

# Mad Men Recap: Menken Love Out of Nothing at All

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SnoopK8

April 8, 2015

Hello Trashies! And welcome back to Madison Avenue. Well, technically, Avenue of the Americas, but who's counting. What have our favorite dissipated, soulless drunks been up to these last few months? Let's find out.

*Previously:* McCann Erickson bought SC&P for a 51 percent stake, making the partners super rich if not super happy; Peggy is a dried-up, 30-year-old spinster with no prospects, no kids (and – apparently – no cat); Ken! Cosgrove! Has ALL the accounts; Joan managed to become an account exec without having to sleep with anyone and Don FINALLY kicked Megan to the curb (or maybe it was the other way around. But let's not dwell on how it happened, let's just be thankful it did).

We open in a darkened room, where a model in a \$15,000 chinchilla coat is being creepily directed by Don to touch herself, pretend she's naked under the coat and "show [him] how smooth her skin is." Ew. Does anyone else need a shower?



## Mr. Polanski will see you now

It's a casting call for Wilkinson's, whatever that is, and there are a bunch of guys in the room, including Ted Chaough and his amazing new Tedstache.

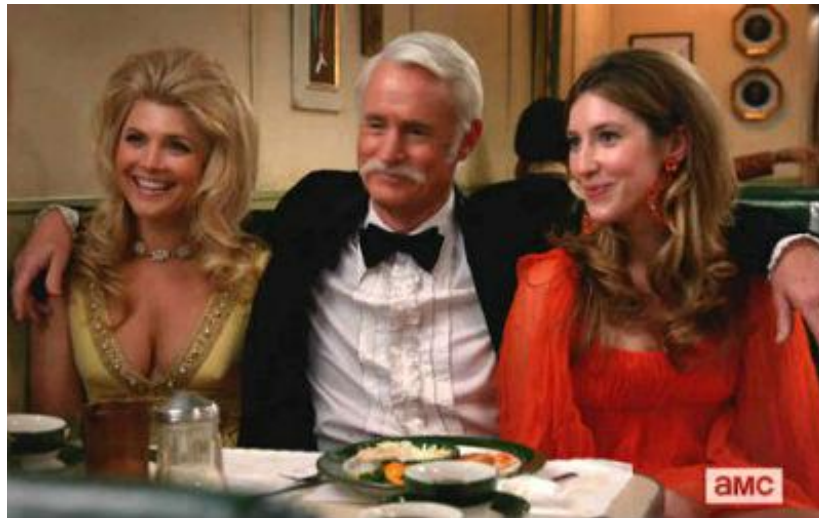


They send the model out and call another one in. Another rough day for the boys at SterlingCoo.

Next, it's night and Don's in a tux, sitting in a diner with three more models (or are they hookers? Same diff?), telling a story about his stepmother and a toaster that almost burned down the whorehouse, er, "boarding house" he grew up in.



He pours booze from a flask into one girl's coffee cup as Roger and HIS new moustache join them from the bathroom. Roger says Don loves to tell stories about how poor he used to be, but thankfully isn't anymore.



### **Thank god, because hookers don't pay for themselves**

Roger calls the mousy waitress "Mildred Pierce" while asking for the check and continues to be a dick by asking if she has anything by John Dos Passos, the author of the book she's reading.



### **And that's why I spit in your hash browns**

Don apologizes for Roger's behavior, then asks the waitress if he knows her from somewhere. It's possible he banged her in one of his drunken fugues – he does have a thing for waitresses – but she doesn't know what he's talking about. Roger feels bad and leaves her a hundred dollar bill to make up for being an ass and then tells the two women he's with that they have to decide which one of them he will drop off. Good lord, Don and Roger on the loose in 1970s NYC – and you thought the Son of Sam was scary.

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Don arrives home alone and calls his answering service, which has collected messages from a bevy of floozies. He decides he will call back TWA Tricia, a stewardess in town for the night who wants to put the “lay” in layover. She shows up and they get down to bidness, but not before she drunkenly spills red wine on the white carpet and tells tales of urine-soaked airplane blankets. As they roll around, Tricia finds an earring on the floor and asks if Don’s sleeping with another woman. Don says it belongs to the one woman he ISN’T sleeping with: Megan.

Joan, Harry and Peggy are in a meeting with Topaz Pantyhose, who are upset about L’eggs, which are outselling Topaz even though they are inferior to Topaz, which are pretty inferior themselves.



## Mmm, eggs

Topaz Boss suggests changing the packaging to a plastic green topaz, because nothing says “buy our pantyhose” like a classy plastic jewel, but Peggy talks him out of it. She says imitation is never a good idea. Kenny and his eye patch come in to take the Topaz guys to lunch, and Harry tells Joan and Peggy it’s their job to “keep the client.”

Don has his old office back. I wish they had shown Lou Avery getting the boot, but I guess we’ll have to be content with the smack-down he got from Harry Hamlin last year. Meredith is still Don’s secretary and she tells him she’ll wake him in an hour for the next casting call. It’s great to see Don back in the saddle, napping off hangovers and preying on models. Everything old is new again.



Mathis corners Peggy in the kitchen and invites her to dinner and a blind date with his brother-in-law. Peggy doesn't think that will end well – clearly she's been watching this show from the beginning – so she says “thanks, but no thanks.” Mathis admits he didn't think about possible work repercussions, but says she's a great catch, which every woman wants to hear from her younger, married subordinate.

Joan comes in to talk to Don about the Topaz situation. Don suggests they re-brand and try to get Topaz into department stores. Luckily, McCann represents Marshall Field's and Don says she should start there. He'd help, but he has to get back to casting.



**Thanks, Dick**



Ken's at home with his wife and father-in-law, Ed, who is retiring from Dow Chemical. Ken gives Ed a set of golf clubs and listens as Ed talks about personnel moves at Dow, which I'm sure is not foreshadowing anything whatsoever.



Don and Ted are at another casting and whoa – the model is Rachel (Menken) Katz! Rachel was my favorite of Don's mistresses. "Rachel" says, "I'm supposed to tell you, you missed your flight." Don says, "Thank you," and "You're not just smooth, you're Wilkinson's smooth." Okay, so it's just a dream. We got a whole half hour into the ep without a hallucination or dream sequence and I was getting worried, but now I feel better.



I'm as white as a ghost

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At *Chez Cosgrove*, Ken's wife Cynthia is up watching TV. Ken comes out with *out* the eye patch and – yuck.



## Cover that shit up

Cynthia says her dad is really old and she doesn't know why he waited so long to retire. Ken says it's because he loved his job so much. Cynthia says that's not the case with Ken, who is bored and angry because he knows in his heart advertising is not what he wants to do. She's referring, of course, to Ken's writing career, which I guess has been on hold for a while. Cynthia wants Ken to quit his job, "buy that farm" (isn't that a euphemism for dying?) and write a book. She says Ken already gave SC&P his eye, does he want to give them his life too? But Ken gets angry and says he's proud of the company and wants to at least see if he gets the raise he asked for.

Next day, Don asks Meredith to set a meeting with Rachel at Menken's Department store regarding Topaz. Ah, good thinking. Maybe he and Rachel will reconnect and live happily ever after.

Joan and Peggy meet with three guys from McCann to discuss Topaz. They are smarmy assholes, making a bunch of not-even double entendres about Joan and her boobs.



### **Heh, heh, your BOOBS are a double entendre**

Peggy takes it all in stride and finally gets them to focus on business, but Joan is clearly uncomfortable and angry, although you'd think she'd be used to it by now.

Roger and some dude named Ferguson Donnelly from McCann are waiting for Ken in his office. Donnelly is there to fire Ken! Mostly because when Ken left McCann (to come to SC&P) he took \$4 million in Birdseye billings with him. Also, because Ken went around telling everyone on Mad Ave that McCann is an agency full of "black Irish thugs."



### **"Am I wrong?"**

Roger says Ken will get a generous severance if he helps Pete secure all his accounts – including Dow. So I'm guessing the raise is probably off the table too.

Joan and Peggy take an elevator after the McCann meeting, which, despite the asshole jerks, was successful. Peggy agrees the guys were disgusting, but she's happy they got a sleazy yes rather than a friendly no.






Joan says she wouldn't expect PEGGY to understand and Peggy is sympathetic for about two seconds until she says Joan can't have it both ways. She can't dress the way she does and expect to be taken seriously. I feel like it was just yesterday that Joan was telling Peggy to stop dressing like a little girl and now Peggy's telling Joan to stop dressing like a slut? The circle of life? But I don't think Joan looked particularly slutty, so I don't know what Peggy expects Joan to do short of getting her boobs chopped off. Joan says you're damn right she doesn't dress like Peggy and that's for a reason. But Peggy says Joan is filthy rich and she doesn't have to do anything she doesn't want to do. Let's hear it for sisterhood.

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Mereditz tells Don he has a meeting next week with Menken's, but Rachel can't make it because she's dead.



## Dead whut?

And she just died last WEEK. Talk about bad timing. Don is really shaken up, since Rachel was clearly the most special of all the bitches he cheated on his wife with.

Peggy changes her mind and agrees to the blind date with "Stevie." (I hope he doesn't drive a truck.)

Creepy Don is back at the diner with the Dos Passos-reading waitress. He asks her again if he knows her from somewhere, and she's like, "duh, the other night." She says, "I know why you're here and it's not for coffee."



**“Ok, how about some cherry pie?”**

She tells the other waitress she’s “taking a break” which apparently is code for “follow me into the alley and have sex with me against the wall” because that’s exactly what Don does.



Who *does* that? Well, Don Draper does, that’s who.

After, they head back into the diner separately and Don asks what time she gets off. She says, “I already did.” (Not really.) She says, “You got your hundred dollars’ worth, you can go.”

Next morning, Ken hails Don from the phone booth outside SC&P offices.

He tells Don about the firing and when Don offers to help, Ken says the fact it happened the day after his wife told him to quit is not a coincidence, but a SIGN of The Life Not Lived. He says it's actually all good in the 'hood. But now he just needs to figure out how to drag himself through the doors and not kill everyone in sight. (I'm paraphrasing.)

Pete and Ken convene in Ken's soon-to-be-former office to go over Ken's accounts while Pete complains about being so rich from the buyout that he has to hide money from the tax man.



### **My wallet's too small for my fifties and MY DIAMOND SHOES ARE TOO TIGHT**

Pete is surprised by the firing and didn't know that Ken had such a contentious history with McCann, but he says it's good Ken's playing ball now. Ken says he never fit in at McCann and now at least he has something to write about. Pete says advertising is boring and Ken should write an adventure story because the eye patch would look awesome on a book jacket. Ken admits he's thought about that. Pete offers to recommend Ken if he decides to stay in the business. Ken's like "Whatever."

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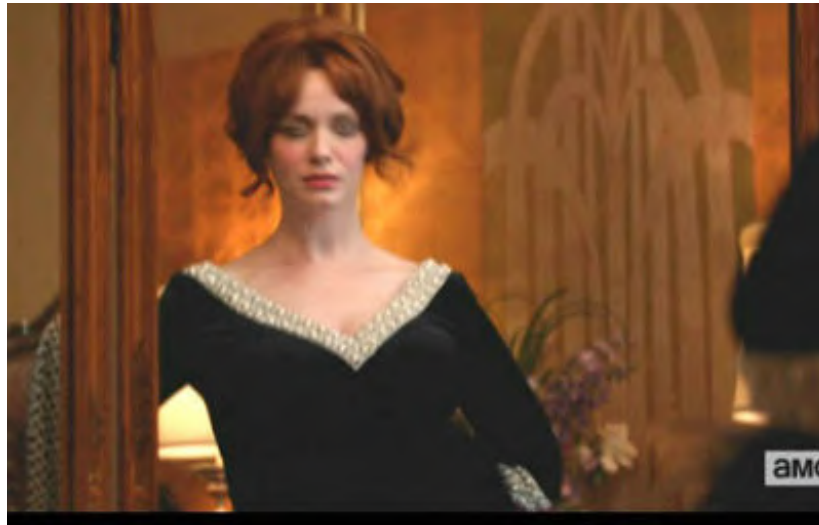


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Joan's in a fitting room trying on dresses because I guess the cure for feeling like a piece of meat is to buy a more expensive wrapping? The sales girl says, "Didn't you used to work here? You can probably still get a discount." Joan's all, "You must have me confused with someone else who worked in the dress department in 1963, because I'm a filthy rich advertising executive."



Ted interrupts Don's afternoon nap to bring him a binder full of women for Wilkinson's and to invite him to a Vogue party in the Village, preceded by cocktails at Ted's nearby apartment. Does this mean Ted is divorced too, or does he have a *pied-à-whore* in the city and a wife in the 'burbs like Pete used to? I certainly hope he isn't confining that magical moustache to just one woman.

Peggy's on a date with Stevie and it's actually going well. Well, after she yells at him for not sending back his veal when he actually ordered lasagna. Stevie says Mathis told him she's the kind of girl who doesn't put up with things. Peggy wants to know what ELSE Mathis says and it turns out he thinks she's funny and fearless. Wow, someone who works with Peggy actually likes her, besides Stan. Who knew?





### **Do you want my 'cannelloni'?**

Don knocks on the door of an apartment that turns out to be Rachel's, where her family is sitting shiva. Rachel's sister Barbara says she remembers him and pointedly asks how his family is.



### **So you're the goy who got away**

Don admits he divorced Betty and is in the process of divorcing Megan. Barbara tells him that Rachel had leukemia, but other than that, she was happy and "lived the life she wanted to live."

Peggy and Stevie are a few more drinks in, and we find out that Mathis' first name is Johnny (lol) and that Stevie is a lawyer who recently left a firm in Boston. Peggy says she's never taken a vacation so they decide to go to Paris RIGHT NOW.



### **WE'RE DRIVING TO FLORIDA!!!**

A little later, Peggy and Stevie are in Peggy's apartment looking for her passport. They make out, but she won't sleep with him because now she thinks he might be more than a fling.



He calls her old-fashioned. She says she's tried being new-fashioned and it didn't work out, what with the bastard child and the disemboweled journalist and all. They decide to postpone their Paris trip and he promises to call her when he comes back from DC in a couple weeks.

Don's in bed watching a Nixon speech. The Internet tells me it's from April 30, 1970, so I guess that's where and when we are. I guess Megan didn't get Manson'd after all :( That puts us about nine months after where we left off in July of 1969 if you're keeping score.

Pete and Roger are meeting and Roger says Ferguson Donnelly is happy with how things are shaking out. Ken arrives uninvited to inform them that he won't be needing that severance because the signing bonus at Dow – where he's now Head of Advertising (see I told you the re-org conversation had nothing to do with anything) is so huge it feels like a "second helping." Ken is now a client and a hard-to-please one at that.



### **Suck on that, bitchez**

Peggy's hung over, but finally finds her passport in an office desk drawer. Mathis comes in to offer her Alka-Seltzer, saying he heard she had a quite a night.



He also has recs for Paris if she needs them, since he went there on his honeymoon. She kicks him out. To Stan, Peggy says it was the wine talking and she totally embarrassed herself. She says she's not getting on a plane with someone she barely knows, but Stan says she can GET to know him. Peggy says the situation is nothing a couple of aspirin won't fix. Oh Peggy.

Meredith gives Don research for his Menken's meeting, which sends him back into a tailspin and to the diner to stalk the waitress some more. She tells him to get lost because she's not gonna bang him in the alley again, but he tells her about the Rachel dream and how the next day he found out she died. The waitress is all, "I just pour coffee, leave me alone, crazy man."

She tells him that people get mixed up when people die and maybe he's been dreaming about Rachel all along. She tells him next time he comes in, he'd better bring a date with him. Don says he just wants to sit there, so we're once again treated to morose Don feeling sorry for himself. Ugh. That's so season four. (And season six. And the first part of season seven...)



So there you have it Trashies. The seasons go round and round, the painted ponies go up and down – will Don Draper ever get off that carousel? I guess we have six more episodes to find out.

What did you guys think of the ep?

As always, thanks for reading, and I look forward to spending next six weeks with you

xoxo,  
SnoopK8

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