

COMMUNITY
"The Science of Sleep Deprivation"

by
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SET LIST

INTERIORS

STUDY ROOM

HALLWAY

CAFETERIA/HOT AND BROWN

DEAN PELTON'S OFFICE

OTHER HALLWAY

LIBRARY

BATHROOM

PROFESSOR SHEFFIELD'S CLASSROOM

CAST LIST

JEFF.....JOEL MCHALE

PIERCE.....CHEVY CHASE

BRITTA.....GILLIAN JACOBS

SHIRLEY.....YVETTE NICOLE BROWN

ABED.....DANNY PUDI

ANNIE.....ALISON BRIE

TROY.....DONALD GLOVER

CHANG.....KEN JEONG

DEAN PELTON.....JIM RASH

STAR-BURNS.....DINO STAMATOPOULOS

PROFESSOR IAN

DUNCAN.....JOHN OLIVER

PROFESSOR PETER SHEFFIELD.....STEPHEN TOBOLOWSKY

GARRETT.....ERIK CHARLES NIELSEN

HUMAN

BEING.....???

BARISTA.....TBD

CARLOS.....TBD

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING (DAY 1)

We slowly DOLLY down the hallway as somber SYNTH-based music plays. STUDENTS are chatting, heading to classes, etc. CHANG is meandering through the hall, casually hassling students by poking at them with what appears to be a baguette. The DEAN's voice blares over the PA system.

DEAN PELTON (O.S.)

Good morning, Greendale. I'm afraid we have to skip over the What Was the Haps at Greendale? historical trivia of the day for some unsettling news.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

PIERCE is at the Hot & Brown counter. The BARISTA hands him a coffee, which Pierce takes a sip of.

DEAN PELTON) (O.S.)

Our school mascot, the Human Being, is dead...

On hearing this news, Pierce spits the coffee out right at the Barista, who ducks behind the counter to avoid it.

DEAN PELTON (CONT'D)

...To us.

Pierce looks annoyed. He walks away. The Barista comes up slowly, checking to see if the coast is clear.

DEAN PELTON (CONT'D)

He enrolled with City College because apparently their Packaging Science program is just soooo much better regarded than the one we don't have. But let's not dwell on that.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

We PAN slowly past bathroom stalls. STAR-BURNS is in front of the mirror, methodically smoothing out his stars with hair gel.

DEAN PELTON (O.S.)

After all, Greendale has zillions of unique and almost unique majors, like Hollywood Animal Training and Kyrgyzstani Literature.

Inside one stall, we find PROFESSOR IAN DUNCAN, leaning against the wall looking very bored, swigging from a travel-size bottle of sherry.

DEAN PELTON (CONT'D)

Now I know we were all very attached to the Being and midterms week is an especially stressful time already, but we can't lose that Greendale spirit!

INT. PROFESSOR SHEFFIELD'S CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

PROFESSOR PETER SHEFFIELD is alone, sitting behind his desk. His head rests on one hand as he uses a remote to fast-forward through the opening titles of "Car 54, Where Are You?"

DEAN PELTON (O.S.)

We should look at this as an opportunity for fresh beginnings. So I'll be taking suggestions for a new mascot to represent Greendale - something that embodies diversity, camaraderie, second chances, the vegetarian options at the cafeteria...

INT. STUDY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

JEFF, BRITTA, ABED, ANNIE, SHIRLEY, and TROY sit around the table. Everyone, except Troy and Abed, looks pretty exhausted. Annie's nearly nodding off. A tape recorder sits in front of Abed. There's a clock on the wall and a trash can by the door.

DEAN PELTON (O.S.)

But, if we could now, let's have a moment of
silence for the Human Being.

TROY

Hey, why's everybody--

DEAN PELTON (O.S.)

That moment of silence starting...

Troy opens his mouth to speak again.

DEAN PELTON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

...Now.

Troy waits a moment, eyeing the intercom to see if it'll start up again. Then:

TROY

Why's everybody so tired?

ANNIE

(half-awake)

It's midterms, Troy.

TROY

Midterms? But those don't happen till like
halfway through the year.

BRITTA

AKA nowish?

Troy does some counting on his fingers.

TROY

Oh damn, I didn't realize the months were
gonna work like that this year.

Troy gets out a binder and starts flipping through it.

ABED

You guys all stay up studying?

Everyone else MURMURS assent.

ANNIE
(rubbing her eyes)
I didn't sleep at all.

ABED
Yeah, me neither.

SHIRLEY
(bitterly)
But, somehow, you seem completely fine.

ABED
Yeah. I'm doing a sleep deprivation study for
my Intro to Psychology class, but I'm not sure
I'm the best subject.

