30ROCK

105

"Jack Meets Dennis"

by

Jack Burditt

Directed by

Juan Campanella

Executive Producers:
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Broadway Video Television
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CAST LIST

LIZ .................................................................TINA 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
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
FADE IN:

EXT. ROCKEFELLER CENTER - MORNING

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:

INT. WRITERS’ ROOM - DAY

Liz, PETE and THE WRITERS, including TOOFEY 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:

INT. WARDROBE - LATER

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 --
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:

INT. LIZ'S OFFICE - NIGHT

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 --
(see 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.

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:

INT. STUDIO BACKSTAGE - NEXT MORNING

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:

INT. WRITERS’ ROOM – LATER THAT MORNING

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:

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

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.
(expects 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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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:

INT. ELEVATOR - NEXT MORNING

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.


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:

INT. STUDIO BACKSTAGE/JENNA’S DRESSING ROOM - LATER

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.
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:

INT. WRITERS’ ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

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.
Dennis opens his beeper case.

FRANK
You sell beepers?

DENNIS
I sell a way of life, my friend.

FRANK
Cool. I could use some ironic accessories.

Dennis notices Toofer checking out the beepers.

DENNIS
You like hip hop, friend? I got some great new ring tones.

He presses a button. It doesn’t work.

DENNIS (CONT’D)
Dammit. Not again. I’ll take ten bucks off.

TOOFER
No, thanks.

DENNIS
Before you say no, think about this: if you’re ever trapped in an avalanche, rescue dogs have been known to zero in on the high-pitched beep of a pager.

FRANK
What about wolves?

DENNIS
Industry experts are making strides with the wolf problem.

Liz enters.
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

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.

END OF ACT ONE

FADE OUT.
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. TRACY'S DRESSING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

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.

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:

INT. LIZ'S OFFICE - LATER

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:

INT. STUDIO BACKSTAGE - DAY

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

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

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:

INT. WRITERS' ROOM/SANDWICH SHOP - AFTERNOON

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?
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:

INT. JACK'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

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.
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:

INT. TRACY’S DRESSING ROOM - LATER

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!
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:

INT. STUDIO - NIGHT

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

STAGE MANAGER
Quiet please. Rehearsing!
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:

INT. STUDIO BACKSTAGE - LATER

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.

(them)
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 sobered 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:

EXT. 50TH STREET – MOMENTS LATER

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.
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.
21 INT. LIZ'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

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

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

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW