

Mad Men Recap: Chocolate Jesus



trashtalktv.com/06/25/mad-men-recap-chocolate-jesus/264430

SnoopK8

June 25, 2013

Wow, you guys. I can't believe we are already at the season finale. I'm sure everything will be wrapped up neatly. Can't wait to find out how Joan is doing with Avon.

Previously: Sally realized she knows more about the old lady burglarizing her father's apartment than about her father. Roger wants to be in Kevin's life and Joan is not a fan. The mysterious Manolo doesn't like women... or does he? Margaret asked Roger to invest in her husband's ponzi scheme. Don showed up to one meeting all year and was a dick to Ted. SC&P is getting Sunkist.

Don arrives at work to find Stan waiting for him in a jacket and tie. Stan wants to volunteer for the Sunkist job in Cali, but Don tells him it would be like a demotion since it would only be one client. Plus, Don says, L.A. is less like the movies and more like Detroit with palm trees. Stan doesn't care and says he can turn the one account into a little agency and he doesn't even need running water.

613SnazzyStan

Stan clearly treats running water as optional

Stan says L.A. is the frontier and he wants to set up the homestead. Don says if Stan were to fail, he'd be out of advertising because no one gives a shit out there. Stan argues that it would be exciting to build one desk into a business, but Don says that's not how he pictured it. Who knew that Stan had any ambition beyond banging Peggy and getting high?

Roger is wrapping up a meeting with Margaret's husband Brookes. Apparently, he turned down Brookes' latest request for money and upon learning that, Margaret throws a temper tantrum. She asks what she has to do to get on the list of girls Roger gives money to. That's kind of funny, but Margaret is what happens when you don't spank your kids enough.

The revenge of Dr. Spock

613MargBrat

Margaret tells Roger not to bother showing up for Thanksgiving because he's taking food out of their mouths. Roger offers to bring a turkey, but Margaret flounces off like the spoiled brat she is.

Don's pouring whiskey into his snazzy new SC&P mug.

613Mug

I guess you go with the amber liquor in the morning because it's more like coffee. Unless you're drinking it with juice, which case you go with vodka. Anyway, Kenny, his eye patch and Harry Hamlin show up with the exciting news that Hershey's has sent RFPs to 30 of the top agencies. I'm guessing an RFP is a Request for Pitch? Panda? Pussy? Oh, Google tells me it's Proposal. That makes sense. Anyway, up till now, Hershey has never advertised so Don thinks they are not serious. But Harry Hamlin says Mars (M&Ms, Snickers) has \$10 mil in billings so it would be worth it to try and convince Hershey's to start. Don asks what Ted has to say about this. Harry Hamlin says Ted's plate is full, but Don's isn't and if Don takes the lead, Ted will follow. Don says he loves Hershey's! We'll see how much later.

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Bob Benson gives Joan a model car for Kevin.

613joancar

Caught between a gay identity thief and my secret baby daddy. FML.

Roger sees this and comes over to investigate, apparently believing that Bob is trying to get into Joan's pants. They talk about Chevy and Roger says, "You know what they say about Detroit – it's all fun and games until they shoot you in the face."

Don's at home pouring himself a drink. Of course you knew that without my saying it. Megan comes in to say they got another letter for Sally, the last one before they subpoena her. What? Oh, it's just that Sally needs to give a statement about the Grandma Ida burglary. Don says he'll speak to her about it on Thanksgiving, but Megan reminds him that only the boys are coming because Miss Porter's doesn't have a Thanksgiving break. So I guess Princeton could use a guy like Joel Miss Porter's could use a girl like Sally and she has enrolled.

Next day, Roger calls Bob Benson into his office and since Bob was probably lurking right outside his door, he appears before Roger can even light a cigarette.

613RogerOffice

Dammit, the acid hasn't even had a chance to kick in

Roger yells at Bob for buying presents for Joan's kid. Bob insists that he and Joan are just buddies and Roger says all of Joan's "buddies" go fishing together. That's not nice to say about the mother of your secret love child. Roger warns Bob that he'd better not mess with Joan's feelings and that he's keeping an eye on him.

Don calls Sally at school to tell her about the letter. She will have to give a statement on December 1. Sally snots that her calendar is full. Don warns that it's the law. Sally says she wouldn't want to do anything IMMORAL and maybe Don can just tell everyone what she saw, before hanging up on him. Oh Sally. Your indignation may be warranted, but you still need a smack for talking to your father like that.

