



Over The Garden Wall  
Chapter One: "The Old Grist Mill"

not the directors cut

logline

*While lost in the woods of the Unknown, brothers Wirt and Gregory run into a jaded old woodsman who warns them to beware of a beast.*

release

*Nov. 3, 2014*

creator

*Patrick McHale*

animation director

*Robert Alvarez, Ken Bruce, Eddy Houchins, Larry Leichliter*

screenwriter

*Natasha Allegri, Zac Gorman  
Steve Wolfhard*

distributor

*Cartoon Network*

genre

*comedy, drama, adventure, mystery,  
dark fantasy*

runtime

*12m*





*favorite frames*



*in the woods?*



*abandoned homestead*



*upon a winding river*



*you have beautiful eyes*



*my new best friend!*



*onward*

## ratings

### voice acting

*I truly believe this series is perfectly cast. Elijah Wood & Collin Dean put so much personality into their juxtaposed characters. The performance given by Christopher Lloyd delivers so much life into the drained Woodsman. This show would not be itself without them.*

### story / screenwriting

*Loneliness echos throughout the story and within each of the characters. The false victories are gut wrenching and send an ache in each viewer for more.*

### set design

*The hues and overall darkness of the set make the story physically claustrophobic. It brings the brothers' situation to visual life. The woods are menacing; the mill is eerie. The old-timey style of animation enhances these visceral emotions.*

### music

*I could not praise the soundtrack of this show higher. Instrumentals guide the scene in automation and drive this journey into motion. It gracefully encapsulates exact emotions at a given time and overall amplifies the story.*



ratings



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*11m*





my thoughts

*This episode introduces Wirt, Greg, The Woodsman, and Beatrice— along with the presence of the Beast.*

*Desolate. Empty. Isolation. Fear. Claustrophobic. The music and the setting bring Wirt's worries and anxieties outward. It is gut wrenching. I love the balance Greg brings to Wirt; his playfulness gives Wirt a chance to part his clouded, anxiety-ridden mind and think straight. The use of Beatrice the talking bird breaking away reality and Greg not really second guessing it makes this feel lived in.*

*The first step in this journey being with the Woodsman feels right; he calls Wirt out on his bullshit and sets them on the path of discovery within themselves and in terms of their physical location. The fake out with the "beast" beautifully sets up the fails the brothers will have while trying to navigate the rest of the Unknown.*

favorite frames



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### story / screenwriting

*Loneliness echos throughout the story and within each of the characters. The false victories are sorrowful. Viewers ache for more.*

### set design

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### final rating

*I give this episode an 8/10. Excellent prelude for the story to come.*



## final words

*This show, at first glance, might not seem like it's for an assorted audience, but the depth McHale and the rest of the cast and crew bring to the characters, the visuals, and to the story unveil that there is something for everyone in this mini-series.*

*Overall I would put this in 4th place. It is a beautiful and compelling start to the series but doesn't have the substance that other episodes embody. It is the perfect beginning.*

*The audio production is phenomenal and is easily my most listened to T.V./movie soundtrack. It is just one more element OTGW uses to amplify and support its plot.*

*I could not recommend this show enough. It is the perfect thing put on and watch on a cold autumn day.*

🌀 4 / 10 🌀  
overall ranking