

COMMUNITY

"COMEDY PRACTICUM"

EPISODE # 508

Written by

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COLD OPEN

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Troy and Abed walk up to a vending machine. Abed puts in his change and pushes the buttons for his snack. An error code says it's unavailable.

TROY

Looks like they're out of you're
Honey Glazed Bun-Nut.

Abed flinches, then presses the button again.

ABED

But the operator restocks this
machine every Wednesday morning
after City College and before the
Junior Technical College.

TROY

Come on Abed, we're a community
college...

(smirking)

We would definitely be first in
line.

Abed walks away, checking his watch.

ABED

It's supposed to be there, it's
always the same.

TROY

Can't you just get a Glazed Honey
Scone or Iced Honey Roll?

ABED

Not the same. Besides, it's the
only thing that I like and matches
the change I have left over from
laundry.

TROY

Take my change.

Troy extends his hand with change in it.

ABED

No.

Abed turns away.

ABED (CONT'D)

I'll have to go the vending machine on the other side of campus. If I run both ways I should be able to get back in time for the study session.

TROY

Abed, that's in the Computer Science Hall. Only the computer nerds go in there. Leonard walked in by accident and came out a week later speaking in code. Like computer code.

ABED

Some things have to stay the same Troy.

Troy steps closer.

TROY

If you really love something, you have to be willing to let it go.

ABED

You remember when I tried to give up watching Inspector Spacetime for a day?

Troy blanches.

TROY

Those dark days are behind us Abed.
(sotto)
I can still remember the screams.

ABED

Then you know I have to go.

TROY

Isn't there another way?

ABED

You and I both know there's not.

Abed looks at his watch.

ABED (CONT'D)

Wish me luck.

Troy nods and puts his hand on Abed's shoulder.

TROY
Best of luck. And take this.

He hands Abed a dollar.

TROY (CONT'D)
It'll be faster this way.

Abed nods and runs around the corner as Troy looks on.

TROY (CONT'D)
Damn you Honey Bun-Nuts.

INT. EAST WING DOORS - CONTINUOUS

Abed walks through the double doors and into a semi-dark hallway. Two students with tucked in polos walk out of a classroom typing on graphing calculators.

Abed presses forward - he sees a female student filling a chalkboard with lines of code. Incessant clicking of fingers on keyboards permeates the space.

One of the nerds - the ALPHA GEEK as it were - stops what he's doing and slowly looks over to Abed.

ABED
Oh no, that's not good. I'm
definitely sensing a mob coming on.

At the end of the hall the other vending machine shines frosty white, with one Honey Glazed Bun-Nut left. Abed looks at the dollar Troy gave him.

A hush falls over the hallway. The Alpha Geek from the computer lab stands in the doorway. Abed navigates students sitting on the floor on their phones, trying to avoid shoe squeaks.

He gets to the vending machine as we see figures slowly advancing behind him. He puts in the dollar, types in the code, and the Bun-Nut starts to fall out but gets stuck.

Abed sees the people in the glass' reflection. He shoves the machine.

ABED (CONT'D)
Come on, now's not the time for
suspense. I need to get back to the
group.

Alpha Geek breaks forward from the line. Abed knocks again this time - the snack drops. When he gets it out and turns around he's cornered.

ALPHA GEEK

You're not a part of this system.

Abed tilts his head.

ABED

No, I just wanted to get this Bun-Nut, they were out in the other vending machine.

ALPHA GEEK

You must assimilate to this system.

The crowd whispers an echo - "assimilate."

ABED

I would, but I have to get back to the study group. We're meeting in a few minutes. Even though we're not really studying, Jeff's taking his time between classes to come hang out with us. It's pretty great.

The nerds start to close in on Abed, who points past them.

ABED (CONT'D)

Cheerleader.

The nerds all turn to look. Abed bolts down the other hallway. Alpha Geek turns back and narrows his eyes.

ALPHA GEEK

Must assimilate.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE**INT. STUDY ROOM - DAY**

Abed runs up to the group as they start to head in to the study room.

TROY

Glad you made it partner. You and your bun-nuts.

BRITTA

So as I was saying, I really think that --

JEFF

Hold it Britta. Aren't you aware?

