

30 ROCK

105

"Jack Meets Dennis"

by

Jack Burditt

Directed by

Juan Campanella

Executive Producers:

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Tina Fey

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Broadway Video Television
254 West 54th St, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10019

SHOOTING DRAFT – 9/22/06

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30 ROCK
105: "Jack Meets Dennis "
SHOOTING DRAFT
9/22/06

CAST LIST

LIZTINA FEY
JACK.....ALEC BALDWIN
TRACY.....TRACY MORGAN
JENNA..... JANE KRAKOWSKI
KENNETH.....JACK MCBRAYER
PETE.....SCOTT ADSIT
FRANK.....JUDAH FRIEDLANDER
ELIZABETH TAYLOR.....RACHEL DRATCH
TOOFER.....KEITH POWELL
JOSH.....LONNY ROSS
CERIE.....KATRINA BOWDEN
DENNIS.....DEAN WINTERS
HOWARD.....BRIAN STACK
STAGE MANAGER.....TBD
OLD LADY.....TBD
AFRICAN GUY.....TBD
SANDWICH GUY.....TBD

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LOCATIONS

INT. WRITERS' ROOM
INT. STUDIO
INT. STUDIO BACKSTAGE
INT. LIZ'S OFFICE
INT. JACK'S OFFICE
INT. TRACY'S DRESSING ROOM
INT. JENNA'S DRESSING ROOM
INT. JOSH'S DRESSING ROOM
INT. WARDROBE
INT. ELEVATOR
INT. LIZ'S APARTMENT
INT. RESTAURANT
INT. SANDWICH SHOP
EXT. ROCKEFELLER CENTER
EXT. 50TH STREET

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. ROCKEFELLER CENTER - MORNING

1

LIZ makes her way through the CROWD with DENNIS, her recently off-again but suddenly on-again boyfriend. They are holding hands.

LIZ

It's so sweet of you to walk me to work today.

DENNIS

Hey, you're my girl and I take care of you. Plus, maybe we'll run into Natalie Morales. That little firecracker gets my blood running south of the border.

*
*
*

LIZ

That's less sweet.

DENNIS

Hey, I'll drop by tonight. Maybe I'll pick up some Chinese.

*

LIZ

Aw, you said "Chinese" instead of something offensive.

DENNIS

I told you, losing you last year changed me. I'm more mature now.

*

She leans in for a quick kiss. Dennis gives her a peck on the cheek then rubs her head like a little brother.

*

LIZ

Ow, that really hurts, Dennis.

Dennis laughs, then happily heads off down the street. Liz laughs, too. She turns and runs into JENNA.

JENNA

(with judgement)

You're back with Dennis?

LIZ

Yeah, I'm back with Dennis. Don't look at me with your eyebrows all up. That's so annoying.

JENNA

Yes, I'm annoying. Not the guy who honked your boobs on the jumbo screen.

LIZ

That was before. And it was the playoffs.

JENNA

Does he still work at that beeper store? What is it, "Beeper King"?

LIZ

He is the King now. The old Beeper King retired... Well, technically he shot himself. So Dennis took over and now he's the only beeper salesman left in Manhattan, which is cool in a way -- you're doing the eyebrow thing again.

*
*
*

JENNA

Because it's Dennis. Who are you trying to fool? This is me.

LIZ

Exactly. You're not allowed to give dating advice. You sent a letter to Scott Peterson.

JENNA

After he dyed his hair and got super thin from all the stress, are you kidding me? He was smoking.

LIZ
Dennis is a good guy. Okay?

JENNA
Not really. So when did this happen?

LIZ
Last week was my birthday, which no one remembered by the way, except Dennis. He called, we went out, it wasn't too strange or sad...

JENNA
How's the sex?

LIZ
Fast and only on Saturdays. It's perfect.

CUT TO:

2 INT. WRITERS' ROOM - DAY

2

Liz, PETE and THE WRITERS, including TOOFER and FRANK, are working. TRACY storms in waving an US Weekly. *

TRACY
Did you see this? It's horrible. *

PETE
I know, Ashley Simpson copies everything her sister does. *

TRACY
No. They're printing libel about me again. Libel, Liz Lemon! *

Liz checks out the magazine. It's a nice photo of Tracy walking out of a Starbucks with a dog in tow. A banner across the photo reads: "NORMAL." Liz is confused.

