


Mad Men Recap: Meet the Mets

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SnoopK8

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Hello, Trashies. This was a particularly stressful episode for me. Maybe it was all those venereal diseases floating around, but I was nervous the whole time. Or maybe I just need to down a quart of vodka ala Don Draper before I watch. Anyway, let's get to it, shall we?

Previously: Don returned to SC&P and nobody, least of all Lou, was happy to see him. Margaret creepily "forgave" Roger. Harry Crane lobbied for a computer. Don's many stipulations for return include no drinking on the job, having to take Lane's old office and reporting to Lou. Pete is dating a hot but possibly crazy real estate agent.

We open at a restaurant, where Pete is discussing vacation plans with Bonnie. She is distracted because some guy is looking at her.



Pete gets up to confront him, but it turns out to be a guy named George Payton who used to work for Vicks Chemical – the company Pete's father-in-law Tom works for. George left Vicks shortly after Tom had a heart attack (he's fine) to work for Burger Chef, which apparently is a real thing. George tells Pete that Burger Chef is unhappy and putting McCann under review and wouldn't it be fun to work together without having Tom in the way. He agrees to give Pete a call when he gets back east. Bonnie says she loves watching Pete work, but he says it's not a big deal because those convos happen all the time.

Don arrives at work to find the office empty. Upstairs, Harry Hamlin is announcing the arrival of the new computer, which will be installed in the creative lounge so all visitors to the office can see it.



The creative team is thrilled

Peggy says Lou doesn't believe in creative, because he doesn't know how to use it. Unfortunately, Lou is right behind Peggy when she says it. It's not clear if he heard, though. Lou says they will get more use out of the computer than the lounge.

Roger calls Don over to ask why he was late and Don says he never got a memo and has no idea what's going on. Roger says they are getting a computer to do lots of magical things – like make Harry Crane important. Roger admits the decision was made at the partner-level, but says it preceded Don's return. Roger asks if it's too early to go out and celebrate the computer, but Don says that would be worse than his being late. Roger agrees and suggests a rain check for later, off-campus.

Downstairs, the creative team is disassembling the lounge while Ginsberg rails against Harry Crane. Stan says doesn't he believe in advertising? After all, the new computer is like the Mona Lisa – worth the price of admission to the Louvre. Ginsberg wants the couch for his and Stan's office and tries to get Don to help him move it.



But Stan yells that it's too big for their office and to leave it alone. Ginzo screams that the company is trying to erase them, but it can't erase this couch. The other one is full of farts, he says. And, most likely, bodily fluids.

Don is annoyed by the whole situation and goes into his office (formerly Lane's) and slams the door. He pulls out a cigarette but it rolls under the radiator. When he goes to grab it, he finds Lane's Mets pennant.



He throws it into the garbage. Way to honor your fallen comrade, *Don*.

The partners (*sans* Don, plus Lou Avery) are having a coast-to-coast conference call. Pete tells them about the Burger Chef opportunity. Harry Hamlin tries to get Ted to come back to NYC to work on it, but Ted says he's not going anywhere.



I haven't stood up from this desk in three episodes. I'm not about to start now.

Ted thinks Peggy should be on it. Pete grudgingly agrees they need a woman's point of view "or whatever Peggy counts as," but asks if Don isn't available too. Roger says he was thinking the same thing. Don's been back at work for three weeks and hasn't been put on an account yet. Lou is none too happy with this development. After the call, Lou pulls Harry Hamlin aside and says he thought they had an understanding about Don. Harry Hamlin assures him there is nothing to worry about and says if nothing else, Don is an "exquisite copywriter." Lou says Don is going to implode and Harry Hamlin cackles that that is a "distinct possibility." On the other hand, he says, Lou might get some good work.

I was promised there'd only be mediocre work

Roger's secretary Caroline is playing with his grandson Ellery. She informs him that his (first) ex-wife and son-in-law are waiting for him in his office. When he walks in, Mona says that his daughter Margaret has run away. Roger: "to Bergdorf's?" Heh. But nope, Mona says she's upstate at some religious cult. I knew it!