BRITTA

Of what?

JEFF

I don't care.

Jeff turns away as Britta is agape.

BRITTA

OK Mr. Superiority complex, you can just forget about advice when you need an emotional shoulder to cry on.

The study group sits down.

ANNIE

Don't you guys ever get tired of baiting each other like this?

SHIRLEY

Don't you ever get tired of stripping Jeff with your eyes?

ANNIE

Uh! Shirley, I do not--

TROY

You're doing it again-

Annie is indeed ogling Jeff. Jeff looks at Annie and then to the rest of the group. Beat.

JEFF

Well, as much as I'd like to stay in this awkward moment, I have to go prepare for my next class.

Jeff gets up to leave.

ABED

So you came in to say hello so you could make a dramatic exit?

JEFF

Glad to know you're learning a basic social skill Abed. How to blow off things you don't want to do.

ABED

Hmm. I didn't learn that. I was just drawing attention to it so you could realize the error of your ways and hopefully stick around.

JEFF

Wow, you're now analyzing your analyzing. Don't you ever think about giving this whole socially awkward thing a rest?

Abed processes this.

ABED

I--I guess I haven't really changed.

ANNIE

Abed, that's definitely not true. You've made huge advances.

ABED

That's true as well. But have any of us really gotten beyond who we were when we met?

The mood changes as everyone shares uncomfortable looks.

JEFF

And immediately I prove you wrong by saying that I am now a teacher at Greendale, and you have all chosen new majors.

ABED

That's true, Jeff. But ask yourself, why do you think that is?

JEFF

Because we're all independent people who make our own decisions.

ABED

Maybe. But somehow all our growing and independence still failed, and we ended up back here. At Greendale. Yes I know the running joke is people get sucked in here, but you've got to admit. We should all have moved on by now.

Jeff processes this, sees the kernel of truth to Abed's words.

JEFF

So what Abed? Everything doesn't go as planned. Things get sidetracked, setbacks happen.

ABED

I agree completely. Which is why we all need something to help us break away from Greendale. To (with air quotes) spin off into our own lives.

Jeff swats at Abed's hands.

JEFF

Stop that. No air quoting. I know that look in your eye. This is where you devise some overly elaborate plot in pursuit of some tired TV or movie trope as a device to live like a normal person through something that's fake.

ABED

Not this time. This time I take a step backward.

Abed stands up and takes a step backward.

JEFF

What are you doing?

ABED

I'm not doing anything Jeff. The question is...

Abed tilts his head.

ABED (CONT'D)

What will you be doing?

Jeff waits for something to happen. He looks around. Beat.

JEFF

Is something supposed to happen?

ABED

Wait for it. It'll come.

Garrett stumbles into the glass behind the group, heaving.

GARRETT

Coming...they're coming--

JEFF

What the hell?

ABED

Perfect.

Garrett slides down out of frame.

JEFF

Coincidence.

TROY

Who's coming?

JEFF

Does it matter? Although something awful is about to happen, we'll come out fine on the other side.

ABED

Jeff's right. We certainly have a pattern. And that could only keep people coming back for so many years.

JEFF

Abed, let it go. We're not in a show. These are people's real lives.

ANNIE

Do you guys hear that?

HICKEY
 (to Shirley)
 Is this normal?

SHIRLEY
 You start to block it out. I like
 to recite different books of the
 Bible.

TROY
 Shhh. Listen.

The lights go out and the room gets cold.

DEAN (O.S.)
 Aaaand that chill you're feeling is
 part of our new system of rolling
 energy blackouts to cut down on
 costs. In the main campus buildings
 that includes power and heating.
 Don't worry though human beings,
 we'll have intermittent power
 throughout the day.

BRITTA
 That's weird. Although I can't say
 completely unexpected.

Voices echo from off screen.

JEFF
 What is that?

ABED
 (whisper)
 The nerds.

ANNIE
 The nerds? What are you talking
 about?

Troy connects the dots.

TROY
 (to Abed)
 You just had to get what you
 wanted. I hope it was worth it. I
 really wanted to go to the DMV
 today and get my registration
 renewed. Like an adult.