Abed presses 'play' on the tape recorder in front of him. We hear sounds of popcorn being EATEN followed by the opening bars to the "PERFECT STRANGERS" theme song.

ABED (CONT'D)
(on recorder)
Suzanne. 4:30AM. Fantastic episode. Balki
does something silly and Cousin Larry has to
cope with it. No aberrations noted.

Abed stops the tape.

JEFF
You recorded yourself watching "Perfect
Strangers."

ABED
Yeah, there was a marathon. Balki and
Cousin Larry got into some crazy situations,
but nothing out of the ordinary happened to
me.

TROY
(pushing his binder aside and
getting out his laptop)
Okay, so I have an essay about *The Great
Gatsby* due in English Comp today.
(MORE)

TROY (CONT'D)

I only read the beginning so far, but I'm gonna assume he stays rich and popular and nothing bad happens?

BRITTA

Abed, if this sleep depriving thingy is for your psych class, as a psych major myself, I'd be happy to--

ABED

No thanks, Britta. I can not sleep fine by myself.

BRITTA

But you might need help assessing your--

Abed puts his hand in front his mouth like he's whispering.

ABED

(to Jeff, not whispering at all)

How do I get out of this without offending her?

Britta looks offended. Pierce bursts into the room, holding his cup of coffee.

PIERCE

I can't believe the Human Being's been discontinued as mascot!

No one reacts.

PIERCE (CONT'D)

It's an outrage, people! I designed that thing!

JEFF

Oh no, Pierce, now *you're* the only spectre of death left in our lives.

(beat)

Sorry, that was needlessly cruel. Guess I'm a little cranky.

SHIRLEY

I need a coffee.

Everyone except Pierce MURMURS assent. They stand up and begin filing out past him.

PIERCE

But I already have a--

They exit, leaving Pierce alone. He looks at his coffee and then dumps it into the trash. He hurries after the others.

DEAN

Oh! Moment of silence over! Sorry everybody, forgot we were... Well, thanks for your respectfulness. Please never speak of the Human Being again.

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER (DAY 1)

The gang, along with a few other STUDENTS, including GARRETT (holding some books), are lined up in front of Hot & Brown where the Barista stands. Abed holds onto his tape recorder. The Barista hands him a cup of coffee. Abed takes a sip.

ABED

You know, this is, excuse me, a *damn* fine cup of coffee.

BARISTA

(unplaceable accent)

My trick is I just microwave yesterday's batch.

Abed steps aside. Jeff steps up to order his drink.

JEFF

Hey, lemme get a latte.

Just then, Chang appears, prodding everyone in the line aside with his baguette. Everyone in line responds with brief exclamations of protest, e.g., "HEY!" "WATCH IT!"

BRITTA

Fascist!

CHANG

One side, students, one side. Official Head of Security official business.

Chang shoves Jeff aside.

JEFF

Hey!

CHANG
(to Barista)
Gimme a Changaccino.
(conspiratorially)
Which is a cappuccino that I don't pay for.

JEFF
Hey, Chang, there's a line here.

Chang rears on him.

CHANG
Maybe you oughta watch that lip, Winger. Or
maybe you wanna taste the business end of
my nightstick.

He sticks the bread in Jeff's face.

JEFF
Sorry, is that a baguette?

CHANG
MY REAL NIGHTSTICK GOT STUCK IN THE
TOILET!

BRITTA
RIOT! FIGHT THE POWER!

Britta knocks the books GARRETT is holding out of his hands. Everyone in the line looks at her incredulously.

CHANG
That does it.

Chang starts getting his handcuffs out. Britta looks around sheepishly.

BRITTA
Or... not. Just throwing it out there as an idea.
Maybe later?
(to Garrett)
I'm really sorry about that.

She begins picking up his books for him.

CHANG

You're inciting unrest, Winger. You're comin' with me.

JEFF

Me?

(pointing at Britta)

She acts completely on her own misguided--

Chang slaps a handcuff on Jeff's wrist. Jeff looks at it, bemused. Chang struggles, trying to close the handcuff around Jeff's wrist.

CHANG

You'll have plenty of time to think this over when... Maybe a few hours in the pokey will--

ABED

Are your handcuffs broken?

CHANG

No, they work fine, see?

Chang slaps the other cuff around his own wrist.

JEFF

Look, Chang, it's been fun, but I'm ready to stop having my time wasted now.

Jeff pulls his wrist away from Chang.

CHANG

These are supposed to be one size fits all. You got some chubby-ass wrists.

JEFF

[NERVOUS CHUCKLE] Right. That must be it.

CHANG

Consider this a warning, Fat Wrists.

Chang bites menacingly into his baguette (the handcuff still attached to his wrist flails about). It takes some effort to tear a piece of the baguette off with his teeth. Finally, he does, then walks off with a full mouth, chewing.

