

Mad Men Recap: All Coked Up

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SnoopK8

May 21, 2015

Hello Trashaholics. The day I've been both looking forward to and dreading is upon us. What will become of our Mad Men? Will their endings be happy, or will we all be pissed off? Will Don find redemption? Will Peggy become the first woman creative director at McCann-Erickson? Will Sal resurface? Will we ever find out which "farm" they sent Polly to? Read on.

Previously: So, yeah, seasons 1 through 7 happened. You can watch them on Netflix

(Okay fine. More specifically: Don walked out of a meeting so we could watch him drive for 30 episodes; Pete and Trudy are moving to Kansas to conquer Learjet; Joan's child babysitter is ruining her life; Roger is *schtupping* Megan's mother; Betty is dying; Don gave his Caddy to a small-town felon.)

Guess what kids? Don is driving. I know, right?



But this time, he means it

He's driving really fast in some kind of hot rod in the Utah desert. Later, he pulls into a hangar and tells the two guys working there that he got it up to 130 mph and that they need to take care of that shimmy.



I used to know a girl named Shimmy. She had quite a chassis

One of the guys says, "You know an awful lot about cars for a guy who hasn't got one." They tell him they need a couple of hundred bucks for a flatbed and parts and other car stuff. Don agrees, because it's not like he has three kids and two ex-wives to support. He stares longingly at the car. Maybe it reminds him of Diana? I don't know.



I wish I could fuck THAT in an alley

Back at McCann, Roger is going over his schedule with Caroline and Meredith, whom he's taken on in Don's absence, which I'm sure he regrets upon learning that Meredith actually did translate his speech into Pig Latin as he'd jokingly asked. Caroline says she's arranged for the "package from Canada" to be delivered to the Stanhope. Roger's like, "what the F are you talking about?" Caroline's like, "You know, the package that stole all of Don's furniture?" Roger says she doesn't have to be sneaky; Meredith knows all about Marie Calvet.

Caroline leaves Roger and Meredith alone so he can fire her, which he does, saying McCann has figured out he doesn't need two secretaries. He says he'd hoped Don would be back by now, causing Meredith to ask if Don is dead. Roger says he's pretty sure not, because they probably would have heard something. He thanks Meredith, says he will write her a recommendation and tells her she'll land on her feet. Meredith says she ALWAYS lands on her feet. She does seem to have nine lives, doesn't she?

Meow!

Peggy and Stan are in a meeting with a very strident woman name Lorraine who is assigning accounts. Peggy is perturbed to learn that she and Stan have lost Chevalier. After the meeting, Peggy confronts Lorraine, who says that Stu Riley inherited Chevalier from Pete and Stu has his favorites. Peggy says she thought creative director David wanted her and Stan on it, but Lorraine guesses he didn't. She says, "Why don't you go call him."

Peggy's like, "Why DON'T we call him? Or better yet, stop by. I'm sure he'd love to get involved in this."




Whatever

Lorraine knows she's been beaten so she snots, "FINE, you want it, you can have it." Stan just stands there like a mute Sasquatch.



I saw Mute Sasquatch open for The Band in '68

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Don is in bed with some chick. He asks if his wallet fell out of his jeans when she hung them up, since he's pretty sure she stole money from him. I mean, if you have to ask... The chick asks if Don's ever paid for sex, and he's like "duh," but says he prefers it to be voluntary. At his direction, she gets her purse and gives him back the envelope of cash and Megan's engagement ring, which Meredith rescued from the movers a few weeks ago. I told you that would be important at some point!



He says she could have just asked him for money. She says, "that never works." A normal person would kick her out, but Don never met a degenerate he didn't want to throw cash or Cadillacs at, so he gives her \$50. At least he is not getting his ass kicked by teenage drifters (or drunk Okies) in this particular hotel room.

Across the country, Joan and Richard are vacationing in Key West. Richard got some coke, as in cocaine, not Coca Cola, for a birthday present, so they decide to try it.



Smell my finger

They both sniff some and Joan says it feels like someone just gave her some VERY good news. Richard says he wants to make future plans with her in the country, in the mountains, all over. He says he gets that Kevin eventually will have to go to school, but it doesn't necessarily have to be in NYC. Joan asks if he wants to get married. Richard says, "Sure, if you do." He says her life is "undeveloped property" that she can turn into whatever she wants and it has a hell of a view. Joan's like, "No really, do we have to get married?" Richards says "HELL no." Right answer.

