

PARKS AND RECREATION

"Raccoon Flu"

Written by

Nicholas Slade

COLD OPEN

INT. ANIMAL CONTROL - DAY - DAY 1

APRIL sits with DONNA behind the desk. April goes over paperwork while Donna fixes her nails.

APRIL
Ugh, why is this so hard!

Donna holds her hand up and looks at her nails.

DONNA
What'd you expect, honey? Applying for funding ain't exactly a cakewalk.

April crosses her arms.

APRIL
All I want to do is expand the holding area for the animals. Is that so much to ask! God!

The front door bell RINGS as EVELYN walks in.

April looks up at Evelyn with a scowl.

APRIL (CONT'D)
Oh joy, the mayoral representative has decided to grace us with her presence. Who do we owe for this momentous honor?

Evelyn forces a smile.

EVELYN
It's nice to see you too, Mrs. Dwyer, but I'm here on business.

Donna looks at Evelyn from the corner of her eye.

DONNA
What kind of animal bit the Mayor's dog this time?

Evelyn takes a deep breath.

EVELYN
I believe you know him as "Railway Rocky".

Donna throws her head back and scoffs.

DONNA

Him again? We've gotten six calls this month about that damn raccoon.

April picks up a pen, looks down, and pretends to write.

APRIL

We'll be sure to put your complaint in our files.

April looks up at Evelyn with an exaggerated smile.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Have a nice day!

Evelyn looks around the empty room.

EVELYN

While I can see that you are very busy, if you could just fast track this Rocky business, I'm sure the Mayor's office could do something for your troubles. More funding, perhaps?

April and Donna look at each other.

April looks at Evelyn.

APRIL

I have the perfect man for the job.

ANDY runs in from the back with two dogs in his arms. He and the dogs are wet, soapy, and covered in foam.

Everyone stares at Andy.

ANDY

Hey, guys. All the dogs are clean, but I think I used too much shampoo.

A dozen soapy, foamy, wet dogs run out from the back.

April looks at Evelyn and smiles.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT. GOLF COURSE - WOODS - DAY - D1

Andy stalks in the bushes. He pokes his head out and sees RAILWAY ROCKY in a clearing. He pokes his head back in.

He slowly sneaks behind a tree. He takes out a walkie-talkie and speaks into it.

ANDY

The target is in sight. I repeat, the target is in sight. Over.

April's voice emits from the walkie-talkie.

APRIL'S VOICE/WALKIE-TALKIE

I know. I'm standing right behind you.

Andy turns around.

April stands a few feet away. A cage sits at her feet.

Andy smiles and waves at her.

April smiles back.

Andy turns back and speaks into the walkie-talkie.

ANDY

The operation is a go. I repeat, the operation is a --

APRIL

-- Just tackle it already.

Andy pauses and speaks into the walkie-talkie.

ANDY

Roger that.

Andy runs from behind the tree and tackles Rocky. Andy picks up Rocky, who fights back.

Andy struggles with Rocky and runs to April.

April opens the cage.

Andy forces Rocky off his shirt and into the cage. He closes the cage.

Andy pumps his fist into the air.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Whoo! We did it! High five!

Andy rears back his arm.

April smiles and lifts her arm up.

Andy yanks his arm down and sneezes into his hand three times one after the other.

April frowns and slowly lowers her arm.

Andy lifts up his arm.

April shakes her head.

APRIL
No.

Andy lowers his arm and wipes his hand on his shirt.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - PARKING LOT - DAY - D1

April and Andy walk up to their van. Andy carries the caged Rocky.

Rocky HISSES at Andy.

Andy pulls his head back.

April opens the back of the van.

ANDY
I don't think he likes me.

APRIL
No kidding.

Andy places Rocky in the back of the van and sneezes again.

JOAN (O.S.)
Yoo-hoo!

April closes her eyes and sighs.

Andy stares at Rocky.

APRIL
Oh, God.

April opens her eyes and turns around.

Andy turns his head.

JOAN CALLAMEZZO and her CAMERAMAN, 20s, short and clean, carries a large camera on his shoulder, run up to them.

Joan holds a microphone to April.

