


Mad Men Recap: Future Tense

 trashtalktv.com/04/22/mad-men-recap-future-tense/354509

SnoopK8

April 22, 2015

Hello again, Trashies, long time, no see.

FINALLY a decent episode, so let's get right to it, shall we?

Previously: Peggy yelled at Mathis to stop acting like a secretary – probably the worst insult Peggy can think of; SC&P has a chance at a Peter Pan peanut butter cookie; Sally told Don she loves him despite his infinite failings; Bob Benson proposed making Joan his beard but she's holding out for love; Megan's *mère folle* absconded with all of Don's furniture.

A realtor we later learn is named Melanie enters Don's apartment to find him sound asleep.



Luckily he is alone, but it's late and the prospective buyers are coming before work so there's no time for a shower. She hustles him out of bed so she can tidy up. Plus, I'm sure she needs extra time to get rid of that old-sock, whiskey-sweat and diseased-hooker smell.



Go into real estate, they said. It'll be great, they said

On his way out, Don returns the patio furniture to its rightful place from the middle of the living room and Melanie yells at him for not getting the carpets cleaned. He says he did get them cleaned, but he's not replacing them and he's sold a lot of things uglier than this sad apartment, so suck it, Melanie.

Joan is awakened in her fancy L.A. hotel room by a collect call from her mom and son. After accidentally being hung up on, she calls room service and starts to order a healthy breakfast but says F it and gets French toast.



Don and Roger meet in Roger's office. The McCann bigwigs have invited Roger to a conference in the Bahamas. They want a 2,500-word Gettysburg-type address on the future of SC&P and Don is just the man to write it, assuming he can take time out from stalking waitresses and banging stewardesses. Or is it banging waitresses and stalking stewardesses? Either way.

Joan arrives at the L.A. office – so I guess that's still going on – where she meets Lou Avery!



Interesting. They didn't fire him, they just exiled him. Three episodes in and no Harry Hamlin. Is it safe to say he's not around anymore? Maybe he's hanging out at home in L.A. because his wife will be on *RHOBH* in 45 years? Joan and Lou need to meet with job prospects, but their first appointment isn't until noon. Lou blows Joan off to go to a meeting.



So you're still useless

Don shaves in his office – as you do – while Meredith takes notes for the speech.




Next on the agenda: nail clipping

Peggy interrupts to say Don needs to sign off on the Peter Pan cookie work before they can go forward. They go to the conference room where Pete, Mathis and our new/old friend from last week, Ed, are assembled. The premise is little kids writing “Dear John” letters to other cookies because they’re so in love with Peter Pan cookies, which will be called “Tinkerbells.”



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Don objects to the word “love.” Maybe it will help if you think of how you feel about whiskey, Don. Mathis suggests the line, “One Tink and you’re hooked,” but Ed questions how people will know what a Tink is. Don says that’s why you have to tell them 5 times in 60 seconds.



Do I have to teach you people everything?

Back in L.A., Lou is not back yet and their first meeting is set to start any minute. Dee says that Lou’s been working on something big with Hanna-Barbera – his comic strip, Scout’s Honor. Joan is not impressed.

A man comes in who Joan mistakes for Jim McCloud, potential SC&P employee. She introduces herself as an account exec and partner and offers him coffee. Just then, Lou returns with the actual Jim McCloud. Joan’s like WTF, dude? The man, Richard Burghoff, says he was just looking for his optometrist, but when a woman who looks like Joan talks to him, he’s gonna go with it.



I'm reading your eye chart, baby, and all I see is DD

He gives her his card and says he wants to see if he can "get the job." He invites her to dinner – perhaps something French? As long as it's not Megan's spaghetti.

Sally is signing traveler's checks at the kitchen table as Betty looks on.



Sally is going on a teen trip – 12 states in 12 days. Betty thinks Sally should ask to stop at Colonial Williamsburg, because where else would a group of teenagers want to go? Betty took a similar tour back in her day, but it was only six states in six days. Sally jokes that they were still colonies back then. Betty says she understands if Sally and her friends get into trouble – she and her friends engaged in some light vandalism back in the day – but don't act like an animal out of a cage. And stay away from boys. Sally says it's too late for that and by the way, she is late too. Thank god that was a joke, because I'm not ready for *Mad Men Teen Mom*.