Pete comes into Peggy's office to get her for his going-away lunch date with her and Harry. Unfortunately, Peggy has a Samsonite crisis and can't make it, so it will just be Pete and Harry. When Harry shows up, he's mad to hear that, because dining alone with Pete is not worth his while, apparently.



This is cutting into my preying-on-desperate-starlets time

Pete gives him some cookies to shut him up and tells him to go wait by the elevator.

Peggy tells Pete she's very happy for him and will miss him. Pete tells Peggy if she keeps up the good work, she'll be creative director by 1980. Peggy says that seems like a long time, and it does, but Pete says McCann just needs to get used to the idea. Pete says someday people will brag that they worked with Peggy. Awww. Peggy doesn't know what to say, so she says, "A thing like that."



We'll always have your couch at Sterling Cooper

Don's on the phone with Sally, who's being moody, but it's just because her mom is dying, NBD.

After some hedging, Sally finally tells Don that Betty has terminal lung cancer and only six months to live. Don's like "WHAT??" Sally says he needs to talk Betty into letting Bobby and Gene live with Henry after Betty kicks it. Ah, so that answers that question (sort of). Don's like "Screw that, you'll all live with me."

Sally tells him to shut it, because she's thought about it and it's best for the boys if they stay in a familiar place. Don yells that grownups make these decisions.

Wait, are YOU supposed to be the grownup in this scenario?


After Sally hangs up on him, Don calls Betty. He tells her he spoke to Sally and knows what's going on. Betty is mad and says no one can keep their mouth shut. Don wants the boys to come live with him, but she says they need a woman in their life and should live with her brother and sister-in-law.





She says she appreciates his intentions, but she's not gonna spend the rest of her time arguing about it. Don wants to come home, but Betty says it's best that things remain normal and his being away is part of that. Don cries and calls her "Birdie." Betty cries and says "I know." SnoopK8 cries and finishes the wine in her glass bottle. Jesus, you guys. Betty says she has to go and hangs up. Uh-oh, will this be the last we see of her?

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Joan meets Ken! for dinner in a restaurant. He's already got a bottle of wine going, but is it Chateau Margaux '53? He gets right down to business and asks if Joan kept her Rolodex when she left. I knew that was going to be important too! She's like, "whyyy?"

He says he has to make an industrial film for Dow and he needs the number of the producer who shot the Birds Eye commercial. He hands her an envelope with \$50K in it, the budget of his eight-minute film and says a good producer could pocket half of that. But he says such a person would have to know writers and directors and he needs it yesterday. Joan thinks she might know such a person.



Her name rhymes with Roan Rarris

Don is drunk in a motel bed for a change when the guys from the garage come to get him.



They are heading out of town and he doesn't have to go with them, but he promised them money. Don is wasted, but gets up, grabs his cash-velope and says they can drop him in L.A. They help him throw his clothes into his pathetic shopping bag suitcase – which looks like it was upgraded from Sears to Penney's? – before heading out.

Joan calls Peggy and tells her she needs a script for Ken. Peggy says she has no time to moonlight, but changes her mind when Joan says it pays \$1,200. Joan says they can chat more when she drops off the research.

Don arrives at a house in California and UGHHHH, it's Anna's niece Stephanie, the hippie who, last season, got Megan to give her money to go away. I mean, if *Megan* finds you annoying...

Really, no Sal, ever, but THIS chick keeps popping up?

Don asks if she has any liquor because he's been drinking beer all night. Oh, the humanity. She says she'll make some coffee and asks what he's doing there. He says he's retired, he's been on the road and wanted to meet her little one. Oops, sore subject. Apparently Stephanie's baby lives with the baby daddy's parents.

She's like, "this is bullshit, what's really going on?" He takes Anna's ring out and says it should go to Stephanie since he and Megan are dunzo. She's says she's sorry to hear that, but doesn't know what she is supposed to do with the ring. Don suggests she sell it. She says, "I appreciate your trying to help me out, but I'm pretty sure you're the one in trouble."





I'm doing great! Never better!

Don's all sweaty but just says, "A lot has happened." Stephanie says he's welcome to crash there, but she's going out of town for a few days. He lies down on the couch while she goes off to open a can of stew.


At the Stanhope (presumably), Roger lies in bed with Marie. They smoke and chat.



Roger is angry to learn that while in Montreal, she saw her soon-to-be ex-husband Emile, who seems to have "discovered he wanted her again." Roger yells that she went up there to divorce him and he forbids her to see Emile anymore. Marie yells at him in French, the gist of which is, "what will I do when you leave me for your 20-year-old secretary." Roger tells her to yell at him slower or in English, so she kicks him out to go sleep on the couch.

Back in Cali, Stephanie comes out to the couch and tells Don he's coming with her to her hippie retreat up the coast.

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Bobby is in the kitchen scraping burnt toast when Sally comes in unexpectedly. Gene says, "Hi Sally!" Oh my gosh, you guys, it's a *Mad Men* miracle!



Maybe I just had nothing to say to you losers

Bobby says he didn't know that Sally was coming home and asks if "it's going to happen now," "it" being Betty's death. Poor Bobby. They kick Gene out so they can talk and Bobby says he knows what's going on. He says all Betty can do is lie down and also, he heard everything before Betty and Henry stopped fighting.

Sally says she doesn't know how long Betty has, but Sally's not going to Madrid anymore. Bobby says Betty's not gonna like that. Sally tells Bobby to get a frying pan and she'll show him how to make dinner properly. Awww.

Don and Stephanie arrive at the commune in the dark. They have to share a room because it's, well, a commune. The director tells them the next day's schedule, with the only remotely appealing-sounding activity being a silent meal, and says they had better get some rest because it's going to be "beautiful." Don is like, "WTF is this place?" Steph tells him to be open.

Roger drops Kevin off from their breakfast date and wants to discuss his changing his will with Joan. Now that his daughter has run off to become a hippie, he's dividing everything between his grandson Ellery and his secret love child, Kevin.

Roger says he hopes Joan is okay with it; he wouldn't want anyone, i.e. "the good doctor" asking any questions as to why Joan's former co-worker is randomly giving Kevin half his money. Joan says Greg has twins with some nurse and as far as he's concerned, Kevin never happened. That would be the saddest thing ever, if Kevin were actually Greg's son and not the result of their back-alley assignation. Joan asks why Roger's bringing this up now and he says because he's ready to start his last chapter of life. But at least he's starting it off with a BANG – he's marrying Marie Calvet. Joan's reaction is the best the thing ever.



She's like, "That's SPECTACULAR. What a mess." And she dies laughing. Roger calls Kevin a "little, rich bastard," and says, "He really is, I guess." Oh Roger.



L'il Rich Bastard > Ol' Dirty Bastard

At the commune, Don smokes alone and then he and Stephanie go to a group therapy session. The facilitator makes them walk around the room silently, then stop and look at the person closest to them. They have to nonverbally tell that person how he or she makes them feel. Everyone hugs or shakes hands or smiles; Don's partner gives him a shove. Heh.




Harder. I paid good money for this

Peggy meets Joan for lunch. Joan gives her a check for the script she wrote for Dow. Peggy looks at it and is like “Holy shit, that’s a lot of money.” Joan says that’s just the tip of the iceberg. She says the director has two more industrial films in the works and he asked Joan to produce them. She realizes it would be easy to turn these projects into a real production company, but she needs a partner. Wouldn’t it be great if she and Peggy could be their own bosses? Harris Olson – they need two names to make it sound legit. Peggy is flattered, but says she needs to think about it.



Shut up, vodka helps me think

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Don and Stephanie are in another group therapy session. The woman in charge asks Stephanie how she's feeling, and Steph says like everyone is judging her.



She says it feels like when her parents would look at her like all she could do is screw up. She says she knows she shouldn't have dropped out of school or gotten knocked up by a low-life. She should have loved being a mother. She says she knows she made mistakes, but she wants to get her life together and start over.

A woman asks if she feels this way so she can go be with her baby? Stephanie's like "Fuck no." So the woman says SHE feels sadness for Stephanie's baby, because HER mother left and Stephanie's kid is gonna spend the rest of his life waiting for her to walk through the door. Stephanie cries and runs out. Don goes after her. He tells her not to listen to all those Jesus freaks.



Listen to me! My life is totally together!

Stephanie's like, "what are you even doing? You show up with a family heirloom and you're not my family." Don says he can move to L.A. and help her, but she's like, "what is the matter with you??" Don says he knows how people work. She can put this behind her and move forward, like he is doing such a great job of doing. She says, "Oh, Dick, I don't think you're right about that." She goes off to take a nap.

