


Mad Men Recap: Modern Family

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Welcome to your penultimate episode of *Mad Men* season 7, part one. (This whole split season thing is SO ANNOYING, have I mentioned that?) This week, we have reconciliations, breakups and people who SHOULD have broken up LAST SEASON but are still torturing us with their presence [cough,cough-Megan-cough,cough]. At least she finally got someone to eat her damn spaghetti.

Previously: The mysterious Bob Benson went to Detroit to work on Chevy. Pete is sleeping with a real estate agent named Bonnie. Don and Pete are still married, but they live as far away from their wives as possible. SC&P is trying to get the Burger Chef account. Ted STILL hasn't gotten up from behind his desk. Peggy's in charge of Burger Chef, but that means she has to oversee Don. Joan and Bob Benson are friends withOUT benefits.

We open in a fast food parking lot where a housewife in a station wagon is trying to drive away with her delicious Burger Chef meal.



No thanks, I am NOT looking for a date

Peggy and Mathis, who paid for the food, want to ask her a few additional questions for research purposes. The woman says she'll pay them back the \$3.00 if they let her get home before her husband does. Peggy offers her \$10 more asks if the woman goes to Burger Chef for the taste or price of the food. The woman says she goes there because it's close to her house.

Pete and Bonnie are on a plane, flying to NYC for the week. Pete tells Bonnie he expects her to shop all day and screw all night. That sounds like a good deal, but only if I get to screw Don. Bonnie wants to meet Pete's daughter Tammy on Saturday when he goes to Cos Cob for the

day, but Pete says that would only confuse Tammy. Bonnie says she thinks Tammy will be more confused by the fact her parents aren't actually divorced yet. I'm pretty sure Tammy will be having lots of confusing conversations in her future.

Pete says he didn't realize the situation bothered Bonnie. She says she doesn't know where their relationship is going, but she doesn't want it to fail "on account of delay."



Pete says he didn't think Bonnie had any interest in getting remarried, but she just answers by telling him to meet her in the restroom in sixty seconds. So I guess it's true that all relationship dilemmas can be resolved by screwing in an airplane bathroom. I saw that on *Oprah* once.

Don is frantically cleaning his apartment.



Don't forget the dead hooker in the closet

I'm assuming that means someone important is coming over, but it could also just be Megan.

Joan's mom is eating breakfast with Kevin as Joan gets ready for work. Gail tells Joan she'd better eat something because she is "disappearing." Joan says she'll get something at the office and orders them to go outdoors at some point that day.

Don is in his office typing when Bonnie waltzes in.



Bonnie tells Don that Pete is having "quite a homecoming," but Don is the only other person she knows in NYC. She flirts with him by saying she heard he had a 2,100-square-foot apartment. Don says it's not that big, but I think everyone knows about Jon Hamm's square-footage, *if you know what I mean*. Pete comes in and asks Don to join them in the Burger Chef meeting before kicking Bonnie out of the office.

In the conference room, Harry, Stan, Lou and Peggy are preparing for the Burger Chef run-through.



Lou notices that Don came in with Pete and asks if he needs something. Pete says he's asked Don to join them.



Great

Peggy gives a run-through of her Burger Chef presentation, which hinges on the idea that moms feel guilty about feeding their families fast food.



Their scenario involves the dad surprising the mom with Burger Chef, thereby giving her “permission” not to cook and they end up happily-ever-after eating dinner together as a family. Lou says he likes the idea and it’s nice to see happy families again.

Much to Lou’s chagrin, Pete asks Don what he thinks. Don says having the dad absolve the mom is right on strategy. Peggy gives Don props for his work and they all sit down to discuss media.

Roger is relaxing in a steam room at the NY Athletic Club when he is approached by Jim Hobart from McCann Erickson, who apparently has nothing better to do than stalk the SC&P

partners.



Jim asks Roger how they are doing with Burger Chef and Roger thanks McCann for failing and giving SC&P the opportunity. Jim says SC&P wants to be like McCann when it grows up. Roger says when SC&P grows up, it will kill Jim and marry his wife.

Jim says it's super cute that SC&P has its little Chevy XP, but it's not a Buick. Then he asks how Roger thinks they are going to woo Phillip Morris with Don Draper "haunting" their hallways. Roger says Jim is lucky that Roger's problems aren't Jim's problems. Jim asks what if he wants them to be? Roger asks if Jim is looking for a job. But no, he is just looking to "enrich the lives of people he respects." Roger's like, "okay, now you're just being weird."

In Lou's office, Pete says he's happy with how Burger Chef is going, but he thinks Don should deliver the presentation. Lou and Peggy aren't too thrilled, but Pete says that Lou's never seen Don at his best and it will be a tearjerker. Lou is super excited to be reminded of how much he sucks compared to Don.

Pete says Peggy can still speak as the mother, but they need Don to impart authority while Peggy will impart emotion. Peggy argues that SHE has authority and DON has emotion, but Pete says he would prefer that Peggy act as the "expert witness."

Out of nowhere, a disembodied voice says it's Peggy's decision. Apparently, Ted has been listening on speakerphone from California the whole time. Peggy asks Ted what he would do, and Ted says he would do "everything at his disposal to win the account."



If that means sitting at this desk for 13 episodes, I will do it

Peggy's like "whatever. I'll do it, since I can keep my word unlike SOME people who promised to leave their wife but didn't." Ted: "keep up the good work!"

Bob Benson! arrives with a couple of Chevy executives. Ha, I was just talking about him. Bob is touting the virtues of SC&P's amaaaaazing computer, but he notes it can't make coffee. That's okay, that's what secretaries are for. Speaking of which, there's Clara and she's got a loaf of bread in her oven.



Okay, you can't tell in this picture, but I swear she's super preggo

Who is she banging, again?

Ken comes out to greet them and he is still wearing his eye patch. Oh no, the poor bastard.



Joan joins them and the Chevy execs flirt with her for a minute before Ken takes them to find Harry Crane. Joan and Bob make plans for Sunday.

Peggy comes into Don's office and says she's given it a lot of thought, and she thinks he should deliver the Burger Chef presentation. She tells him that she's not going to pretend that he doesn't have the best shot at winning this. Don is suspicious and asks whose idea this was. Peggy says it was hers and that she will introduce him and hand it off to him so he can throw the tagline out there like he just thought of it. Don says he'll do whatever Peggy tells him to. But he says he was just "noodling" around with the idea that maybe they should tell the story from the kids' point of view. Peggy says she appreciates his input, but they already have a strategy.

Peggy leaves Don's office to find Megan standing in the hall. They hug and Peggy introduces Megan to her secretary as Don's wife. Peggy's secretary says she didn't even know that Don was married.



If Don remembers me, you are so fired

Peggy asks how life in L.A. is, and Megan says it's "exciting," "new" and "different." Also, "isolating," "lonely" and "Mansontastic." Megan says Peggy has a great office and pretty soon, she might even have Don's. Peggy's like, "Oh, guess you didn't get the memo, but your husband's a big loser now."

Stan comes in and Peggy helpfully tells him that Megan is there for a visit. They discuss the Ginsberg situation and it turns out that Stan has been to visit him, but Peggy won't go.

Don is on his way out and is surprised to see Megan.



Do I know you?

She says she couldn't wait to see him and she thought they could have dinner downtown. Don says that's a great idea, but he really means he would rather pass out drunk on the D train and end up naked in the South Bronx. He asks Peggy's permission to leave early.

After Don and Megan leave, Peggy yells at Stan for not asking her about the Burger Chef dry-run. He asks if there was a problem and she says no, everyone loved it. Stan asks "are you mad at me?" Heh. Peggy says no, but she is clearly bothered by something.

Roger is leaving for the day when Harry Hamlin comes to find him. Harry Hamlin says he saw Les Clark from Phillip Morris that morning and Roger's name came up. Roger asks if this is about Harry Hamlin's "secret plan to win the war." Harry Hamlin says that Roger had better stop thinking about Don and start thinking about the company.

Bob Benson gets a middle-of-the-night phone call. Next, we see him at a police station where he is bailing out one of the Chevy execs we met earlier that day.



