


# Mad Men Recap: Nip/Tuck

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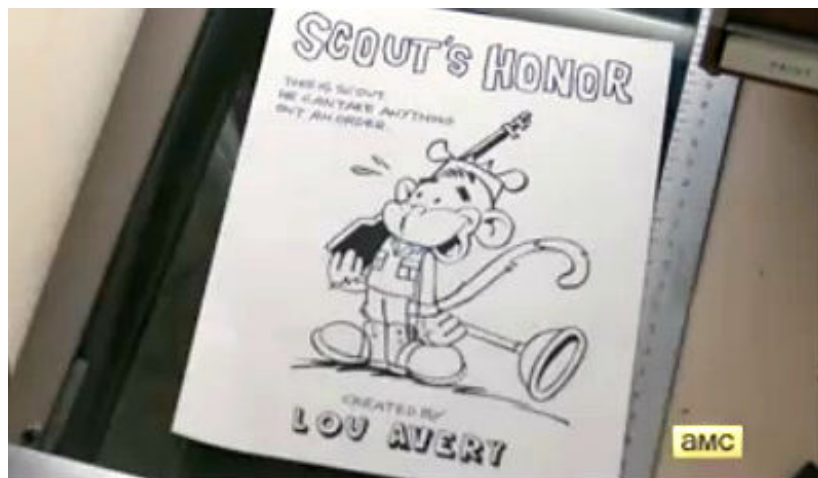
SnoopK8

May 13, 2014

Hello Trashies! Oh wow, what an episode. Kind of slow at first, but then it sneaks up on you and cuts off your... well, let's just wait and see.

Previously: Everyone is mad at Don for various reasons. He's back at SC&P, but must work under strict stipulations. Lou is not happy about Don's return. SC&P got a computer.

Stan opens the copy machine to find a folder full of cartoons, "Scout's Honor," created by Lou. He takes it.



**It's about a monkey who steals his dead lieutenant's identity and lives a double life as an ad man**

Peggy and Don meet up in the elevator.



### Maybe he won't see me if I keep looking straight ahead

They discuss weekend plans and Peggy tells Don that she is giving him work for Handi-Wrap. They seem fairly cordial, so I guess they've reached some kind of détente. In the office, they find Ginsberg standing outside the computer room screaming "stop humming! You're not happy!"



Peggy offers to introduce him to the secretary working in there, but he says she belongs to it and it belongs to her. Peggy asks what "it" is. Ginsberg says "What am I? Cassandra? That machine came for us, one by one." Okay then, have a nice day.

In Ginzo and Stan's office, Stan confronts Shirley about the comic strip. She says she didn't leave it in the copier, but she appreciates its return. She says Lou would prefer they didn't see it. Stan thinks Freud would disagree and believes Lou wanted them to find it. Meanwhile, Ginsberg is complaining that the radio is not working.

Don gets a phone call from a Stephanie Horton – aka Anna Draper's niece who Don half-heartedly hit on in season four. She's now a pregnant hippie living in L.A. and is, surprise, surprise, out of "bread."



### **But she has plenty of ugly clothes**

Stephanie says she hates that she's talking to Don after all this time to ask for money, but he seems glad to hear from her. He gives her Megan's address in Laurel Canyon and says he'll fly out tonight to see her. I'm sure Megan will be thrilled. Who wouldn't be happy to entertain the pregnant niece of her estranged husband's secret first wife?

At Megan's, some redhead is giving her a pedicure.



The woman, Amy, answers the phone pretending to be an operator. Don's all "let me talk to my wife, please." Kids today, right Don? Don tells Megan about her impending visitor and that he is flying out that night. She offers to cancel the party she's having the next night, but he says he and Stephanie will stay out of their way. He tells Megan to get rid of Amy because this is a family matter. Megan says she's sorry for the reason, but she's happy he's coming.



**Yeah, I'm totally excited to see you too**

The creative team meets in Stan's office to discuss Burger Chef and make fun of Scout's Honor. Stan draws a parody of the cartoon and shows it to Don, who has just joined them. Don tells him to get rid of it and gives Stan work to do, saying he has a plane to catch later that day. When he leaves, the OTHER guy whose name I never learned (not to be confused with Mathis, who is my new best friend) says Don is still part of the faculty.