LIZ
Uh... how dare they?

TRACY
That's what I'm saying. This is character assassination. This ain't normal! It only looks like I'm walking out of Starbucks. Actually, I'm doing the robot backwards into Starbucks.

Tracy demonstrates doing the robot backwards.

TRACY (CONT'D)

And I don't even know whose dog that is. That's right, I steal dogs.

LIZ

So what's the problem?

TRACY

I can't be normal! If I am normal, I am boring. If I am boring, I am not a movie star. And if I am not a movie star, I am poor. And poor people cannot afford to pay back the seventy-five grand they owe Quincy Jones!

*
*
*
*

Tracy exits.

*

LIZ

Talking to that guy, it's like looking in a mirror.

*
*
*

CUT TO:

3

INT. WARDROBE - LATER

3

Jenna walks into wardrobe.

JENNA

Well, my armpit rash is back...

She stops when she sees JACK going through the wardrobe rack.

JENNA (CONT'D)

Jack? You're in wardrobe.

JACK

The latest research is in. Our audience doesn't like green.

*
*

JENNA

That's too bad. I like green.

JACK

Research doesn't lie. It lets us know what we're thinking. What's too boring, what's too gay, what's too old --

*

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JENNA
What's too old?

JACK

That's a good question. How old
are you? *

Jenna has clearly been down this road before. This should
play rapid-fire. She has her answers ready.

JENNA

I'm twenty-nine.

JACK

Really? What year were you born?

JENNA

1977.

JACK

What year did you graduate from
high school?

JENNA

'94.

JACK

You'll turn forty in...?

JENNA

2017.

JACK

Junior high crush?

JENNA

Kirk Cameron.

JACK

Prom theme?

JENNA

Motownphilly, Boys 2 Men.

JACK

You lost your virginity at what
movie?

JENNA

Arachnophobia.

JACK

Theater or drive-in?

JENNA

What's a drive-in?

JACK

Of course. I don't know why I even bothered to ask. I can tell from your physical appearance that you are obviously...

(decides not to humiliate her)

Twenty-nine.

JENNA

(knows he's not buying it)

Yes.

CUT TO:

4 INT. LIZ'S OFFICE - NIGHT

4

Liz is alone in her darkened office, eating a sub sandwich and listening to her iPod. She sings along to "Annie." A tuxedo-clad Jack drops by and watches Liz for a beat. *

LIZ

BETCHA HE READS, BETCHA SHE SEWS.
MAYBE SHE'S MADE ME A CLOSET OF
CLOTHES --

(sees Jack)

Aagh!

JACK

Did I startle you?

LIZ

Shouldn't you be playing baccarat somewhere?

JACK

What tragedy happened in your life, Lemon, that makes you want to punish yourself with mediocrity?

LIZ

What? 'Cause I'm eating a turkey sub?

JACK

Turkey sub, your clothes, the fact that a woman of your position and resources lives like a boxcar hobo. *

(MORE)

JACK (cont'd)

Or maybe it's because, as I say all
this, you have a piece of lettuce
in your hair.

*
*

Jack writes down a number and hands it to Liz.

JACK (CONT'D)

This is the unlisted number of
Stone, the most exclusive restaurant
in the city. It's time you enjoyed
some of the finer things in life.

*

LIZ

Totally unsolicited and
inappropriate. I will only take
it, because I love food.

JACK

Do you know why Jack Welch was the
greatest leader since the pharaohs?
Because he involved himself not
just in our work lives but in our
personal lives. He introduced us
to the finest booze and most
restrictive country clubs. He gave
us the names of the most discreet
private investigators to spy on our
first wives. He held our hands,
through our triumphs and our Senate
Hearings. Why? Because greatness
is a full-time pursuit. I want to
hold your hand, Lemon.

*
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*
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*

LIZ

Yikes.

JACK

This is a perfect example.

Jack goes to Liz's windows. Her blinds are closed.

JACK (CONT'D)

You have this million dollar view,
yet you refuse to acknowledge
there's a world out there.

Jack opens the blinds. We do not see what Jack sees but he
is momentarily thrown.

JACK (CONT'D)

Oh, there appears to be a gentleman
making angry, passionate, deviant
love to himself.

