

30 ROCK
"PLAY BALL"
by
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INT. JACK'S OFFICE - LATER

JACK holds a pile of papers and discusses them with JONATHAN.

JACK

See, that must be the reason.
There's a loss of integrity in the
area.

Unbeknownst to Jack, Liz has entered the room. Once he realizes this, he ushers Jonathan towards the door.

JACK (CONT'D)

Oh good, we were just talking about
you.

LIZ

What? What loss of integrity?

She grabs the stack of papers.

REVEAL: Documents about CHEST PAIN.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Oh, umm, sorry. You said you were
just talking about me, and--

JACK

It's a figure of speech, Lemon.

LIZ

So, you have chest pain?

Jack pops a handful of antacids.

JACK

No.

Jonathan retrieves the papers and exits.

JACK (CONT'D)

I've heard there's some dissention in
the ranks. You're having trouble
pulling your crew together.

LIZ

No. What? We're fine.
(then)
Did Frank tell you that?

JACK

I know everything.

LIZ

We're fine, we're happy.

Jack calls into his intercom.

JACK

Jonathan, camera seven.

A GIANT SCREEN comes down and we see surveillance-type footage of the Studio Hallway.

LIZ

What the what --

She frantically looks into the corners of the room and sees cameras.

JACK

Calm down, Lemon. You're in television.

LIZ

I don't want to be on it.

JACK

We're pitching around a new show about the lives of a cast and crew of a television show.

LIZ

Sounds funny, but I wonder if people will watch it.

ON THE SCREEN:

EXT. TGS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

JENNA, carrying a binder, walks with Frank.

JENNA

Come on, Frank, why would you want to waste all of this--

(indicating her body)

--to dress me up like Slimer? Liz already said no to, "Ghostbusters versus Gremlins."

Frank knocks the binder out of Jenna's hand as he storms off, Josh trips him while Lutz puts a, "THIS SIGN IS FUNNIER THAN I AM," sign on Josh's back.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. JACK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

JACK
(into intercom)
Thank you.

The screen goes back up.

JACK (CONT'D)
It's like an inner city after-school
program attempting Moliere.

LIZ
We're writers and performers. We
push and shove. We're bitter and
angry. It's how we make the funny.

JACK
Don Geiss just got back from a
National Bonding Conference and wants
each division to be united. So, I
need you to synergise your team.
(then)
And, Lemon, never again say, "how we
make the funny."

LIZ
Really?

JACK
Never.

LIZ
So, do we have to do something now?
We really are just so busy and --

JACK
When Don Geiss wants something and I
can't get it for him, I get angry.
You never ever, want to see me when
I'm angry.

Jack grabs his chest with a forced smile, trying to conceal
his apparent pain.

LIZ
I really don't think I do.

After an awkward pause.

JACK
You really don't.

LIZ

So, how are we doing this? Free GE microwaves for everyone?

JACK

That would boost morale. With the newest over the range model and its one thousand watts of microwave power and over fifteen hundred watts of convection power, it just cooks food so quickly.

(then)

But we can't just give those away, Lemon.

As if out of nowhere, Jonathan appears and presents an aluminum bat.

LIZ

Ooh, are we joining the mob?

JACK

Softball, Lemon.

LIZ

What?

JACK

The beloved non-erotic, lesbian stepchild of America's greatest pastime.

LIZ

I know what softball is, Jack.

He looks her up and down.

JACK

Of course.

(then)

We'll play the news division, the sports guys, late night. The kids'll start fantasy softball blogs about us.

LIZ

(feigning enthusiasm)

I'll go rally my troops.

JACK

I'm behind you one hundred percent. Go get them ready for tryouts.

LIZ

Tryouts? We're not just playing for fun?

JACK

Have you seen Brian Williams on third base? The man has an arm like Thor.

LIZ

(confused by the reference)
Really... precise?

JACK

Thunderous.