SHATTER**.

LOVEJOY

Repent, or be cast into the fiery
cauldron of hell!

PAN ACROSS the Simpsons' faces. Their eyes are closed, and they smile longingly at the image.

LOVEJOY (CONT'D)

The searing heat...the scalding
rivers of molten sulfur...

BART

Ahhh... I'm there.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Homer is sitting on the floor munching happily. Some butter drips out of the waffle tube onto his bare chest.

HOMER

Uh-oh. (WHISTLES) Here, boy.

SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER eagerly licks the butter off his chest.

The PHONE RINGS. Homer lazily grabs the phone cord and pulls it off the table, then reels it in to himself.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Y'ello.

INTERCUT WITH PATTY AND SELMA

PATTY

(HISSES) Homer answered!

SELMA

(HISSES) Hang up!

HOMER

Is someone there? (THREATENING)

Because if there isn't...

PATTY

Homer, it's Patty.

Homer suppresses an ANNOYED GRUNT. We see his toes CURL.

PATTY (CONT'D)

Selma and I can't make it for dinner tonight. We're going on an Eclipse Cruise to Suriname.

ZOOM OUT from Homer to his idea of the globe: The United States is enormous; Canada and Mexico are missing; the rest of the continents are strangely shaped. Homer's POV scans back and forth, stopping at Switzerland, Syria, Tomorrowland, the Klingon Empire. No Suriname.

BACK TO SCENE

HOMER

(PHONY) You won't be away from us
long, I pray.

PATTY

About three weeks.

HOMER

(GRAVELY) Oh, that's not good.

PAN DOWN Homer's body to his feet, which are doing a
delirious little jig.

INT. CHURCH

The service is over. Shivering CHURCH MEMBERS are standing
around the front doors of the church. Several of them are
jockeying to warm their hands over a big candle. FLANDERS
is struggling to open the doors, which are encrusted with
ice.

FLANDERS

(SLIGHT EDGE OF HYSTERIA) The door's
frozen shut...and it's the only way
out.

There is WORRIED MUTTERING from the churchgoers

LISA

(TO SELF) "Our Father, who art in
Heaven"...

BART

Lisa, this is neither the time nor
the place.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The doorbell RINGS and Homer answers. It's a woman dressed
as a SEXY PIRATE.

SEXY PIRATE

Yo Ho Ho! I'm handing out free
samples of hot buttered rum!

She hands Homer a steaming mug.

HOMER

Hey, thanks!

SEXY PIRATE

No...thank YOU!

Homer goes back inside and takes a taste.

HOMER

How sweet it is.

The doorbell RINGS again.

SEXY PIRATE

Your neighbor isn't home, so you can
have his!

She hands Homer another mug.

HOMER

I don't think my other neighbor is
home either.

SEXY PIRATE

Okay - here ya' go!

She hands Homer one more mug.

Homer sits down and **URNS ON THE RADIO.**

MARTY (V.O.)

That was Johnny Calhoun, with "Gonna
Find Me a Genie With a Magic Bikini".

BILL (V.O.)

Of course, Johnny's next record was a spoken-word album of his right-wing political views, that killed his career. If you can tell me the name of that album, call the Contest Line at 321-KBBL - Now.

HOMER

(GASPS) I know that!

FLASH PAN to Homer's record collection -- we see a well-worn copy of the album in question: "These Things I Believe". The album cover shows a stern-faced Johnny Calhoun at the Lincoln Memorial sitting in Lincoln's lap. Homer rushes to the phone and DIALS.

HOMER

Hello, this is Homer Simpson.

There is sharp feedback. Santa's Little Helper buries his head.

MARTY (V.O.)

(ECHO-Y DISTORTION) Turn your radio down.

Homer complies.

BILL (V.O.)

Now, Homer Simpson of Springfield, can you name that title?

HOMER

(LOOKING AT THE ALBUM) "These Things I Believe".

BILL (V.O.)

Congratulations, Homer. You've just
won yourself a boat... trailer...
hitch... decal.

HOMER

Woo-hoo!

MARTY (V.O.)

What's the phrase that pays?

HOMER

I don't know!

BILL (V.O.)

Can you say, "Nobody Does It Like
KBBL"?

HOMER

Probably!

INT. CHURCH

GROUNDKEEPER WILLIE is going over the frozen hinges with a
blowtorch.