Jeff shoves his hands deep into his pockets and turns to the Barista, who places a latte in front of him.

BARISTA

One latte.

JEFF

Actually, uh, could you just make that a regular coffee instead?

The Barista looks annoyed, grabs the latte and turns back around.

JEFF (CONT'D)

You know what, just a cup of hot water's good.

Britta eyes Jeff with suspicion.

INT. CAFETERIA - MOMENTS LATER

The gang sits down at a table, carrying coffees and breakfast foods on trays. Abed's got a muffin. Jeff's meal consists of three celery sticks and hot water. He keeps pulling at his sleeves. Troy gets out his laptop, sets it down alongside his meal, and begins typing hurriedly.

Abed hits record on his tape recorder.

ABED

Suzanne. Having first cup of coffee of the day.
With it, a muffin. Chocolate. The coffee: divine.
Will report back on the muffin.

He stops the tape.

SHIRLEY

Who's Suzanne?

ABED

My Psych professor. I have to report anything
that can affect my physical or mental state.

PIERCE

Sad about the school unceremoniously
shoving aside my mascot? I'm right there with
you, Abed. I remember it like it was--you're
recording this, right?

Abed hits record.

ABED

Suzanne. Annie's sweater today emphasizes
her bust even more than usual.

SHIRLEY

Abed!

ANNIE

Abed!

ABED (CONT'D)

Sorry, Pierce, were you saying something?

We focus on Britta and Jeff having their own conversation.

BRITTA

(to Jeff)

That's your breakfast?

JEFF

You're right, what was I thinking?

Jeff picks up one piece of celery and chucks it aside. Chang is passing by with his breakfast: a pudding and his baguette on a tray. The celery whacks him in the head and lands on the tray.

CHANG

Hey!

Jeff looks exasperated, not wanting to deal with Chang again.

CHANG (CONT'D)

(picks up celery and takes a bite)

Thanks.

Chang walks off.

BRITTA

No, Jeff, I was asking why you're eating so *little*.

JEFF

Why are *you* being so nosy? Can't a guy just enjoy a little celery once in a while?

Jeff pulls at his sleeve. Britta notices.

BRITTA

Please tell me this isn't about what Chang said.

JEFF

What? Of course not! Like I care about what a guy who uses carbs as crowd control thinks.

Britta doesn't look convinced.

We focus again on the rest of the gang.

TROY

Annie, does this seem okay so far?

Troy pushes his laptop over to Annie, who begins looking it over.

ANNIE

Well it's not "The Great Gazoo" for starters...

She hits the delete key a few times.

We return to Britta and Jeff's conversation.

BRITTA

Jeff, seriously, you shouldn't be worried about your weight.

JEFF

Okay, Britta. Seriously, I'm not.

BRITTA

I don't think fat wrists are even a thing.

Shirley interjects suddenly.

SHIRLEY

My baby has the cutest little fat wrists! I've got photos on my phone. Wanna see?

She holds the phone up in front of Jeff's face. His eyes widen.

BRITTA

Yeah, but that's a baby. Your body parts don't just randomly balloon as you get older. I mean, look at Pierce. He's aged gracefully.

Jeff looks at Pierce, who is eating oatmeal with a spoon. He keeps accidentally dropping globs of it onto his stomach, which he then scoops back into the bowl. Eventually, he decides to recline, rest the bowl upon his substantial potbelly, and eat from there. He smiles contentedly.

Jeff stares at Pierce's stomach in horror, then suddenly stands.

JEFF

I just remembered something I have to do.

He turns and leaves.

BRITTA

(now concerned)

Wait, Jeff, aren't you gonna finish your celery?

JEFF

I'M FULL!

BRITTA

(to rest of the group)

That's probably fine, right, what just happened there?

Pierce, mouth full of oatmeal, shrugs.

ANNIE

(still looking at laptop)

Okay, well, um... *some* of these are words. What?! Troy! Tribadism?

Troy smiles.

SHIRLEY

That's a word?

ANNIE

Yes, it--

BRITTA

Oh, yeah.

Britta and Annie share an awkward glance, causing Troy and Abed to share a suspicious glance.

ANNIE

Yes, it's a word. I just don't know what it's doing in a paper about *The Great Gatsby*.

Annie begins deleting the offending word.

INT. STUDY ROOM - EVENING

Abed is sitting at the table. He has a coffee. Annie, Troy, and Shirley are getting ready to go.

ANNIE

I am so ready to go home. (to Abed:) You sure you wanna stay here all night?

SHIRLEY

You need to get some sleep, Abed. You could catch a cold.

