

# Mad Men Recap: Stupor Man Returns

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April 29, 2014

Hello again, Trashies. Welcome back to the happiest happy hour on television.

Previously on *Mad Men*: Don meddled with Ted and Peggy's *Rosemary's Baby* St. Joseph's spot, sowing seeds of bitterness that linger till this day. Megan moved to L.A. to try to make it in Hollywood. Harry Hamlin is angry that the agency is still paying Don. Don told Sally he hasn't been working and that he still loves Megan, even though he wants to live as far away from her as physically possible.

We open with Don at the movies, which isn't much different from how he spent his days when he was working. However, it's a big step up from watching *The Little Rascals* in a bathrobe, so kudos, Don.



## Congrats on getting dressed today

That evening at Chez Draper, Don calls Dawn, who is still at the office. She's swamped because of her new job and can't make it to his apartment for their nightly rendezvous. She gives him his messages, including one that Megan's agent Alan Silver is trying to reach him. He asks her to get Alan on the phone, but her other lines are ringing off the hook and she puts him on hold. So of course he hangs up on her. Nice, Don. Be mean to the only person who still puts up with your shit.

He calls Alan, who informs him that Megan has gone off the rails.



### **She's nuttier than a San Francisco sauna**

She messed up an audition and begged for a do-over. When that didn't work, she tracked down the director and stalked him at a lunch with Rod Serling, where she tearfully demanded another reading. Alan says he didn't know who else to call since Don is probably the closest thing Megan has to a manager and he doesn't want the story to get around town. By all means, Don is exactly the person to call for damage control. Alan says Don knows her best; maybe can get Megan to relax and regain her confidence. Or perhaps she should just try the Relax-A-Cisor; that might be more useful at this point.

At SC&P, Peggy's sitting outside Lou's office when Ginsberg and Stan arrive.



Ginsberg got nominated for a Clio for his work on Playtex, while Peggy's St. Joseph's spot got nothing. Ginsberg is kind of a dick about it. Well, actually, Peggy isn't exactly gracious, saying she GAVE Ginzo the Playtex account when she left, after having worked it for years. Ginsberg says maybe she didn't work it right.



### **I'll work you, twerp**

Do you really want to go there, Ginsberg? Peggy has been a *little* on edge lately.

Don gets on a plane to L.A. and of course knows the stewardess by name. He's going out to surprise Megan but the biggest surprise may be that he orders a tomato juice instead of an old fashioned.

In Lou's office, Peggy, Stan and Ginsberg present story boards for Chevalier Noir, a new perfume brought to you by the folks who gave you Chevalier Blanc. Lou asks why there is artwork at this early juncture and Peggy says it helps to sell the story. Lou says it's a waste of time and money, even though Stan says it only took a minute. Lou yells at Stan to stay out of it. Peggy yells at Lou to just look at it since it's already done.



### **I will cut you**

Lou asks what Peggy's damage is, and it turns out, she's mad about the Clio, even though she says she isn't. Lou says Harry Hamlin pulled the *Rosemary's Baby* spot from consideration because St. Joseph's is still upset it went over budget AND because Ted has won so many awards for them. Ginsberg helpfully says that Peggy should feel better knowing she wasn't rejected, just not considered at all. Lou says he's sorry, but Peggy doesn't believe the client doesn't care about awards and I have to agree with her because Lou is a slimy jerk.

It's Betty! And Francine! In a pantsuit! Having lunch. Betty is talking about life as a political wife (Henry patched things up with Rocky, so maybe he'll be on the short list for Attorney General). Francine is a travel agent for Wanderlust Travel and works in the office three days a week. She really likes it.



### **I didn't even try to poison my family at Thanksgiving this year**

Betty doesn't understand why she would want to work in an office. Francine says with the kids in school, she has less to do and more time alone in the house. She needs the challenge. Betty says there are plenty of challenges ahead. Francine says okay, she means she needs the reward. Betty says she thought the children WERE the reward. Is she joking? Betty hates her kids.





**What are you talking about? I love those malignant parasites**

Betty adds that maybe she is just old-fashioned and Francine says that's exactly how she would describe Betty Draper.

Hey, it's Harry Crane. He's in a meeting with the guys from Koss and Harry Hamlin.



**Congrats! It's a Crane!**

The Koss guys are concerned about a *New York Times* article touting rival agency Gray's computer. Harry claims the article is a pure PR piece and SC&P's computer data is just as good as Gray's. In fact, someday soon they will be able to offer local market data integrated with national market data.