Alright, fine. I'll admit that Stephanie was slightly less annoying in this episode.

Back in NY, Peggy is drinking in her office after-hours when Stan comes to say goodnight. She calls him in and tells him about Joan's offer, but he dissuades her. He tells her she has a rare talent and to stop looking at what other people have. He says she only wants this because she wants to be in charge. Peggy is angry and yells that he has no ambition. Stan says he's just happy being good at his job and has nothing else to prove.



How could this get any better?

Peggy says that's spoken like a failure. Stan is hurt and says he hopes she's really drunk because she's gonna need an excuse for being so mean. He says, "There's more to life than

work,” as he leaves.

Next day, Joan pours coffee for Richard in her apartment. She tells him she can't drive up to Old Lyme that afternoon because she has a meeting with Nathan's hot dogs. Richard is at first excited and says they can make a day of hanging out in Coney Island, but Joan's like, no, dude, it's business. Richard gets mad and says he doesn't want to have to compete with Joan's work and “root for her to fail” so she will be with him. What a prince.

Joan asks if he wants to get married. He says he doesn't want to be where he was. Joan says it could be different and she wants him in her life. Meanwhile, the phone is ringing endlessly. He's like, “you really want to answer that, don't you?” She says she doesn't want to, but she has to. She answers and asks the person to hold.



Betcha the guy on the other end wishes he were that phone, amirite?

He yells at her to stop acting like stuff is happening to her instead of making her own choices. She said she would never dream of making him choose. He says, “When something's wrong, it's always wrong. Good luck, Joan.” He leaves.



Bye, Dick!

She is sad, but composes herself and takes the call.

Don wakes up in the cabin to find Stephanie gone. He asks around for her, but people tell him she left a couple of hours ago.



Yeah, your old lady left. Wanna rub oil on my back?

Don goes to the front desk and speaks to the hippie in charge. He asks how to get out of there since his friend took the car. She says they can arrange a car and driver with a couple of days' notice, but otherwise he's stuck until then unless he wants to hitch. But she warns him no one will pick him up thanks to Charlie Manson.

She tells him to just hang out since he's all paid up for the week. Don: "People just come and go and no one says goodbye." She says, "People are free to come and go as they please."



We're totally not a cult! I swear! You can leave anytime!

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Don places a collect call to Peggy at the office. She's like, "where the hell are you??" She says everyone is angry and worried about him.



Peggy says she knows he gets sick of things and runs, but he can come home. He says "Where?" She says McCann'll take him back in a second – apparently people have run away before. Doesn't he want to work on Coke? Don is increasingly distraught, and says he can't get out of there, and even if he could he can't come home because he messed everything up. He says he's not the man she thinks he is. Peggy, getting even more freaked out, is like, "what did you ever do that was so bad?" He says he broke all his vows, scandalized his child, took another man's name and made nothing of it...

Deserted the Army, caused my half-brother to kill himself, stalked a waitress... shall I go on?

Peggy says that's not true. Don weeps and says he only called because he realized he never said goodbye to her. Peggy says he shouldn't be alone right now. He says he's in a crowd and that he just wanted to hear her voice. He hangs up and falls to the ground against the wall, hyperventilating.



Peggy is super worried about him and calls Stan in his office. He says Don will be fine, he always is. Peggy's like, no dude, he was really messed up. Stan: Let Don go. Doesn't mean you stop caring about him.

Peggy says she's sorry she said shitty things to Stan the day before and she doesn't actually believe them. She says he was right and she is going to stay at McCann. He says that's great, because he doesn't want her to leave. And oh, by the way, he is in love with her. WHUT?? Peggy freaks out in a very Peggy-like way, but comes to the realization she is in love with him

too. Aww, these two. She's telling him that when the phone goes dead. But no worries, there he is in the doorway; he ran all the way to her office. She tells him in person that she loves him and they kiss.



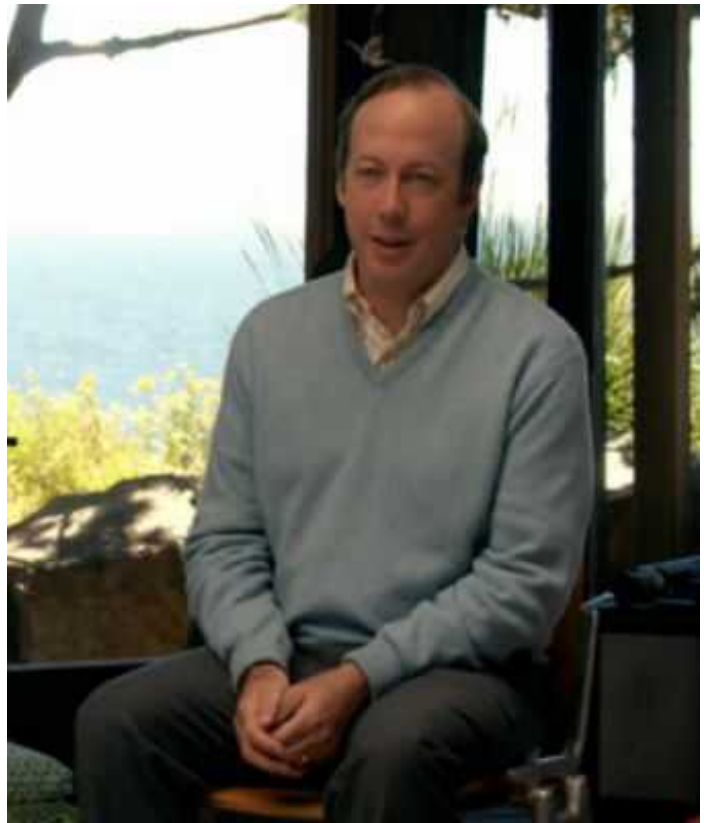
Squatches need love too!

Don's still sitting alone by the phone when one of the therapists comes up to him. She invites him to come to a seminar with her because she's late and doesn't want to walk in alone. He says he can't move, but she pulls him up and takes him with her.

In the session, some square-looking dude name Leonard laments that he's never been interesting to anyone.

Dude, I'm falling asleep just looking at you

No one at work sees him; his wife and kids don't look up when he walks in. He describes a dream where he's sitting in the dark on a refrigerator shelf and then the light comes on and someone comes and they're smiling, happy to see you, but then they don't look right at you, and maybe they don't pick you. And then the door closes and the light goes off. That is the saddest story I've ever heard. He's crying. Don stands up suddenly – as people look at him like, whoa, what's the loose cannon gonna do – and goes over to Leonard and hugs him.





They hold each other and cry. Oy vey.

Montage time!

Pete, Trudy and Tammy get out of a car on an airplane tarmac and head to a waiting Learjet.

At her apartment/office, Joan gives Kevin to her mom and takes a phone call for "Holloway Harris," while (I think) Kevin's baby sitter types.

Roger and Marie smoke cigarettes and order champagne at a Paris café.

Sally washes the dishes while Betty reads the paper and smokes at the kitchen table.

Peggy types in her office while Stan stands behind her and rubs her shoulders and kisses her.





Don looks out over the ocean from a cliff and then does yoga. What? Don Draper is doing yoga? The instructor talks about a new day bringing new hope for the lives we've led and the lives we get to lead. Don "ohms" with the group and smiles...



Because he just had a great idea...

Cut to... the infamous (in my mind) "I'd Like to Buy the World a Coke" commercial.



Get a job, hippie

And, with that, for the last time, we are out

Well. What did you guys think? I won't go all AV Club on you, but obvs the implication here, I assume, is that Don came up with or had something to do with the commercial, and it makes sense if you think about it. Weiner has always said he knows how the series ends, so if that's the case, you could argue it was always about profiling the man who made that commercial. The question is, has Don really made peace with himself, or is he just using this experience to sell Coke? Contemplate THAT over your old-fashioneds this weekend, my friends.

What else... I am loving the Peggy/Stam development, even though it seemed unlikely as recently as the beginning of this season. I am glad Joan has found a project (and you KNOW her company is going to be kick-ass) and I hope Marie can keep Roger happy until his final heart attack. The Betty story is heartbreaking, but hey, maybe Weiner can do a spin-off about a tortured Bobby Draper "killing" it on Wall Street in 1987 and hiding bodies in his apartment. (Scratch that, it may have already been done.)

As for Sal, I like to think that he and the Belle Jolie guy are running a piano bar in Key West, where the two of them are living happily ever after with Chauncey, Polly and Peggy's cat.

And finally, thanks so much for sticking with me. I will miss you guys as much as I miss this show.

Have a great holiday weekend and I will catch you on the flipside!

xoxo,
SnoopK8

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