LIZ
Yeah, that's why I closed the
blinds in the first place.

JACK
Right in his office.
(turns back to Liz)
Lemon, I'm a winner. And I like to
be surrounded by winners. I see
potential in you. Let me be your
Jack Welch. Let me be your mentor.

LIZ
No thank you.

JACK
That's unfortunate.
(looks back out window)
You have to admire his persistence
and stamina. Am I wrong or is he
in a staff meeting?

LIZ
Maybe you should be his mentor.

JACK
He obviously doesn't need one. *
He's got it all figured out. *

CUT TO:

5 INT. STUDIO BACKSTAGE - NEXT MORNING

5

KENNETH leads a TOUR through the hallways of 30 Rock.

KENNETH
...and that former call girl went *
on to become one of NBC's biggest *
news anchors.

Kenneth stops, concerned, as he sees Tracy coming.

KENNETH (CONT'D)
Star coming! Wall hug, everyone.

The tour group quickly flattens against the wall. Tracy
hurries by. AN OLD LADY is excited to see Tracy.

OLD LADY
That's Tracy Jordan! He seems like
such a nice, normal young man.

Tracy stops dead in his tracks, then turns to the tour.

TRACY

Normal!? I took a mannequin to my
prom! I just bought a timeshare in
Fallujah! Two weeks ago I was in a
duel! I am not normal!

*
*
*
*

OLD LADY

He can even poke fun at himself
just like a normal person.

The tour applauds his performance. Tracy hurries off,
continuing to yell that he is not normal.

CUT TO:

6 INT. WRITERS' ROOM - LATER THAT MORNING

6

Liz is going over work with a disinterested CERIE.

LIZ

...so the page numbers, when done
right, should be sequential.

JOSH walks by. Cerie sees him.

CERIE

Oh, Josh, Liz Taylor's assistant
called. They wanted the address
here to send you something.

JOSH

For real? That's awesome. She
must have seen my impression of
her. "Butterfield 8's" Miss Gloria
Wandrous wants to send me
something!

Josh's excitement attracts the attention of Frank and Toofer.

FRANK

Sounds like someone loves Liz
Taylor.

JOSH

I do.

TOOFER
No, we mean love love. *

FRANK
Like if she walked in right now and
said she wanted to have sex, you
would. *

JOSH
I definitely would. *

FRANK
What? *

JOSH
No, I'm totally serious. Wouldn't
you guys? *

FRANK
No! She's old enough to be -- *

JOSH
Very experienced and tender? I
know. *

TOOFER
Make him stop. Now that image is
in my head. *

FRANK
Yeah, let's go look at crime scene
photos to cleanse our palates. *

Frank and Toofer exit, passing Jenna. Jenna goes to Liz. *

JENNA
What's wrong with them? *

LIZ
They were thinking about old lady
sex and now they're broken. *

Jenna bristles at this in light of recent events. *

JENNA
Jack asked me how old I am. *

LIZ
What did you say? *

JENNA
Twenty-nine. *

Liz bursts out laughing, hard.

LIZ

I'm sorry, Jenna, relax.

JENNA

I cannot and will not relax, Liz.
I'm an actress. When someone asks
an actress how old she is it's more
statement than question.

CERIE

When my mom's feeling old she goes
to this guy on 71st Street.

JENNA

Your mom?

CERIE

But she's old. She's like thirty-
eight.

JENNA

I'm gonna be sick.

LIZ

Don't let Jack upset you. Nothing
he says to any of us is worth
losing sleep over. Do you know
what he told me?

JENNA

So we're talking about you now?

CUT TO:

7

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

7

Liz and Dennis eat at Stone, the upscale restaurant Jack
suggested. Dennis wears a crappy tie. They are making fun
of A COUPLE at another table. *
*
*

DENNIS

Okay, that old guy over there with
the girl -- daughter or mistress?

LIZ

God, I hope that's his daughter.

They keep watching. Their faces turn to disgust.

LIZ (CONT'D)

God, I hope that's his mistress.

They both laugh. Dennis sees a guy walking by in a tuxedo.

DENNIS

Hey, James Bond, some more rolls
here? *

The man turns around. It is Jack with a STUNNING WOMAN on
his arm.