Someone screams. The group walks out to the hallway. They see
 the slow onslaught of nerds, like zombies to unsuspecting
 prey.

HICKEY

I'll put a stop to this. I'm a teacher for krissakes.

BRITTA

(fearful)

I wouldn't do that. Nobody messes with the students from the computer science wing.

HICKEY

Nobody with any power.

Hinkey walks forward.

HICKEY (CONT'D)

Alright kids, you need to go back to your classes and clear this hallway. Now.

The nerds keep walking forward.

HINKEY

I'm not going to repeat myself.

They keep coming. A bright light shines in Hinkey's face, blinding him.

HINKEY (CONT'D)

What in God's name?

Hinkey is pushed aside to the nearest classroom. One of the nerds taps her phone and Hinkey is locked in.

TROY

Oh no. They're using their superior technology for evil.

Jeff looks at Abed.

JEFF

I hope you're happy.

ABED

Isn't it clear we're all not? But we can be.

Abed walks towards the mob.

TROY

Abed, what are you doing? They'll tear you apart.

ABED
No Troy. It's me they want.

Alpha Geek walks forward.

ALPHA GEEK
You must assimilate.

Jeff puts his hand on Abed's shoulder.

JEFF
What did you do?

ABED
I didn't follow the rules. And I
don't mean to stop now.

Abed keeps going.

ANNIE
Goodbye Abed. We'll miss you.

ABED
Don't worry. I'll be back, and
things will be different. I
promise.

He stops a few feet from the nerds and turns to look back at the group. He holds up his arms, Christlike, and a sea of hands pulls him back in to the horde.

BRITTA
Noo!!

SHIRLEY
Oh dear!

Shirley covers his mouth and Troy closes his eyes. The nerds retreat as quickly as they came. Hinkey's door unlocks.

HICKEY
I'm going to personally see each
and every one of those punks
suspended.

TROY
How? They control the computers
here. You'd never get into the
system.

HICKEY
We'll see about that.

Hinkey walks off down the hall.

JEFF

So what do we do, text Abed and see when he's coming back?

TROY

He's with them now Jeff. There's no coming back.

The girls look down at their shoes.

JEFF

What am I missing here?

Shirley looks into a thousand yard stare.

SHIRLEY

And all those that venture into the valley of nerdicus computerus shall be cut off forever from their flock, unto them that reside there, lost to ways of computable wickedness.

JEFF

What the hell is that?

ANNIE

It's the prayer for those lost in the computer science wing. Sensitive much?

JEFF

Right. Or we could go over there and get him. Right now.

BRITTA

Don't be silly. There's no rationalizing your way out of this Jeff.

Jeff looks over to where Abed was.

JEFF

But we didn't even say...

TROY

Goodbye? He knows we say it, even if he can't hear it.

JEFF

You may have given up on him. But I haven't. I'm going in there with you or not.

Jeff leaves the room. Troy starts to go after him.

BRITTA

Let him go Troy. We don't need to
lose all of you.

Troy stops and watches Jeff go.

TROY

Will we abandon our friends in
their hour of need?

SHIRLEY

He's beyond our help Troy.

TROY

Maybe. Maybe not.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**INT. COMPUTER SCIENCE HALL - DAY**

All the nerds crowd around Abed.

ALPHA GEEK
Are you ready to assimilate?

Echoes of assimilate shudder into the ether.

ABED
Resistance is futile
(under his breath)
Cool cool cool.

ALPHA GEEK
Prepare the ritual.

Some of the nerds go into the nearest classroom and start rummaging around.

ABED
(whispers close)
Before we get started, I wanted to
say I'm sorry.

The Alpha Geek blanches. His voice goes normal for a second.

ALPHA GEEK
What?

Abed leans back.

ABED
(announcing to others)
You have an error in your system.

Gasps ripple outward.

ALPHA GEEK
Impossible.

ABED
Statistically likely. From what
I've seen, you have an error in the
command framework.

The Alpha Geek bares his teeth.

ALPHA GEEK
This system is a model of
perfection!

ABED
Then why am I able to take command?

ALPHA GEEK
You're not--

ABED
Code-off, right now. Winner assumes
leadership of the...

Abed isn't sure what to say.

