

Mad Men Recap: On the Road Again

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SnoopK8

May 7, 2015

Hello Trashies. This episode really pissed me off the first time I watched it, but then I watched it again and grudgingly decided maybe it wasn't so bad. Of course the Diana nonsense is annoying, but it wouldn't be *Mad Men* if Don weren't pursuing some chick I hated (see: Farrell, Suzanne and Rosen, Sylvia), so let's just put that aside for now.

Previously: The SC&P partners sold their souls to the devil in the striped tie and now the devil is calling in his favors. Also, Joan was sexually harassed at McCann and Don joked about dying in a pitch. WHAT COULD THAT POSSIBLY MEAN??

Well, the gang's made it over to McCann. Don rides the elevator like he does every damn ep, but this time it's a bunch of people we don't know because McCann is a huge, impersonal Death Star-sized hive and Don can't even find his way to his new office without Meredith having to meet him in the hallway and guide him.



Maybe if you came in sober for once, just saying

We also learn that Don can move into his new apartment next week if he would just pick paint. Right now, he is staying at the Plaza.

Meredith hands him an envelope filled with cash, a Social Security card and the engagement ring he gave Megan after knowing her for like two hours. Meredith grabbed the envelope for safekeeping from the movers. I feel like this is supposed to mean something, but it doesn't come up again, so maybe I'm reading too much into it.



Meredith reminds Don that he's driving Sally back to school the next day and warns him that Jim Hobart is back from vacation and ix-nay on the aps-nay. After she leaves, Don hears wind whipping through his windows. He presses on the glass.



Does this thing come out? Asking for a friend...

Back at SC&P, which looks like it's been gutted, Harry watches workers take away the giant computer, aka Ginsberg's Nemesis. Roger asks if Harry's going to share an office with it, but Harry says nah, it's served its purpose.



Besides, they haven't invented Internet porn yet

Meanwhile, he's excited to get to McCann, where they have fifteen people just handling data! Harry says he'll stop up and see Roger on the 26th floor, but Roger says don't bother. He'd just as soon have them build another floor to get away from Harry.

After Harry leaves, Shirley comes up to say goodbye to Roger. He protests and says she doesn't have to quit. But she already has a new job with Travelers Insurance. She says "advertising is not a very comfortable place for everyone," especially at McCann, which is clearly the seventh, eighth and ninth rings of Hell. She thanks Roger and speaks for everyone by saying he's very amusing.



Except for that blackfacething. That was just racist

Joan is in her new be-windowed office where two copywriters have brought her a plant and are trying to horn in on the Topaz, Butler Shoes, and especially – Avon – accounts. Joan tells them that Peggy handles those accounts. They say they understand and would be happy to scoop up Peggy's crumbs.



We hear Peggy has the best crumbs in town


They invite Joan to the Oyster Bar after work for their “Informal Ladies Club,” which they describe as “strictly consciousness-LOWERING.”



We mostly just get drunk and take selfies

Joan says maybe once she gets settled. Yeah, I really can't picture Joan hanging out with a bunch of chicks drinking Appletinis.

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Peggy's back at SC&P because there was a problem and her office at McCann isn't ready. Luckily our friend Ed is there to keep her company because he is not going to McCann or anywhere else for that matter. He is getting paid till the end of the week so he's gonna hang out and make long distance phone calls.



Remember when long distance phone calls were a big deal? I still have nightmares about trying to drunk dial people with a calling card. (So many *numbers*.)

Peggy pulls out a folder and hands it to Ed, saying that even though they lost Dow as client, they still owe them work. Ed's like, "Yeah, not happening." So instead she asks him to get Sugarberry Hams on the phone because her secretary is over at McCann and Peggy sure as shit ain't calling herself. Ed reluctantly accepts her Rolodex.

Don meets with Jim Hobart and Ferg Donnelly in Hobart's office. Hobart tells Don he's lined up "coffee and baloney" with Nabisco, National Cash Register and even Don's old pal Conrad Hilton. Hobart also says he bought an entire agency in Milwaukee so Don could have Miller Beer. Don's like, "For me?" Hobart says Don is his white whale and he's been chasing him for ten years.



Call me Ishmael

Meanwhile, Miller is coming in for “handshakes” this week to talk about their idea for a diet beer.

Hobart gets all creepy and says, “Have you said it yet?” Don’s like “...?” Hobart says, “Have you introduced yourself yet?” So Don says, “I’m Don Draper from McCann-Erickson.”



And I have the biggest (Moby) Dick in town

Joan and a McCann guy named Dennis are on a conference call with Barry from Avon in Atlanta. Joan assures Barry the same peeps will be working on Avon and everything will continue to be awesome. Dennis interrupts because he can’t have a *girl* running the call. He invites Barry to play golf at Augusta next time Dennis is in ATL.



Really, dude?

Barry gets all flustered and says he's not great at golf and he has to get off the phone because his next appointment is there. When they hang up, Joan's like "Barry's in a WHEELCHAIR, asshole." Dennis says it's Barry's fault for talking about "walking around the office." Joan's like, "It's an EXPRESSION."



Well, crippled people should not be allowed to use expressions

She says she mentioned the wheelchair in the brief she wrote for him, which he admits he didn't read. Joan gets angry, prompting Dennis to ask who gave her the right to be pissed off. Really, dude?



Why can't you just joke about my tits like everyone else?

Joan says, "All I ask is that you read the brief before the next call." Dennis: "Do it yourself. I thought you were gonna be fun." He flounces off.

Peggy is at home alone eating fast food when someone rings her bell. It's her secretary Marsha, who's brought her memos and flowers from McCann. At first Peggy's excited about the flowers, until Marsha tells her that ALL the secretaries got them.



Secre-WHAT?

Marsha says she will take care of it. In the meantime, Peggy can work in the pool. Peggy protests that she's a copy supervisor, and she will cut a bitch before she sets foot in McCann without an office. She will work from SC&P until her office is ready.


Hey, Don's in an elevator! Drink! Joan gets on and they are happy to see each other. He tells her to come by for a drink sometime. She says she misses him because the transition has been a little "bumpy."



Not as bumpy as the Jaguar guy, but...

He says he can still interfere if she wants. She says she'll figure it out. They agree to have lunch sometime.

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Meredith has put together some ideas to decorate Don's apartment. He's impressed and offers to pay her in cash to decorate for him, but she says she will do it for free. She reminds him he has lunch in the boardroom with Miller that afternoon.

Joan heads up to the executive floor looking for Ferg Donnelly. She runs into him and Pete on their way to a meeting with Sears. Pete seems happy and says he is going to put in a request so Joan can work with him.



I'll ask the king to order it

Joan asks to speak with Ferg about the Avon transition. Joan says she can't work with Dennis because while she likes him personally, she's not sure how the client responded to him. Ferg says he'll take care of it.

Back at SC&P, Peggy comes into her old office to find Ed on the phone speaking Russian? Maybe he's a KGB agent. They could give him a spin-off prequel to *The Americans*. That's a fab idea, right? Call me, FX.



He tells her Stan called from McCann. He's on the 14th floor, he doesn't have a phone yet, but she should stop by sometime. By the way, he has some work for Dow. It's a cartoon that says "Cleans up Quagmire."



Peggy's like, "you're kidding, right?" She says she should take his work seriously because he could end up working for Dow or Ken Cosgrove someday. Meanwhile, the lights go out suddenly.



In Soviet Russia, lights turn off YOU

Ed's had enough since there's no power and no phone service, so he "quits" and asks Peggy to keep him in mind once she gets settled at McCann. She agrees despite the fact he seems like

kind of a douche. He dons a Mets cap (to prove he's a real American) and leaves.

Don arrives at the executive lunch room for the Miller meeting and seems surprised to find it's not just him and Miller, but him, Miller and half of the agency's creative directors.

Don runs into Ted and overhears an executive asking if Ted is there to "bring them up a notch," which is one of the things Jim Hobart had said to Don the day before.



I could be banging a waitress right now

A man named Bill Phillips from Conley Research convenes the meeting and gives everyone the research for Miller's diet beer.



There's not even any whiskey in my coke

Bill describes the man who would drink the beer as being from Wisconsin, Michigan or Ohio. Oh great, you HAD to say Wisconsin. Everyone scurries to take notes, except Don, who's looking out the window at the Empire State Building and the airplane flying over it.



I've never even HEARD of a meeting without whiskey

Bill is saying Fictional Beer Man loves sports because he used to play them and dogs because they don't talk. Everyone laughs. Don gets up and leaves. Ted just watches him walk out.




Because he's really high

Up in Joan's office, she is unpacking her sad little bag lunch. Ferg comes in and gets them both a drink. He says he spoke with Dennis, and what it looks like is some "junior account man" came in and started "swinging her elbows."

Joan says Dennis didn't read the brief, and anyway, she is not his junior. Ferg says Dennis isn't going to take orders from a WOMAN because he has a wife and three kids and how would it look to the clients. Joan says it happens all the time these days. In fact Peggy Olson is a copy chief. Ferg's like, yeah, whatever, and that's probably not even happening anymore.

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HOWEVER, Ferg says he didn't come to upset her; he's here to help her keep her status with her accounts. He suggests they pay Barry a visit in Atlanta.



I'll give you a RIDE down there

Joan's says that's not necessary because Barry will be in NYC soon and Avon corporate HQ is just a few blocks away. Ferg assures her he's not expecting "anything more than a good time," and adds, "I also hope to get to know you better."



I'm sorry, your subtle innuendo is going over my head

He shakes her hand and says, "From now on, no one comes between me and your business."



Except my COCK

As he leaves he says, "You can't lose those accounts, otherwise what would you do around here?"



Besides ME



FML

Up in Westchester, Betty's reading Oedipus Freud at the kitchen table, when Glen Bishop Don arrives looking to bring Sally back to school. Unfortunately, Sally already got a ride from a friend and Don never got the message. Betty tells him Sally's just being independent and they can't be mad at her for that because it's normal. Don asks if that's what Freud said. Betty chuckles and says she hasn't met anyone normal yet.

Don asks what's wrong and she says she's sore from carrying \$100 worth of textbooks across campus yesterday. Don stands behind her and rubs her neck and I soooooo want these two to get back together even if it makes no sense.



Lower...

He asks where the boys are. She says Bobby's at baseball and Gene's at ~~mime class~~ Cub Scouts. They won't be back until 6:30. Don hesitates – take her upstairs, dammit! – but then says he'll let her get back to her studies.



I'd bang ya, but you're not damaged enough

When she explains she's always wanted to get her Masters, he says, "Knock 'em dead, Birdie." Aww. See, there's still something there. C'mon, Weiner, make it happen. I mean, Henry's fiiiine, but a Don and Betty reunion would make up for the parade of odious brunettes we've had to put up with for seven seasons.

Peggy makes instant coffee in the SC&P kitchen. She drops the mug by accident and leaves it there.

If there's anything more exciting than Don taking the elevator, it's Don driving. He takes an exit toward Pennsylvania and New Jersey.



I'm sure he's just in the mood for some outlet shopping

Joan is in bed with Richard. He wants her to call in sick so he can fly her to Bermuda or Cape Cod, but she's all "you don't own me" and says she has a lot of work. He says just because he told her not to complain, doesn't mean he doesn't want to hear how her day was. Um, I think that's exactly what it means, but whatevs.


She says she asked the wrong person for help and now she doesn't know how to get out of it. He tells her to quit if she doesn't like her job. Joan says they owe her half a million dollars and she can't just walk away from it. Richard says okay, then, this is a business problem. I can deal with that.



As long as we don't have to talk about your feelings

He says best way to handle a business problem is to call a lawyer or a "guy." Joan asks what does a guy do? Richard says if it's the right guy, he just has to show up. Thanks, dude, that's super helpful.

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Don's still driving and the radio tells us he's outside Cleveland.

We haven't had a Don-lucination in a few episodes, so here's Bert Cooper in the passenger seat to bug him about driving in the wrong direction. Don says he's going to Racine, because of course he is. Bert says, "Are you going to see some waitress who doesn't care about you? You shouldn't do that."

Listen to your hallucination Don!

Don's all, "eff off, didn't you read *On the Road*? I'm riding the rails! Like a hobo! With a code!" Bert says of course he hasn't read that Beatnik crap.



I haven't read anything since *Atlas Shrugged*

Don snaps out of it and says out loud that he's really tired.

Next day at SC&P, Peggy hears a phone ringing in the distance. It's the pay phone outside reception and she goes to answer it. Marsha says Peggy finally has an office at McCann and she can come over anytime as long as she doesn't mind working on a drafting table until her stuff gets there. By the way, this is like the fourth or fifth reference to furniture, so all you English majors out there are welcome to float me a theory as to what that's supposed to mean. You know it means something. I would totally do it myself, but I'm too busy writing Don and Betty fanfic in my head.

Peggy hangs up and freaks out when she hears creepy music. She investigates and finds that it's just Roger playing an organ. Since when is there an organ?



See, not a euphemism

He says he's there to pack up his stuff, which he will do as soon as he tracks down some booze. Unfortunately, he can't find any anywhere. He tries to get Peggy to go to the store for him. She refuses (because she's not a secretary, yo), but offers him some Vermouth.

Joan gets a card with a note from Ferg that says "Pick a weekend." She throws it away.

Hobart comes into Don's office looking for Don, only to find Meredith sitting at Don's desk. He says Don missed a meeting with Nabisco and National Cash Register just left, so Don might as well take the rest of the day off. Hobart asks if Don went on a bender. Meredith assures him Don is just driving his kid back to school, but she looks worried.



I've never seen Don and Batman in the same place at the same time...

Roger and Peggy drink Vermouth while Roger goes through his personal effects. Peggy: "I'm not enjoying this." So Roger gives her Bert's Octopussy picture, which she is reluctant to accept because it's weird and creepy she thinks no one at McCann will take her seriously.



Yeah, this will totally make them like me

Roger tells her now that he's given her something, she needs to stay and keep him company.

They commiserate about moving to McCann. Peggy blames Roger for selling out. But he says she should know better than to get attached to walls even when your name is on the door. Peggy says she hopes to have that problem someday. She says she's looking forward to the new challenges McCann will bring and so should he. Roger tells a story about WWII in the Pacific and how he needed a push to jump off his carrier to swim in the ocean. He calls SC&P "a hell of a boat."



Here's to swimmin' with bow-legged women. Not you, sweetheart

Peggy takes another drink and says it's her "one for the road." Roger tells her she can't show up at McCann's drunk at 4:00 pm on her first day.

SOMEWHERE OUT WEST, Don rings a doorbell in a leafy suburb (is there any other kind) looking for Mrs. Bauer. The woman who answers says she is Mrs. Bauer, but she's not the dour Bauer.




He scams his way into the house by saying he is Bill Phillips from Conley Research and Diana Bauer entered a contest and won a refrigerator full of beer. The woman, Laura, says Don should speak to her husband – Diana is his ex-wife. She offers Don some iced tea and Wednesday Addams comes over to tell Don that if her mom won something, she should be able to collect it.



Don: "That makes sense. Hey, wanna go out to the alley?" (j/k! That's gross.)

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Joan comes into Jim Hobart's office to obliquely complain about Ferg by saying her accounts – Hobart interrupts her to say “you mean OUR accounts,” – aren't getting the right attention. She mentions that she is a partner at SC&P and that she doesn't want to work with Ferg anymore. Hobart says Ferg is very important around there and he doesn't care about her stupid status at SC&P or her partnership. He insults her by saying he doesn't know if someone left it to her in his will or what.



Joan says fine, she'll just take the half-mil he owes her and be on her way. He says she's not telling him how to run his business and if she doesn't like it, she can talk to a lawyer. Joan says great, she'll go to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and talk to a lawyer there. He tells her to F off and for that, she can take fifty cents on the dollar. Joan says she's not negotiating. He says, fine, get out of his office and he'd rather give the money to a lawyer.



Satan don't surf

Back in Wisconsin, Laura's husband George McFly is home and he's apparently not as dumb as his wife.



He asks who the hell Don really is, and Don says okay, you got me. I'm with a collection agency and I need to know where Diana is. George says last he heard she was in New York, now leave them alone and get out.

George walks Don outside, notes Don's Caddy, his clothes and his shoes and says he knows Don isn't really from a collection agency. He says Don's not the first guy to come looking for Diana. I guess there's just something about her flat affect and dead eyes that sends middle-aged alcoholics into paroxysms of desire. George says he lost his daughter to god and his wife to the devil. He was just started to get his life back together and then Don showed up to ruin everything.

He says Don can't save Diana, only Jesus can. And maybe some yoga or something. He suggests Don ask Jesus for help too.



And keep your damn hands off her!

In New York, Roger plays the organ and Peggy roller skates through the halls of SC&P. What the hell?



Is this one of Don's hallucinations?

Next morning, Roger shows up at McCann to find Hobart looking for him. Hobart asks if ANYone from SC&P is planning to work there. He says this deal is turning to be the con of the century. He says Don walked out of a meeting on Wednesday and hasn't come back yet. Roger: "He does that." Heh.



Hobart tells Roger it's not too late to let the ax fly and number one on the list is "that redhead." He brings Roger up to speed about Joan's threats.

Peggy walks into the office in sunglasses with a cig in her mouth, carrying her stuff and the Octopussy painting.



Secretary this, bitches

Roger comes into Joan's office to tell her she should take Hobart's "50-cents-on-the-dollar" deal because Roger can't help her. Joan says it's not about the money, but Roger says it's ONLY about the money. He says he knows it's his fault and he's trying to take care of it, but Joan started something that could leave her with nothing. Take the money. Hobart's good for it. She takes her picture of Kevin and her Rolodex, and flatly says, "Tell him he has a deal," before walking out.



Et tu, Roger?

Hey guys – Don's still driving! He picks up a hippie hitchhiker who's heading to St. Paul. Don says that's great, he can take him, even though it's totally out of the way.



St. Paul, for those of you keeping track, is WEST of Racine (and yes, I had to look it up), so it looks like Donnie is still driving in the wrong direction.

And that, my friends, is a wrap. What did you think? Is Don throwing it all away to go live on a beach in California, or is he going to off himself, like so many blog commenters suggest? I told you McCann would be a rough adjustment for our peeps, but I bet Peggy will make a go of it. Any theories for the last two eps? Is it really ending ? What will I do with my life after *Mad Men*?

Anyway, as always, thanks for reading, and have a great week.

xoxo,
SnoopK8

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