JACK
Well, what a pleasant surprise,
Lemon. And you brought a man.
(extends hand)
Jack Donaghy.
(re: hot woman)
This is my friend Anastasia.

DENNIS
(shakes hand)
Dennis Duffy. Beeper King.

JACK
"Beeper King"? Really?

LIZ
(jumping in)
Yeah, Dennis has his own business.
He's an entrepreneur. He's very
successful.

DENNIS
You've probably seen my
advertisements on the 7 train.

Jack looks at Liz and bites his tongue. Then:

JACK
(re: Dennis's plate)
I didn't realize you could get
chicken nuggets here.

Liz is growing embarrassed, she's seeing how Dennis looks in
Jack's eyes.

LIZ
It's cod. They made it special.
Dennis has some dietary
restrictions.

DENNIS
I'm allergic to all fish unless
it's fried.

JACK
I see. I like your tie, Dennis.

DENNIS
That douchebag in the front made me
wear it.

*
*
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*

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JACK
Andre is a douchebag, you're right,
Dennis.

*
*
*

Liz just wants this to end.

LIZ

Anyway, thanks for the hook-up.
This is clearly the nicest
restaurant we've ever been to.

DENNIS

(cocky)

This place isn't that nice.
Believe me. It has rats and
roaches like any other restaurant.

LIZ

No rat talk tonight, okay?

DENNIS

There are seventeen rats for every
person in Manhattan. You eat a
pound of rat excrement every year
without even knowing it. *

JACK

Yes, I think I read that in The New
Yorker. I'll leave you two to your
meal. I do hope you enjoy the
choices you've made.

Jack pats Dennis on the back and gives Liz the slightest
look, a look that says, "This is the life you've chosen."

CUT TO:

8

INT. ELEVATOR - NEXT MORNING

8

Liz gets on the elevator. Just as the doors are closing Jack
steps on. Neither says anything. They ride up in
uncomfortable silence until Liz can't stand it.

LIZ

I enjoyed the restaurant. Thanks.

(beat)

Just say it. Say what you're dying
to say.

Beat. Jack just smiles.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Dennis is nice to me, okay? He
fixed my toilet. He broke it
first, but he fixed it. And he
loves hockey and I'm figuring it
out. And I get a lot of work done.
It's easy. *

(MORE)

LIZ (CONT'D)

I don't have time for a personal life. I can't just go to Central Park and join the singles touch football league. Like I'd want to anyway. The people in those posters, always laughing in their sweaters. Who are they fooling?

Still nothing but silence from Jack.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Oh, okay, you're not going to say anything because I rejected you as a mentor. Who cares? If I want to talk about Dennis or anything else I'll go to Jenna. *

The elevator doors open. Liz steps off the elevator and continues talking. Jack does not get off with her. *

LIZ (CONT'D)

The bottom line is Dennis is my boyfriend because he inquired. He was the only applicant. I'm not -- *

Liz stops and realizes that the elevator doors have closed behind her and she's been talking to herself. *

LIZ

Doing great. *

CUT TO:

9 INT. STUDIO BACKSTAGE/JENNA'S DRESSING ROOM - LATER 9

Liz knocks and enters Jenna's dressing room.

LIZ

Hey, Jenna, do you --

Liz sees Jenna. She has dots all over her grotesquely swollen and reddish face. The topper though, is her freakishly gigantic lips.

LIZ (CONT'D)

What did you do to yourself?!

JENNA

Me? Nothing. I'm just getting more rest, drinking more water.

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LIZ

Uh-huh. Now this water, did
someone boil it first then throw it
in your face?

*
*
*

JENNA

Okay, I had a little Botox and some collagen, and something with shark DNA. Admit it, I look ten years younger.

LIZ

Oh no, younger even. You look like a fetus.

(then)

God I came here to talk to you about my problems. With Dennis.

*
*

JENNA

I can't right now, honey. If I don't do my facial exercises I could wind up looking weird.

LIZ

(realizing)

I mentioned Dennis and your eyebrows didn't go up.

JENNA

(panicked)

They didn't?

(tries)

Did they now?

Liz sighs and exits.

CUT TO:

10 INT. WRITERS' ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

10

THE WRITERS and STAFF are working. Dennis drops by. He carries a box with a ribbon on it and a briefcase.

DENNIS

Is Liz here?

