


Mad Men Recap: Shoot the Moon

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Hello, Trashies. I can't believe we are already done with *Mad Men* for 2014. Damn you, AMC.

Previously: Peggy seems to have replaced her cat with 10-year-old Julio who lives upstairs. (That farm with all the missing *Mad Men* pets is getting crowded.) Pete asked Don to give the Burger Chef presentation. Don crashed a meeting with Commander Cigarettes. Megan was mad that Don wouldn't move to L.A. Pete screamed at Ted for being a mopey loser.

Bert Cooper is at home watching Apollo 11 lift off.



And he wants his MTV

Ted is flying his (tiny, scary) plane with two guys from Sunkist. They discuss the moon launch, and Ted says maybe the astronauts won't make it and all their problems will be over. It's nice to see Ted out of the office for a change. He cuts the engines and points out a nice spot on the ground that would be a "good spot for smoldering wreckage." The Sunkist guys prepare to die.



Cut to...Harry Hamlin's office. He is on the phone with Ted as Pete stands over him. Harry Hamlin reprimands Ted for scaring the crap out of their client, but Pete is downright livid and screams at him.



Hell's bells, Ted!

Ted admits he doesn't really want to die; he just doesn't want to work in advertising anymore. Wait – did Ted go on to write *What Color is Your Parachute*? Hmm. Ted wants Harry Hamlin to buy him out. Harry Hamlin says Ted doesn't know what he is talking about and hangs up on him.

Lou comes into Harry Hamlin's office to report that Commander Cigarettes is dead; Leo Burnett says they're "rolling it up with the rest of Phillip Morris." Harry Hamlin says that's too bad, but at least now everyone knows SC&P is back in the tobacco saddle. Lou is angry (for a change) and yells that he's been a cigarette man for ten years and it all went to hell in one meeting. He says he's going to "crawl out of this place" with nothing to show for it. Harry Hamlin says SC&P doesn't owe Lou anything; he's a hired hand and he needs to get back to work.



Well, you wanted to be an Underdog

In Westchester, the Francis family is having guests for the weekend. It's Betty's college friend Carolyn, her husband and two sons. Since when does Betty have friends? The sons are Sean, who looks 45, and Neil, who is probably around Sally's age. Sally totally has the hots for Sean.



At SC&P, the Burger Chef team is assembled to go over a presentation they are giving in Indianapolis on Monday. Harry says now that he's up for a partnership, his wife Jennifer has stopped talking about divorce. Pete says she's just postponing the conversation.



Can two divorced men share an advertising partnership without driving each other crazy?

Harry asks Don what he should hold out for and Don says he shouldn't negotiate, he should just accept the deal. Of course he would say that. He is Don freaking Draper and money is no object.

They rehearse the presentation and Don and Peggy's goodwill from last week seems to still be in effect. Pete seems a little jealous of their interaction, but Pete always seems a little jealous, so who knows if that means anything.

Peggy comes home to find a hot guy in her apartment. His name is Nick and he is there to help install ceiling tiles.



Peggy is clearly intrigued by this development. Julio walks in and Nick says that Peggy's "son" was a big help all day. Peggy is quick to say that Julio is just her neighbor and that she owns the building. Nick writes something on a piece of paper and Peggy immediately gets huffy, saying she is not paying until the work is done. Calm down, Peggy. The gentleman is just giving you his number – in case she has any "odd jobs" for him.



I might need you to lay some pipe

Next day, Betty and Carolyn chat in the kitchen over breakfast. Carolyn asks Betty if she ever sees Don and Betty says only when she absolutely has to. She's starting to think of him as an old bad boyfriend, the kind a "teenage anthropologist" would marry. Sean comes in shirtless and surly, asking for oatmeal. Carolyn tells him to go get decent. He bumps into Sally on the way out to her lifeguard job.



Sally is wearing lipstick to the pool, which Betty cattily mentions after she leaves.



I taught her everything she knows

Don arrives at work to find Meredith waiting for him. In his office, she shows him a letter from the agency's attorney saying that he is in breach of contract for the Commander meeting.