Harry Hamlin arrives in Ted's office to say that Don is missing and the Sheraton Royal Hawaiian people are in the lobby looking for him. Where could Don be?

Oh right. It's 5 o'clock somewhere. He's in a dark seedy bar.

613DonBar

Sharing a drink they call loneliness is NOT better than drinking alone

A man is trying to convince the only other bar patron to give up booze and embrace Jesus. Don tells him to shut it. The guy comes over to Don, saying he obviously has something on his mind. Don says he's doing just fine. Nixon is president and everything is back where Jesus wants it. He brings up RFK, MLK and Vietnam and Jesus guy says there isn't one true believer on that list.

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Yay, it's time for another whorehouse flashback. Uncle Mack is kicking out a proselytizer who was trying to convert the girls at dinner. If he was patronizing the whorehouse, that gives a whole 'nother meaning to the term "Bible-thumper," amirite?

Uncle Mack says the guy only loves the Bible because he can't get his dick hard. I don't think he meant Dick as in Dick Whitman – at least I hope not – but you never know. Uncle Mack throws the guy out the door, saying "I'd tell you to go to hell, but I never want to see you again." Young Dick Whitman stands there and the Bible guy tells him that the only unpardonable sin is to believe that God cannot forgive you. Oh geez, like Young Dick isn't already going to be fucked up enough.

613Dick

Let me get this straight. Prostitution = okay. Not believing god can forgive you = not okay?

Don wakes up in the drunk tank.

613DrunkTank

Just another Tuesday...

He yells that he shouldn't be there. A voice tells him he's right; he punched a minister and should be at Rikers. The voice tells Don to sleep it off.

Peggy heads out for the evening and runs into Ted's two boys and his wife, Nan.

613nan

Hello, tramp

613Pegface

I'll cut you

Pete tells Clara he's off to give his apartment keys to his subletter. Clara has a telegram for him – it says that his mother was lost at sea! She fell off a ship! What??

It's the next day and Don is pouring all his liquor down the drain.

613Pour

Spare the Tanqueray!

Megan comes over and asks if that has something to do with last night. She asks where he was and he's like, "oh, you know. Jail." He's laughing a little, probably because he's still drunk, but she doesn't think it's funny. He says he's realized that he's gotten out of control. Megan says she's sorry he had to find out that way. But there's more! Don doesn't want to be there anymore. Is he finally divorcing her?! No. He just wants to move out to California. Don likes the idea of building one desk into an agency and being a homesteader. Way to steal from Stan. He's also excited for the sun and the ocean. Don't forget the easy hippies and abundant hash. Megan is psyched, because she's had opportunities out there, but didn't think he'd be okay with it. Don says they were happy out there once and they can be happy again. Megan sobs with happiness or maybe she is drunk too. I would be if I were her.

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Don gathers the partners to tell them of his decision and Ted says they can clearly spare him. Don apologizes for missing the Sheraton meeting. As he walks out, he says they can vote on it if they want, but that's his decision. Ted is mad that Don decided this unilaterally, but Harry Hamlin assures him it's just California, not the moon. And it will be good for Ted. Pete is so over Don's shit and says he has more important things to worry about. Like the fact his mom is missing on a cruise ship and it's a good 25 years before they can make a Lifetime movie about it.

Stan comes in Don's office to yell at him for usurping his California opportunity.

Pete's on the phone with the cruise line and apparently his mom got married to Manolo on the ship. But Pete can't deal with that now – he's late for his flight to Detroit. He runs into Bob in the elevator – just the man he was looking for. Pete yells that Bob's boyfriend kidnapped his mother, married her at gunpoint and threw her off the ship! Pete says that Bob is an accessory to murder.

613PeteMad

And you're a homo. Don't forget that!

Bob says "Manny" wouldn't hurt a fly and he swears he knows nothing about it. Pete says ignorance is NOT a good defense, and Bob can get his own cab to the airport. Oh snap. Midtown traffic is a bitch, especially during Thanksgiving week.

Whoa – Peggy's all dolled up like a 1968 version of Snooki. She pokes her boobs into the conference room where Harry Crane, Harry Hamlin and Ted are meeting.


613PegBoobs

Just making sure Ted sees my tits before I go

She tells them she has to leave early and they all just stare at her with their tongues out. Harry Hamlin asks her if she's wearing Chanel #5. She says that's all she wears, giving Ted a LOOK as she leaves. Go Peggy! Harry Crane calls her a "vixen by night." High praise from the Crane-dog. Ted looks like he has to throw up.

Pete and Bob Benson arrive at GM with the Chevy execs. Pete tries to out-suck-up Bob, but it backfires when Bob suggests he test-drive the new Camaro Z-28. Pete tries to get out of it, but the Chevy execs insist.

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Unfortunately, Pete can't drive a stick shift and backs into the GM sign, knocking it over.

This is for Kenny!

Chevy guy is mad that they would send him someone who can't drive a stick, while Bob smiles obsequiously and says SC&P will pay for it. Ha ha. Bob is really growing on me.

Peggy arrives home to find Ted waiting in her foyer. She asks what he's doing there. Ted says he needs to talk to her. He asks how her date was, by the way. Terrible. The guy works in finance and ate with his hands. Ted says he doesn't know what they're doing. No, Ted. What are YOU doing?

Peggy says why not have his wife come by again, Peggy would really like that. And why did Nan give her a LOOK when she walked by? Ted says he doesn't know why women do ANYTHING and why did Peggy parade her ass in front of him while she was on her way to see another man? Peggy says she was just following Ted's lead. She says he let Don terrify him into ignoring her, now he's HERE. Ted says he doesn't want anyone else to have her. Peggy tells him to leave. Ted comes over and says he's going to leave his wife. Peggy tells him to shut up and says she's not that girl. Ted: "I love you."

Oh Peggy. This isn't going to end well. I know I've been advocating they get together, but she should wait until he actually leaves his wife before giving it up to him. (*SnoopK8's Rules to Dating*, out in paperback this fall.)


Don gets a phone call in the middle of the night. It's Betty with the news that Sally's been suspended for buying beer with a fake ID. Don says well at least she didn't get expelled. Betty asks Don if he can pick Sally up at school so she doesn't have to let Henry's mom know about this. Don says he can't because he has a big meeting tomorrow. Betty sighs and says she's at the end of her rope with Sally.

And by "the end of my rope" I mean "why don't you come over and fuck me?"

She doesn't know what to do with her anymore and the good is not beating the bad. Betty says that Sally needs more than she can give her. She is really sad. I almost feel bad for her. Don calls her "Birdie" and says it's not her fault.

I'll "Birdie" him in the balls Betty says of course it's her fault; Sally comes from a broken home. Don sits silently for a minute and says Pauline (Henry's mother) doesn't need to know about this. He'll pick Sally up.

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Across town, Peggy and Ted are cuddled up post-coitally. She's got lipstick smeared all over her face. Either that or they are dabbling in vampirism.

613TedPegBed

Ted says he wants to take her to Hawaii for Christmas. Peggy says he should go home. Even though he can say he worked late on Hershey (and I really hope that is NOT a euphemism for anything), he always goes home to his wife. Ted says he doesn't want to sneak around and promises they won't have to. Peggy says she doesn't want a scandal and says she'll wait for him. Oh Peggy.

Nan wakes up when Ted comes in. She's happy to see him and concerned that he's working too hard. He gets into bed with her, and snuggles into the exact same position he just was with Peggy.

613TedNanBed

JERK!!!!

Next day, Pete does a walk of shame through the office, having been kicked off the Chevy account. Clara says his brother Bud has been trying to reach him.

Joan is resplendent in leopard print.

613JoanGRrr

Roger's secretary Caroline comes up to say she's worried about Roger. Margaret and his son-in-law are bleeding him dry and he's "forlorn." She'd invite him for Thanksgiving, but her husband quit drinking and her son is "spastic." Joan doesn't say anything, but looks thoughtfully after her.


Don's in his office, and oh my god, you guys, he's upright on his couch and he doesn't have a drink next to him. WTF? Ted comes in, needing to talk. He doesn't know how to say this... but he wants to go to California instead of Don. He needs to start over. Don practically spits "with Peggy?" Ted says no, with his family. JERK!!!!

613DonTed

So I hear you're really good at fucking up other people's live and pretending it didn't happen

Don says he wishes he could help, but it's too late. Ted says he knows there's a good man inside Don, and he needs him to help put 3,000 miles between him and Peggy or his life is over. JERK!!!! Don says it's too late, he didn't make the decision lightly, but Megan already quit her job and he needs to start over too. Don tells him not to worry; "it" will go away. God, I hate both of them right now.

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Ted is resigned, but tells Don to have a drink before the Hershey meeting because his dad was an alchy and you can't quit suddenly like that. Well, you don't have to tell Don twice. He pours himself a big one and drinks up.

Time for the Hershey's meeting! Don stands in front of a blown-up image of a Hershey bar.