CERIE

She should be right back. Is that a gift for her?

DENNIS

Yeah. If she doesn't come here soon I'll have to poke some air holes in it.

(then, to the room)

I can't help but notice that none of you are wearing beepers.

LIZ

Dennis, what are you doing here?!

DENNIS

I brought you a present.

Dennis cracks open the box to show Liz, notices something and takes the lid off.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Oh, it got out. If anyone sees a salamander, it's Liz's.

LIZ

I don't want a salamander! And I don't want you here trying to sell beepers.

DENNIS

Why not? You work at a business. Business people need beepers.

LIZ

No, they need cell phones.

DENNIS

For now, sure. But the beeper's gonna make a comeback. Technology is cyclical.

LIZ

Technology is not --

Liz sees Jack and Pete come out of Pete's office. Jack has undoubtedly heard everything Dennis has been saying. Liz is mortified.

JACK

I thought I recognized that voice. How are you, Dennis? Did you enjoy that restaurant?

DENNIS

Nah, I was right about that place. When we were leaving we saw a whole nest of rats.

LIZ

No we didn't.

DENNIS

Yeah, I didn't tell you because I knew you'd freak out. I think it might have been a rat king.

FRANK

Aren't rat kings a myth?

CERIE

What's a rat king? *

FRANK

When a bunch of rats are crammed into a small space, their tails get tangled up and they can't pull apart. *

DENNIS

And then it gets awesome. Their bodies eventually fuse into one, forming a multi-headed live rat king. And Liz and I saw one! *

JACK

Well, I hope you took a picture with the camera on your... beeper. *

DENNIS

It doesn't have a camera but it does have a pedometer. *

Jack smiles at Liz and exits with Pete through the copier room door. Liz turns to Dennis. *

LIZ

(furious whisper)
I'd like to talk to you in my office right now --

Liz stops, in shock. Tracy has entered through the other door. Covering most of his face is an insane Mike Tyson-esque tattoo that looks like a dragon is eating his face. He addresses the shocked staff. *

TRACY

Who's normal now? You hear me, America? Who's normal now!?

Liz reacts.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11 INT. TRACY'S DRESSING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

11

Liz and Pete confront Tracy.

LIZ

How could you do this to the show?

TRACY

I got the tattoo for the good of
the show. It gives us an edge.
That's why you brought me on. And
when you purchase Tracy Jordan he
comes with a tattoo of a biblical
dragon from outer space.

*
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*

PETE

It's going to take forever to cover
that thing with makeup.

*
*

TRACY

I don't want to cover it. This is
a political statement.

*

PETE

What's the statement?

TRACY

That I'm crazier than crazy.

LIZ

So kind of a Kim Jong-il approach
to your career.

TRACY

You can't put makeup on my tattoo,
Liz Lemon. It's in my contract.

Tracy exits. Liz calls after him.

LIZ

No it's not.

PETE

Actually, he's got a pretty weird
contract.

LIZ

God. First Jenna looks like
Gollum, now this idiot? What do we
do? *

PETE

This is going to be Josh's busiest
show ever.

CUT TO:

12 INT. LIZ'S OFFICE - LATER

12

Liz works in her office. Jack enters. He has a beeper
prominently displayed on his belt. Liz notices.

LIZ

Oh, okay, very funny. You bought a
pager from Dennis. Would you
please take it off now?

JACK

I can't. I'm expecting a call from
1983.

LIZ

He's nice to me, okay? He handles
the calls from tele-marketers.

JACK

Liz, I want you to meet Howard
Jorgensen.

HOWARD, a handsome, polished man in his mid-30s enters. Liz
and Howard exchange greetings.

JACK (CONT'D)

Howard is executive vice president
of locomotives, a true rising star
at GE. I think you two have a lot
in common.

LIZ

(to Jack)

You are relentless.

(then to Howard)

Look, Howard, you're obviously an
attractive and confident man, and
at another time in my life I could
definitely see the two of us
together.

(MORE)

LIZ (cont'd)

I don't know what Jack told you or
what fantasy he's concocted about
us, but it's not going to happen.

HOWARD

I'm married with two beautiful kids
and a pool.

(sotto, to Jack)

You weren't kidding, she is
abrasive. *

JACK

Lemon, I'm not "fixing you up"; I'm
trying to show you my handiwork. I
used to mentor Howard.