Don comes home to find Melanie cleaning up after the open house.



This plate is your pathetic life

She says it didn't go well because the unrelenting air of despair is turning buyers off. Don yells at her not to blame her failure on him. She says the whole place reeks of failure and looks like a sad person lives there. She calls the apartment "an \$85,000 fixer-upper." Don says a lot of wonderful things happened there. Like the dissolution of his marriage, being semi-fired and the slow but steady slide into rock bottom? Sounds like Disney Land. Oh wait, that's a sore subject too.

I guess Richard "got the job," because he is in Joan's hotel room and in her bed. She tells him she has an early flight, but he will take her to Malibu and Santa Barbara if she cancels it. Joan is tempted, but wants to get back to NYC and back to work.



Richard is a retired millionaire developer who got divorced after 22 years of marriage. He's looking forward to being free and traveling the world. Joan says she needs to work, not because she has mouths to feed, but because she finally has the job she's always wanted. She neglects to mention she lives with her mom and has a son.

Don is still stuck on what to write for the speech so he brings Ted a donut to discuss.



Ted says Roger tried to rope him into writing the speech too, but Ted told him Don would be much better at it. Don asks what Ted thinks is coming next. Ted's ultimate dream is to land a pharmaceutical company. Don scoffs, asking if Ted's wildest desire is just bigger accounts? What's he supposed to want? Two divorces and cirrhosis? Don says that before the McCann deal, his only thought was if he'd be in business next year. Now the future can be anything. What a difference a year makes.

Joan is at work and gets a call from Richard. He's in NYC. They make a date for the Oak Room at 7:30.

Don is getting candy out of the vending machine.



Might wanna avoid the Hershey bar

Pete storms over, saying there's a peanut butter cookie problem. Peggy comes over from the other side to say there's no real issue – just that the Peter Pan peeps didn't like the layout. Unfortunately, the ensuing disagreement between Ed and Mathis devolved into a fight and Mathis said the F word. Peggy warns Pete that he can't fire her men, but Don says no one's firing anyone. He tells them to have the two "idiots" go back for the next meeting because if they change personnel, it will look like they are starting over. Don says the incident will blow over. Pete is angry and says he wants new work fast.



You two are ruining my buzz

The doorbell rings at the Francis residence and Loretta the maid answers it. It's a young guy covered in creepy and yep, it's Glen Bishop. Ugh. He's come with some girl named Paula to see if Sally wants to join them at Playland. Betty comes in to be introduced to Sally's little friends. Everyone is like "AWK.WARD." But Betty must really have evolved because she doesn't even fire the maid for letting him in.




She does seem a little startled to learn Sally and Glen have kept in touch all these years, but she recovers and manages to not to give him a look of hair or otherwise embarrass herself, although Sally can definitely tell there is something going on between them.



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Well, I think that's been established, but whatever. Sally doesn't understand – just a few weeks ago he was crying over Kent State and was going to join the "movement." Glen says he changed his mind, and it's not right that a bunch of negroes are dying over there while he and his friends stay home and get high. Sally is furious and says he's going to die. Betty calls her Jane Fonda and lets her run off. She tells Glen that he's very brave and has grown into a very fine young man. They'll see him when he gets back, including Sally.

Don's on his office couch dictating speech ideas.



"Four whores and seven beers ago..."

Mathis comes in, seeking advice on how to handle his fuck faux pas. He wants Don to come to the meeting, but Don's like "grow up, asshole." Mathis asks if he should apologize and Don's like, "why would you apologize?" Don Draper does not apologize. He tells a story about a Lucky Strike meeting he effed up back in the day and instead of apologizing, he told Lee Garner Jr. next time he saw him, "I can't believe you have the balls to come back here after you embarrassed yourself like that."



So double down on the foul language? Great idea!

Don suggests he bring in a bar of soap or something next time and make a joke about washing out his mouth.

