

PARKS AND RECREATION
EPISODE: NO PAIN NO GAIN

Written by

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COLD OPEN

INT. LESLIE AND TOM'S OFFICE - DAY

LESLIE KNOPE, sits at her desk typing on her computer. She glances at a picture of her and ANN PERKINS on her desk. She looks sad as she fights to continue to do work but she keeps looking at the picture.

The picture is still in view.

LESLIE (V.O.)

Ann and Chris left only a few days ago and I still can't wrap my head around it.

She is in view and holds up her cell phone and talks into the camera.

LESLIE

Although, thank goodness for cell phones! I am able to text her whenever I want.

Her cell phone VIBRATES. She looks at the phone and giggles.

LESLIE (CONT'D)

See!

She texts back quickly.

LESLIE (CONT'D)

It's a great invention. Even though the cell phone company is charging me two hundred and fifty dollars MORE this month and counting, because I exceeded my text messages two days after she left. I still think it's pretty awesome.

(Beat)

I should probably switch to unlimited text messages.

Leslie's face saddens. She picks up the photograph and hugs it close to her.

TOM HAVERFORD walks in. He catches her hugging the photo.

TOM

Aww. Missing Ann?

LESLIE

Yeah.

Leslie reluctantly puts down the photo. She continues to type.

TOM

I definitely miss her too. Even though her hormones made her kind of out of wack. But, if there is anything I can do, please let me know.

LESLIE

Thanks Tom, but I'll be fine.

She continues typing.

TOM

Leslie, I mean ANYTHING.

LESLIE

Alright Tom. I get the point. I have to work.

Tom backs off and sits down at his desk.

TOM

Alright my bad. Just letting you know.

(Singing R&B style)

That I am here for you boo.

LESLIE

Unnecessary. Please stop singing.

TOM

(Singing)

That Tommy T will always be, baby.

LESLIE

I'm not your baby!

TOM TALKING HEAD

At his desk.

TOM

She always said my singing cheers her up and I know, I just did that.

LESLIE (O.S.)

NO YOU DIDN'T!

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONEINT. BEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Leslie walks into BEN WYATT'S office and sits down in one of the chairs in front of his desk. She sighs dramatically.

BEN
Hi Honey. Having a rough day?

LESLIE
Oh it's great.

BEN
Missing Ann?

LESLIE
Who me? No, not at all.

Ben looks at her.

LESLIE (CONT'D)
Alright. I miss her a lot. I hate that you can read me like a book.

BEN
A book I will never put down.

LESLIE
God I love you. But, I am bored Ben. I am bored without my best friend. Texting her every second isn't fulfilling the void of not having her here. Ugh!

She throws her cell phone at Ben. The phone barely misses him as he ducks. The phone BANGS against the wall.

BEN
Jeez! Was that really necessary?

She panics and runs after her phone. She picks it up and inspects it. The case on her phone is the same picture of Leslie and Ann that is on Leslie's desk. She holds onto the phone against her chest. She sits back down in the chair. Leslie collects herself.

LESLIE
I am just upset.

BEN
You don't need to take it out on my head.

Ben checks his head with his hands.

LESLIE

Sorry.

BEN

Don't you have a project or something you should emerge yourself in, to get your mind off of things?

LESLIE

No I finished that a couple days ago, so I could help Ann and Chris move.

BEN

Oh. Well, what if you come up with a new project. Find something that you can get passionate about to make Pawnee even better.

Leslie smiles.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I, really am so grateful everyday that I have Ben.

(Ben smiles at Leslie.)

He always knows what to say to get me passionate about something to completely forget about whatever I am sad about.

LESLIE TALKING HEAD

LESLIE

Love him!

BEN TALKING HEAD

BEN

I am only suggesting for her to get passionate about another project in Pawnee so I don't have to deal with the consequences.

(Beat)

In the bedroom.

(Beat)

In fact, the last time that she did take it out on me in the bedroom I forgot the safety word.

(Beat)

I am in trouble if I can't get her mind off of Ann.

INT. LESLIE AND TOM'S OFFICE - DAY

ANDY DWYER skateboards into the office. Tom is sitting at his desk.