ALPHA GEEK
...clan.

ABED
Clan. Right.

Abed and the Alpha Geek step into the classroom where two
laptops are set up.

ALPHA GEEK
First one to build the perfect
virtual world wins.

ABED
Agreed.

The Gamemaster, a student dressed in an LED lit up suit ala
Tron, steps forward. He raises his hands.

Beat.

GAMEMASTER
Begin!!

The Alpha Geek starts furiously typing. Abed hits a few keys
and then enter.

ABED
Done.

The crowd is racked with stunned silence.

ALPHA GEEK
That's impossible, nobody could--

Abed turns his computer around to show a 3D rendering of a
black void.

NERD

It's...

ABED

Perfect, I know. I knew the only way to do that was to remove any variables that could lead to imperfection...namely people, and things.

The Alpha Geek hangs his head.

ALPHA GEEK

You are the leader of the clan now. What would you have us do?

ABED

Bring me all the projectors you have. And any students who have taken a theater or acting elective.

EXT. COMPUTER SCIENCE HALL - CONTINUOUS

Jeff walks up to the double doors, hesitating.

TROY (O.S.)

Wait!

Jeff turns and sees the rest of the study group sans Hickey walking up.

JEFF

You guys came.

BRITTA

Come on Jeff, how would you function without someone to tear down?

JEFF

Nice. I -

Jeff hesitates.

JEFF (CONT'D)

But right now irrelevant.

They all turn.

JEFF (CONT'D)

I hope you guys are ready.

TROY

We were born. And now we are ready.

Jeff glances at Troy. They all walk in. Fog swirls on the ground. A diffused blue light adds an eerie glow.

INT. THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CU Abed's mouth.

ABED

Activate protocol "See the Truth."
In 5-

INT. CS HALL - CONT.

The study group walks forward. Shadowy figures flit across the passage.

ABED (V.O.)

4-

Something appears behind the group.

ABED

3-

The figure gets closer.

JEFF

Stay together.

ABED

2-

The figure rises up right behind the study group.

ABED (CONT'D)

1-

The lights go out. The study group screams. We can just make out the study group being divided up and ushered into separate rooms. Each door closes with a resounding thud.

INT. JEFF'S SIMULATION - CONT.

Jeff stands in a court room with sunlight pouring in the tall glass windows. The room is filled with jurors and spectators. It looks like we're watching a show akin to "Law and Order."

JEFF

What the--?

A judge bangs his gavel. We recognize the players as members of the nerd clan.

JUDGE

Order, this court is now in session. Mr. Winger, you may now make your opening statement.

JEFF

I-

Beat.

JUDGE

Come now counselor. Your client is on trial for murder. What do you have to say?

Jeff looks around, sees everyone is looking at him expectantly. We see a close up of lighting coming out of a projector - creating this fantasy world.

JEFF

Look, I don't know what this is. But I'm not buying it.

Jeff walks towards where he thinks the door is. He puts his hands against the wall, feels the wood is real.

JEFF (CONT'D)

That's not possible.

JUDGE

Counselor, are you alright?

INT. ANNIE'S SIMULATION - CONT.

Annie stands in an active crime scene. A photographer takes pictures while two detectives stand looking on. We could be watching "CSI/Bones"/etc.

DETECTIVE

Ms. Edison, I'm glad you're here. We could sure use your help on this one.

ANNIE

What is going on here?

DETECTIVE

You're the lead crime scene
investigator. Tell us what you see.

Annie takes the scene in, turns back towards the door, but
for some reason decides to go with it.

ANNIE

Blunt force trauma to the head.
Ligature marks on her wrists.

DETECTIVE

Tell us something we don't know.

Annie crouches closer.

ANNIE

Her name is Marcy Barrett.

DETECTIVE

How the hell do you know that?

ANNIE

It's on her coat. Looks like an
imprint from a credit card. In
dried blood.

The detective whistles.

DETECTIVE

That's why you're the best.

Annie smiles at the compliment.

INT. BRITTA'S SIMULATION - DAY

Britta stands in a therapist's office. This scene looks like
a cable drama show in the vein of "In Treatment."