This seems to pacify the Koss guys and they leave happy. But Harry Hamlin stops Harry Crane on his way out and wants to know why the name Gray has to come up in a meeting in the first place. Harry Crane says it could have been SC&P if anyone appreciated their media department. Harry Hamlin tells Harry his self-pity is distasteful. Harry walks out on him.

In CA, Don is alone in Megan's apartment putting some flowers in a vase.



**Do I have time to get plastered before my wife comes home?**



### Guess not

Megan comes in and is happy that he surprised her. She says she would never have admitted how much she wanted him to and asks if he got fired or something. Record scratch. Don says no, he just had a hankering to see her. She says she's going to give him an "extra special hankering." They're talking about sex, in case you were wondering.

Back in Westchester, Betty comes home to find Bobby and Baby Gene (who is like 6 now and apparently doesn't ever speak) doing their homework with a housekeeper who is not Carla.



Betty volunteers to chaperone Bobby's field trip to a farm the next day.

Don and Meg cuddle après sex. Megan says she needed that because she's been walking around in a cloud of "no." Don's like, "yeah, about that..." He says that everyone else is getting rejected too, but maybe they're not being all angry and desperate about it like she is. Megan's like, "why the hell are you even here?" Don admits that Alan called him. Megan says great, now she has to fire him. Don says don't fire him, just stop acting like a fucking lunatic.



**You stole someone's identity and lived a lie for 30 years, but I'M the lunatic?**

She's super pissed and says she was stupid to think that Don actually missed her. In fact, she knows something's going on, and maybe she should fly to NYC and surprise him sometime. Megan says she can never reach him at work and he always has to call her back and when he does it's always quiet. Megan: Sorry to interrupt your love affairs with the disaster of my career. Don's like "bitch, you crazy."

However, he got bit by the truth-telling bug last week with Sally, so he actually comes out and admits that he was put on leave. Megan is furious that he got fired LAST YEAR and didn't tell her. He says technically he wasn't fired because he's still getting paid. He says he didn't want to tell her until he knew he could fix it. And by the way, there's no other chick and he hasn't even been drinking that much. ("That much" being the operative words.)

Megan says that's worse, because that means he clear-headedly decided he didn't want to be with her in California. She kicks him out.





**What is it with bitches who won't put up with a few lies?**

In NYC, Harry Crane gets a call from the *Wall Street Journal*. They want to interview him about SC&P's computer, thanks to Harry Hamlin who dropped the dime. Only problem is, there IS no SC&P computer. Harry Crane says it's all semantics – they use A computer; he told Koss it was THEIR computer. He asks for a computer every Christmas, but no one at SC&P gives a crap about the media department. Also, he's pretty sure that somebody somewhere is working on a way to gather local market data, but not them. Harry Hamlin calls Harry Crane possibly the most dishonest man he's ever worked with. Heh.



**And I've been partners with Don "Dick Whitman" Draper for a year now**

Harry Crane stalks out, yelling that he's not the one who called the *WSJ* and tells Harry Hamlin to kill the story.

Don's back in NYC. He calls Dave Wooster, the man he met with last week from Wells Rich Greene, and sets a dinner meeting for that night at the Algonquin Hotel.

At the dinner, Dave and some other dude hand Don an envelope with an offer. He declines to look at it right there. Some Marcia Brady-looking chick comes up, saying she was looking at Don because she thinks she knows him from somewhere.



**Just came by to see if “something suddenly came up”**

Don rebuffs her, but she lets him know where her hotel room is anyway. Is she the most subtle hooker ever or is she supposed to be somebody?

Don knocks on a hotel room door... and Roger answers.



The room is free of hippies at the moment, but like I said before, you never really get rid of them. Don shows him the offer from WRG and Roger says he should take it. Don reminds him that HE started SC&P and had to talk Roger into it. Roger counters, saying he found Don at the bottom of a fur box. Is that a euphemism for something?

Don says he never would have done to Roger what the partners did to him. Roger tells him to stop being a baby and says Don was a disaster and they did him a favor. Don says well then, he guess he has his answer. Roger says he didn't know the question. If Don wants to come back, he should come back. Roger admits that he misses him and tells him to come in on Monday.

Just then Roger's hippie girlfriend comes back with a bag of food and Roger introduces her.





**He's banging that and I'M the disaster?**

Don calls Megan late-night. He says he shouldn't have lied to her, and although he can't undo anything, maybe he can fix it. Megan says the only way to fix things is for him to get a job in California.



**What am I wearing? Disgust and regret that I married a jackass**

He says he didn't tell her about the leave because if she found out, she wouldn't look at him the same way. She yells at him for thinking she's a fucking idiot and for "pushing her away with both hands." She tells him not to lie to her anymore. He offers to come out for the weekend but she says it's not a good idea.