Brooks says it's a commune. Mona says he doesn't know that and she can't get a straight story out of him. She says Margaret got in a van with some hippies one morning and she's been gone ten days. Never go to a second location with hippies, isn't that what they say? Brooks wants to go upstate to find her, and Roger agrees that he should. Mona thinks Roger should go since he is Margaret's father. Roger says everything will be fine.

Don's on his office couch reading the paper. There is a commotion outside his door, where the computer installation is underway. He goes outside to see what's going on and Harry Crane introduces him to Lloyd, the guy who owns LeaseTech, the company installing the computer.



Don asks how Lloyd's business is going replacing humans. Harry says he's sorry Don is losing his "lunch room," but it's not symbolic. Don says no, it's quite literal. Heh. Harry flounces off.

Lloyd says he's noticed the machine stands as a metaphor for whatever's on peoples' minds and that people find the computer "cosmically disturbing" because it contains infinite quantities of information.

Your magic machine frightens and confuses me

But Lloyd asks isn't it "godlike" for humans to have mastered the information? He adds that the computer can count more stars in a day than humans can in a lifetime. Don asks who is thinking of a number when they are looking at the stars. But Lloyd says Don's probably thought about going to the moon. Unless the moon has open bar, I seriously doubt it.



Lou calls Peggy into his office. He says his job is to dole out discipline as well as praise. This time, he is rewarding her. He's giving her an extra \$100 per week (about \$650 in today's money!) and putting her in charge of Burger Chef. But oh yeah, she has to put Don on her team.



Peggy got a gun...

Peggy goes to knock on Don's door, but changes her mind. She calls "Marcia" [I guess Marcia is Peggy's secretary and Meredith is Don's] to have him and Mathis come see her.

Okay. Mathis is the guy who's name I never learned, so from here on out, he is Mathis. They come in to see her and she announces that they are on the Burger Chef account. She needs 25 taglines from each of them by Monday. Mathis is excited, but Don looks like he wants to punch a wall.



Through gritted teeth he asks what the strategy is. Mathis explains that Lou likes to do taglines before strategy and Don will get used to it. Heh.

Don goes back to his office and throws his typewriter against the window before leaving for the day.



Another productive Draper workday

Oh, but Lane's Mets pennant is hanging on the wall, so he obviously rescued it from the garbage at some point.



Q. How is this pennant like Lane?

A. They both hang in offices

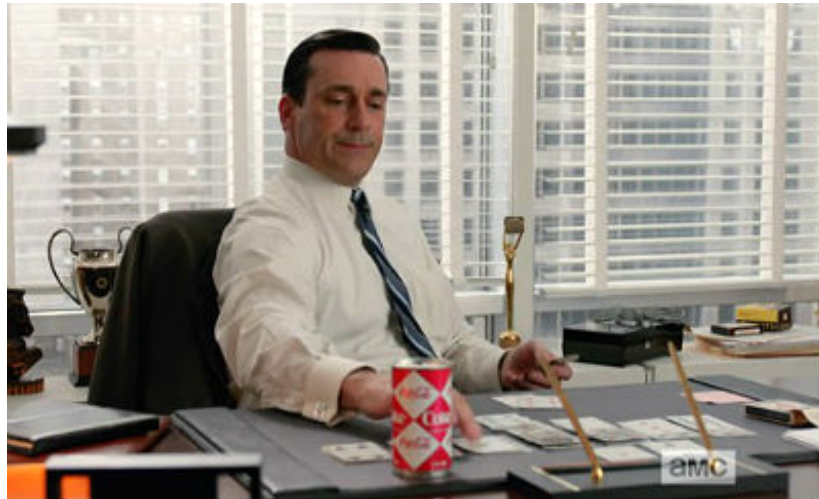
(Too soon?)

It's Monday morning and Don is arriving at work. Meredith asks how his weekend was and he says lonely. Well, except for his friends Jim, Jack and José. Meredith informs him he has a meeting with Peggy and that the research for Burger Chef came in. Don could not be more thrilled.

Caroline reads Roger a message from Mona that says "Hey, Genius. Brooks is in jail in Kingston." Roger yells at her, just because.

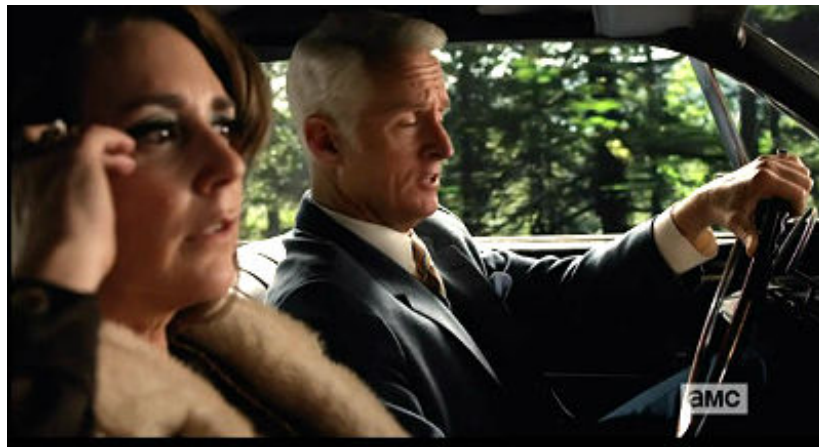


Mathis is in Peggy's office blabbing about spaghetti. Peggy is clearly agitated because Don hasn't shown up for the meeting. Mathis offers to go get him. He finds Don at his desk playing solitaire.



Don says he can't make the meeting and he doesn't have the taglines Peggy asked for. Mathis is like "okay then." He goes back to tell Peggy that Don's not coming and she is mad but doesn't know what to do. She tells Mathis to move the meeting to the end of the day and assigns him 25 more taglines. He complains, but she says now he has the research.

Roger and Mona are driving upstate. Roger says Brooks is a bum and that's why Margaret left him. He says Brooks should have gotten into a fight with hippies on the commune rather than rednecks at a bar three hours later. Mona says this is all her fault. She let Margaret get away with everything. Her only job was to find a husband and she ended up with Brooks.



Roger thought Mona liked Brooks. Mona says he was good enough for the time being, but she wanted Margaret to wait, like she did. Roger says Mona only waited because he wasn't available. Mona: And look how that turned out. Heh. Roger notes that Margaret was "cruel" and "serene" when he saw her at brunch that day. Mona says she also noticed that Margaret had been acting strange lately, but she thought it was because she was finally happy.

Don's sitting on his office couch reading *Portnoy's Complaint*. Lloyd comes in looking for a light for his cigarette and asks if advertising works. Don says it helps to have a great product. Lloyd says his product is so great that he started LeaseTech with three buddies and six months later, he has 19 new employees and three new competitors.



Don asks how he got into the biz and Lloyd says he used to work at IBM, where he noticed they replace their equipment with the newest model every year. He says IBM has a great product, but they don't trust it. He thinks the machines will last longer than even IBM thinks. They chat until Harry Crane comes in to take Lloyd to lunch. But a light bulb has gone off in Don's head.

Since Roger's gone for the day, Don goes to Burt Cooper and suggests they prepare a presentation for LeaseTech because it's a "virgin" and the computer industry is about to explode. Burt is not impressed and reminds Don that he is there under stipulations. Don says he doesn't care if it's not him; tell someone else to do it. "The apple is right there." Heh. Get it, APPLE??

Burt says Don has a "fundamental misunderstanding of what went wrong here." Don asks if he's supposed to be a janitor and whistle while he works? Burt says they are doing just fine without him and they are not going to need him to rescue them from some creative crisis someday. Don asks why IS he there then, since he could have gone anywhere. Burt: good question. Don repeats his argument from last week – that he started the company. Burt says yeah, "along with a dead man, whose office you now inhabit."



Suck on that, Draper

Geez, why is Coop so nasty these days? He used to be sort of lovable and curmudgeonly (if a little racist), but now he's just a downright asshole.

Since Don only knows how to deal with adversity in one way, he sneaks into Roger's office and steals a bottle of vodka.



Back in his own office, he takes a swig and pours the rest into an empty coke can.



Roger and Mona arrive at the commune and there are hippies everywhere. Margaret – aka “Marigold” – comes out and is unnervingly happy to see them. Mona tells her to call off her “dogs” because she wants to have a private conversation with her daughter.



Terrifying

Roger jokes that he’ll give the hippies \$50 if they bring his dry-cleaning back in an hour. Margaret offers to show them around, but Mona wants her to come home with them. Margaret says she’s happy at the commune and even though she misses her son, he can’t be happy unless she is. Mona: “these people are lost, on drugs and have venereal diseases.” Ha, I love Mona. Margaret says Mona doesn’t know them. No, but she has eyes.

Margaret says she is tired of “accepting society’s definition” of her. Which is what, spoiled brat? Mona says she understands that being a young mother can be overwhelming, because she dealt with it too, but that’s the way the cookie crumbles. Margaret snots that she’s sorry Mona had nothing to live for. Mona says she had Margaret to live for and she was very grateful. Margaret says SHE’S grateful that she doesn’t have to lock herself in the bathroom with a pint of gin every day.

Oh no you dit'nt

Mona says she thought Margaret was brainwashed, but now she sees there's nothing to wash. Roger tries to talk her down, but she is livid. She says if he wants to "wine and dine the account" feel free, but "there is a four-year-old in Manhattan crying himself to sleep." (Who will no doubt end up in my dating pool in thirty years.) Roger gives Mona the car keys and says he'll get "Cletus" to drive him to the train later. Mona takes off and Roger asks Margaret to show him around.



Don's passed out on his couch. He awakens and notices the Mets pennant on his wall. He stumbles over to the phone and drunk dials someone, saying he wants to go to a Mets game. Who could he possibly be calling? Don doesn't have any friends. Also, we rarely see Don this sloppily drunk. Usually he's sipping stoically and for the most part, has himself under control.

At Spahn Ranch, Roger is helping the hippies peel potatoes while the main guy, Clay, rolls a fattie.





The hippies say there is no hierarchy at the farm and they do everything by “true consensus.” They don’t have electricity because it “causes problems” – yeah, like *being able to see what the fuck you’re doing* – and they have an ongoing debate over using the truck. Sorry. Give me the ostentatious 80s over these clowns any day. I need hot water and *Dynasty*.



Who didn’t see this coming?

Back at SC&P, Freddie Rumsen lets himself into Don’s office. Oh, that makes sense. Don is happy to see him and breaks into song about meeting the Mets.



I need a drink

He tries to get Don out of the office without drawing too much attention, but as soon as Don sees Lloyd, he goes up to him and starts talking smack. He says he knows who Lloyd is.



"Lloyd, Lloyd all null and void"

Don says that Lloyd goes by many names. He doesn't need a campaign, because his campaign is as old as time. Freddie, the man who pissed himself in a meeting, tells Don to pull himself together. He finally gets Don to leave and as they pass Peggy's office, she calls out to him. Freddie says they are leaving for the day, as Don spritely says "Ballgame!" LOL. Peggy's mad.

Just then, Joan passes by and congratulates Peggy on her raise. Peggy lashes out at her, but then apologizes, saying she's having a bad day. Joan comes in for a drink and a chat and Peggy says Lou didn't give her Burger Chef, he gave her Don. Joan makes a toast "to cowardice."



Peggy complains that Don is not doing his work and there's nothing she can do about it. Joan tells her about Don's rules and Peggy asks if he's breaking them. Peggy says the partners dropped Don in her lap, hoping one of them would fail. Joan says, well, if it's any consolation, they probably didn't think about it at all. So cynical lately, our Joanie.

Roger and Margaret bunk down in a barn, on hay. Ew, ew, ew. I am itching just watching this. They talk about country life and putting a man in the moon and it was so creepy for a second, I almost thought Roger was going to hit on her. But no, they are just sharing your typical father-daughter-get-high-and-sleep-in-a-filthy-barn experience. Margaret says she's really happy there. Roger says he knows and kisses her goodnight before rolling over. Ew.

Freddie gets Don home and deposits him on the couch. Don rouses himself for a second, saying "we're gonna miss the national anthem" before passing out.

At the barn, Roger watches Margaret sneak off with a hippie.

Don awakens fully clothed on the couch. Freddie hands him a cup of black coffee. Don's like "what the F happened?"



Betty?

Freddie says he's glad Don passed out, because there's less to explain. Freddie asks Don what the hell he's doing. Didn't they give him a second chance? Don says it's a big joke – they finally gave him something to do, and it's to write Burger Chef tags for PEGGY. Freddie asks if Don's been to a restaurant yet. Don says, why, so some pimply kid who should be writing taglines can serve him a milkshake? Freddie says Don still has it better than he does. But Don whines that he wants his job back. Freddie says that's not going to happen in the bottom of a bottle.

But I'm Don Draper!

In fact, Freddie says Don doesn't ever have to drink again if he doesn't want to. Don does not want to hear that now. Freddie says being hungover is the best time to hear it. Freddie asks is Don just going to kill himself? He tells him to go into his bedroom, "get in uniform, fix your bayonet and join the parade. DO THE WORK." Yeah, Freddie!

At the commune, Roger sits and smokes and asks one of the hippies where his daughter is.





She finally comes out all glowy after having hippie sex all night. Roger tells her it's time to leave. She's not having it, so he picks her up and tries to carry her to the truck, where they both fall into a mud puddle.



Roger "Mud" amirite?

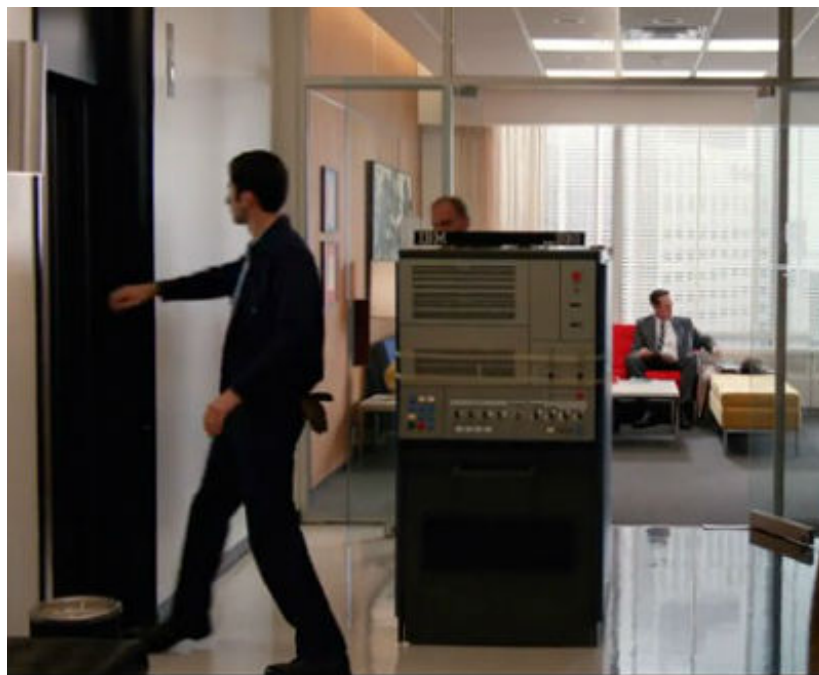
Roger says he understands why she'd want to stay there, but she is a mother and has to come home to her son. Roger asks how she can just leave her baby.



I learned it by watching YOU!

She says she lived with it and Ellery will be fine. Other than constantly getting the shit beat out of him because his name is Ellery, of course. Roger walks away, defeated.

A spiffed-up Don gets off the elevator at SC&P. He watches workers wheel the computer into the office.



This is not a metaphor

As he sits at his typewriter, Peggy comes by and says “good morning.” He tells her he’ll have her tags by lunch.



He gets to work. And we are out as the song “Carousel” plays. OMG super symbolic, you guys!

So what did y’all think? Like I said before, this wasn’t my favorite episode. I’ll probably like it better when I watch the whole season at once, but for a one-off, I wasn’t happy to spend so much time on the commune. On the plus side, it was great to see Freddie give Don a smackdown. Hopefully, he will heed it.

And I guess I was wrong last week about Don just wanting to get back to work. Apparently he really did think they were just going to let him waltz back and pick up where he left off. Oh Don.

Any predictions for the second half of the first half? Let me know in the comments

As always, thanks for reading and have a great day.

xoxo,
SnoopK8

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