BRITTA

Oh no, I'm still--

PATIENT

So you see doctor, I think what it
really comes down to is--

BRITTA

Who are you? Where am I?

PATIENT

Dr. Perry, is something wrong?

BRITTA

Dr. Who?

PATIENT

Dr. Perry. That's your name. I'm Rick, your patient?

BRITTA

Patient?

Britta gives a sigh of relief.

RICK

Yes, you're my therapist.

Rick looks at something framed on the wall. Britta walks over and sees an MD degree from Stanford with an emphasis in Psychology.

RICK (CONT'D)

I was telling you about my problem with my mother?

Britta can barely contain her excitement.

RICK (CONT'D)

Dr. Perry?

Britta turns to Rick.

BRITTA

Yes, of course. Tell me more about that.

Britta sits down in her chair and starts taking notes - over the moon with happiness.

INT. SHIRLEY'S SIMULATION - DAY

Shirley stands in a restaurant scene reminiscent of a multi-cam sitcom, complete with a very hothouse look.

SHIRLEY

Oh my, what's going on here?

A man, DAVID (Shirley's faux business partner) walks in from the other door.

DAVID

Shirley, I'm glad you're here. We have an emergency.

SHIRLEY

Oh no, I'm sorry, but I don't know who you are.

DAVID

Just like you didn't know exactly how to start this chain of highly successful dine-in restaurants, or how to raise two well-mannered and accomplished young boys?

Canned laughter erupts from seemingly out of nowhere. Shirley looks for the source of the sound, while still stunned by these overwhelming compliments.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Dang, that's the food supplier.

David pulls out his phone.

DAVID (CONT'D)

They're such a joke I just had to apply this ring tone.

David silences the phone.

DAVID (CONT'D)

So, partner, you ready to show me what you don't know?

SHIRLEY

Thank you, but I really--

DAVID

Shirley, trust me. I know work and home seems like a lot, but just remember you've got someone watching out for you.

SHIRLEY

Jesus?

DAVID

Yes. And me. And everyone else who cares about you.

David glances towards the camera. We see in his POV that the wall is shimmering. David slides the other way so that Shirley won't see it.

SHIRLEY

Well, in that case, tell me how I can help.

DAVID
Excellent.

INT. TROY'S SIMULATION - CONT.

Troy stands in an empty void, complete with fog on the ground and a lack of walls replaced by an infinite nothingness.

TROY
What is this?

FAUX-TROY (O.S.)
It's your mind. Think of it like a dream sequence.

Faux-Troy(Troy's doppelganger) steps up behind Troy.

TROY
Am I thinking of it that way, or are you?

FAUX-TROY
It doesn't matter. What matters is your quest.

TROY
What quest?

FAUX-TROY
The one where you're trying to figure out who you are.

TROY
I know who--

FAUX-TROY
Do you?

Troy looks down, uncertain.

FAUX-TROY (CONT'D)
Because I think you're so uncertain, that its like a great big emptiness.

Faux-Troy looks around the void. Troy notices this. Beat. Troy looks directly at "himself."

TROY
I'm still trying to figure out me. But I know at least what I'm not.

Troy turns away. Faux-Troy takes a step forward.

FAUX-TROY

I am you. No matter how much you want to deny it.

TROY

Abed, I know why you're trying to do this.

INT. THRONE ROOM - CONT.

Abed, cloaked in silhouette, tilts his head.

INT. TROY'S SIMULATION - CONT.

TROY

But you have to let us choose for ourselves. We're not ready, and that's OK.

FAUX-TROY

You don't know who you're dealing with.

TROY

Yes I do. He's my friend. And I have to stop him.

FAUX-TROY

No!!

Faux-Troy lunges at Troy, who is calm and doesn't move.

TROY

End simulation, Override Code:
Constable Reggie.

Faux-Troy disappears in a burst of light, and the room returns to a normal classroom. Troy looks at the leftover camera on the roof, then leaves.

INT. THRONE ROOM - CONT.

ABED

An anomaly. He must adapt to this sys--

Abed pauses, aware of what he's saying.

ALPHA GEEK

Sir, is something wrong?

ABED

I--

The Alpha Geek narrows his eyes at Abed.

ABED (CONT'D)

Of course not. Maintain
simulations.