HOWARD

I was a lot like you. I dressed
poorly, had bad posture, walked
around with lettuce in my hair. *

LIZ

(removing lettuce) *

Son of a bitch. *

HOWARD

And I cursed like a sailor. But
Jack saw potential in me. He
changed my life. *

JACK

Now Howard's making seven figures
and married to a beautiful
Filipina. *

LIZ

I told you, I don't need a mentor.

JACK

Fine. Then I'm going to say this
to you as your employer and not
your mentor. You should seriously
air this place out. *

Jack and Howard exit. *

CUT TO:

13

INT. STUDIO BACKSTAGE - DAY

13

Kenneth is giving another TOUR, answering a question.

KENNETH

I don't know why Brian Williams is
so tan. That's a good question.

(sees Tracy coming)

Good morning, Mr. --

(sees tattoo)

Oh my!

TRACY

What's up regular citizens? I'm
gonna eat your babies!

The tourists react, frightened. People gasp and clutch their
children to them. Tracy is pleased with this response. He
cackles to himself as he exits.

KENNETH

Oh my, that tattoo is real scary.

Jenna crosses through to be seen by the tour.

JENNA

Hello and welcome to our --

KENNETH

(high-pitched)

Aaaaaaa!

People recoil from Jenna's weird face. She exits, not pleased.

CUT TO:

14 INT. JOSH'S DRESSING ROOM - DAY

14

Josh and Kenneth play Chutes and Ladders.

JOSH

I can't believe I'm actually in every sketch this week.

KENNETH

It's suddenly all happening for us.

JOSH

(re: game)

I win. I'm going down to rehearsal.

Josh exits into the hall.

*

CUT TO:

15 INT. STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

15

Josh walks under the bleachers. A frail, wigged woman half emerges from the shadows behind him.

*

LIZ TAYLOR

Josh!

*

*

Josh turns around.

*

JOSH

Oh, Miss Taylor. When your office said you were sending something I didn't realize it would be you!

ANGLE ON: ELIZABETH TAYLOR [Dratch] is there. Shadows obscure all but her violet eyes, hair and tons of diamonds.

LIZ TAYLOR

But I had to give you this gift in person, Josh. *

JOSH

Oh, I'm just glad you weren't offended by my impression.

LIZ TAYLOR

Oh no, I was. Deeply. I'm here to give you the gift of pain. *

JOSH

Wha --?

She rips a nearby fire extinguisher from the wall and in one motion starts viciously beating Josh with it.

CUT TO:

16 INT. WRITERS' ROOM/SANDWICH SHOP - AFTERNOON 16 *

This scene is a phone call intercut between Pete at the office and Liz in line for a sandwich at a chain sub shop. A SANDWICH GUY prepares her sandwich. In the office, Josh has a broken nose and an eye swollen shut. *

PETE

Liz Taylor really messed him up. He might have brain damage.

LIZ

Maybe the musical guest can do some extra songs this week. Who is it?

PETE

James Blunt.

LIZ

Oh.
(to sandwich guy)
No, I said no lettuce. *

PETE

Are you at that crappy sandwich place again?

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LIZ

Okay, why is everyone judging all
my choices lately?

(MORE)

LIZ (cont'd)

This place is fine. It's convenient, it's consistent, I know what I'm getting. And it doesn't make me feel bad about my body. Maybe I'm at an age where it's okay for me to settle for this.

*
*

PETE

Are we still talking about the sandwich place?

LIZ

I don't think we are, sadly.

Liz looks at her finished sandwich. CLOSE ON THE SANDWICH: It looks bland and unappetizing. It's messy. Mustard drips down the side. There might even be a band-aid in it.

LIZ (CONT'D)

It's all wrong.

*

Liz throws some money down and hurries out, leaving her sandwich behind.

*

SANDWICH GUY

(calling off)

What's wrong with it?!

*
*
*

The sandwich guy looks down at the sandwich. A beat.

*

SANDWICH GUY

Oh my God. I need to break up with my girlfriend.

*
*
*

SMASH CUT TO:

17 INT. JACK'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

17

Jack is at his desk. Liz blows in.