"Dear Don: What part of 'stay out of the meetings' don't you understand?"

Meredith says she knows he is very confused and vulnerable, but she will be his strength. She kisses him and asks what she can do to help.



Really?

He says she can get his attorney on the phone and leave him alone, 'cause Donnie don't need no clinging vines.

Don storms into Harry Hamlin's office, kicking out an underling in the process.



He says, “you think you can throw me out of my own company?” Harry Hamlin says it’s cut and dried – he broke the stipulations by crashing the cigarette meeting. Don says Harry Hamlin set the meeting to force him out, what else was he supposed to do? Wait, does that mean that Harry Crane was involved and working with Harry Hamlin to set Don up this whole time? Is that too much of a conspiracy theory? Probably, because I don’t think Harry Crane is that smooth.

Harry Hamlin says before the merger, he was intimidated by Don Draper, international man of mystery. But once he got a look behind the curtain, he realized that Don is just a bully and a drunk.



I may also be a bully, but at least I can hold my liquor

Harry Hamlin says Don was most eloquent when he was “blubbering like a little girl” about his impoverished childhood. Don looks like he wants to beat the crap out of Harry Hamlin, but he restrains himself. Harry Hamlin tells him to go ahead and hit him; it will make everything easier.

Don stalks out to get the rest of the partners. Joan is the only one who’s seen the letter – everyone else is just finding out about it. Pete says this is outrageous – they have the Burger Chef presentation on Monday. Roger says he is voting against this right now. Harry Hamlin says it’s not up for a vote because Don blatantly broke his contract. Don says if Harry Hamlin wants to play parliamentary procedure, they can vote on it right now. Which they do. Harry Hamlin and, by proxy, Ted are in favor.



Two words. Sounds like “funk woolly.”

Joan also raises her hand.

Et tu, Joanie?

Roger, Cooper, Pete and Don are opposed. Motion denied.

Don walks away and Pete yells to Harry Hamlin that Don is a “very sensitive piece of horse flesh” and he shouldn’t be rattled.





I've been sucking up to Don for seven seasons and you are not going to fuck that up

Roger asks Joan if she knew about the letter. She says no, but she's tired of Don costing her money. Harry Hamlin says they all set those stipulations and Don signed them. Regardless, Joan says he shouldn't have done this.

Peggy is packing for Indianapolis when Julio comes in. She asks his advice about an outfit for the presentation, but he just wants to watch TV. He tells her that his mom is making them move to Newark because his uncle has a house there and can get her a job. He cries, because, well, Newark. Peggy tries to comfort him and it's about as comforting as you would expect from Peggy Olson.



There, there



This is no way reminds me of the secret baby I gave away who is conveniently around your age

Julio says his mom doesn't care about him, and Peggy, crying, says of course his mom cares about him – that's why she's moving. Peggy has a sad. Good thing she has a cat to keep her company.

Don is also packing. He calls Megan in L.A., where she is reading out on her balcony. I do like her balcony, I will give her that much. He tells her about his possible firing and says he doesn't know what to do. He thought if he kept his head down and did his job, everything would be fine, but they still apparently want him to move on. Megan says maybe he should move on. Is she still talking about his job? He says this could be an opportunity and perhaps he should move to L.A....



Don asks if that's what Megan wants. After about an hour of silence, she says, "Don." He gets it and says he'll always take care of her. Okay, how do I get a deal like that. She says "Goodbye, Don."



Phew, that was close

Back at the office, Roger bursts into Bert's office to ask what they're going to do about Harry Hamlin. Bert says whoever is in control is in charge. Roger says they're in charge; they have the votes except for "Benedict Joan." Bert expositos that Don cost Joan a million bucks when they failed to go public last season. But back to Don. Bert says no man has ever come back from leave, not even Napoleon. Roger says if that's the case, why not just vote him out? Bert says because he is a leader, and a leader is loyal to his team, which Don doesn't understand. As for Roger, Bert says he has talent, skill and experience, but he is not a leader. Harry Hamlin on the other hand, has a vision, but he is not part of Bert's team. What a dilemma.

Harry Crane and Peggy are sitting together on the plane. The pilot makes a comment about the astronauts and Peggy crosses herself. Harry comments that now he's going to be nervous. Peggy says if the astronauts don't make it, they will have to postpone Burger Chef for a year. There's that Peggy Olson empathy we know and love.

Pete and Don are also seatmates. Pete tells Don not to worry, because the Don Draper show is back from its "unscheduled interruption." Don says he's not worried. Pete suggests maybe Don should move to L.A. because Ted is f*ing everything up and is one step away from pulling a Lane Pryce. Don says he really has no reason to go out there, implying it's over with Megan. Pete calls marriage a racket.



I don't supposed you'd want to meet me in the restroom in 60 seconds...

That night, everyone is gathered in their respective homes (or hotel room) to watch the moon landing.





At the Francis', Carolyn calls the landing "incredible." Sean, the surly older son, says what's incredible is the fact that it cost \$25 billion, when there are so many problems on earth. Ugh, teenagers.

The phone rings and Betty makes Sally answer it. It's Don and he says "isn't this something?" Sally parrots that it's such a waste of money when there are hungry people on earth. Don tells her not to be cynical, especially not because of some hulking Che Guevara wannabe who looks three times her age. (I may be paraphrasing.)

Roger gets a phone call, says "oh shit," and hangs up.

He goes into the office... and takes Bert's name plate off his door.



Oh shit

Coop is dead. RIP Bert Cooper. Joan and Harry Hamlin show up. Joan says she'll have an obit ready in an hour and they can divide up the clients and let them know what happened. Harry Hamlin says it's tragic, but at least they can have a conversation with their clients about the future of the agency – including about Don Draper's departure.



Sorry you lost your longtime friend and partner, but this is a perfect opportunity to advance my vendetta

Harry Hamlin says the agency needs to be about computer services – media buys pinpointed with surgical accuracy – the agency of the future. Roger is disgusted and walks away.

In Westchester, Neil, the younger son, is outside looking through a telescope when Sally comes out to smoke. He entices her to look at Polaris through the telescope and after she does, she kisses him out of nowhere. Didn't Betty yell at her in season two about kissing boys? Neil says "what do I do now?" Luckily for him, he is saved by his mom, who yells at him to get to bed. Sally stands there and smokes, unruffled.

Sally Draper, maneater





My work here is done

Roger calls Don in Indianapolis to tell him about Bert and to say that with Bert's death and Harry's impending partnership, they won't have the votes to keep Don. Roger says he should have known it was coming because whenever an old man talks about Napoleon, you know he's going to die. He adds that Bert was hard on him, but maybe he deserved it. Don says that Bert was very proud of Roger.

Don goes to Peggy's room to tell her she has to give the Burger Chef presentation. She thinks he's joking and freaks out upon learning he's serious. He explains the sitch – Harry Hamlin wants to get rid of him and if Don wins Burger Chef, Peggy will have nothing. But if SHE wins it, they have to give it to her. Peggy says she's not prepared and maybe they should cancel it because of the moon landing. I think I'm going to start using that as an excuse to get out of things.



Fuuuuuuuuuck

Don says he wouldn't ask Peggy to do it if he didn't think she could. She says he's never even

seen her present. He says he's "overhead" things. Heh.

The next morning, Roger meets with Jim Hobart from McCann Erickson and asks if Buick has left them yet.



Aroo?

Roger says SC&P has built a pretty good relationship with GM and GM knows SC&P is primed for a bigger car. Also, their account guy just moved there. Jim concedes that Roger has a point.

Roger says Jim made the initial overture, what did he have in mind? Jim says he wants the whole Chevy team – including Ted. Roger proposes that Jim buy the company – including all its accounts, employees and "cutting-edge" computer, and run it as a subsidiary of McCann. Roger adds that Jim can have Burger Chef back if they win the account and Roger can have his company back without all the CGC baggage. Jim says he's on board, but only if Roger buries the hatchet with Ted. Roger doesn't know if he can do that. Jim says in that case, he doesn't know if he can help Roger.

The Burger Chef meeting is underway and Peggy is nervous. Don smiles at her and introduces her, saying "every great ad tells a story. Here to tell that story is Peggy Olson." Peggy makes the pitch which is based on the idea is that families are disengaged and starving for connection. The premise is "there's chaos at home, but there's family supper at Burger Chef." The Burger Chef people seem to like it and Don clearly could not be prouder of Peggy.



Later that night, Don arrives back home to find Roger waiting for him in the hallway.



Hey, sailor

Roger tells Don about the McCann offer. Don asks if Roger forgot they started the agency to avoid working for McCann in the first place. Roger says they'd be a subsidiary and would be able to operate independently. Roger says that Roger would be president of SC&P and Don could keep his job – his REAL job. He reminds him that Harry Hamlin is trying to have Don thrown out by the end of the week. And by the way, Don will make a fortune if McCann buys 51% of the company. Don accedes, but doesn't seem entirely convinced. Roger says Harry Hamlin won't stop until the agency consists of just Harry Crane and the computer.

Next morning, the partners (including Ted, who hasn't killed himself yet) meet in Roger's office.



Harry Hamlin has a poem to read for Bert, but more importantly, he wants to get to the business of firing Don as soon as possible. Roger tells him to chill, then he presents the McCann deal: 51%; independent operations and they will all have five-year contracts. Joan asks what that means money-wise. Roger explains that with her 5% stake, she stands to make about \$1.5 million. That's all she needs to hear. Pete is also excited, because he has a 10% stake. Harry Hamlin yells at them not to count their chickens because the idea is pathetic and delusional.



Speaking of which... Get out, Harry

Roger says it doesn't matter what Harry Hamlin thinks, because McCann only cares about Roger, Don and Ted. Harry Hamlin can't believe that Don would sign a five-year contract with McCann, but Don says he thought about it and he will do anything to save his company. Buzzkill Ted says he's sorry to screw everything up for everyone, but he has NO INTEREST in signing a five-year contract. He is DUNZO. Pete yells that he stands to make \$6 million. He doesn't care because he would still make plenty of money if he sold his partnership stake normally. Joan is pissed and Pete calls him not just pathetic, but selfish as well.

Don turns on the Draper charm and says what if Ted just did the creative work and didn't have

to deal with the business aspect of it? He says he knows whereof he speaks, because he lost all that last year and he realized he would do anything to get back into it. He wrote taglines and coupons, stuff he hadn't done since he first started working in the biz.

Don adds he knows Ted doesn't have to work for SC&P, but he has to WORK. He won't want to see what happens when it's really gone. Ted thinks about it and asks if he can move back to NYC. Roger says that means he's in and suggests they vote. All are in favor... including Harry Hamlin. Roger looks at him like, "really?" Harry Hamlin says it's a lot of money. Heh.

They disband and Peggy comes to find Don. She just got off the phone with Burger Chef and they got the account.



Don says he's not surprised, because he heard what the Burger Chef people heard. She asks where he's going and he says back to work.

Don goes downstairs... where he meets... Ghost Bert Cooper... who (obviously) does a song and dance number to "the best things in life are free."



OMG, WTF. Also, LOL.

And with that, my friends, season seven part one is a wrap. What did you guys think???

I love that Don and Peggy are back to being BFFs and it looks like Don finally has his life (sort of) on track. Ghost Bert was great. Oh, and adios, Megan. Finally. All in all, it was a very satisfying ending, which means that things are for sure going to fall apart in the second half.

I'm especially happy that we had a whole (half) season with no creepy Glen and no whorehouse flashbacks. Was there anything you were hoping for that either did or did not get delivered either this season or this episode?

Anyway, thanks for sticking with me for the last seven weeks. Have a great summer, and if all goes well, I guess I'll see ya next year.

xoxo,
SnoopK8

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