The nerd slowly turns back to the panel of screens, where we see Jeff (who is now passionately addressing the jury), Shirley, Annie, and Britta caught in their respective simulations.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**INT. DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY**

The dean sits at his desk, creating an intricate latch hook portrait of a half naked Jeff with a noticeable sheen sitting by a fireplace next to a large dalmatian.

DEAN
(to himself)
I loop it, and hook it, and see--

Hickey barges into the office. The Dean startles, and shoves the latch hook into a drawer.

DEAN (CONT'D)
Professor Hickey, I see you still haven't mastered the art of knocking. I don't know why I even keep Cheryl on.

HICKEY
Nevermind that. I need to know where the power box to the school is.

DEAN
And why do you need to know that?

HICKEY
I have to shut it down. Those kids in the computer science hall have gone loopy, and the only way to stop them is by cutting off their power.

DEAN
The computer science wing? But nobody goes there. God even I haven't been there since I had hair.

HICKEY
The power switch. Now.

DEAN
Impossible. We have a complicated system of blackouts devised completely around my power walking schedule.

The dean looks at a chart of blackout times with notes on when he will be walking.

Hickey walks around the desk and gets right in the Dean's face.

DEAN (CONT'D)

And you're going the intimidation route.

HICKEY

Take me to the power controls. Or Jeff and the dog get it.

Hickey grabs the Dean's latch hook and a letter opener from the drawer and retreats from the Dean, who puts his hand to his chest.

DEAN

No!! That's taken me 100 hours.

Hickey looks at the latch hook, surprised.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Oh you try creating shading with yarn mister.

INT. COMPUTER SCIENCE HALL - NIGHT

Troy walks down the hallway. The Alpha Geek comes out of the Throne Room.

ALPHA GEEK

You're not wanted here, jock.

The Alpha Geek pulls out a tablet and walks forward. Troy stands waiting.

ALPHA GEEK (CONT'D)

You see in here, we have the power.

Troy takes a step forward. They are a few feet from each other. Troy raises his arm like he's about to wave.

ALPHA GEEK (CONT'D)

What are you doing, asking to be excused?

TROY

No.

Troy curls his fingers into a fist. The Alpha Geek cowers and puts his tablet up like a shield.

ALPHA GEEK

Take it easy man I just got my
braces taken off.

Troy walks past towards the throne room.

TROY

Nerd.

Troy enters the throne room.

INT. THRONE ROOM - CONT.

The room is lit up with bright overhead lights. On the left sits Abed, an optic lens over his right eye and a smartwatch on his left wrist. Troy walks to the center of the room.

TROY

I see I'm too late.

Troy looks back at the computer screens. Troy takes out his phone and starts writing a text.

ABED

I wouldn't do that if I were you.

TROY

Why's that?

Abed touches his smartwatch and immediately his nerd army pours through the door.

ABED

Because your phone will probably
get broken in the scuffle.

TROY

Small price to pay.

ABED

No, because you'd have to buy
another one at full retail price.

The nerds start to close in around Troy.

TROY

I'm doing this for you buddy.

Troy hits send and the nerds close around him. He yelps and starts to go down.

TROY (CONT'D)

No, no!!

Beat. Troy sees he can stand back up.

TROY (CONT'D)
 Wow, you guys really don't work out
 at all do you?

INT. VARIOUS SIMULATIONS

The members of the study group receive Troy's text and look at their phones.

TROY (V.O.)
 (serious and sotto)
 Guys, it's not real. Come find me
 at the throne room.

INT. JEFF'S SIMULATION - CONT.

JEFF
 What's a throne room?

JUDGE
 I'll hold you in contempt
 prosecutor.

JEFF
 Kangaroo court notwithstanding, I'm
 the defense. And I have to go.

Jeff goes back over to the "wall" and slides it away. The projector gets knocked over and the room returns to normal as he leaves.

INT. COMPUTER SCIENCE HALL - CONT.

Jeff walks out the door at the same time as Shirley and Annie.

JEFF
 Are you guys OK?

ANNIE
 Yea, although I was having a good
 time.

SHIRLEY
 So was I. David was so nice.

Jeff and Annie share a look.