Bobby and Betty are on a school bus for the field trip, where outside it looks like full-blown summer. Is this a time-travel field trip or did we skip ahead a few months? Because wasn't it just Valentine's Day last week? Nice try, Weiner.



Bobby and Betty are discussing monsters. Bobby likes the Wolf Man because he changes INTO a monster, but Betty reminds him that Dracula also changes into a bat. Kind of like Betty changes from a normal person into a passive-aggressive psycho (spoiler alert). Bobby's teacher comes by to thank Betty for chaperoning and when she leaves, Betty makes a crack about the fact the teacher's boobs are practically hanging out.



### **Tits-ch for America**

Back in NYC, it's time for Don's big homecoming. He goes into the office to find that no one knows he's coming and Roger is nowhere to be found. He awkwardly speaks to Lou, who is NOT happy to see him. Don says he will keep himself occupied until Roger shows up. When he walks away, Lou tells Shirley to get Harry Hamlin on the horn immediately.

Don heads towards the door, but is stopped by Ginsberg who calls him into the creative lounge and proceeds to tell him about the Chevalier campaign. Don feigns interest and Ginsberg goes to Peggy to get the story boards for Chevalier. Peggy can't believe that Don is there. Haha, it

looks like Meredith is Peggy's secretary now, LOL. They sneak out of the office to peek at him, but return to work without speaking to him.



Dawn comes by and confirms that she (nor anyone) had any idea that Don was supposed to show up today. Don sends her for coffee and sits with the team to learn what they've been working on.

Down on the Farm of Magical Summer in February, the kids go into the barn to see the cows. There's no smoking in the barn so Betty stays behind to finish her cigarette with another mom. The other mom remarks that she hopes the kids don't pull the wrong udder – referring to the bra-less teacher.



### **Udderly appalling!**

A little later inside the barn, the teacher asks if anyone wants to try fresh-from-the-cow milk and Betty volunteers, drinking straight from the pail. I guess Drinking Warm Cow Milk is the new Cooking with Squatters.



### **I saw Cooking with Squatters open for the Spin Doctors in '92**

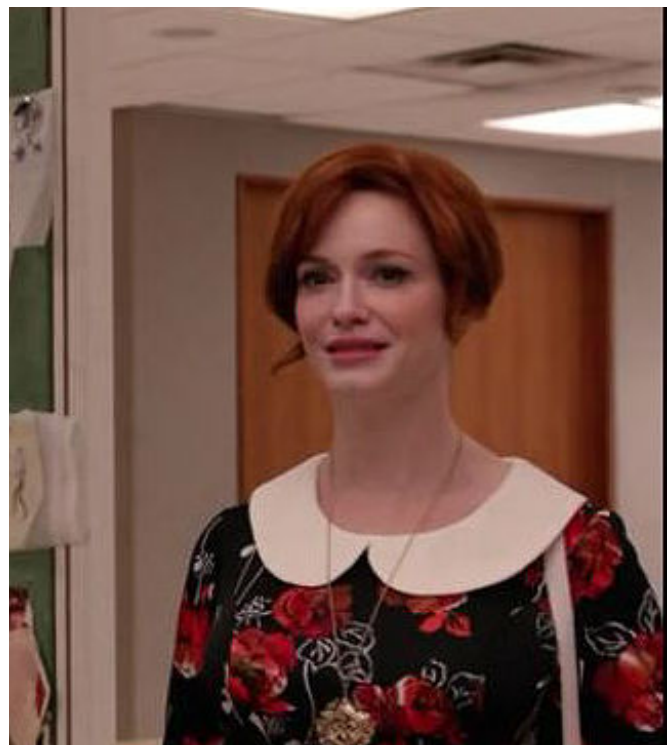
Later, Bobby spreads a blanket on the ground so he and Betty can eat lunch. She goes inside to wash her hands and when she comes back, Bobby has traded her sandwich to a girl for a bag of gumdrops. Bobby offers to get the sandwich back, but Betty yells at him and forces him to eat the gumdrops.

At SC&P, Ken and Joan come in to say hi to Don. Joan says "what a pleasant surprise," and by that she means "fuck off."

### **I'd rather have drinks with the Jaguar guy**

She goes upstairs to tatttle to Burt Cooper that there's a Draper in the house, while Kenny stays behind to show Don pics of his new baby on the Central Park carousel, which he says always reminds him of Don (back when he wasn't a pathetic loser).

One of the random writers whose name I never learned is regaling Don with a story about who the fuck knows what, when Lou comes up and tells the creatives to get into his office.