LIZ

Okay. I admit it. Dennis isn't a sandwich I want to eat every day for the rest of my life. I'm clueless when it comes to men. I'm clueless when it comes to everything that isn't this show. Maybe you can tell me how to live, because sadly, you may be the most stable person I know right now. I'm saying it, Jack. I need your help.

30 ROCK 105: "Jack Meets Dennis"
Shooting Draft (White)

24A.
9/22/06

Jack waits until she's finished.

JACK
Gentlemen, let's finish this
briefing at another time.

Liz realizes she is on speakerphone.

HOWARD (O.S.)
It's her again, isn't it?

LIZ
Hi, Howard.

Jack hangs up the phone.

JACK
This is the first day of the rest
of your life, Liz. And what is the
first thing you need to do?

LIZ
I have to break up with Dennis.

JACK
And why?

LIZ
Because he wears shirts with the
Looney Tunes embroidered on them.
Because he cuts his own hair.
Because that one little nice thing
he does doesn't make up for the
fact that I don't want to be seen
with him in public!

JACK
And if you don't break up with him
now?

LIZ
He'll just keep coming to work to
sell beepers. He'll keep calling
my mother to borrow money. He'll
get more and more entangled in my
life until I can't escape at all --
Oh my God.

JACK
That's right. He's the rat king.

Liz gasps in realization.

JACK (CONT'D)
And there's only one way to break
up with a rat. You have to cut him
off completely.

LIZ
I know...

JACK
You have to fill your heart with
steel wool and tin foil. You have
to be ruthless. You have to be
absolute. Remember always, you are
The Exterminator. Say it.

LIZ
(meekly)
I am The Exterminator.

JACK
Say it like you mean it.

LIZ
(loud)
I am The Exterminator!

JACK
Louder!

LIZ
I AM THE EXTERMINATOR!

JACK
Okay, calm down.

*
*
*
*

CUT TO:

18 INT. TRACY'S DRESSING ROOM - LATER

18

Liz enters. Tracy is asleep on the sofa.

LIZ
Hey, Tracy, they need you in
wardrobe.

Tracy wakes up, lifts his head. Some of the tattoo has
rubbed off onto the pillow.

LIZ (CONT'D)
Why is part of your face on the
pillow?

TRACY
Damn it, where's my Sharpies?

Tracy reaches for some color markers. Liz grabs his arm.

LIZ
It is fake!

30 ROCK 105: "Jack Meets Dennis"
Shooting Draft (White)

26A.
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TRACY

Look, I'm crazy, not stupid. A
movie star can't have a big old
permanent face tattoo.

(MORE)

TRACY (cont'd)

I just need to walk around with this for a week, get my picture all over the interweb, and show the world I'm still dangerous.

LIZ

But what happens next week when you don't have it anymore? You're going to look --

TRACY

Like I had extreme plastic surgery to get it removed. Boom. That's another "Not Normal."

LIZ

You know this is killing the show.

TRACY

I'm sorry, but I need to protect my reputation. You take away my street cred and I'm Wayne Brady.

LIZ

No, Wayne Brady has three Emmys. You have a People's Choice Award. That you stole from Wayne Brady.

*
*
*
*

TRACY

I shouldn't expect a white woman from Whiteville to understand street cred.

LIZ

First off, I'm not from Whiteville. I'm from White Haven, which honestly isn't as nice as it sounds.

*

(then)

But fine, if you really need to do this, keep the tattoo. For this week only.

*
*

CUT TO:

19

INT. STUDIO - NIGHT

19

Jenna, Josh and Tracy rehearse a political sketch. It looks crazy weird. Half of Josh's face is bandaged.

STAGE MANAGER

Quiet please. Rehearsing!

30 ROCK 105: "Jack Meets Dennis"
Shooting Draft (White)

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JENNA

Good evening, I'm Laura Bush.

TRACY

And I'm Condoleezza Rice.

JOSH

And I'm Jehhh Kegeegle-gurgle.

Josh is impossible to understand through his injuries. Pete and Liz watch on the monitor.

PETE

Well, we had a good run. *

Jack walks up and watches rehearsal with Liz and Pete. This is the first he's seen of the cast. *

JACK

What the hell happened here?

LIZ

The cast had a rough week.

ON THE MONITOR: The cast looking awful. *

JACK

These people can't be on television. What is the contingency plan for a crapstorm of this magnitude? *

LIZ

There is none.