Joan and Richard are finishing up dinner. He asks if she wants a nightcap, and she does, but checks her watch. He asks where her husband thinks she is, because she clearly has to be somewhere. She says she's not married, but confesses she has a four-year-old. She asks if that makes a difference. He says no.

Sally calls Glen, but he's not home. She cries and tells whoever's on the phone that she's sorry and to say goodbye.

In Richard's hotel room, they make out, but Joan has to call the babysitter to get her to stay later. After an argument, the babysitter agrees to stay until midnight.



Hurry up. That acid ain't gonna drop itself

Richard comments that they only have a short time. Joan says she wasn't staying all night anyway because she's not that kind of girl and because she already has a partnership. (Kidding.)

Richard says he doesn't like this. He loves kids, but he's done raising them. Joan calls him presumptuous. He says they both know what this situation is, or she wouldn't have lied. Joan calls him a disappointment.



#YouSuck

He yells that his plan for the future is no plans. He says he can't go to the pyramids with kids; in fact, you can't go anywhere. She says, "You're right. Nice meeting you," and leaves.

Peggy comes into Don's office saying Ted wants her to fill out her own performance review, but she wants someone to do it for real because she's had a really good year. Don asks what she sees in her future, and it includes becoming the firm's first female creative director, coming up with a famous catchphrase and creating something of lasting value. Don's all, "Lasting value? In advertising? Pfft." He asks what ELSE she wants.




Okay, I hope to become a raging alcoholic who melts down in a meeting and gets put on indefinite leave. Does that work for you?

Peggy says this is about her job and not the meaning of life. Don's all, "do you think they're unrelated?" Peggy's like, "why do I even bother with you, you self-absorbed pain in the ass." She tells him to write down his dreams and she'll shit all over them like he is doing to her.

Joan is home waiting for the late babysitter. Maureen finally shows up and Joan yells "you're ruining my life!" As she walks out, Kevin says, "Bye-bye," and Joan feels guilty. Kevin has already spoken more this one ep than Gene has in five seasons.

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Good plan

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And you're fired

But when Mathis leaves, Don has a sad because he knows Mathis is probably right. (Or because he is low on booze.)



I know there's another bottle around here somewhere

Joan's secretary says there is a "Jim McCloud" here to see her. It's Richard with roses.




I promise not to date rape you in your boss's office

He's sorry. She says, no, SHE'S sorry, it's her fault for not sending her son away. She likes him and if she has to choose, she chooses Richard. Richard says that's not what he said. She says that's exactly what he said. He says he wants to be a part of her life and her little boy's too. Now Kevin will have three dads. Joan admits she lives with her mom and has been divorced twice. Twice? I guess the back story was hinted at in season six with her friend Kate, but really, Weiner, you're going to drop that on us with four episodes left? WTF. Anyway, Richard says he's going to buy some property in NYC and he wants Joan and her fam to visit him. Joan's like, "We'll see."



At least I didn't have to play the accordion

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Betty's in the kitchen when Glen shows up to see her.



N00000000

He asks for a beer and says everyone's mad at him including his mom and Sally, but not Betty.



Here's to you, Mrs. Robinson

Betty says everyone is afraid for him, including her. But he says at least she understands why he's doing it. He knows something can happen to him, but he feels safe because he knows she's his, and then he tries to kiss her.



I've been waiting ten years for this

THANKFULLY, she stops him, saying it can't happen because she's married, not that that has ever stopped her before. She says she hopes he didn't enlist because of her, because she wouldn't be able to live with herself. He says it's worse: he flunked out of college. His stepdad was going to kill him, but then he joined the army and everyone was proud of him. Betty tells him he's going to make it.



I'll send you a care package of hair clippings

Don takes Sally and her friends to dinner before they leave on their trip. One of them is openly flirting with Don, which seriously irritates Sally.



I hear you're very good in alleys



FML

At the Greyhound station, Sally tries to get on the bus without saying goodbye. Don calls her over and she yells that he can't control himself and neither can Betty. She says whenever either of them gets any attention – and they always do – they just ooze all over the place. Ooh, good dis Sally. Sally says she wants to get on the bus and get away from her parents and be a different person.



