

30 ROCK

by
Emily Schmidt

SPEC - "Make New Friends"

A half-hour, single-camera sitcom

Sample

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TEASER

INT. 30 ROCK HALLWAY - MORNING

LIZ, singing "Happy Birthday" to herself in German, walks through the hallway. She approaches the writer's room.

INT. WRITER'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Liz enters, goofy smile, eyes closed -

LIZ
I'm coming into the room, so if
you're planning on jumping out and
surprising me -

She opens her eyes to see LUTZ and FRANK, shirtless, draping bacon on each other.

LIZ (CONT'D)
I did NOT expect that!

LUTZ
It's Bacon Tuesday!

LIZ
How could you not include me in
something like this?

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Liz walks to Jack's office. PETE joins her.

PETE
Ah, Liz, the 16th of the month!

Liz perks up.

PETE (CONT'D)
My wife is off her period so we get
to have our one of two monthly sexy
times!

LIZ
Gross, Pete.

He peels away and Liz is joined by JENNA.

JENNA
I have a surprise for you. Don't
make me tell you what it is.

LIZ

Ooh, I knew you'd remem-

JENNA

Okay, fine, jeez, I'll tell you. I commissioned a painting of my likeness in toy dog-form.

She holds up a grotesque painting of a Pomeranian with her face instead of the dog's.

JENNA (CONT'D)

I finally did it!

LIZ

Did he add a mustache?

JENNA

What?! No. That's a characteristic of lap dogs. Duh.

LIZ

You look like a Latin dictator. That's also a dog.

JENNA

Right?! I'm giving it to myself for my birthday. Next March. March 13.

LIZ

And when's my birthday, Jenna?

JENNA

You're like a Scorpio in a Leo's body. February? To be fair, it's hard to keep track since you eat cake everyday.

OPENING CREDITS

ACT ONE

INT. STAGE - LATER

Liz, bummed about the fact that everyone forgot her birthday, supervises rehearsal.

TRACY yells from the catwalk above the stage.

TRACY

Liz Lemon! Liz Lemon! I re-wrote this sketch!

LIZ

Tracy, we've been over this.
Drawing Snoopy on your script
doesn't give you a writer's credit.
And get down from there!

TRACY

I drew Cathy. Cathy's crazy! But
also? If I'm going to be ghetto
Mighty Mouse, I want to fly!

LIZ

Oh boy, this is another thing we've
been over. Red Bull doesn't
actually give you wings, now get
down!

TRACY

Up, up and away, bitches!

Tracy hurls himself from the rafters.

INT. JACK'S OFFICE - LATER

JACK perches near his window. Liz enters.

JACK

(to himself)

This is your kingdom. These are
your serfs.

LIZ

Bad time?

JACK

No. I like when people hear how
powerful I know I am.

He sits at his desk.

JACK (CONT'D)

You have to know why you're here.

LIZ

Tracy broke his leg all by his
onesie. Not my fault.

JACK

I'm not suggesting you broke your
employee's limb on purpose, that
would be -

CUT TO:

INT. JACK'S OFFICE

JONATHAN recoils from Jack.

JONATHAN

No, sir, please! The left arm! So I can still sign for your packages!

CUT BACK

JACK

I'm saying you didn't use your man-voice for good. You didn't assert your authority over him.

LIZ

It's Tracy! No one can assert authority over him. Everyone here does what they want regardless of peoples' feelings and the fact that I specifically hint-asked for a cookie dough ice cream cake with -

JACK

Lemon, what is this really about? The fact that your staff forgot your birthday, or your dad forgot to hug you as a child?

LIZ

(dejected)
He was busy.

JACK

You have to make people remember your achievements. Your achievements like being born and breathing on your own. If I didn't dedicate a specific section of Jonathan's brain to birthdays...

LIZ

Even Jenna forgot, and she's my one friend.

JACK

As my mother would say, turn that frown into something I don't want to smack the crap out of.

(beat)

Have you noticed the way I carry myself?

LIZ

Didn't you have some weird sexident
that screwed up your back?

JACK

That was...yes. But besides that.
I make people respect me because I
have self-esteem.

LIZ

Uh-oh. I know where this is going.
My school therapist made me watch a
video about this when I was in 5th
grade.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THERAPIST OFFICE

FLASHBACK

A 5th grade Liz sits awkwardly in front of an old TV screen.

VIDEO

One day, it won't matter that
everyone else was prettier than
you, because you will always have
your parents' love. They show you
this by hugging you. And if they
don't hug you...well, say no to
drugs.

5TH GRADE LIZ

Can I have my imaginary friend back
now?

CUT BACK

JACK

You need to respect yourself.
Respect yourself hard and often. I
respect myself sometimes three,
maybe four times a day.

Liz busily picks crumbs off her boob shelf and eats them.

LIZ

I respect myself. But no one else -

JACK

You have to respect yourself before
others can respect you. I learned
that from Oprah.

LIZ
You watch Oprah?

JACK
Yes, I watch Oprah. I watch her
lose at squash when I beat the crap
out of her. What am I, Lemon, a
Toledo housewife?