PETE

We go live in half-an-hour. *

JACK

No wonder you find yourselves trapped in bad situations and dysfunctional relationships. You have no exit strategies. *

Jack walks off. Pete turns back to Liz.

PETE

He knows about my marriage?

Liz looks back at the stage.

LIZ

This is going to be a bad show. *

PETE *

Worse than when we let Tracy do
that tribute to August Wilson? *

LIZ *

That was my fault. I should have
asked him if he knew who he was. *

PETE *

Maybe we'll get pre-empted by some
national news event. How's Jimmy
Carter's health? *

And suddenly, the power goes out. *

LIZ

Oh, a blackout. That would take
care of it, too. *

PETE

No one panic, the backup generator
will kick in any second.

They wait. And then they wait some more. It is still dark.

PETE (CONT'D)

Okay, you can panic.

Panic ensues.

CUT TO:

A19 INT. STUDIO BACKSTAGE - LATER

A19 *

The power is still out but everything is under control. The
emergency lights are on. Kenneth, carrying a flashlight,
approaches Jack and Liz. *

LIZ *

Did everyone get out okay? *

KENNETH *

Yes, we're just waiting for Mr.
Jordan. *

(then) *

No electricity and I'm kind of
scared... *

(MORE) *

KENNETH (cont'd)
(still chipper)
It reminds me of my childhood.

*
*

Kenneth walks off. Jack and Liz walk down the hall toward the exit.

*
*

JACK
We dodged a bullet tonight, Lemon.

*

LIZ
Yeah, this blackout was certainly a fortunate coincidence. You didn't do it, right?

JACK
What do you think, I run the universe?

*

Tracy passes by with GRIZZ and DOTCOM. He complains to Jack.

TRACY
Yo, this blackout messed me up. I didn't get to debut my face dragon. Can I be on "The Today Show" tomorrow?

JACK

No, Tracy, you're going to Boston tomorrow. We have a lab experimenting in tattoo removal. It promises to be our biggest profit center once today's generation finally sobers up.

*

TRACY

The tattoo's fake, Donaghy.

JACK

Street cred. You're a genius. You can wear it next week.

Tracy walks off with Grizz and Dotcom. Liz shakes her head.

LIZ

A genius? He drew all over his face.

*

*

JACK

Sure, he might be the craziest actor of all time -- and yes that includes John Wilkes Booth -- but he's figured out what works for him. There's great power in figuring out who you are, Lemon.

LIZ

You live in a world I may never understand.

JACK

That's all about to change.

*

They exit out the double doors.

*

CUT TO:

*

20

EXT. 50TH STREET - MOMENTS LATER

20

*

Liz and Jack walk outside. The blackout is citywide. AFRICAN GUYS are selling flashlights.

*

*

AFRICAN GUY

*

Flashlight, twenty dollars!

*

Flashlight, twenty dollars!

*

Jack climbs into the longest limo anyone has ever seen.

30 ROCK 105: "Jack Meets Dennis"
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JACK
Can I give you a ride?

*
*

LIZ
I wouldn't want to crowd you.

JACK
Be strong, Lemon. Don't let Dennis
chew his way out of this.

Liz nods and watches Jack drive off.

CUT TO:

21 INT. LIZ'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

21

Dennis is asleep on the couch, holding a lit candle. Liz enters as the candle nearly ignites some newspapers.

LIZ
Dennis! Wake up!

DENNIS
What? Huh?

LIZ
God, you could've burned the place down!

DENNIS
I wish I had burned the place down.
There's no reason to live anymore.

Liz is pulled up at seeing Dennis so upset.

LIZ
What happened?

DENNIS
The Islanders lost tonight.

LIZ
Doesn't that happen a lot?

DENNIS
I knew you wouldn't understand.

Liz struggles with what to do for a beat. He just looks so sad. She reluctantly hugs him.

CUT TO:

22 INT. ELEVATOR - NEXT MORNING

22

Liz gets in the elevator. Jack is already there. A beat.

JACK
How'd it go?

LIZ
He moved in with me.

JACK
Of course he did.

30 ROCK 105: "Jack Meets Dennis"
Shooting Draft (White)

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As the elevator doors close, Liz's beeper goes off. And we:

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW