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Patty Bouvier

Patricia Maleficent^[2] "**Patty**" **Bouvier** is one of [Marge's](#) cynical chain-smoking twin sisters, who works at the [Department of Motor Vehicles](#) (DMV) and has a strong dislike for her brother-in-law, [Homer Simpson](#). Patty is a lesbian since she has confessed this to Marge (asking "did you actually think I was straight?"), appeared on a float at a pride parade, and had tomboy tendencies as a child.^[3] She is also the maternal aunt to [Bart](#), [Lisa](#), [Maggie](#), and [Ling](#). She is named after [Matt Groening's](#) sister Patty Groening. She is 41 years old meaning she was born in 1948, when the show first premiered in 1989.

Patty is the middle sister, being Selma's younger twin and being four years older than Marge.

Biography

Despite the similarities between her and [Selma](#), Patty has been shown to be more jaded than her sister, particularly towards relationships. Marge once said that Patty chose a life of celibacy, but Selma had it thrust upon her. Patty's decision to not have relationships has been implied to be due to her then-closeted sexuality. When her Aunt Gladys dies, Gladys records in her video will advise to Patty and Selma to get married and have a family. Selma takes this to heart, while Patty seems to pay no attention, remarking that they did well with Gladys leaving them her grandfather clock.^[4] She is more vicious to Homer than Selma is, and unlike Selma, who experiences brief moments of kindness to Homer, Patty has no pity for Homer's well-being. Two exceptions occurred, however. The first was when Patty came out of the closet as a lesbian, sucked up her pride and asked Homer (who was legally allowed to perform marriages) to perform the ceremony.^[5] The second was when both Homer and Patty were disgusted that Selma got into a relationship with Homer's father Abe, who is twice her age, and they decided to work together to break them up.^[6] Other than her occupation at the DMV, she alongside Selma also worked at the Adult Education Annex, where they co-taught a class teaching how girls are to land men. However, because of their grotesque appearances when demonstrating the type of clothes needed to get a man's attention (such as tight, revealing ones), the female classmates are noticeably and understandably disgusted, causing Patty to remind them that there are no refunds should any of the students quit the class by that

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point.^[7] Patty took various classes, including Microwave Cookery and Tai Kwon Do, as she used them as an excuse not to see Principal Skinner, and when he tried to kiss her she used a martial arts move to throw him across the hall.

Before she came out as a lesbian, she was seen alongside her sister as having a massive fangirl fascination with **MacGyver**, even going as far as to abduct his actor **Richard Dean Anderson**, and she also once arranged for a "gentleman caller" to arrive by tricking the man, a TV repairman, into thinking there was a broken TV and forced him to "spend the night" with them. But it appears that all of those instances were just her going along with what Selma wanted. And after her coming out, the writers basically retconned those storylines out of her.

Patty alongside her sister Selma is also implied to be somewhat lewd, since, as mentioned above, they were implied to have raped a TV repairman by faking it being broken,^[8] had to register for sex offender registration once,^[9] and once even rode a horse naked throughout Springfield a 'la Godiva during the first-annual (and only) Do What You Feel festival.^[10]

Physical Appearance

Relationships

Patty has come out of the closet as a lesbian (She exclaims "you could see it from space!"),^[11] and hints of her sexual orientation have been dropped many times; as she is seen coming out of a burlesque house.^[12] She is also seen saying "There goes the last lingering thread of my heterosexuality", when Homer runs past her, naked and screaming,^[13] and hiding in a closet with **Smithers** on a parade float in a gay pride parade where the two of them chanted, "We're gay! We're glad! But don't tell Mom and Dad!" When Homer heard about Patty coming out, he sarcastically exclaimed "Patty's gay? Here's another bomb. I like beer!"^[14] It is also implied that she has feelings for **Edna Krabappel** as she pictures Edna while kissing **Homer** in order to break **Selma** and **Abe** up in the episode **Rome-Old and Julie-Eh**. She also experimented with her. Before she came out of the closet, she and Selma also ended up doing some sexually lewd deeds such as tricking a TV repairman into acting as a "gentleman caller" by unplugging their TV and then claiming it was broken,^[15] and she and Selma also had to get into a line for sex offender registration presumably for instances like this (although it is also likely that they picked it because they were not good at picking lines).^[16]

Skinner

Patty once dated **Principal Skinner** after he was brought home by **Homer**. He was intended to be set with **Selma**, but he fell for Patty instead despite her reluctance (due to Homer mixing up Patty with Selma). Skinner planned to propose to Patty, but although she was flattered, she refused, preferring to stay with Selma, who was on a date with **Barney**. It is stated by Selma that Patty's date with Skinner was her first date in about twenty-five years. ^[17]

Sexuality

After Patty comes out of the closet, Marge is hurt that Patty had hidden her sexuality for years (though there were obvious signs), but learns to respect her sister.^[18] Patty wooed a **tenured professor of Yale University** away from her husband.^[19] It is shown she is attracted to **Edna Krabappel**.^[20] Selma says "I can't face prison" and Patty suggestively replies "I can."^[21] Long before coming out, Patty had dated **Principal Skinner**. She refused to marry him, claiming she was too devoted to Selma as a sister to leave her alone. However, she did consider Principal Skinner a gentleman and had seemed to take it hard that she could not marry him, ending their relationship with the words "Good night, sweet principal."^[22] Patty, like **Selma**, expressed a sexual fixation on MacGyver for many years, (although after she came out it would appear that she was only going along with Selma's feelings for him) even though this aspect of her personality was phased out in later years. Other than MacGyver, she alongside her sister also may have raped a TV repairman.^[23] In addition, she also was at least familiar enough with heterosexual relationships that she taught a dating class for single women on how to land men, although thanks to her and her sister's less than appealing appearances, the students were left disgusted with their advice, with Patty opportunistically stating there won't be any refunds if they decide to leave the course.