ABED

(to recorder)

Suzanne, while Shirley's requisite motherly concern is not unappreciated, she demonstrates a fundamental ignorance about the spreading of cold viruses

SHIRLEY

(under her breath)

Or something else bad could happen to you.

ABED

I'll be fine, guys. I've got a change of clothes in here.

(he holds up his backpack)

And in the morning I can wash up in the emergency shower in the science lab. I'm all set. Besides, I gotta start writing up my findings.

TROY

That's so cool. It's like if that book about those kids who live in a museum was set in a college instead. [SIGHS] If my essay could've been about a cool book like that I wouldn't have had to copy most of it off of Wiki--

(beat)

Uh, I mean, I finished reading "The Great Cosby" and wrote about it all on my own and who's the internet?

ABED

(to recorder)

Suzanne. Troy's going to fail English. I worry for him, yet feel this is a logical development.

TROY

Abed, what the hell, man?

ANNIE

That's not nice.

ABED

Sorry. I'm just logging my concern.

(to recorder)

Suzanne. Everybody's mad. Oh, they look madder now. Gotta go.

Britta enters.

BRITTA

Hey. Anybody see Jeff?

Everybody shrugs/shakes their heads.

ANNIE

I guess he went home already?

Shirley heads for the door.

SHIRLEY

He's got the right idea. I'm so exhausted, I just can't wait for this day to be--NO!

Dean Pelton enters.

DEAN PELTON

Hey gang!

SHIRLEY

Mm-mm!
(as in "no")

Shirley quickly exits.

DEAN PELTON

Okay... Well, we still haven't received any submissions for the new school mascot and, seeing as this group is as diverse as a Lucky Charms commercial, I wondered if you guys had any ideas?

Pierce enters.

DEAN PELTON (CONT'D)

Oh, Pierce, just the man for the-
(he sees Pierce advancing)
[SCREAMS]

Pierce grabs Dean Pelton by the collar.

PIERCE

What the hell have you done with the Human Being, you little pantywaist?

DEAN PELTON

Look, I know you and I worked hard to come up with the HB, but I'm broken up about this too, okay? He betrayed us all, you know.

Pierce backs away then falls to his knees.

PIERCE

[MELODRAMATIC SCREAM]

DEAN PELTON

Anyway, new mascot? Anybody?

(getting out a notepad)

I'm thinking maybe an animal. City College has that goat. That shouldn't be hard to one-up. Maybe something exotic...

ABED

What's the prize?

DEAN PELTON

No. No more prizes. Ever again.

ABED

(thinks)

Hm. Okay. Pass.

BRITTA

Yeah, actually, we need to go home to study.

TROY

Yes. That is what I need to do also.

ANNIE

Sorry, Dean. Troy's my ride.

They all exit.

DEAN PELTON

How do we have such a materialistic student body when we have a tuition payment plan based on IOUs?

Pierce's eyes light up. He puts his arm around the Dean and guides him toward the door.

PIERCE

Listen, don't worry about it. Everybody's probably just been holding out till they think up some real boffo ideas.

DEAN PELTON

Really? You think so?

PIERCE

Sure, sure. I bet when you come in tomorrow morning, that suggestion box will be overflowing with mascots.

They exit.

ABED

(to recorder)

Suzanne. I think Pierce is planning to--

(beat)

Nah, never mind, who cares?

We watch as the wall clock fades from 6PM to 3AM.

INT. STUDY ROOM - NIGHT

Abed sits at the table with his laptop, his recorder, some notebooks, and a thermos of coffee. He types rapidly, swigging coffee occasionally. He does a double take. Standing in the corner of the room, wearing a dress shirt, black pants, a bowtie, and looking somehow taller than usual, is Pierce.

ABED

Pierce, what are you still doing here? Didn't you say if you're up past 10 you get dangerously gropey?

PIERCE

The platypus is not what it seems.

Abed cocks his head to one side. Pierce fades away. A coat rack stands in his place. Abed's eyes widen. He hits record on the recorder. He opens his mouth, pauses, closes it again, then turns the recorder off.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. LIBRARY - MORNING (DAY 2)

Pierce and Annie enter the library. They spot Britta reading a book entitled "Fatspiration: Symptoms and Solutions to Anorexia."

ANNIE

Oh... Hey... Britta.

BRITTA

Oh!

Britta quickly closes the book, then puts it on her lap, where it slides to the floor. She puts her feet on top of it to hide the title.

BRITTA (CONT'D)

Hi. Hey. How's it going? [CHUCKLES] The library... Am I right?

ANNIE

Right...

BRITTA

Um, I'll catch up with you guys.

Pierce and Annie keep walking.

ANNIE

(whispering)

Did you see what she was reading? Do you think Britta might have an eating disorder?

PIERCE

Nah. Only pretty girls turn anorexic.