In Rye, Betty and Henry are preparing for a party at their huge gothic mansion. It sounds like an around-the-world party, where people change houses with each course. Betty's doing the first course to put everyone at ease and to show that they are just "regular neighbors," despite Henry's being a big-shot local politician. On the menu? rumaki, crab ~~Celery~~ Louis on toast points and little franks in BBQ sauce. Oh no, not rumaki! Oh Betty, remember what happened last time you served rumaki?



**This will be A Night to Remember!**

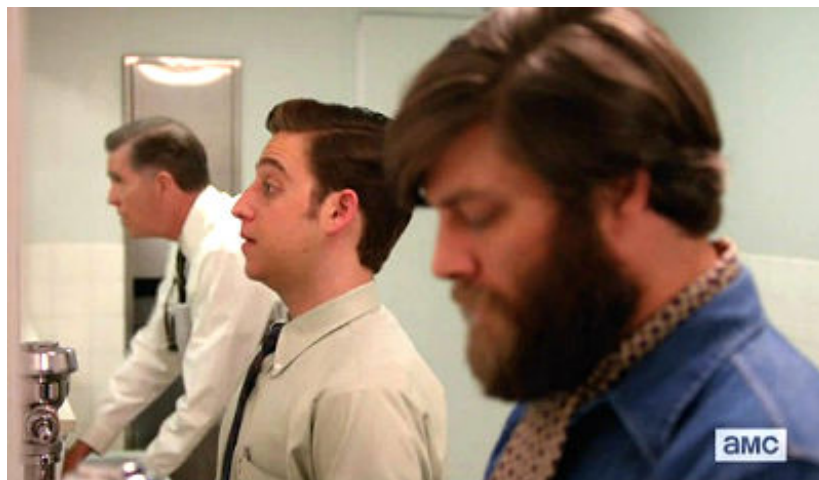
Stephanie shows up at Megan's. It's somewhat awkward, as you would expect.





Megan calls Stephanie “so beautiful.” Stephanie says, “I know, I’m a Madonna. But you are truly magnetic.” Oh gosh, she’s already annoying. She didn’t know that Megan was an actress and Megan seems miffed that Don didn’t tell her. Megan offers Stephanie a shower and a grilled cheese or spaghetti. Yeah, I’m sure she wants your dry, no-sauce, French-Canadian spaghetti. (Don’t get me started on Megan’s spaghetti...) Stephanie says she is actually dying for meat, so Megan offers to make her a steak while she takes a bath.

Back in New York, Stan is in the men’s room when Mathis comes in. They pee together and laugh about Scout’s Honor. But then the toilet flushes and Lou emerges from a stall. He glares at them before washing his hands and leaving. Haha.



### Nothing to see here

The creatives meet in Lou’s office. Don is going to pitch first and he asks Stan if he should go over to him or what. Lou says “I don’t know, can Stan be smug from over there?” Heh. Stan’s like, “don’t know what you heard...” but Lou heard everything. He asks if they’ve ever heard of a little thing called Underdog. It made tons of money for its creator Chet Stover over at Dancer Fitzgerald, his old agency. He says Scout’s Honor is a hundred times better than Underdog. Yeah, I don’t think Scout’s Honor was a Macy’s Thanksgiving Day balloon that escaped in season one of *Friends*, so shut it, Lou.



### **The One Where Underdog Beats the Shit Out of Scout's Honor**

Lou starts yelling about patriotism and honor and Bob Dylan and calls them all a bunch of flag-burning snots.



He says the very fabric of Scout's Honor is a joke to them. He declares the meeting over and tells them to order dinner, because they are staying until he gets finished work from them.

At Betty's party, she and Henry are talking to a neighbor couple. The husband says everyone wants to talk about Vietnam, but the real problem is how out of control "kids today" are. Betty says the two aren't unrelated – first comes the protests, then everything is up for grabs. First Bobby peels the wallpaper in his bedroom, next thing you know, he's trading her sandwich to some tramp for candy. She adds if people learned to support their country, maybe we'd have the morale to win the war.

Henry tries to change the subject, but Mr. Neighbor says even Nixon wants to end the war. Henry says he supports Nixon – the war is too costly and he thinks he should get out while the getting's good. Betty asks, since when does he think this? Henry says he's always supported the president. The neighbors are like... awwwwkkkkwarrrrdd. Betty stalks off, ostensibly to check the sterno. LOL.