He says the product itself is the most successful billboard. Everyone in this room has a story to tell about it. They could be about rations during the war or a first date at the movies, but they're mostly from childhood. His own story is that his dad would buy him one whenever he mowed the lawn. He could have had anything he wanted at the drug store, but he always chose a Hershey bar. His dad would tousle his hair, forever tying his father's love and chocolate together. Hershey's is the currency of affection; the childhood symbol of love. Don sits down, pleased with himself. The Hershey people seem happy too. Another successful Don Draper pitch! Break out the champagne and cigars.

But wait – Don looks down at his shaking hands...

Oh no, it's the DTs of truth

He says, "I'm sorry. I have to say this. I don't know if I'll ever see you again." Roger, Ted and Harry Hamlin look at each other side-eye, wondering WTF he's up to now.

I was born a poor black child...

Don begins, "I was an orphan. I grew up in a Pennsylvania whorehouse..."

Everyone: ...???

There's more. Don read about Milton Hershey and his school for boys. He read that some orphans had a different life and he dreamed about that. Of being wanted. Because the woman forced to raise him looked at him like she hoped he'd disappear. The closest he got to feeling wanted was from a "girl" who made him go through her John's pockets while they screwed.

If he collected more than a dollar, she'd buy him a Hershey bar. He would eat it alone in his room to great ceremony. It made him feel like a normal kid. It was the only sweet thing in his life.

You want us to advertise Whore Chocolate?

Don says if he had his way, they'd never advertise. They shouldn't have someone like him telling that boy what a Hershey bar is. He already knows.

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Everyone is pretty much sitting there in stunned silence. Harry Hamlin finally gets up and says Don is being too modest, and this sort of theater is what makes their work so different. Well, at least he's not asking them how to dodge the draft, so that's a plus, right? Hershey guy says that's quite a story before getting out of there as soon as he can.

Everyone leaves, except Don and Ted. Don tells Ted that he can go to California after all. Ted's like, "you sure, bro? After that performance, you might wanna get 3,000 miles away."

Roger comes up to Don in the hall and tells him he shit the bed in there. Don doesn't care. Roger asks if any of that was true. Don says yes and that he has to go home.

Pete and his brother Bud are in Pete's office talking on speaker phone (the 1968 version) with someone from the cruise line. They have not found Mother Campbell. She hasn't washed up on any beaches, but keep in mind, there are lots of sharks out there. The ship is going to spare no expense and hire a private investigator to find Dorothy's husband/nurse/murderer, Manolo Colon, AKA Marcus Constantine. Pete asks how much that is going to cost them.

The guy deflects, but says it will probably take a long time, because once Manolo found out Dorothy wasn't rich, he likely bolted. Pete breaks off the conversation. He and Bud look at each other and agree that an investigation won't bring Dorothy back. Bud says she's in the water with their father. Pete: "She loved the sea."

613PeteBud

She loved the sea and getting happy ending massages from her shady male nurse

Peggy's at her desk typing. Ted comes in, looking troubled. She asks if he confessed to Nan and reminds him that she will wait. But no. He tell her he's going to California. Peggy is furious and thinks that Don was behind it. But Ted says no, Don gave up his spot for him. (JERK.) Ted says he wanted "this" so much, but he has a family. He has to hold onto them or he'll get lost in the chaos.

613TedPegBreakup

Hey, at least I didn't lead you on and then suddenly get engaged to my secretary in the last episode like some other people in this office...

He adds that he loves her deeply, but he can't be around her and ruin all those lives. Peggy screams at him to GET OUT. Ted says that someday she'll be glad he made this decision. Peggy says "aren't you lucky to have decisions." Oh Peggy.

JDate it is. Fuck.

Don comes home and Megan tells him there is a mandatory partners meeting about California for the next day at 9 am sharp. They must really be excited for them to go if they are calling a meeting on Thanksgiving Day. Don's like, "yeah, about that..." and tells her they're not going. Well, this is finally the last straw for Megan. She says she doesn't know why they're fighting for this anymore because Don just wants to be alone with his liquor, his ex-wife and his screwed-up kids. Ooh, low blow. Megan apologizes and says she loves the kids to death. She used to pity them until she realized she is in the same boat with them. Don tries to pacify her, but she is too upset to be there. She storms out.

Hope I don't get MURDERED out there

Pete's delivering some of his mom's furniture to Trudy's house. Wow, he doesn't waste time. He says he doesn't want Bud to get everything and he can't take it to California with him. What? Pete's going to California? He hates it out there. They don't take anything seriously and he'll have to drive! Pete, Pete, Pete. Take some time and think about this.