Patty's only notable relationship with a woman, however, has been with **Veronica**, who was a professional golfer. However, it was later discovered by Marge and revealed during Patty's wedding that Veronica was in truth a man named Leslie.^[24] When Marge reveals this to Patty, Patty thinks Marge is being homophobic, but Leslie reveals that he is indeed a man. The wedding is called off, and the two sisters make up, with Marge saying that being a lesbian "doesn't make you less of a bein'". Patty then goes home with Selma. In the Clown Without Pity segment of "**Treehouse of Horror III**", as Homer runs naked in fear from the **evil Krusty Doll**, Patty mentions that the last thread of her heterosexuality was torn, possibly an early sign of her sexuality (with Homer unwittingly causing it).

Differences with Selma

- Patty's hair is round, while Selma's is M-shaped.
- Patty wears a pink dress, with pink shoes and blue triangle earrings and orange or blue spherical beads while Selma wears purple or orange elliptical beads. However, some older episodes have a color glitch, with Patty's dress and shoes being a purple or coral color.
- Patty is a red-head, Selma, on the other hand, is blonde. This proves that the two are fraternal twins since the grey color is actually cigarette soot. They do shower, but the grey color remains due to their almost constant smoking. Also, they have grey hair as babies because their father smoked. When the twins learn that their father died of lung cancer, they question why their mother still lets them smoke. She sadly replies, "I thought it made you look cool".
- Patty lived in celibacy until she came out as a lesbian. Selma, however, is heterosexual (and been married multiple times). Selma also has an adopted daughter, **Ling Bouvier**. Patty has not yet been officially married and chooses to be childfree.
- Al Jean said Kavner makes Patty's voice more masculine and a lower register, while Selma's voice is a little sweeter. Patty is also a tad grumpier than Selma.

Personality

Patty is the more unpleasant and least empathetic of the two twins (the other being Selma) but she is still close with both her sisters and loves them both dearly. The sisters tend to be cynical and are noted for their addiction to tobacco smoking. They have a strong, mutual (and reciprocated) dislike for Homer as they often make fun of him and are quite quick to point out his faults. She (along with her sister) was born before Homer (and Marge, of course), but their birth date has not been given. It is presumed they are in their mid to late 40s.^[25] This is a bit inconsistent, since Lisa says they're 40 in one episode, yet they are 45 in *Tapped Out*. But there is a photo of Marge as a baby, yet the twins don't look much older. However, when Marge was 8, the twins were already teenagers, so they were likely around 15 at the time, and they are also shown as teenagers at camp when the other girls are much younger. Also, Selma has already hit menopause, which usually happens between the late 40s or early 50s.

Unlike Homer, who usually makes a perfunctory (if not particularly sincere or committed) effort to be polite to his sisters-in-law out of respect for his wife, Patty and Selma have no hesitation in treating Homer with open rudeness and contempt. There were several instances where they did not seem to care when Homer faced a life-threatening situation. For instance, when Marge rushes to the hospital after receiving a telephone call that Homer had suffered a heart attack at work, Patty and Selma (instead of going to the hospital and comforting Marge in her time of need) remain seated at the kitchen table, continuing their activity of cutting coupons, gasping in amazement at a five cent discount and behaving as though nothing was wrong.^[26] They later attempt to set up Marge with a (rather sleazy) friend as a replacement for Homer, regardless of the fact that Homer was still very much alive. Her bad traits have not gone unnoticed by the populace of Springfield and even their family, her mother even stated that "[they're] a sort of evil", having raised them her entire lifetime.

When Homer fakes his death, and Patty and Selma show up holding a tombstone inscribed with "Homer J. Simpson. We are richer for having lost him." This gift, as well as the fact that they been saving for this since Marge's wedding, causes her to angrily throw them out. The twins then use the tombstone as a coffee table.^[27]

Once, when Homer had to apply for a chauffeur's license to become a chauffeur so he could pay off a debt he owed them, they purposely failed him to show how much of a loser he was. On this occasion, however, Homer had the last laugh; saving their jobs by pretending their cigarettes were his when they were caught smoking on the job by their superior. Homer then forced them to wipe the debt clean to repay the favor, thus negating his need to earn a chauffeur's license and removing the power they had of Homer.^[28]

Unlike Selma, who on rare occasions is nice to Homer, Patty hates him totally; even when she saw how devastated Marge was when Homer left her to find a better job, she still refused to help them get back together.^[29] The kids also seem to defend their father from Patty and Selma's taunting and insults. For example, when Patty states to Lisa she was just "Trashing her father" Lisa sticks up for Homer but Patty did not seem to care what Lisa had to say.