INT. STUDY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Abed's stuff (recorder included) is scattered all over the table. The clock that was on the wall is no longer there. Shirley, Troy, and Jeff are here. Jeff's wearing two watches on each wrist. One is a neon pink Swatch. Pierce and Annie enter and sit down.

The Dean's voice shrills over the intercom.

DEAN PELTON (O.S.)

Hello, Greendale! I was beginning to lose faith in the Greendale spirit, but thank you so much for stuffing my box full of mascots.

PIERCE

[CHUCKLES]

DEAN PELTON

How about I just read some of them out now? Let's see here, first off, a dead cat. Uh, well, I guess that's kind of exotic, in a way. Okay, how about another... a one-eyed snake.

PIERCE

[CHUCKLES HARDER]

DEAN PELTON

Well, I guess that one represents the ocularly-deficient portion of our student body... Must be a decent one in here--oh, a dodo. Well, that's an interesting choice, I think they're... oh, wait, no, it says "doo doo."

PIERCE

[LAUGHS]

DEAN PELTON

Some of the o's were a little faint. Okay, well maybe I'll look over the rest of these on my own time. Okay, everybody.

ANNIE

You submitted those mascots, didn't you?

PIERCE

A little sabotage never hurt anyone. Besides, I can't let the Dean replace the Human Being!

JEFF

Wasn't the Human Being sabotage enough?

PIERCE

Screw you! The Human Being is a triumph of inoffensive design: that off-white pallor, that feature-impaired face, the fact that I'm pretty sure the guy in the costume was a big fruit.

TROY

So it *was* a guy.

Annie and Shirley roll their eyes at Troy.

PIERCE

When Greendale's represented by a cross-dressing water buffalo or a tuna with a cleft palette, they'll realize how much they all miss the Human Being.

Britta enters. As she sits, she eyes Jeff's watch-covered wrists.

BRITTA

Hey, Jeff, do you happen to have the time?

JEFF

What, you can't look at the clock?

BRITTA

What clock?

JEFF

There's always been a--

Jeff looks around.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Huh.

Jeff SIGHS, reaches into his pocket and pulls out his phone.

JEFF (CONT'D)

It's just about 10.

BRITTA

Thanks...

Britta clandestinely takes the anorexia book out of her bag and starts flipping through it under the table.

SHIRLEY

(looking around the table)

These are Abed's things, right? Has anyone seen him today?

Everyone shakes their heads "no."

TROY

Hey, he left his recorder.

Troy grabs the recorder and hits play.

ABED

(on recorder)

Suzanne. Been awake 42 hours now. Finding I'm 85% more productive, 18% better at listing stuff, and 73.8% more willing to assign arbitrary percentages to things. On my sixth coffee. So far suffering no noticeable adverse effects--oh, one second, the clock's talking again. Don't make me come over there!

ABED (CONT'D)

Yeah, I took care of him.

Everyone looks up and GASPS. Troy SCREAMS like a girl. Abed is standing in the doorway, holding a tray full of coffees. Troy quickly stops the recorder.

ABED (CONT'D)

That clock won't bother us anymore. Coffee?

Everyone smiles nervously. Abed begins handing out coffees.

ANNIE

So, um, you done with your psych study?

ABED

Psych study? Oh, Annie, that's small potatoes.

ANNIE

(highly suspicious)

Potatoes?

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone, holding coffees, is following Abed, who is holding two coffees.

ABED

In one night, you can accomplish a lot more than schoolwork. I organized the pop playlist on my iPod thematically from "love" to "shakin' it," memorized all the synonyms of the word "synonym," killed a cockroach.

ANNIE

Ew!

ABED

I met new people... Hey, Carlos!

They approach a Hispanic guy, CARLOS, putting a broom away in a locker.

ABED (CONT'D)

That's Carlos. He's the night janitor. Takes classes in the daytime.

Carlos takes some books out of the locker, along with another broom that has the words "PRACTICE BROOM" printed along the handle.

ABED (CONT'D)

He's working toward a Master's in Sanitation. Hey, Carlos!

Abed high-fives Carlos, sending coffee flying, which Annie narrowly dodges. They continue walking.

ABED (CONT'D)

(calling back to Carlos)

We'll get started on the second act of your play tonight, okay buddy?

(continuing)

You know, there are lots of things you get from the night that you can't get from the day. Stop!

Abed stops, holds out a hand and halts everyone.

ABED (CONT'D)

You hear that?

Everyone listens, but hears nothing.

ABED (CONT'D)

Of course you don't. There's too much noise in the daytime with silly little students going about their silly little lives, but at night there's the clanging of the heating system, the hum of the vending machines, the sqlorching of the plumbing.

SHIRLEY

Sqlor... ching?