Sorry kid. You're fucked

Don says he's her father and she better get used to the fact she IS like him and Betty – a very beautiful girl. It's up to her to be more than that. She gets on the bus.

Don arrives home to find Melanie and a couple signing papers.



Get out. I told them you were successful

She takes him out to the hall to say she got the full asking price and the 30-day escrow he was seeking. Don seems stunned and stands alone in the hall. And we are out.




Well, Trashies, what did you think? A little more hopeful than the last couple of eps, no? Will Joanie find happiness with Dick? Will Glen Bishop be out of our lives forever? (Doubtful.) Will Don find a new apartment with all the amenities in a tight real estate market?

As always, thanks for reading and have a fab week

xoxo,
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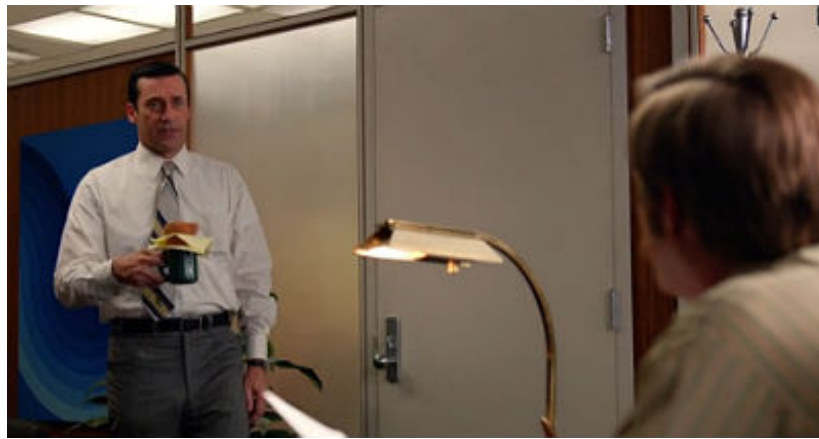
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A realtor we later learn is named Melanie enters Don's apartment to find him sound asleep.



Luckily he is alone, but it's late and the prospective buyers are coming before work so there's no time for a shower. She hustles him out of bed so she can tidy up. Plus, I'm sure she needs extra time to get rid of that old-sock, whiskey-sweat and diseased-hooker smell.



Go into real estate, they said. It'll be great, they said

On his way out, Don returns the patio furniture to its rightful place from the middle of the living room and Melanie yells at him for not getting the carpets cleaned. He says he did get them cleaned, but he's not replacing them and he's sold a lot of things uglier than this sad apartment, so suck it, Melanie.

Joan is awakened in her fancy L.A. hotel room by a collect call from her mom and son. After accidentally being hung up on, she calls room service and starts to order a healthy breakfast but says F it and gets French toast.



Don and Roger meet in Roger's office. The McCann bigwigs have invited Roger to a conference in the Bahamas. They want a 2,500-word Gettysburg-type address on the future of SC&P and Don is just the man to write it, assuming he can take time out from stalking waitresses and banging stewardesses. Or is it banging waitresses and stalking stewardesses? Either way.

Joan arrives at the L.A. office – so I guess that's still going on – where she meets Lou Avery!



Interesting. They didn't fire him, they just exiled him. Three episodes in and no Harry Hamlin. Is it safe to say he's not around anymore? Maybe he's hanging out at home in L.A. because his wife will be on *RHOBH* in 45 years? Joan and Lou need to meet with job prospects, but their first appointment isn't until noon. Lou blows Joan off to go to a meeting.



So you're still useless

Don shaves in his office – as you do – while Meredith takes notes for the speech.



Next on the agenda: nail clipping

Peggy interrupts to say Don needs to sign off on the Peter Pan cookie work before they can go forward. They go to the conference room where Pete, Mathis and our new/old friend from last week, Ed, are assembled. The premise is little kids writing “Dear John” letters to other cookies because they’re so in love with Peter Pan cookies, which will be called “Tinkerbells.”