### **We just thought this was a key party**

Don, wearing his coat, brings work into Lou. Lou's like, "where do you think you're going?" He says he can't let Don leave and keep the other creatives there. Don says why not let everyone go home? But Lou is a dick and says he'll read Don's work now so Don can finish it that night. Don says "about your cartoon..." He explains the office is "made up of people who have a problem with authority" and don't give them any more ammunition.



### **Thanks, but I'm not taking management advice from Don "Whore Chocolate" Draper**

Don calls Megan to tell her he can't make it that night. Stephanie comes out in Megan's bathrobe. Megan gives her the steak and they chat. Stephanie says she's happy that Megan is wearing Anna's ring. Stephanie looks down at the steak and says she hasn't eaten meat in a year and it might not be a good idea to start now.





### **Thanks for wasting a nice piece of meat, hippie**

Megan again offers spaghetti. Maybe if someone would just eat her damn spaghetti, she wouldn't be so sad. Stephanie says it must be hard for Megan to be out in L.A. while Don's in NYC. Megan's look says "you don't know the half of it, bitch."

Stephanie tells Megan that her babydaddy is a musician who's in jail for selling "grass." He gets out next month, but has no idea she's preggers. Megan offers not to tell Don, but Stephanie says it's okay because she knows all of Don's secrets. Megan snots "well, you don't know Don that well." She says this whole situation sounds really "disorganized" and that Don won't like it. He probably won't trust Stephanie to make her own plans. So she writes Steph a check for \$1,000 and says it's probably better this way.



### **I'll just make this out to "Disorganized Unkempt Slut"**

Stephanie says she will get out of there now because she got what she came for. Megan says there's no hurry, even though she is practically shoving her out the door. Stephanie assures Megan that nothing ever happened between her and Don. Megan's like, "Of course not, you're his niece."



Betty's in bed watching TV when Henry comes in, slamming the door. He yells at her for making him go to the neighbors' houses alone because of her "headache." Then he asks why she had to bring up the war.



**Because *Real Housewives of Westchester County* doesn't exist yet and I'm bored**

Betty says SHE didn't bring it up, but maybe she should have because she had no idea where he stood on the subject. Henry says he shouldn't have to brief her, because that's not polite party conversation. He reminds her that he's not a normal dinner companion, he's a mothafuckin' elected representative! Betty points out that he ran unopposed. He says not for long! From now on, focus on toast crumbs in the butter and leave the thinking to him!



**I rue the day I molested your pregnant belly outside the ladies' room!**

She apologizes and says she was caught off-guard, but he says that she embarrassed herself way more than him. Bobby is listening to all this out in the hallway. Poor Bobby.



**In 2003, this guy is going to dump Carrie Bradshaw with a Post-it note**

Don's still working when Lou walks by on his way out. Lou says, on second thought, he can probably wait till Monday to see Don's work. Fuck.

Don arrives at Megan's the next day to find Amy washing dishes. Who is this chick and why is she always around?



Megan tells Don that Stephanie left already. She says she tried to persuade her to stay, but maybe Stephanie was embarrassed. Or maybe Megan bribed her to leave with \$6,564 in 2014 dollars – one or the other. Megan says Stephanie will call him, but Don says MEGAN should have called him and let him convince her to stay. Megan's like "she's an adult, whatever."



### You had ONE job

Ginsberg is working alone in his office, even though it's Saturday. He is agitated and stuffs Kleenex in his ears.



On his way to get coffee, he sees Lou and Harry Hamlin having a discussion in the computer room.





### **Good thing they are having a secret meeting in a room with glass walls**

At the Francis house, Henry arrives with Sally, whom he picked up from school because she was “sword fighting with golf clubs” and appears to have broken her nose.



Betty flips out because Sally’s nose could be ruined, thereby preventing her from ever getting a man. Sally is snotty (haha) to her and Betty yells that Sally is LUCKY Henry is important enough that Dr. Kramer will fix it on a weekend. But Betty supposes Sally would rather get it done in a barn in Farmington. Sally says “it’s a nose job, not an abortion.” Heh. So of course Betty threatens to break Sally’s arm.



### **Men don’t care about arms**

Sally says she doesn’t need a man; she has Betty to keep her in line. Betty tells Sally to go to her room till morning.

Peggy’s preparing for a big night at home with a bag of pretzels, when someone knocks on the door. It’s Ginsberg.



### **Welcome back, Kotter**

He comes in, all freaked out, saying something is going on at the office. He says Lou and Harry Hamlin were having a meeting in that “air-conditioned lair” because, obviously, they are homos. He says “that machine” makes men do unnatural things. Wait till you see Internet porn, Ginz. Another knock at the door and it’s Julio, the little boy from upstairs. Ginzo says that Julio and Peggy have an interesting, “modern” arrangement. Ginsberg asks if he can work at Peggy’s because he can’t go home and he can’t go back to the office. Peggy agrees and she and Julio sit down to watch TV.

In Los Angeles, Megan is hosting the WORST PARTY EVER.



### **Smells like pot, patchouli and desperation**

Okay, I may be biased in favor of NYC and people who bathe regularly, but the Zou Bisou Bisou party looked way more fun. Don clearly agrees with me, because he is out on the balcony doing what he does best: drinking morosely.



Amy slinks over and offers him a joint but he's all, "go away, Squeaky."



**I wouldn't fuck you with Lou Avery's dick**

**(Or would I?)**

There are musicians and OF COURSE they tune up and start playing – just in case anyone was actually having a good time.

Megan turns off the record player and starts to dance with some bearded guy. Full disclosure, the guy's kind of hot. But they are a little too handsy to make me think it's totally platonic.





Don is watching the whole time, but he could be watching a cricket match for all he seems to care.



### **Did I leave the iron on? Do I even have an iron?**

Finally, she stops dancing and comes over to him, but he's like, "Isn't that Harry Crane over there?" LOL, it IS Harry Crane. He's there with some wannabe starlet. Don's like HEY, HARRY, WHY DON'T WE GO GET A DRINK SO I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THESE HIPPIES AND THEIR GRASS AND DANCING. I'm pretty sure Don never has been, and never again will be, this happy to see Harry Crane.

In NY, Sally's lying in bed when Bobby comes into her room. He asks if Betty and Henry are going to get a divorce because he heard them fighting the other night. She assures him they aren't and says she is going to hitchhike back to school that night. Bobby asks if he can go with her because he has a stomachache all the time. Aww, poor Bobby.

On the Upper West Side, Peggy has fallen asleep on the couch. She awakens to find Ginsberg practically on top of her, talking crazy talk.



He says the SC&P computer is causing the pressure to build in his head and it's trying to turn them all homo. He says that he and Peggy have to reproduce. He says if there were a way to do it without sex, he would but it has to be this way. He tries to kiss Peggy. Peggy's like "get off me, nutjob." Ginzo notes that even the radio in his office doesn't work anymore because of the machine and Peggy says "IT'S JUST A COMPUTER." She finally gets him to leave and he tells her she doesn't have to "report this information" to the authorities. Not the attempted rape, but the fact that the computer wants to turn them all gay.

Don and Harry are drinking in a practically empty bar and not talking.



Harry: "this is SO much better." Heh. Harry starts babbling about the agency, saying he's not sure what the solution is, but it shouldn't be to get rid of Don. Harry says that Don should be in L.A. instead of Ted Chaough, because Ted is useless. Don's like "WTF are you talking about?" Harry tells him that Lou and Harry Hamlin are pursuing Commander Cigarettes – Phillip Morris – and if they were to get the account, Don would have to be let go because of his letter to the *NY Times* breaking up with tobacco. Harry says they are only in the phone call stage, but he sent over a media plan yesterday.

Back at Megan's, everyone has left, except Amy. She and Megan are cleaning up and smoking a joint when Don comes in. Megan asks how his big night on the town with Harry was and Don says "educational." He's still pretty glum and Megan and Amy say drugs will cheer him up.



**And by "drugs" we mean "threesome"**

Don's not interested and says he's going to bed.

Amy comes into the bedroom and says she's there to tuck him in. Don asks what her "friend," (i.e. Megan), thinks about that. Megan comes in and says she doesn't want Don to be in a bad mood and doesn't he like Amy? So yeah, one thing leads to another, and they all go at it.



Don's not really into it, but he's kind of too drunk to protest so he just goes with it.

Next morning, all three are asleep in the bed.





### **Where the kisses are hers and hers and his**

Don's in the kitchen looking for coffee and Megan comes in and kisses him. They are interrupted by a phone call. It's Stephanie. She went back to Oakland. Don admonishes her for not waiting for him, but she says it was because Anna told her to let him live his life. Meanwhile, Megan is angry and slamming things around during the conversation. He tells Stephanie to call him when the baby comes. She thanks him again and they hang up.