JEFF
Where's Britta?

They turn to the last closed door.

SHIRLEY
She must still be in there.

JEFF
Forget her, let her have a few
minutes of happiness.

ANNIE
Jeff, it's not real.

JEFF
And yet Britta seems only too happy
to stay in there. What does that
tell you?

Annie pouts, realizing Jeff's right. They all head towards
the throne room.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Let's go.

INT. THRONE ROOM - CONT.

Jeff, Annie, and Shirley barge in with a yell. Across the
room Troy is "held captive" from nerds holding his hands and
legs.

TROY
Hey guys.

ANNIE
Troy are you alright?

TROY
Yea, I'm fine. They're holding me--

Troy raises his arms and makes air quotes.

TROY (CONT'D)
Captive.

Troy puts his hands back down into the nerds' grips. Jeff,
Annie and Shirley looks over at Abed.

ABED
It's good to see you guys again.

SHIRLEY

Enough of this Abed, you need to come back with us.

ABED

I'm afraid I can't do that Shirley. I have to use these resources to convince you guys to leave Greendale.

JEFF

Abed, is that what those fantasies were about? Showing us the lives we could have?

ABED

You have to admit you all enjoyed what I had to show you.

JEFF

You're right.

Annie, Shirley, and Troy look at Jeff, shocked.

ANNIE

What?

Beat. Jeff looks back at Annie.

JEFF

Being back in the courtroom was exhilarating. But Abed, you can't make us do something we don't want to. Just like we can't make you come back with us.

ANNIE

Jeff!

JEFF

Annie, trust me on this. Come on Troy, let's go.

Troy awkwardly pulls away/over the nerds and joins the others.

JEFF (CONT'D)

When you're ready to come back, we'll be waiting for you.

They all look at Abed. Just then the power goes off - completely.

Beat.

NERD ONE

No - I didn't save my backup routines.

The Alpha Geek bursts into the room.

ALPHA GEEK

To me brothers and sisters, and the emergency generator in the basement.

The Alpha Geek leads all the other nerds out of the room. Abed turns on his phone light and turns it up, casting shadows in everyone's eyes.

ABED

Huh. I guess he's taken back leadership of the clan.

JEFF

Of the what?

The lights come back on.

DEAN (V.O.)

Nothing to worry about Greendalians, just another rolling blackout. I guess I'll be getting my power walking in session tomorrow. Nevermind a rout--

The dean is cut off.

ABED

I guess we should head back to the study room.

JEFF

After one quick stop.

INT. BRITTA'S SIMULATION - CONT.

The study group walks in and sees Britta crying on the floor. She looks up at them.

BRITTA

It was so beautiful.

JEFF

And you wonder why we think you shouldn't be telling people how to deal with real life.

ANNIE
Jeff, be nice.

Annie steps up with a tissue.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
I know it was sweetie. But there's
nothing saying you can't
effectively actualize your goals,
is there?

Britta doesn't quite get Annie's wisdom.

BRITTA
Um--

SHIRLEY
You want to say no dear.

BRITTA
No.

Annie steers Britta towards the door as they all exit.

INT. STUDY ROOM - DAY

The study group all sits down. Hickey walks back in.

HICKEY
That'll show those computer nerds.
I've made sure they have a blackout
every hour for the rest of the
week. See how they like that.

ABED
So you turned off the power there
earlier?

HICKEY
That's right son.

Hickey sits down. Nobody talks.

HICKEY (CONT'D)
So is this what you guys usually
get into?

TROY
Pretty much.

The bell rings and everyone leaves for class. As Troy and
Abed are passing the vending machine Troy stops Abed.

TROY (CONT'D)
Look Abed, they have your honey
glazed bun-nut.

Abed looks at the treat.

ABED
That's OK. I realize that I have to
be OK with letting things happen as
they will.

TROY
That's mighty grown up of you.

Beat.

ABED
I guess so.

Abed and Troy walk away as we are left with a shot of the
vending machine. Another student starts walking by typing on
his phone.

STUDENT
And they were all prepared for
their respective spin off--

He sees the vending machine.

STUDENT (CONT'D)
Ohh - honey bun nuts, yes!

END OF SHOW