LOVEJOY

How's that door coming, Willie?

WILLIE

(GRIMLY) Miracles are your
department, Reverend.

In her pew, Maggie sucks but can't get any milk from her
bottle. She opens the top and turns it upside down. A
frozen block of milk slides out.

LOVEJOY

While we're waiting, why don't I read
from the Sunday Bulletin? (READS)
"Card table for sale. Top badly
damaged. One dollar or best
offer..."

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Homer is watching TV. The THREE STOOGES are on.

WOMAN (V.O.)

(MARGARET DUMONT TYPE) You must be
the three chiropractors I sent for.
Now start manipulating my spine.

STOUGE #1 (V.O.)

But Moe, we don't know nothin' about
manipulatin'.

STOUGE #2 (V.O.)

You heard the lady - grab her spine
and get cracking.

SFX: SLAP

HOMER

Heh-heh-heh... (MAKING AN OBSERVATION)
Moe is their leader.

INT. CHURCH

Lovejoy is still **READING** from the bulletin.

LOVEJOY

(READS) "The Senior Gadabouts bus trip to the gypsum quarry has been cancelled due to overbooking."

JASPER

(MUTTERS) Aw, nuts.

A **CRACKING** sound causes everyone to wheel around hopefully. Willie swings the doors open.

WILLIE

(CRY OF VICTORY)

Everyone makes a mad rush for the exit.

LOVEJOY

Please, Christians, don't push.

Bart scrambles for the exit, walking on top of people's heads.

BART

Excuse me...pardon me...how ya doin'?...love that hat...

INT. SIMPSON LIVING ROOM - DAY

Homer is still watching TV. The program he is watching is a **CARTOON CAVEMAN** watching a prehistoric TV.

HOMER

Ugh...cartoons. (CROSSING FINGERS)

Come on TV...gimme some of that

sweet, sweet pap!

He switches the channel. It's a dull "Meet the Press" type show.

BORING GUY

Let's define our terms. Are we talking about redistricting, or are we talking about reapportionment? Because the two are by no means the same.

HOMER

(SADLY) Oh, well...can't win 'em all.

Suddenly, the show's **TITLE CARD** appears: "Face the Camera".

On the card a nervous politician sweats and pulls on his tie as a camera moves in on him.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

We interrupt this public affairs program to bring you a football game.

HOMER

Yesss!

Homer does an end-zone dance.

EXT. CHURCH - PARKING LOT

Marge's car won't start.

SFX: CRANKING NOISE

MARGE

(CRANKING-LIKE MURMUR)

SFX: CRANKING NOISE

MARGE (CONT'D)

(CRANKING-LIKE MURMUR)

Finally, the car **STARTS**. Maggie hops up and down excitedly.

MARGE (CONT'D)

Thank goodness. Somebody up there
likes us.

Suddenly, a huge icicle **SNAPS** off from the eaves of the church and **SMASHES** through the car roof between Bart and Lisa.

BART/LISA

(TERRIFIED BABBLING)

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Homer is watching the football game.

COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

(BESIDE HIMSELF) I don't believe it!
A 98-yard triple reverse ties the
score at 63-63! We've seen nothing
but razzle-dazzle! A blocked coin
toss...the astonishing return of Jim
Brown...drunken fans throwing
batteries -- What's that? I've just
been told that the commissioner of
football has declared this the
greatest game ever played!

HOMER

Woo-hoo!

Looking down, Homer spies a shiny object on the floor.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(GASPS) Is that what I think it is?

MUSIC SWELLS. INTERCUT between Homer's incredulous face and closer and closer shots of the shiny thing -- a penny.

EXTREME CLOSE-UP: a smiling LINCOLN nods his head encouragingly.

Homer picks it up.

HOMER

(AWED) I...found...a penny!

He strikes a victorious pose. **TRIUMPHANT MUSIC** plays.

Marge and the kids enter.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Ah, my beloved family. How was church?

BART

(MUTTERS CURSES)

LISA

(HACKING COUGH)

Maggie **SNEEZES**. The pacifier flies out of her mouth and across the room. Marge catches it in mid-air and puts it back in Maggie's mouth.

MARGE

(SNIFFLING WITH A STUFFED NOSE) I think we're all coming down with codes.

HOMER

I, on the other hand, have been having the best day of my life. And I owe it all to skipping church!

MARGE

Homer, that's a terrible thing to say. Kids, your father doesn't really mean that.

HOMER

Like fun I don't. Marge, I've
finally seen the light. I'm never
going to church again.

Marge looks alarmed. Several **LIGHTNING BOLTS STRIKE**
outside the Simpson house. The Simpsons cower. After it
ends Homer looks out the window.

HOMER

Well, whaddaya know? It shoveled the
walk.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN

Marge is SCRAPING the gunk out of the waffle iron.

MARGE

I can't believe you're giving up
church, Homer.

HOMER

Hey, what's the big deal about going
to some building every Sunday? I
mean, isn't God everywhere?

BART

Amen, brother.

HOMER

And don't you think the Creator of
the Universe has better things to
worry about than where one little guy
on one teeny planet spends one measly
hour of his week?

BART

Tell it, daddy!

HOMER

You could never really enjoy yourself
Saturday night 'cause you were
dreading the next morning. Now
Saturday night can be fun again!

BART

Testify!

MARGE

Bart!

Bart is now **CLAPPING** his hands and rocking back and forth, a la Stevie Wonder.

BART

Sing out, Mama!

MARGE

Homer, are you actually giving up our faith?

HOMER

(VEHEMENT) No no! No no no no no
no. (THINKS) Well, yes.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Marge is at the foot of the bed **PRAYING** for Homer's soul.

MARGE

Lord, my husband is by no means perfect, but he's a kind, decent man. Please show him the error of his ways.

HOMER

(SEDUCTIVE) Marge, come to bed.

MARGE

No, Homer. (CONTINUES PRAYING) He doesn't mean to be sacrilegious, Lord. He just likes to sleep in on Sundays...

Homer strokes Marge's beehive amorously. Marge pulls away.

HOMER

(TEMPTINGLY) Maarge... come to bed

Marge...

Marge continues to PRAY.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(COYLY) I just took a bath...

Marge continues to PRAY.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(SEDUCTIVE) It's good for what ails

ya...

Marge continues to PRAY.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(SING-SONG) I can wait all -- (FALLS

ASLEEP, SNORES)

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

HOMER'S DREAM

He is sleeping on the couch. Suddenly, the earth starts to TREMBLE. Pictures SHAKE OFF the walls, lamps TIP OVER, etc. Homer's TV flashes the word "UH-OH!" A GIANT HAND TEARS THE ROOF OFF the house, revealing the moon and stars. Homer cringes in terror. GOD, about twelve feet high, steps into the room from above.

[NOTE: We never see God's face; it's always cut off by the frame, or hokily blocked by foreground objects as in "Brush With Greatness."]

GOD

(KIRK DOUGLAS VOICE) THOU HAST

FORSAKEN MY CHURCH!

HOMER

(QUAKING) Well... kind of... but...

GOD

BUT WHAT?

HOMER

Well, it's not that I don't believe
in YOU... I mean, I do... And I love
all your creations, like sunsets...
light beer... Lotto... Super Lotto...

GOD

GET TO THE POINT.

HOMER

It's just that I work hard all week.
I spend a little time with my family.
So why should I drive half way across
town just to hear how I'm goin' to
Hell?

GOD'S VOICE becomes softer and less intimidating.

GOD

It does sound rather silly.

God motions for Homer to sit down with him on the couch.

HOMER

And those sermons are just so
boring...

GOD

(SIGHS) I couldn't agree more. That Reverend Lovejoy really displeases me. I think I'll give him a canker sore.

HOMER

Give him one for me.

GOD

I will.

HOMER

(GAINING CONFIDENCE) So I figure I should just try to live right, and worship you in my own way.

GOD

It's a deal. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to appear on a tortilla in Mexico.

BACK TO SCENE

Homer smiles in his sleep. Marge looks worried.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BACK YARD

Homer and Lisa are strolling in the yard. There's a new serenity to Homer. He's wearing a St. Francis-like bathrobe.

LISA

Dad, are you and Mom having a fight?

HOMER

No, no, Lisa. Your mother and I are
just taking different paths in our
spiritual journey.

Some birds land on Homer's shoulders, and a squirrel hops
into his hand.

HOMER

Hello, my animal friends. Peace be
with you.

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Homer is in the shower. The animals are still on his head
and shoulders.

HOMER

(IRRITATED) Guys, please, could you
just give me five minutes?

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - EVENING

Rev. Lovejoy is having dinner with the Simpsons.

MARGE

Reverend Lovejoy, I had a bit of an
ulterior motive in inviting you to
dinner.

LOVEJOY

(SHOCKED) What?!

MARGE

No, it's nothing bad. I'm just
concerned, because my husband hasn't
been attending your services lately.

LOVEJOY

Is it the hymns? Because I was just saying to Helen that we need some faster hymns.

HOMER

Well... faster hymns, reclining pews... those things would help, but it's more than that. See, your God is always condemning people to Hell. Mine is a little more easygoing.

LOVEJOY

So you're starting your own religion now, is that it?

HOMER

Well, I didn't mean to. But God appeared before me in a dream, and I knew that was special 'cause I usually dream about naked...

(COVERING) Marge.

MARGE

(DISPLEASED MURMUR)

LISA

Reverend Lovejoy, I'm worried. I'm used to strange developments in this household, but they usually only threaten our mortal life.

LOVEJOY

Homer, I'd like you to remember
Matthew 7:26 -- "The foolish man, who
built his house on sand."

HOMER

(FAKING IT) And YOU remember...
Matthew.. uh... 21:17.

LOVEJOY

"And he left them, and went out of
the city into Bethany, and he lodged
there"?

HOMER

(COVERING) Uh, yeah... think about
it.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN

Homer is on the phone.

HOMER

Hello, work? This is Homer Simpson.
I won't be coming in tomorrow --
Religious holiday... The uh, Feast
of... (LOOKING AT SIGN) Maximum
Occupancy. Yep, every Wednesday.

Homer hangs up and dusts his hands.

MOE

Pretty slick.

HOMER

You should join my religion, Moe.
It's great. No Hell... two
Heavens....

MOE

Sorry, Homer. I was born a Snake-
Handler and I'll die a Snake-Handler.

Moe gestures emphatically. We see that his hand is swollen
and dotted with band-aids.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Homer is sitting on the couch.

SFX: DOORBELL

Homer opens the door and Ned Flanders is there with his
family. He wears a guitar.

FLANDERS

Neighbor, I heard about your heresy
and we've made it our mission to win
you back to the flock.

HOMER

No sale.

Flanders starts **STRUMMING** his guitar.

FLANDERS

Well, let me just sweeten the deal a
little.

FLANDERS FAMILY

(SINGING) God said to Noah there's
gonna be a floody, floody --

Homer **SHUTS THE DOOR.**

FLANDERS FAMILY (CONT'D)

(SINGING) Get those animals out on
the arky, arky --

INT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - DAY

Homer sits at his console. The PHONE RINGS. Homer picks it up.

FLANDERS FAMILY (V.O.)

(SINGING ON PHONE) The rain came
down... it started to get muddy,
muddy...

Homer SLAMS down the phone.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Homer drives in his car. The Flanders' car pulls up next to him. Flanders motions for Homer to roll down his window. Homer does.

FLANDERS FAMILY

(SINGING) The sun came out and dried
up the rainy, rainy --

Homer rolls up his window and drives off.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

CLOSE UP - PLASTIC BAG

It reads "VHS Village, Formerly The Beta Barn."

Homer takes out a video cassette and sticks it in his VCR. Flanders comes on the TV with his family.

FLANDERS

Neighbor, I know you were expecting to see "A Passage To India", but instead I'm appearing before you, with the help of a God-fearing clerk from the video store. (STRUMMING GUITAR) So sit back, and for the next ninety minutes...

HOMER

(GROWL)

Homer **CLICKS OFF** the TV.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ON TV

We see an Itchy & Scratchy cartoon entitled: "Flay Me To The Moon." Scratchy is sitting in a chair reading a newspaper with the headline, "Moon Launch Today." Itchy sneaks in, grabs Scratchy's tongue, which is dangling out of his mouth, pulls it out a window, drags it to the launching pad and ties it around a rocket which blasts off. The rocket goes into space, stretching the tongue all the way to the moon. Back at Scratchy's house, his tongue unspools with the **SOUND** of a **FISHING REEL**. He doesn't notice. The rocket orbits the moon, wrapping Scratchy's tongue around it, then tying it in a nice bow. The tongue starts to retract. In his home, Scratchy looks out the window and sees the moon hurtling towards him. Scratchy hides in a closet, but the moon lands on Scratchy's house, smashing it. **CUT TO** Mission Control, manned entirely by mice, who applaud and pop champagne. The End.

ON BART AND LISA

BART

I bet all you have to do to get into heaven is save a cat's life.

LISA .

What?

BART

That's my new religion. Save a cat
-- go to heaven. Like all great
ideas, it can fit on a bumper
sticker.

LISA

Who said you can start your own
religion?

BART

Lisa, this is a time of great
upheaval. New religions are
springing up all over the house.

LISA

What about Hitler? Would he get into
Heaven if he saved a cat?

BART

Did you ever see him do it?

LISA

No.

BART

Okay, then. He might've patted kids
on the head and stuff, but that's it.

LISA

Hmm... I know there's a flaw in your
dogma.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BART'S ROOM - THAT NIGHT

Lisa wakes Bart up.

LISA

What if you live in Antarctica, where
there are no cats?

BART

Three penguins equal a cat.

He turns the lights out.

LISA

Mooommm!

BART

(CHUCKLES)

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SUNDAY MORNING

Marge, Lisa and Bart, dressed for church, head out the door. Homer sits on the couch.

MARGE

Homer, we're going to church. Are
you sure you don't want to come?

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Coming up next, "Make Your Own
Ladder."

HOMER

Very sure.

A sad Marge hustles the kids out.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BASEMENT

A light comes on. Furtively, Homer takes out a cardboard box marked "CHRISTMAS." He lifts out a tray of Christmas ornaments, then a false bottom, to reveal a small stack of old "Playdude Magazines".

HOMER

Ahh... Just as I remembered them.

He extracts a copy of the July 1966 "Playdude" Magazine and opens it to the centerfold. We see a curvy blonde in a very tame swimsuit that reveals a narrow band of her waist.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Wow. The "Take It Off... Take It All Off" Girl. Nothing wrong with that midriff! (FLIPS PAGE) Ooh, white lipstick.

EXT. FIRST CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD - DAY

The marquee reads: "Today's Topic: When Homer Met Satan."

INT. FIRST CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD - CONTINUOUS

Lovejoy is delivering a passionate sermon.

LOVEJOY

My friends, the devil walks among us.

The CHURCH GOERS all look around, excited. Bart grabs an OLD MAN with a goatee.

BART

I got him.

LOVEJOY

No, don't look for the pitchfork and pointy tail. Today's devil has assumed a more seductive form, pleasing to the eye.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

We see Homer in his underwear, cleaning his ear with one finger. In his other hand he holds a beer.

ON TV

The crowd ROARS as a FOOTBALL PLAYER takes the kickoff.

ON HOMER

HOMER

Get that guy! Get him! Stop him!
Is somebody gonna tackle that guy?
(BEAT) Get him! He's gonna score!!
(THEN, DISGUSTED) Okay, don't get
him. Just let him score a touchdown.
(THEN, PLEADING) GET THAT GUY! STOP
HIM!! (BEAT) Finally!

INT. FIRST CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD - DAY

LOVEJOY

"Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it
holy!"

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Homer is now smoking a cigar and reading Playdude.

HOMER

(LEERING) Ooh! An interview with
Buckminster Fuller... wait, that's no
good. (FLIPS PAGE) Hey, now we're
talkin'. (READS) "Our Unabashed
Dictionary defines IUD as 'Love
Springs Internal'." (CHUCKLES, THEN)
I don't get it.

INT. FIRST CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD - CONTINUOUS

LOVEJOY

"Pride goeth before destruction!"

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Homer dozes off. The cigar drops out of his mouth and lands on another issue of Playdude. It reads: "Discovered: Nude Photos of Sybil Danning". We hear OMINOUS MUSIC. The smoldering cigar ash bursts into flame.

CLOSE UP - SLEEPING HOMER

DISSOLVE TO:

HOMER'S DREAM

Homer is watching the football game in Heaven. He sits in a huge throne. God walks in (we still don't see his face).

GOD

Homer, you're in my chair.

HOMER

I don't see your name on it.

God points to a huge plaque on the chair, which says "GOD".

HOMER (CONT'D)

Oh.

Homer gets off the chair and God sits down.

GOD

Why don't you get us some snacks,

Homer?

HOMER

(MUTTERED) I'll snack you, you chair stealing --

Homer goes into GOD'S KITCHEN, which is like a Richie Rich comic -- loaded with huge bins of every conceivable snack food. He pushes a button, and a Ferris wheel-like device slowly turns, displaying Pepperoni Potato Chips, Curried Goat Potato Chips, Menthol Potato Chips...

HOMER (CONT'D)

Holy Moly!

With a GRUNT, Homer swings open the door of a ten-story tall refrigerator. It's full of beer, near-beer and anti-beer. Homer roots through the fridge in a frenzy. He accidentally knocks over an enormous jar of pickled dinosaur eggs. It SHATTERS on the floor.

GOD (O.S.)

What's going on in there?

HOMER

(INNOCENTLY) Oh, nothing!

Homer rejoins God.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Your kitchen is amazing.

GOD

(MODESTLY) You should see Hell's kitchen.

We see smoke start to rise into frame...

GOD (CONT'D)

(SNIFFING) Homer, do you smell smoke?

HOMER

Probably just the Amazon.

Homer and God share a CHUCKLE.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

It is now in flames. Homer is asleep on the couch,
CHUCKLING and oblivious.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

The living room is on fire. Santa's Little Helper eyes the flames for a beat, then looks at Homer for a beat, then calmly saunters out the dog door.

Homer's couch starts to burn. Two mini-blazes race down Homer's two hairs. He wakes up with a start.

HOMER

(SCREAMS) Fire!

He tries to STAMP out the carpet, with some success, then the walls, with little success. He rummages through the closet and pulls out a fire extinguisher. He squeezes the handle, but only a tiny bit of foam SPUTTERS out.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - A FEW MONTHS EARLIER

Bart rides by on a skateboard using the fire extinguisher to propel him.

HOMER

Bart!

Bart stops.

HOMER (CONT'D)

That thing doesn't work unless you
turn it upside down.

Bart turns the fire extinguisher upside down, squeezes the nozzle and it spews out a huge jet of foam, rocketing Bart out of frame.

BART

Thanks, Dad!

DISSOLVE BACK TO SCENE

Homer is smiling at the memory. He sees the nozzle of the fire extinguisher is on fire and throws it aside with a shriek. Smoke begins to fill the room.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Ohh...What do they tell you to
do..."Duck and Roll"?, "Run and
Tuck"? (COUGHS) (REMEMBERING) Oh,
the song! (SINGS) "When a fire starts
to burn/Here's a lesson you must
learn/Something something, then
you'll see/You'll avoid catastrophe!"
(MOANS)

He COUGHS again, reels dizzily, and passes out on the floor.

INT. KWIK-E-MART

APU is looking out the window with binoculars.

HIS POV THROUGH THE BINOCULARS

We see the Simpson house is burning.

APU (V.O.)

(GASPS) Fire at the old Simpson
place!

INT. KWIK-E-MART - CONTINUOUS

Apu proudly dons a helmet reading "Fire Chief", to **DRAMATIC MUSIC**. He is about to leave when he notices DOLPH, JIMBO and KEARNEY lurking in the store.

APU

You are on your honor not to steal
anything.

KEARNEY

(EVILLY) Oh, we woon't....

We see Kearney eating cereal right out of a box.

Apu eyes them uneasily. He picks up his four-year-old nephew, JAMSHED, sits him behind the counter, and puts a smock on him.

APU

Little Jamshed...the store is in your hands.

JAMSHED

How I have waited for this day.

Jamshed hefts Apu's sawed-off shotgun. The punks react with fright.

INT. CHURCH - MORNING

Lovejoy is at the lectern.

LOVEJOY

...just want to remind everyone that the card table is still available. It's a real "beaut", although the top is still damaged and now one of the legs is missing.

Someone hands him a note.

LOVEJOY (CONT'D)

Now, I don't want to cause a panic, but there's a house on fire and it could be any one of yours.

The congregation **FLEES** in panic.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD STREET - DAY

A fire truck, with "Springfield Volunteer Fire Dept." inscribed on the side, SCREAMS down the street, with Barney, Mrs. Milhouse, Side Show Mel and the Comic Book Vendor (from "Three Men and a Comic Book") hanging from the sides and back.

The truck ZOOMS down the city streets then, SCREECHES to a stop. We see there are baby ducks crossing in front of it. Apu idles the engine and looks to the side. He sees a three-block-long line of baby ducks waiting to cross.