Abed finishes a coffee and chucks it in a nearby trash can.

ABED

New word I made up last night. Night brings with it a glorious symphony so much better than this... noise.

He gestures at the many people WALKING and TALKING noisily.

ABED (CONT'D)

It's like night and day.

Abed resumes walking and the rest follow.

ABED (CONT'D)

Also, there's a sweet little family of possums that sleeps in the boiler room. Which is right beneath our study room, actually. You can hear them through the pipes.

Annie looks worried.

ANNIE

Wait, are they possums or opossums?

ABED

There's a difference?

ANNIE

Possums are really cute. The other kind... I'm scared of. So which is it?

ABED

Oh. Possums.

Abed exits through a doorway.

ANNIE

Wait, what?

Annie hurries after him with everyone else in tow.

INT. OTHER HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The group continues walking, Abed in the lead, Jeff and Britta bringing up the rear.

BRITTA

(quietly to Jeff)

Jeff, listen, about the fat stuff yesterday...

JEFF

Are you referring to someone in this group as "the fat stuff?"

ABED

(to recorder)

Suzanne, Jeff's pretending he isn't affected by what happened yesterday even though it's obvious he's developed an eating disorder.

An awkward pause. Then Pierce bursts out LAUGHING.

PIERCE

He's like a pretty girl!

BRITTA

It's not funny! Anorexia nervosa affects pretty girls *and* pretty men!

JEFF

Okay, I'm done here.

Jeff leaves. Britta looks at Abed, upset. From Abed's view, we see Britta is wearing a fancy, formal, black dress.

ABED

Were you always wearing that dress?

Then, Britta is in her normal clothes again.

BRITTA

(confused, annoyed)

What?

Suddenly back in the dress again, she turns and starts down the hall. Abed shakes his head and blinks.

BRITTA (CONT'D)

Jeff, wait!

ANNIE

See you later, Abed.

SHIRLEY

You need to get some sleep, Abed.

They both walk off.

PIERCE

That was pretty funny, Abed.

Pierce slaps Abed on the shoulder and walks off. Troy watches as everyone walks away down the hall.

TROY

Jeff has an eating disorder?

As Abed speaks, Troy's face cycles through expressions correlating to what he describes.

ABED

(to recorder)

Once again, Troy is left in the dark. The last one to understand anything. Alone. Confused. Hungry? No, no. Bored? Yes. Can his smartphone save him from--?

Troy, halfway through taking out his phone, snaps out of it, looks annoyed at Abed, then walks away, leaving Abed alone in the hall.

INT. DEAN PELTON'S OFFICE - LATER

There are magazines about exotic animals scattered about and photos of bizarre animals tacked up everywhere, some with giant red X's over them. The Dean is at his desk using his computer. He opens a link and a huge photo of an aye-aye, a small bald rodent, pops up.

DEAN PELTON

Holy--! Isn't he ug... nique.

Jeff enters and, seeing the strange animal photos plastered all over the place, freezes.

DEAN PELTON (CONT'D)

Oh, Jeffrey, did you wanna throw your suggestion hat into the mascot ring?

JEFF

Uh, I don't know, how about a pet rock?

DEAN PELTON

Well, the 90s nostalgia for pointless 70s fads *is* coming back, but rocks don't move and we want something that represents forward momentum.

JEFF

Okay, whatever. Listen, I was in the gym using the treadmill and it started leaking something that looks and burns like battery acid.

ANGLE ON JEFF'S LEFT SHOE, BURNED THROUGH, SHOWING THE SOCK

We focus on Britta walking by outside the office. She stops when she sees Jeff and waits nearby, listening.

We go back to the action inside.

DEAN PELTON

Well, you sure you still need it? I mean, didn't I see you on the treadmill all morning?

JEFF

(beat)

Did you?

DEAN PELTON

(beat)

I don't think so.

JEFF

The point is I can't find the maintenance guy. Do we even have one anymore?

DEAN PELTON

Well, yes, but he owns a considerable amount of shares in the school so he sort of works when he feels like it. Confidentially, he basically outranks me. But I'll page him and see what I can do.

JEFF

Fine.

Jeff exits.

Britta backs up into someone dressed in a TIGER COSTUME. She turns around and jumps.

TIGER

[GROWLS]

BRITTA

[FRIGHTENED GASP]

The Tiger removes its head to reveal Chang. Britta jumps.

BRITTA (CONT'D)

[FRIGHTENED GASP]

CHANG

[GROWLS]

He puts the head back on and enters the office.

CHANG (CONT'D)

[GROWLS]

DEAN PELTON

(professional yet intrigued)

Can I help you?

Chang removes the head of the costume.

DEAN PELTON (CONT'D)

Oh, right, of course.