JOAN
Hi there, Joan Callamezzo from Pawnee
Today.

APRIL
I know who you are.

JOAN
Right, first I'd like to congratulate you
and your husband for your capture of the
notorious Railway Rocky.

Andy smiles.

ANDY
Thanks!

April turns her head and stares at Andy.

Andy's smile disappears and he turns his head back to Rocky.

JOAN
I just want to take a little bit of your
time for an interview.

APRIL
No, buzz off.

Joan looks at Cameraman and throws her hand down.

The Cameraman lowers his camera.

Joan leans into April.

JOAN
Look, I'm going to level with you. My
ratings are down and I could really use
this story.

APRIL
I don't care. Leave us alone.

Rocky HISSES at Andy again.

Andy backs up.

ANDY
Whoa, calm down.

April turns to Andy.

APRIL

Andy, close the doors. Let's get out of here before I barf from the amount of perfume in the air.

Joan's mouth gapes.

Andy turns around and salutes.

ANDY

Aye, aye, Captain!

Andy sneezes three times one right after the other.

April walks up to Andy.

APRIL

Are you all right?

Andy wipes his nose.

ANDY

Yeah. I've just been sneezing like crazy ever since I wrestled with the grumpy bandit in there.

Andy sneezes again.

JOAN

Is that so.

Joan looks back and forth between Andy and Rocky. She smiles.

JOAN (CONT'D)

Well, I guess I'll be on my way.

Joan waves at Cameraman.

Joan and Cameraman walk away.

Andy rubs his nose.

ANDY

Didn't you want an interview?

Joan stops and turns her head.

JOAN

No. I think I now have all I need.

Joan smiles wickedly and walks away.

April glares at Joan.

Andy sneezes again.

INT. TOM'S BISTRO - DAY - D1

TOM sits at a table and holds his head with no customers in sight.

CRAIG walks up to him. He stops and stares at Tom. He leans in close to Tom and yells.

CRAIG
What's the matter with you!

Tom jumps back.

TOM
Man, what is wrong with you? Don't you have an inside voice.

CRAIG
This is my inside voice!

Tom stares at Craig.

TOM
What do you want, man?

CRAIG
I was wondering why you're so down!

Tom looks around.

TOM
Look around, man! We got, like, no customers. If we don't get some traffic in here real soon, we're going to be in real trouble!

Tom slumps in his chair.

The restaurant's phone RINGS.

Tom eyes bulge. He stands up and runs to the phone.

Tom answers the phone.

TOM (CONT'D)
Hello, this is Tom's Bistro, how may we serve you?

Tom smiles at Craig and gives him a thumbs up.

Craig half smiles.

TOM (CONT'D)
Do we have any open reservations?

Tom looks around.

TOM (CONT'D)
Uh, let me check our schedule.

Tom pretends to flip through a book.

TOM (CONT'D)
Oh, you're just in luck, we do have an opening for that day.

Tom leans into the phone.

TOM (CONT'D)
You want to reserve the whole place? For twenty people? That'll be fine. Okay, thank you.

Tom slowly hangs up the phone.

Tom jumps up and down.

He runs up to Craig and hugs him.

CRAIG
Stop!

Craig pushes him off.

CRAIG (CONT'D)
Who was that?

Tom smiles.

TOM
That was the secretary for the Rod Billsman.

CRAIG
Who's that?

TOM
Rod Billsman! The Rod Billsman. He's the big dog of Billsman industries. He the C to the E to the O. He's going to be here in town in three days and guess where he's going to be eating with all his friends?

CRAIG

It is --

TOM

-- It's heeeeeeeeeere!

Tom raises his hand for a high five.

Craig slowly raises his hand.

Tom high fives Craig hard.

Craig shakes his hand.

CRAIG

Ow!

Tom points at Craig with both hands.

TOM

There's just one thing we got to take care of.

CRAIG

What?

TOM

The secretary said Rod likes having live music playing while he eats.

CRAIG

But we don't have a live band!

TOM

I know that. But that's no problem, Cray Cray.

CRAIG

Don't call me that.

TOM

All we got to do is make some calls. With my connections, we'll find someone in no time. Let's get started.

Tom runs off.

Craig sighs.