To Megan, Don says he has to get back to New York because of what Harry told him. She asks if he's coming back to L.A. next weekend as originally planned and he says he is. Amy comes out of the bedroom all dressed and makes her way out, saying "great party." See ya, Kato. Don goes to take a shower and Megan throws her cigarette onto the counter.



In NY, Henry comes in from driving Sally back to school. (So clearly, she did not actually hitchhike anywhere.) He asks Betty to come sit outside with him, but she throws a fit, saying she's comfortable in the kitchen. They quarrel and she says she's tired of everyone telling her to shut up. She's not stupid; she speaks Italian, dammit!



### ***Vaffanculo!***

Henry apologizes for embarrassing her and she says you mean you're sorry for forgetting to tell me what to think. Henry says if she's so smart, why doesn't she run for office? She says that's a good idea. Yeah, Clinton/Draper-Francis 2016!

Peggy's working in her office when Ginsberg comes in. With a small box. Hmm. He apologizes for his behavior on Saturday and says he's himself again. Peggy's glad to hear that. But he says he still has feelings for her. She says she's flattered, but that's what happens when you work with Ted people, and it's not real. Ginsberg says anyway, he's feeling better. He was being filled up with waves of data but was able to release the pressure. He hands her the box.



### **Do not open that box**

I won't say what I thought was in there, but it was only slightly less gross than what actually is. It looks like a slice of Canadian bacon, but nope, it's just his NIPPLE.



### **Who wants an Egg McMuffin?**

He calls it the “valve” and says “they” will sew it up but not remove it – he had to do that himself.



Peggy is (understandably) horrified and asks him to sit down and she’ll be right back...

She goes out and grabs her secretary’s phone.

Don is at the Algonquin Hotel. He steps aside and takes a deep breath before entering a private dining room where Lou and Harry Hamlin are meeting with the Phillip Morris guys.





### **Don Draper, damn glad to meet ya**

He introduces himself and Lou says they weren't expecting him. Don's like, no shit, dickhead. Don says he's here to say what the Phillip Morris men are too polite to say. One of the PM guys confirms that they might have a small problem working with the man "who cut our throat in the *New York Times*."

Don says he understands, but the man who wrote that letter was trying to save his business, not destroy theirs. He adds that he has over ten years of tobacco experience and he's the only cigarette man who has sat down with the opposition. He knows what their strategy is and he knows how to beat it.

The other PM guy says they don't turn on their friends as easily as Don does. But Don asks what the competition would think if PM were to make Don apologize and force him into their service. They stare at him as Don drops the mic and leaves.

Orderlies wheel Ginsberg out of the office on a gurney. Peggy is crying and Stan offers to ride down in the elevator with him.

In front of the Algonquin, Don smokes and waits for Lou and Harry Hamlin. They come out and Lou says that Don is incredible, but he doesn't mean it in a good way. Don says "thank you." Heh.



He puts them in a cab. Harry Hamlin sneers “you think this is going to save you, don’t you?” Don just smiles and whistles for a cab.



And we are out.

Yay, looks like Don’s got some mojo back. (I know he’s a dick, but I still root for him.) However, this season seems to be one step forward and two steps back, so he’ll probably be demoted to the mail room next week, if not fired outright. But it’s still nice to seem him doing something other than moping and drinking.

Whoever had “Ginzo’s psychotic” in the pool wins the big prize. I don’t think I’ll ever be able to eat pork again.

I wish they would show Betty being something other than a raging bitch. Although I do kind of think Sally needs a smack. (But we can wait until her nose heals.)

Was there ever any doubt that Stephanie would end up knocked up and living on the street?

What else...? Oh yeah, the threesome. That was the most un-sexy threesome ever. Don was like, “I’d rather be watching Saturday Night Live, which hasn’t even been invented yet, but I guess I’ll have perfunctory sex with my wife and her friend if I have to.” Was this a ploy by Megan to lure him to CA or does Megan have new special friend?

And finally, this whole episode reminded me of Beyond the Valley of the Dolls, which, if you haven’t seen it, you should rent it immediately.

So tell me, Trashies, what did you think? Only two more weeks

As always, thanks for reading and try not cut off any essential body parts, even if a computer is trying to turn you gay.

xoxo,  
SnoopK8

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