ANDY

Tom! I need your help with something.

TOM

Go for it buddy. Your man Tommy is... your man?

ANDY

Cool. Anyway, what rhymes with the word blanket?

Tom looks at him.

TOM

What?

ANDY

You're a smart man.

TOM

Yes, I am.

ANDY

So what rhymes with blanket?

TOM

That's your question?

ANDY

Yeah. Can you help me?

TOM

Why do you want to know?

ANDY

Because man, I am writing this song for April. Because she is like THE coolest chick ever and she like loves me for me and supports my music and my job career.

TOM

Yeah, and what is that, by the way?

ANDY

I don't know. But, I want to write a song for her right before we have sex tonight. So you gotta help me man.

TOM

Gross. Sweet, but gross.

TOM TALKING HEAD

TOM (CONT'D)

What the hell rhymes with blanket? Who even uses the word blanket to want to rhyme with? REALLY? I can rhyme the word cat or smush.

(Laughs)

Tap that tush! Damn! I'm good!

INT. BEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ben and Leslie are sitting in Ben's office. Leslie has her cellphone clutched in her hands.

BEN

What about another festival?

LESLIE

No, we did that already... three years ago.

BEN

Okay. -- How about a movie night, in the park?

LESLIE

No way Ben, everyone want's to see everything in Three-D. There is no way I can get an eighty foot movie screen, with a billion Three-D glasses to come with it, for just one night.

BEN

All right. Well you won't need a billion, maybe a couple hundred but...

LESLIE

Not one of your good ones, Ben.

BEN

Carnival?

LESLIE

No.

BEN

Slip n Slide?

LESLIE

Definitely not. That would a
drunkin' mess. Cool idea though.

Leslie's phone VIBRATES. She looks at her phone and laughs.
She intensely text messages.

BEN

And what did Ann just say to you
now?

LESLIE

Ann said, all of those idea's are
stupid.

BEN

How does she even know what I just
said... You weren't even texting
her while we were just having this
conversation.

LESLIE

Well apparently Ben, when I threw
my phone against the wall just
missing your head of course. Again,
sorry about that. It appeared to
automatically dial Ann. She just
heard our whole conversation.

BEN

That is impossible.

LESLIE

It is! And she even hung up to text
me that they were stupid.

BEN

Okay?

INT. LESLIE AND TOM'S OFFICE - DAY

Tom and Andy are still sitting in the same spots.

ANDY

You have no ideas?

TOM

No idea. I am usually a man of ideas, but not this time.

ANDY

Now I gotta write a new song. I should go get my guitar.

Andy goes to leave. He is carrying his skateboard under his arm.

TOM

You should ask Ron. He loves that stuff. It is like solving a riddle.

Andy snaps his finger.

ANDY

You're right! He IS the smartest man alive. Or at least the smartest man I know. I'll go ask him. Thanks buddy.

Andy walks out of the office.

TOM

(Looks into the camera)
ACTUALLY, I, am the smartest man alive. And I will prove it.

Tom types Google.com on his computer.

INT. BEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ben and Leslie are still sitting in Ben's office.

BEN

I know! How about a race?

It clicks with Leslie.

LESLIE

Yeah! Like a five-K. I'll get everyone from the department to run in it, and a bunch of other people AND we can go door-to-door for donations towards Pawnee parks.

BEN

(Sarcastically)
My absolute favorite thing to do. Talk strangers into giving me their money.

LESLIE
It's not like your prostituting
yourself, Ben.

BEN
Well you might as well be. I am
just saying.

LESLIE
And I am just saying you are so
smart. Thank you for the idea.

Leslie gets up and kisses Ben.

BEN
I know. That's why you married me.

LESLIE
I gotta get everyone together to
discuss this with them I am so
excited.

BEN TALKING HEAD

BEN
I'm excited too. You know why?
because if I didn't think of
anything else for her to get her
mind off of Ann then she won't take
it out on me in the bedroom.
(Beat)
I still don't remember the safety
word.

LESLIE (O.S.)
It's kittens! You thought of it
yourself!