Tom returns.

TOM (CONT'D)

On second thought. I'm getting hungry.
Plus, I was thinking about picking some
cute honeys at the Snakehole. You can be
my wingman.

Tom looks Craig up and down.

Craig stares at Tom.

TOM (CONT'D)

On second second thought. You can come,
but just stand in the back and try not to
scare anybody. We'll get on this Billsman
business first thing in the afternoon.

Tom pats Craig on the chest with both hands.

TOM (CONT'D)

Now lets gooooooooooooo!

Tom runs off.

Craig puts his hand over his face.

CRAIG

This is all going to blow up in our
faces, I just know it!

Craig walks off.

INT. LESLIE AND BEN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT - D1

LESLIE sits at her kitchen table asleep.

BEN sits across from her.

Ben leans toward Leslie.

BEN

Leslie!

Leslie snorts and wakes up.

LESLIE

Wha, What is it?

Leslie shakes her head.

LESLIE (CONT'D)

What were we talking about?

BEN

The triplets. Their birthday party.

Leslie winces.

LESLIE
Oh, right, right.

BEN
You know this isn't the first time you've
fallen asleep during one of our
conversations. I mean, am I that boring?

Leslie laughs.

LESLIE
No. I mean, well, yeah. Sometimes.

Leslie and Ben laugh.

LESLIE (CONT'D)
I've just been busy lately at the office.
I'm sure things will slow down soon.

BEN
That's what you've been saying for the
past six months. You've been working
nonstop. You hardly spend time with the
kids.

LESLIE
I know. I know.

Ben cups his hands.

BEN
Maybe you should take some time off.

LESLIE
No. No. Absolutely not.

BEN
Why not? You've build up enough time.

LESLIE
They need me, Ben. I'm like the glue that
holds everything there together.

BEN
I'm sure that they could do without you
for a couple of weeks.

Leslie takes a deep breath.

LESLIE
I just can't right now.

Ben pulls back and holds both his hands up.

BEN
Alright. I understand.

LESLIE
It's just... This job comes with so much
responsibility --

BEN
-- It's okay. You just concentrate on
your work. I'll plan the party.

Leslie smiles.

LESLIE
You're the best.

Ben smiles.

BEN
I know.

Ben leans into Leslie.

Ben and Leslie kiss.

Ben stands up and points at Leslie.

BEN (CONT'D)
Now, get some rest.

Leslie laughs.

Ben raises his eyebrows.

BEN (CONT'D)
I mean it.

Leslie stands up and walks up to Ben. She grabs him by his
tie.

BEN (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

LESLIE
I was thinking about doing something else
before sleeping.

Ben lowers his head and looks straight at Leslie.

BEN
Are you saying what I think you're
saying?

Leslie nods her head.

LESLIE
Uh huh.

BEN
Let's go!

Ben grabs Leslie hand. They run off and laugh.

INT. APRIL AND ANDY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - D1

April and Andy sit on their couch.

ANDY
Man, today was an awesome day. I got to tackle a raccoon... Which reminds me, I need to add raccoon tackler to my resume.

APRIL
I already did.

Andy nods his head.

ANDY
Awesome.

Andy puts his arm around April.

ANDY (CONT'D)
But the part was I got to spend the day with my best girl.

April smiles. She picks up the TV remote.

APRIL
Let's watch some TV.

April presses the remote. The TV comes on.

Joan appears on the screen and talks inaudibly.

April scoffs.

APRIL (CONT'D)
Can you believe she had the nerve to try to interview me today?

Andy shakes his head.

ANDY
No.

A picture of Andy's face appears on the upper right hand corner of the TV screen.

Andy points at the TV and smiles.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Hey look, it's me. I'm on TV.

April frantically turns the volume up with the remote.

JOAN/TV

I'm afraid I must be the bearer of bad news today, viewers. The new deadly disease known as Raccoon Flu has come to Pawnee and we have now identified the first known carrier as one Andy Dwyer. Known around the community as the children singer, Johnny Karate, this man...

April stares blankly at the screen while Andy blinks with his mouth open.

APRIL

Oh no.

Andy sneezes into his hands.

END OF ACT ONE