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Trudy says he should be happy that he's free now. Free of "her, them, everything." Pete says that's not the way he wanted it. Trudy says well, now he knows that. Gotta love Trudy. She tells it like it is. I'll miss her. He goes to say goodbye to a napping Tammy as Trudy watches from the bedroom door. Sad horns.

613PeteGoodbye

I almost forgot you're a serial philanderer and possible nanny rapist

Don arrives at the office to find Roger, Bert, Joan and Harry Hamlin waiting for him.

613Partners

Don knows this isn't good and asks if it's about Hershey. Harry Hamlin says that – and his ongoing erratic behavior. Don: "should I sit down?" Bert: "Yes." He doesn't though. Don says he's not going to defend himself. Bert says no defense is necessary. This isn't a trial. The verdict has been reached. Roger says they want him to "take some time off and regroup." Ooh, he's getting the Freddy Rumsen treatment. Don says this means that Ted can't go to California now. Joan says Ted is confident he can oversee Peggy from L.A. and he knows it's only temporary. Don wants a return date, but Bert can't give him one. Don asks if they all agreed to this. Roger says to try and see it from their side.

Don knows he's beat. He leaves and runs into Duck Phillips coming off the elevator, presumably with his replacement: Lou Avery from Dancer Fitzgerald. Lou asks if Don is going down. Don punches him in the face. Ha. I wish.

Roger arrives at Joan's with a case of Ocean Spray cranberry sauce that they couldn't send back. Bob is already there in a frilly apron, carving the turkey.

613BobCarve

Roger asks what HE'S doing there. Joan says she invited Roger into Kevin's life, not hers. Roger actually seems okay with this and goes over to ask Kevin if he's ready for some turkey.

Stan walks by Don's office, where Peggy is going over files in a hideous pantsuit. I guess that is supposed to suggest some kind of empowerment, but it just reminds of the Trixie Belden paper doll set I had when I was nine.

613PegPantsuit

MM613TrixieDolls

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Stan says he thought Peggy had left by now, but she has too much to do. He makes a comment about her being in Don's office and she says that's where the work is. She sits in Don's chair and gets to work.

613PegDonSeat

The first time any work has actually been done in that office

Don has the kids in the car and pulls up to park. Bobby notes that it's a bad neighborhood. Don tells them to get out of the car. They get out and Don says "this is where I grew up."

613whorehouseToday

On the next *House Hunters*: Can this blended family find the perfect decaying former whorehouse to symbolize Don's life?


Don and Sally exchange a look as Judy Collins' version of "Both Sides Now" plays. And with that, my friends, season six is a wrap.

I don't know how I feel about this. I want to believe that this is the beginning of some kind of redemption for Don. That he finally hit bottom and is saying fuck all this, let me make peace with myself, but this is *Mad Men*. If anything, he'll probably pull himself together for a few months and then make another impulsive decision that will ruin someone else's life.

And Peggy. Peggy, Peggy, Peggy. Everyone says she has terrible taste in men, but I don't think Abe was so terrible at the beginning. Like I said before, she just outgrew him. And Ted *per se* isn't terrible. I mean, it speaks to his character that he wants to get away from her and keep his family together, but he had no right going to her apartment. On the other hand, at least she got some from him so there's that. Hopefully, she will find a nice guy when singles bars become all the rage in a couple of years. And by the way, where was her cat? I hope she didn't starve it to death already. (I consider myself an advocate for all fictional pets. RIP Polly & Chauncey.)

What is Pete going to do in California? That wasn't made clear, although I assume it has to do with Sunkist. I really can't see him out there. But who knows, maybe he'll chill out and embrace the laid-back California lifestyle. Either that or join the Manson Family.

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And finally, what did happen with Joan and Avon? I guess we have to wait another nine months or so to find out.

So what did you guys think of the finale? And what would you like to see happen in the final (boo!) season?

Thanks so much for reading and commenting every week. I had so much fun with this show. I hope to be back next season. And I'm sure I'll pick up some reality crap to recap this fall.

You can find all my old TVGasm *Mad Men* (and *Dance Moms*, *666 Park Ave* and *Brooklyn 11223* – if you're so inclined) recaps [here](#). Supposedly the photos will be going away soon though.

Anyway, thanks again, fellow Maddicts. Have a great summer!

xoxo, SnoopK8

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