BEN
Oops.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

Leslie, Ben, APRIL LUDGATE, RON SWANSON, Tom, DONNA MEAGLE,
and JERRY GERGICH are all sitting at the table in the middle
of the room.

APRIL
Alright. Let's get this over with.

Leslie stands up.

DONNA

Word. I need to get my mani-pedi on at Nail World in Eagleton. I have an appointment in an hour. So make this quick Leslie.

TOM

Ooo! Can I come too Donna? I Love that place.

DONNA

Nah, baby. You have to make an appointment like six months ago in order to come with me today.

TOM

Oh damn! Maybe, you can pull some strings?

JERRY

You know I think I might know someone who works there.

TOM

Shut up Jerry. You don't know anyone.

Jerry looks down at the table ashamed.

JERRY

(To himself)

I know people.

LESLIE

Not now Jerry. Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you for coming on such short notice.

TOM

We all work in the same building.

LESLIE

Whatever. I called you guys in here because I am missing Ann a lot since she left. And I am sure you are all missing her too. Right?

APRIL

Who?

ANDY

You know her babe. She was my girlfriend before I met you remember?

APRIL
Doesn't ring a bell.

LESLIE
Anyway in order to keep my -- I
mean our minds off of her being
gone I figured why not come up with
a new project.

Everyone groans.

TOM
Come on Leslie. Can't we just chill
for a minute before we dive back
into serious work.

APRIL
Yeah, can't we just go out or
something.

ANDY
We could go bowling babe.

APRIL
No that sucks.

JERRY
I can get my bowling buddy to lend
me his ball.

TOM
Jerry, we have been over this you
don't know anybody.

LESLIE
Guys, the parks department isn't
going to run itself and we need
some project to keep us busy to
ensure that this department stays
here. Right where we want it.
Besides this might make me -- I
mean make us feel a little more at
ease with Ann being gone.

RON
Leslie's right. What do you want us
to do?

LESLIE
Well.

Leslie pulls out flyers and passes them around the table.
They say: PAWNEE'S FIRST ANNUAL 5K WALK.

LESLIE (CONT'D)

We are going to do Pawnee's first annual five-K walk. We can go door to door for donations to enhance our parks and activities in the parks. And all of us are going to participate in doing the five-K walk.

Everyone groans.

TOM

Really?

RON

Don't you have another idea? I am not walking. I refuse to do that.

APRIL

I can't do it because my legs will break off if I walk more than ten feet.

DONNA

Are bikes allowed?

ANDY

Leslie. I don't have five thousand dollars to do this race so I am automatically exempt.

APRIL

Me too.

April and Andy get up to leave.

BEN

Wait you guys. Sit down.

Ben stands up as Leslie sit's down. Leslie is upset. April and Andy return to their seats.

BEN (CONT'D)

When you all need something Leslie is there. Each and every one of you need to be involved in this. She just lost her best friend.

Ben looks directly at Leslie.

BEN (CONT'D)

She needs you guys right now.

Ben looks at everyone else intently.

Ron sighs.

RON

He's right you guys. Whenever we need Leslie she is there and we need to be there for her.

(Directly to Leslie)

We will do the thing you want us to do, okay?

DONNA

Alright. I'll do it.

JERRY

I'll do it.

APRIL

I'm in. I guess.

TOM

Is this that ANYTHING that you needed from me Leslie?

LESLIE

Shut up, Tom.

BEN

What did you say Tom?

LESLIE

Don't worry about it sweetie. It is just Tom being Tom.

Ben sits down and Leslie stands back up.

LESLIE (CONT'D)

All the flyers are on the table feel free to take for when you go door to door to get donations. I am going to go on Amazon.com to order you all sweat suits. I am so excited! I am going to call Ann right now and tell her the news.

Leslie takes her folders and leaves the room while she puts her cell phone to her ear.

APRIL

She is hopeless sometimes.

(Stares into the camera)

But I love her.

ANDY

Babe! I still don't have five thousand dollars to participate. Is she really going to force me to give her money that I don't have?

DONNA

She finished in the nick of time.
If I leave right now I can go get
my mani-pedi action on.

TOM

I still wanna go!

DONNA

No!

END OF ACT ONE