APU

(ANGRY) You ducks are really trying my patience. (SOFTENING) But you're so cute.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE

Flanders SCREECHES up in his car and races to the front door.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE

Flanders rushes into the house and looks around. He quickly stumbles over Homer's body.

FLANDERS

Homer!

COUGHING, Flanders picks Homer up in a fireman's carry and heads for the front door, but a flaming beam FALLS and blocks his path. He looks around, and heads for the back door. He's almost there when a section of floor COLLAPSES under him. Only Homer's head and feet prevent them from falling completely through to the basement. Homer GROANS.

With a GRUNT of exertion, Flanders pulls himself up through the hole. In desperation he carries Homer up the stairs a la Rhett Butler. He spots Maggie's crib and plops Homer into it. He then propels the crib toward the window.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - FRONT LAWN

In SLO-MO we see Homer go **CRASHING** through an upstairs window. First the protective padding, then the crib, then the mattress peels away from Homer like jettisoned stages of a rocket. He hurtles head first toward a tree. He narrowly misses the tree, only to smash into a bigger tree. He falls on his face, and the tree dumps all its snow on him, burying him.

Flanders rushes up in a panic. Flanders probes in the snowdrift with a stick until a **GROAN** reveals Homer's location. He pulls Homer up by the nostrils.

FLANDERS

There we go.

Flanders quickly gives Homer mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Homer slowly comes to and **COUGHS** up a pine cone.

HOMER'S POV

A beaming guardian angel, bathed in light, hovers over him. The angel slowly turns into Flanders.

HOMER

(DAZED) Are you...some beautiful
angel?

FLANDERS

(FLATTERED) No, but I was Joseph in
the Christmas pageant.

INT. MARGE'S CAR

Marge and the kids are driving home. Marge turns onto their street.

LISA

(GASPS) It's our house!

BART

Aw, cool! Burn, baby, burn!

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DAY

We see firemen struggling with hoses, deploying ladders, etc. The fire is really blazing now. Marge, Bart and Lisa rush up to Homer.

LISA/BART

Dad!

MARGE

Oh, Homer! Are you all right?

HOMER

(WEAKLY) Our...stuff. Save
our...stuff.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - FRONT DOOR

Apu is **BARKING** orders at the firefighters.

APU

Look alive, there! Squirt that hose!
Straighten that bucket! (TO
DALMATIAN) You, mascot - inspire the
men!

The Dalmatian **BARKS**.

Bart and Lisa try to run in the house, but Apu blocks their way.

APU

Halt! You can't go in there!

LISA

But our belongings...!

APU

(SOFTENING) Belongings, eh?

IN A THOUGHT BALLOON

Apu thinks fondly of his own belongings: a hot water bottle; a stapler; an incense burner shaped like an elephant.

APU

(MISTY-EYED) I must be crazy,
but...go ahead.

Bart and Lisa take a deep breath and dash inside.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LISA'S ROOM

Lisa grabs her very hot saxophone, and immediately juggles it like a hot potato.

LISA

(JERRY LEWIS) Oh heat. Oh burning!
Oh pain!

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE

Lisa races outside with her sax. Bart is right behind her, riding his skateboard. They stop next to Homer, sucking in the fresh air.

BART

(TAUNTING TONE) Oh Liiisaa...look
what I saved!

He opens his jacket, revealing the cat. Lisa falls to her knees.

LISA

Noooooooooooo....

BART

(TO HOMER) Hey, don't bogart that
oxygen, man.

Bart grabs Homer's oxygen mask and takes a few whiffs.

FIREFIGHTING MONTAGE:

A) Barney is carrying the TV out through the kitchen. Popcorn is popping out of the cupboard.

BARNEY

Oh boy...free popcorn!

Barney drops the TV and grabs some.

B) Marge's stockpile of hairspray cans **EXPLODES** one by one, as a few **FIREFIGHTERS** look on helplessly.

WIGGUM

(GRIMLY) Let 'em go, men. There's nothing we can do now.

C) A small **CROWD** is watching the blaze. It **ERUPTS** in various colors, which flicker on their faces.

CROWD

Ooohhh! Ahhhh!

D) A group of firemen are posing for a picture with the burning house in the b.g. a la the classic photo.

EXT. SIDEWALK

Lisa is standing with Homer.

LISA

Truly, this was an Act of God.

Suddenly, a stray flame licks Flanders' house and it starts to burn.

HOMER

Hey, wait a minute...Flanders is a regular Charlie Church and God didn't save him! Explain that one.

Just then, a small rain cloud materializes over the Flanders house. It quickly puts out the fire and moves on, leaving a beautiful rainbow.

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

EXT. FRONT YARD

CLOSE UP on a blazer pocket with the logo of "Total Disaster Insurance." Widen to reveal the Simpsons' INSURANCE AGENT. He's writing out a report on a clipboard.

INSURANCE AGENT

Any valuables in the house?

HOMER

(LYING BADLY) Well, the Picasso...and uh, the Einstein...and (FEELS SCALP, GASPS) My hair! My thick, beautiful hair! (STARTS CRYING)

INSURANCE AGENT

Sorry, this policy only covers actual losses, not made-up stuff.

HOMER

(BITTERLY) Well, that's just great.

We see a fireman's hat sliding across the snow. It stops and falls over revealing Maggie underneath.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - SIDEWALK

KENT BROCKMAN is there with a CAMERAMAN. He pokes a microphone in Marge's face.

KENT BROCKMAN

(MOCK CONCERN) Your family's home is in flames. I'll bet you feel like crying.

MARGE

Well, it's quite a shock.

The camera ZOOMS in for a CLOSE-UP of Marge's eyes.

KENT BROCKMAN

Let the tears flow, Mrs. Simpson

MARGE

No, I... I'd rather not.

KENT BROCKMAN

But you've lost so many things --

things you can't replace.

Marge SNIFFLES. Suddenly, a CHEER goes up from the crowd.

LISA

Mom, look!

BART

They put the fire out!

The firemen CHEER and high-five each other. The Simpsons hug each other jubilantly.

KENT BROCKMAN

(TO THE CAMERAMAN) Damn, I was this

close (INDICATES WITH THUMB AND

FOREFINGER) to the waterworks.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN

The kitchen is smoky but not ruined. The Simpsons, the firefighters, and Rev. Lovejoy are being served hot chocolate by Marge.

FLANDERS

You see, Homer? God is watching the

Simpsons.

HOMER

Yes, and I've learned a lesson. The Lord is vengeful! (FALLING TO HIS KNEES) O Spiteful One! Show me who to smite, and they shall be smoten!

LOVEJOY

Homer, God didn't set your house on fire. God was working in the hearts of your friends and neighbors when they went to your aid.

Homer is genuinely touched by this.

HOMER

You're right...they could have just left me to fry, like the proverbial pancake.

LOVEJOY

When you belong to a church, you're part of a community of caring people. That's one advantage Christianity has over Homerism.

HOMER

(FIRMLY) Let's just say there were good things in both religions.

LOVEJOY

(WARMLY) It's a deal.

They shake hands.

LOVEJOY (CONT'D)

Now, would you give church another
try?

HOMER

I'll be there next Sunday.

MARGE

(RELIEVED) Really, Homer?

HOMER

(HOLDS UP HAND) On a stack o' Bibles!

INT. CHURCH - FOLLOWING SUNDAY

Homer is SNORING, his head resting on a stack of Bibles.
An embarrassed Marge holds a hymnal in front of his
sleeping face.

HOMER'S DREAM

Homer and his buddy God are in heaven playing a clattery
game of air hockey. Homer scores.

HOMER

That's game!

GOD

(OUT OF BREATH) Have mercy, Homer!

Homer and God leave the table. Ben Franklin and Jimi
Hendrix immediately snatch up the paddles.

BEN FRANKLIN

Let's go, Hendrix.

HENDRIX

You're history, Franklin.

PAN OVER to God and Homer, sitting on clouds.

HOMER

God, I gotta ask you something.
What's the meaning of life?

GOD

Homer, I can't tell you that.

HOMER

C'mon.

GOD

You'll find out when you die.

FADE TO BLACK

Over the Executive Producer's credits:

HOMER (V.O.)

C'mon. I can't wait that long.

GOD (V.O.)

You can't wait six months?

HOMER (V.O.)

No, tell me now!

GOD (V.O.)

Well...okay. The meaning of life
is...

A BLARING FOX PROMO for "Drexell's Class" cuts off God's
message.

THE END