Stan tries to pretend they had a meeting scheduled, but Ginsberg asks “what meeting” before realizing it’s a ruse. Smooth move, Ginzo.

Don passes time in the lounge by reading *Time* magazine until Roger finally shows up drunk as a skunk. Don yells that he could have at least told someone Don was coming in. Roger says he doesn’t have to tell anyone anything because his name is on the door and he’s the president of the agency. Don yells at him to go call a meeting and Roger totters off.

Harry Hamlin comes in and is all “WTF are you doing here?”



### **I thought we divorced you**

Shirley comes in to pull Harry Hamlin into Lou’s office, where Lou is furious. Lou warns that they can get rid of him, but they will still have to pay him because of his contract. Harry Hamlin tells Lou to calm down and says he’ll take care of it. Lou says he’s seen this before, and they might want to call security to get Don out.

Up in Coop’s office, the partners discuss their communal ex-wife. Roger explains that Don came to him in remorse and said he’s ready to come back to work. Harry Hamlin says unfortunately, they fired him. Roger says no, they didn’t fire him, because Roger never would



have agreed to that. Joan says the leave of absence was a very clear message and they are still mopping up the Hershey's damage and anyway, how would he possibly fit in now? Cooper doesn't agree that they fired him, but he did expect them revisit the topic at some point as a group.

Meanwhile, Cooper says he doesn't like the way the agency is being spoken of lately and Roger says it's because their creative is invisible because Lou is a hack who sucks. He didn't submit anything for a Clio that he personally didn't have a hand in. Which means he lied to Peggy, right? Dick. Harry Hamlin says Lou is adequate but Harry CRANE is the problem. He thinks they should invest in a computer, which they could do if they got rid of Don's salary.

However, after some discussion, they realize that buying out Don's partnership would take years to recoup. And Roger points out that if they fire Don, they would lose his non-compete and do they really want to see Mary Wells sitting on Don's lap the next time they go to present somewhere? So maybe things are looking up for Don? Maybe?



At the Francis house, Gene and Bobby are eating dinner when Henry comes home. He asks if Betty ate dinner and she says she WAS hungry, but not anymore. Well, as long as she's handling her misplaced anger in a healthy and constructive way. She takes Gene upstairs to give him a bath and Henry asks Bobby what his crazy-ass mother is talking about now. Bobby won't reveal anything, just says he wishes it were yesterday. Poor Bobby.

At SC&P, Don's still sitting alone in the creative lounge. Peggy comes up and asks how his day was. He says that remains to be seen. Peggy asks if he's coming back to work and he says he thought so, but now he's not so sure. Wow, that's kind of an honest assessment. I don't even know you anymore, Don. She says "Well, I can't say that we miss you." Don says "thank you, Peggy." Heh.



**No, thank YOU for sending my married lover 3,000 miles away from me**

Betty's lying on her bed with Gene, watching TV. Henry comes in to ask what the hell happened that day. Betty says everything was perfect until Bobby ruined it. Then she asks if Henry thinks she's a good mother. Henry says of course. Betty: Then why don't they love me? Henry: How much time do you have?

He points to Gene and says that Gene loves her. She says it's only a matter of time. Oh Betty. Your self-pity is exhausting.



**I will smother him until he's old enough to hate me too**

At SC&P, Dawn finally comes in to tell Don the partners want to see him in the conference room.



### **Welcome to the jungle**

After some chit-chat, Cooper invites Don to come back to work, provided he comply with the following stipulations (or get fired): He's not allowed to be alone with clients; He must stick to partner-approved scripts; no drinking at the office (whoa-harsh); he gets Lane's old office and... he must report to Lou. Oh man, they really don't want him back. There's no way in hell he'll agree to those terms, especially reporting to Lou. Don looks at the paper for a bit and says...



**"Okay."**

Whut??

And we are out. Whoa. I did not see that coming, but I suppose it makes sense. Don just wants to get back to work. He's putting his ego on the shelf for now, but I don't foresee this lasting very long. There's no way Lou's getting through this whole season without some kind of Draper/ Olson smackdown.

Did anyone else cheer when Megan kicked Don to the curb? It's not that I don't like her *per se*, I'm just so SICK of her. I like Don way better when he is catting around NYC.

And I'm glad that Betty is still bitchy and judgmental. It's too bad she is ruining her kids' lives, though. (And that's probably as good an explanation as any as to why Gene doesn't speak.)

Anyway, what did you guys think? Is Harry Crane really out of there, like Roger mentioned in passing? Can Peggy and Don's work marriage be saved? Let me know!

As always, thanks for reading and have a great week!

xoxo,  
SnoopK8

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