Chang spins around and gestures with his thumb at his back on which rhinestones spell in flowing, red script "El Tigre."

DEAN PELTON (CONT'D)

Yeah, I'm afraid having a Spanish tiger as a mascot would demonstrate a clear bias.

Abed walks by. He looks in and notices all the strange images on the walls. Chang, in his tiger suit with the head exposed, looks through the window and glares at Abed, GROWLING. From Abed's view, we see that the tiger head looks disturbingly authentic and a red curtain hangs in the background. Abed's eyes widen in horror. He runs off down the hall SHRIEKING.

DEAN PELTON (CONT'D)

And apparently Muslims aren't too crazy about them either.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. STUDY ROOM - NIGHT (DAY 4)

Abed sits alone, the circles under his eyes noticeably deep. Notebooks and empty coffee cups are scattered everywhere and the tape recorder sits beside him. He types feverishly on his laptop as he nurses a coffee.

ABED

Suzanne. Feeling better than amazing. Eyes sharp. Mind clear. Fingers...

(beat)

Not slow. I understand things now that everyone should. I know that sleep holds us back, I know hazelnut is objectively the best coffee flavor, I know that *Batman Forever* actually has more layers than all the other Batman films combined. I know--

Everything around Abed suddenly dissolves so that the study room is enshrouded on all sides with a red curtain. Abed looks around, noticing the table (along with his stuff) is gone. He sits in an easy chair. He looks at his hands and finds them wrinkled. We see that Abed looks to be about 30 years older and is wearing a suit and tie. Next to him is an empty easy chair, and, beside that, another, upon which sits Britta, wearing the black dress from before. There are two lamps on either side of the two chairs and a statue (or is it?) of the Human Being behind them.

ABED (CONT'D)

It's been done.

Britta smiles. In the corner of the room, with his back to Abed and Britta, is Chang, in his tiger suit. He is shaking violently. He spins around, quickly removes and tosses the tiger head, and claps. Throughout the scene, whenever Chang speaks, his voice sounds oddly stilted. We see subtitles with the correct words.

CHANG

Shut up!

ABED

Tiger suit's not canon.

Chang sits down in the empty chair, closes his eyes and rubs his hands together slowly. Britta taps the side of her nose. A shadow of the E. Pluribus Anus symbol drifts through the curtains.

CHANG

I've got good news. That show you like is going to come back on the air.

Abed thinks a moment.

ABED

You're gonna have to be more specific.

CHANG

(re: Britta)

She's the worst.

Strange jazz music filters into the air. Chang hops off the chair and starts dancing. A strobe light flashes. Britta rises, goes over and leans toward Abed. She softly whispers something in his ear.

ABED

What'd you say, Britta?

BRITTA

I said, everyone's in the cafeteria to see the new mascot.

Abed blinks. Everything looks normal again. It's morning. Britta, in regular clothes, is standing by the door.

BRITTA (CONT'D)

You coming?

Abed looks bewildered.

INT. CAFETERIA - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 5)

The cafeteria is buzzing. The gang sits around a table. Abed drinks his coffee. His head darts about erratically.

PIERCE

This is gonna be great. I can't wait to see which one of my mascots he had to go with.

ANNIE

The Dean didn't *have* to pick one of yours. I'm sure other students submitted too.

PIERCE

Sure, but only I know what he likes.

Abed hits record on the recorder.

ABED

Suzanne. Here to see the mascot. On the lookout for tigers, half-men/half-tigers, and platypuses. Platypi? Platypuses? Platypi?

He keeps repeating this. Shirley stares at him, concerned.

The Dean and Chang enter, pushing a cart with a red sheet over it. The Dean leans over to Chang.

DEAN PELTON

Okay, just be on your guard. Tensions are running high.

Chang assumes an attempt at an authoritative stance. Back to the gang:

SHIRLEY

How many coffees have you had today, Abed?

JEFF

At this point I think he's more mocha than man.

Abed hits play on his recorder.

ABED

(on recorder)

Suzanne. 11:13 AM. Starting eighth cup of coffee and loving it. Expect something snarky from Jeff about it despite his far more serious body image issues.

JEFF

Y'know, I'm getting pretty sick of you acting like we're all your test subjects.

TROY

Yeah, quit studying everybody like you're Morgan Freeman and we're a bunch of penguins.

BRITTA

Abed has a point, Jeff. I can't remember the last time I saw you eat anything and you're in the gym a *lot*. Even for you. You're starting to remind me of this after school special I saw once with the girl from Growing Pains.

ABED

(snaps his fingers)

"For the Love of Nancy." She eats a bagel at the end. It's really poignant.

JEFF

I'm not eating any bagels!

BRITTA

Okay, fine, no ba--.