Apparently, the exec, Bill Hartley, tried to "fellate an undercover officer" and got himself beat up as well as arrested. In the cab, Bill says he called Bob because he knows Bob will keep it to himself. And because Bob is also a member of the secret homo club. Bob says Bill should go to a hospital for his face, but Bill says they will just call the cops on him again. He wishes he were back in Detroit because he knows the lay of the land. (Pun intended.) Bill asks Bob if he's ever been arrested and Bob is like NO, NEVER. FREAK.

Bill says he appreciates Bob and he is going to miss having him around. Bob interprets this as a threat, but Bill says it's just because they are taking the Chevy XP in-house to Campbell Ewald, which was the plan from day one. He tells Bob not to worry because GM loves the work and Bob will soon be getting an offer from Buick. This is all going to happen "imminently." In the meantime, Bill is going to call in sick and luckily his wife "understands" his "situation."

Next day, Pete arrives at Trudy's to pick up Tammy. The housekeeper says that Trudy is at the hairdresser. He gives Tammy the Barbie that Bonnie picked out for her.



♪ ♪ **Young girl, get into my van** ♪ ♪

Don wakes up to find Megan making breakfast on the terrace. He hugs her and asks doesn't she miss all this? Megan says she misses him.

Peggy shows up at the office in the most hideous ensemble ever.



Seriously, WHAT is she wearing?

She calls Stan and asks if he's coming in but he tells her to please find something else to do today because it is Saturday. She explains that she doesn't like the Burger Chef idea and asks if he's been "noodling" with anything else. Noodling again, what the hell. Now I want Chinese food. He assures her it's a fine idea, it just came easy and that's why she doesn't trust it. She says that's not the case. He tells her to come up with something else then. She takes this as a

evidence he doesn't like it either, but she tells him not to come in because he apparently has a date.



There's always money in the banana, Stan

It's later and Pete returns to Trudy's after his day out with Tammy. The housekeeper says Trudy WAS home, but she went out again. Pete tells the housekeeper (Verna, I think her name is?) to give Tammy a bath and says he'll stick around to tuck her in. He calls Bonnie to say that Trudy f-ed up and he's the only who can stay with Tammy. Bonnie isn't too happy to go see Oh! Calcutta! by herself, but she is sympathetic. He promises to make it up to her.

On Park Ave, Don is opening a bottle of wine while Megan prepares her motherfucking spaghetti.



The phone rings and it's Peggy, who is now drinking in Lou's office. She tells Don she tried his "kids' POV" idea and it sucks. Don says "great hearing from you." Peggy says now that Don is presenting, he should have more serious thoughts about the strategy. She says the work is tainted because of his implication it wasn't good enough and she wants to know why he is always undermining her. Don hangs up on her, saying, "if you don't want to do it, don't do it." Meanwhile, Megan is all in a snit that Don got a phone call. Ugh, just break the hell up already.

In Connecticut, Pete is drinking all of Trudy's beer. She finally comes home and he yells that he was in a great mood until he started thinking about her pulled over on the side of the road "necking with Charlie Fiddich."



"Honestly, Peter, Charlie Fiddich was SIX seasons ago"

Pete wants to know who she WAS out with, or maybe that's a secret like her father's heart attack. Trudy yells back that Pete has seen his daughter for the year, so why doesn't he just get on a damn plane and go back to L.A. Pete says the fact that Trudy picked that night for a date means she still has feelings for him, because he knows all of her "debutante maneuvers." Trudy yells that they are getting a divorce and Pete is no longer part of their family. Pete slams a bottle of beer into a cake and leaves.



Best Carvel ever

The next morning, Bob Benson shows up at Joan's with gifts for Gail and Kevin. He says he searched all over midtown the day before but he couldn't find a present for Joan. Gail says it's because the Jews shut down the city on Saturdays.



Did the Jews also make you wear that dress?

At the Drapers', Megan is going through the closets looking for her fondue pot because she says maybe it will get some use out in California. I never heard of fondue spaghetti, but I'm Megan will find a way. She has quite a pile of stuff to bring back with her and Don's like, "I thought you were just looking for summer clothes." She says she misses her stuff, and does he think she can just check it all onto the plane. He says he'll bring some of it out when comes to L.A. at the end of July.



Whatever

Megan doesn't seem too happy, but she says she wants to see him someplace where there are no distractions. Not in L.A. and not in NYC, or pretty much not anywhere there is a phone or a TV or newspaper or anything to keep him from spending every second with her and her spaghetti.

Pete's in his hotel room working on the bed. Bonnie comes in from shopping complaining that her feet are filthy from wearing sandals. She notices that Pete has already eaten and she's mad. Pete says he can eat again. But Bonnie says this is her vacation and he ruined by spending a whole day in Cos Cob, then he was grumpy and now he ordered room service without her.



Pete says that he's been "inundated." Bonnie says she doesn't like New York Pete and Pete says that means she doesn't like him. He tries to get frisky, but she says, "you can't fuck your way out of this. I'm going to wash my feet." Hmm, I know I said she was crazy, but I kind of like

Bonnie now.

Don comes into Lou's office where Peggy is working furiously. She says "where'd you park your white horse?" She tells Don to spare her the suspense and just tell her his strategy to save the day. Don says he has nothing and he knows his idea was crap. Peggy agrees it was terrible and says she wants to hear his real idea. Or maybe he's just going to pull it out during the presentation?

Don says the current idea is fine and he thinks the client will like it. Peggy says she knows he doesn't think that because he tried to get rid of it. Peggy says if he really wants to help, he'll tell her how his mind works right now. Don says you can't tell people what they want, you have to tell them what YOU want. Peggy says she wants to go to the movies.

Don pours them a drink at Lou's tiki bar and says he just got back from *I Am Curious (Yellow)* and he is still scandalized. Peggy says it figures Megan would want to go to a dirty movie.

Don says his real secret when he's stuck is to abuse the people he needs help from, then take a nap.



Then I drink a quart of vodka, call the computer tech Satan and pass out en route to a Mets game

He says after that, he goes back to the beginning and waits to see if he ends up in the same place.



Oh, like a CAROUSEL? Get some new material, ya hack

Bob Benson sits on Joan's couch, playing with a lighter. Joan brings him a glass of sherry. He says he lied before; he really did get her something: an engagement ring.



Will you do me the honor of becoming my beard?

She's all "WTF?" He says, "Doesn't my face please you?"



Your face is fine. It's your attraction to other men that bothers me

He tries to kiss her, but she shuts him down and says he shouldn't be with a woman. He says that he has been before. She wants to know why he's doing this now, and he explains about the Buick job and how GM prefers a "certain kind of executive."

He says it's a great idea, because he can hang out in Detroit and scope the man meat while she stays in NYC and does whatever she wants and Kevin could have a dad. OR she could come out there with him, because she'd "love" Detroit and they could live in a mansion. Yeah, but a mansion in Detroit. (Although I will allow that Detroit probably wasn't as shitty in 1969 as in 2014.)

Anyway, he reveals that Chevy is dropping SC&P and Joan is more upset about that than anything else. Bob tries to console her by saying that his work with Chevy was a success and this is why their fake relationship will work. He says he's only thinking of her – after all, she's almost 40 and does she really want to be stuck in a two-bedroom apartment with her mom and a little kid? Joan's like, "thanks a lot, dickhead." She says she is still hoping for love and is not about to settle for some arrangement. She suggests that he do the same before kicking him out.

Back at the office, Don and Peggy discuss another version of the Burger Chef dinner scenario, but it still involves a smiling family. Peggy sneers that it looks like 1955. Don says 1955 was a very good year. Peggy says she doesn't even remember it and that 1965 was a good year. Don says that was the year he got married – no wonder he's not excited about it.



Let's see... 1968 was the year I fucked my life up entirely. Still better than 1965.

They continue talking strategy and Peggy says what if they make Burger Chef a solution for working moms. Don, patronizing, says "what would be their profession?" Peggy's like, "you're surrounded by working moms, jackass." She says or maybe they could show the mom having a shitty day – she burned the roast, Katie's pregnant and Jimmy got drafted, but hey, at least they have burgers and fries to console them. Oh Pegs, I do believe you're getting cynical.

Peggy asks if happy families even exist anymore. She asks if Don ever sat around smiling and having dinner with his family. He says he doesn't remember. I would guess no on that.

Then Peggy turns maudlin and asks what the hell does she know about being a mom. She says she just turned 30. Don's like, no shit? She says she kept it a secret and now she's one of those women she hates who lie about their age. Don says he worries about a lot of things, but Peggy isn't one of them. Awww.

Peggy asks what HE has to worry about. Really? Adultery, alcoholism, alienating his family... and that's just the As. He says he worries that he never did anything and he doesn't have anyone.

But this is Peggy's pity party, and she says she looked into so many station wagons in so many Burger Chef parking lots and what did she do wrong? She starts to cry. He hands her a handkerchief. Of course Don would have a handkerchief. He says she's doing great. Putting aside the fact that a "great" from Don Draper isn't the MOST reassuring, I'm glad these two have finally made up. I love when they are being nice to each other. (Like that one time in season four, I think it was.) Seems a little abrupt, but what are you gonna do with only one episode left.

Peggy says what if there were a place with no TV where whoever you sat with was family. That could be the strategy! Yay. The song "My Way" comes on. Peggy says they've been playing this song constantly and Don says that's not a coincidence. He gets up and asks her to dance. They sway slowly. She puts her head on his shoulder.



Okay, this better just be a friendly thing because if anything untoward were to happen between them I would be VERY UNHAPPY.

Bonnie and Megan are on the same plane back to L.A. They should get a spin-off where Bonnie is a Charlie's Angel and Megan is her wacky neighbor.

The partners, including Don, are meeting in the conference room when Harry Hamlin comes in to say it's official: they are losing the Chevy account.



He says in fact, it should no longer be known as the XP, but as “Roger Sterling’s failure.” Harry Hamlin suggests they take out ads in the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* ASAP, saying they are open for business with their super awesome computer and their super awesome new partner... Harry Crane. Harry freaking Crane? Roger is furious and leaves without voting on the motion. Joan does not want Harry to be a partner (because of his calling her a big fat whore in front of the partners that time.) Don defends Harry as being very loyal and for rescuing him from Megan’s party. They vote and the motion passes, so it looks SC&P has one more P and his name is Harry Crane.

Joan storms into Roger’s office to yell at him about Harry Crane.

Harry Crane??? Was Hitler unavailable?

Roger is mad at her because she knew Chevy was dropping them and didn’t say anything in time for him to do something. Joan says there’s nothing he could have done and she tells him about Bob Benson and the Buick offer. A light bulb goes off in Roger’s head, and he says he knew that McCann was up to something. He says that McCann clearly thinks SC&P is going to try and steal Buick. He thanks Joan. Okay, I don’t really get this part. I thought Jim Hobart was hinting about stealing Don, since he’s been harassing him since season one. But then again, what do I know.



Pete and Don sit at a table in a Burger Chef. Pete is pissed that they’re scrapping the original strategy, but Don tells him to hear Peggy out. Peggy comes back with a tray of food and says

she wants to shoot the ad in the restaurant. Pete is not on board because it's not a home and doesn't involve a mom. Peggy calls it a "clean, well-lighted place" and says it's about family – every table in there is the family table. Pete says "family" is too vague and he hates the word altogether. Well of course he does. Don says if they want to do it right, they need to do it Peggy's way and they eat and we are out and is anyone else craving a burger right now?



So there you have it. What did y'all think? What will they do to end the first half? Is anyone else hoping that Megan does indeed Manson'd? She's so super annoying lately.

It was great to see Trudy and Bob Benson again, but it sounds like he's going off into the Buick sunset and we probably won't see him again. Is there anyone else you'd like to see show up next week or before the end of the series? (Besides Sal, of course.)

Other questions: Who knocked Clara up? Will Peggy EVER pick the right boy? And will Ted ever get a scene outside the office? Is Don poised for a comeback or another fail? Hit me up below.

As uszh, thanks for reading and have a fabulous Memorial Day! I'll see you next week for the mid-season buzzkill finale.

xoxo,
SnoopK8

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