Patty's favorite brand of cigarettes is identified as "Lady Laramie 100s", and her habit had started "before they were even born". The sisters share an apartment at the [Spinster Arms Apartments](#) and work at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Patty and Selma both smoke in bed and have caused the [Spinster Arms Apartments](#) to catch on fire three times. Seen in "[Bart Gets Famous](#)". They have, on occasion, acted unprofessionally in the course of their jobs, usually when [Homer](#) is involved. They allowed [Otto](#) to regain his driver's license during Otto's brief tenancy with the Simpson family due to their mutual dislike for Homer.^[30]

Patty is shown on several occasions to be a severe snorer. When Bart and Lisa stay at their apartment, they are shown to be kept awake by Patty's very loud snores.^[31] In "Puffless", after Selma kicks her out, Patty sleeps in Maggie's room, which results in Maggie sneaking out. Maggie refers to her as "Extra-Large Mommy".

Like her twin sister Selma, Patty is an avid (and sometimes maniacal) fan of the 1980s TV series [MacGyver](#). Regardless of her orientation, she also seems to be erotically aroused by the show and the character, euphemistically needing a cigarette after each viewing of the show. [Jay Sherman](#) once tells Patty and Selma that [MacGyver](#) is gay,^[32] they respond by suspending him from the Simpson home gutter by his underwear. When [Richard Dean Anderson](#) tells them he hated playing [MacGyver](#) they kidnap him but eventually grow tired of him and get him to leave.

Patty, along with Selma travel extensively. The twins have on occasion visited Egypt, Mexico, Russia, Easter Island, France, and more mundane places like the Horse Drawn Carriage Museum in Alberta, Canada. They bring back numerous slides, usually to show the Simpson family, but present their vacation slides in the most unenjoyable way possible, such as in "Puffless" when Selma droned on about walking and blister popping during a childhood trip.

Patty and Selma drive a 1973 or 1974 [VW Thing](#).

The Bouviers and the Simpsons

As children, Patty and Selma were apparently domineering towards Marge and ridiculed her ambition of becoming an astronaut, as well as assaulting her when she told them "No" which resulted in her having difficulty with telling anyone no. As children, Patty and Selma both were shown to have very melodic voices and sang very well. When Marge wanted their allowances, they gave them to her, but made Marge do their chores for them. With so much free time, the twins started smoking, causing their trademark rough voices.^[33] Their relationship seems to have improved over the years. As adults, the Bouvier twins have a friendly relationship with their sister and frequently visit the Simpsons. They seem relatively fond of their nieces and nephew but seem to like them more when they were younger: "*The older they get, the cuter they ain't.*" They have on occasion, watched the kids when their parents were out of town. However, Bart and Lisa would rather not be around when their aunts visit. Their idea of bonding with Lisa includes tutoring her in the belief that men are pigs, using Homer as the prime example.

Patty seems to have a good relationship with her mother **Jacqueline Bouvier**, even though Jacqueline describes both Patty and Selma as "being slightly evil." Patty is also mentioned as playing the card game Hearts on Tuesday nights with her mother for the last twenty years.

Her relationship with Homer remains one of mutual hatred. Unlike Selma, who occasionally (though rarely) finds common ground with their brother-in-law, Patty and Homer openly despise each other, and having a relationship which involves a continuous exchange of insults. She unfavorably compares her brother-in-law to a caveman, suggesting him capable of trading Maggie for beer and a nudie magazine. In one episode, she or Selma said, "Hello everybody except Homer." Indeed, the one-time Patty and Homer willingly worked together was specifically due to mutual goals of wanting to prevent her sister and his father, respectively from hooking up.

Selma and Patty have occasionally expressed their common hope that Marge will eventually divorce Homer. They are often quick in pointing out his attempts at infidelity and have unsuccessfully offered to help Marge find a replacement for Homer (although Selma eventually gave in and helped Marge find Homer after seeing how truly unhappy, she was). The twins once went so far as to have a billboard built trying to convince voters to have Homer kicked out of Springfield.^[34]

Their dislike towards Homer has even led to them pushing Homer off a bridge in the episode "**Eternal Moonshine of the Simpson Mind**", although they half-heartedly claim they did this in order to get him to his surprise party, which was conveniently on a boat passing beneath the bridge at the time.

Homer also openly calls them ugly. He calls them the "Gruesome Twosome" behind their backs.^[35] One such incident is when Homer sees them working out and calls the sight nauseating. He once said he was blindfolded and "two sobbing trolls" threw him on to the lawn.^[36] Homer has also called them "Penis curling she devils" during a party Marge threw. Homer is known to show little care to what happens to Patty and Selma, unless Marge finds out and gets upset or if there's a benefit for him; for example, when Patty and Selma stopped Homer from getting his chauffeur's license, he smoked their cigarettes to save them from getting fired and in return demands they forgive an earlier loan they gave him for a mortgage payment.^[37]