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Over the Garden Wall: Hard Times at the Huskin' Bee

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TV Show Review

Title: Over the Garden Wall: Hard Times at the Huskin' Bee

Main Performers: Elijah Wood, Collin Dean, and Melanie Lynskey

Studio/Network: Cartoon Network

Reviewer: Olivia Noli

Season/Episodes: 1/2

Air Date: November 3, 2014

TV Rating: TV-PG

Interest Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding



Hard Times at the Huskin' Bee is the second twelve minute chapter of Over the Garden Wall. Having taken The Woodsman's directions, Wirt and Greg are heading up the path in search of a town. The town is apparently empty, until they find a bunch of people dressed up as pumpkins while hay dancing. Wirt and Greg are sentenced to a few hours of manual labor for trespassing and trampling a couple of pumpkins. After helping with the harvest, they are instructed to start digging. A bird that has been following them, Beatrice, suggests that they are digging their own graves, which makes sense after Greg digs up a skeleton. Beatrice picks the locks on the boys' chains and they start to escape, but Wirt is left behind. He watches as two skeletons crawl out of the holes and put on new pumpkins, revealing that all the people in town are actually just skeletons. The large leader offers to let him stay, but Wirt says no and quickly runs to the woods where Beatrice and Greg are waiting.

This episode is extremely weird. The residents of Pottsville claim that no one ever leaves town, and then in the end the leader says that everyone comes to Pottsville to stay eventually. Not only is this a weird episode about the afterlife, but since everyone in town is revealed to be skeletons, this means that the giant who is the leader of town must also be a skeleton. The story has a sweet ending as everyone in town gathers to welcome the newest members, even though this welcome is at the site of their graves. In this episode, Wirt no longer monologues; however, Greg is just as charming as ever since he has no idea what is going on. When Greg digs up the skeleton, he announces it by saying he dug up buried treasure. The whole time, Greg is holding on to his frog, and each episode he tries to find a name for it. Greg's outlook on life makes the festival and harvest seem more like country traditions than a Halloween haunting.