Britta sees everyone else looking at her expectantly.

BRITTA (CONT'D)

None of... those.

Everyone else is dejected. We focus on the Dean again.

DEAN PELTON

Hello, everyone! If I could have your attention please. It's been tough deciding between... three of great suggestions, but I hope you're all excited to finally meet our new mascot.

Back to the gang, Abed hits play on his recorder again.

ABED

(on recorder)

Suzanne. Britta's been tracking Jeff's behavior as a means to further her psychoanalytical academic career.

BRITTA

This has nothing to do with my major!

ABED

(on recorder)

However, she denies this.

BRITTA

I'm just worried about you, Jeff!

Britta grabs one of Jeff's watch-laden wrists.

BRITTA (CONT'D)

I mean, what are these about, huh?

JEFF

It's just... It's fashion.

BRITTA

This is all about Chang's stupid handcuffs! They're like handcuffs... on... your heart!

JEFF

Britta, you're not a shrink and I'm not anorexic!

Britta SCOFFS, stands up, and heads toward the Dean and Chang.

DEAN

We wanted a mascot that's a jack of all trades. Just like you can get a major here in... some trades.

BRITTA

(to Chang)

Lemme see your handcuffs.

Britta reaches for them.

CHANG

Back off! I need those! Someone could make an attempt on the mystery mascot.

BRITTA

Oh yeah?

Britta reaches toward the red sheet.

CHANG

Step away from the platypus!

Chang pulls Britta away.

PIERCE/ABED/TROY/SHIRLEY

Platypus?

DEAN PELTON

Oh, great, thanks. Well, I guess I might as well just take this off now.

The Dean flings off the sheet. There's a live platypus in a cage. The lunchroom responds with general GROANS of disgust. A few people SCREAM.

DEAN PELTON (CONT'D)

Yes, that's right, it's a platypus. Thanks to Annie Edison for the winning suggestion.

TROY

Dope. It's like five animals at the same time.

PIERCE

Annie! How could you?

ANNIE

I just think they're cute! And I felt bad for the Dean.

PIERCE

Et tu, Big Boobs?

Abed stares at the platypus, his eyes wide.

Chang whips out his handcuffs and slaps them on Britta, but they won't close around her wrist.

CHANG

Why! Are you all! So fat?!

Britta holds up her arm.

BRITTA

(shouting)

See, Jeff? See?

Abed continues staring at the platypus. From his view, we see Britta in the black dress dancing with Chang who has a tiger head. The Dean is dressed like a ringleader. The platypus' eyes glow red. A red curtain frames the scene.

Abed turns to Pierce. There is a haziness around his head and he is wearing his formal attire from Abed's first hallucination.

PIERCE

The platypus is not what it seems.

Back in reality, Britta, struggles with Chang, then grabs the cuffs from him.

CHANG

Hey!

On the cuffs in small print it reads: "NOT FOR APPREHENDING CULPRITS 12 OR OVER."

BRITTA

These are toy handcuffs! For kids!

CHANG

My ex-wife found my wrists adorable!

Abed fixates on the platypus. He turns to Pierce, who still looks, hazy, formal.

PIERCE

(echoing)

The platypus! The platypus!

Abed stands up. The group looks at him. Abed rushes forward purposefully. Britta and Chang turn to see Abed charging the platypus.

CHANG

A second assassin!

DEAN PELTON

Don't do it! You'll kill our school spirit!

ANGLE ON EVERYONE REACTING IN SHOCK AS WE HEAR CRASHING AND PLATYPUS NOISES: HONKING, SQUEALING.

DEAN PELTON (CONT'D)

NOOOOOO!

INT. STUDY ROOM - EVENING

Everyone is sitting around the table. Abed is completely passed out, his head down on the table. He has a huge welt on his face by his eye. The recorder lies in front of him. Jeff is busy tearing the watches off his wrists.

Britta is reading from Abed's laptop.

BRITTA

Okay, he should be fine. Wikipedia says platypus venom is non-lethal.

(beat)

Citation needed.

ANNIE

Is he gonna be okay from not sleeping? He freaked out pretty bad there.

TROY

You know, he tried to tell me *Batman Forever* was the best Batman? Just... let that sink in.

SHIRLEY

He's all confused. Yesterday he said my narrative arc was developing nicely. I know God didn't create me with a narrative arc.

BRITTA

Wikipedia says prolonged sleep deprivation can result in visual and aural hallucinations and the deterioration of critical faculties.

JEFF

You realize you're a psych major getting your mental health info from Wikipedia, right?

BRITTA

(ignoring him)

Speaking of which, Jeff, Wikipedia says isolated wrist weight gain isn't even possible.

She closes the laptop.

BRITTA (CONT'D)

(mumbles)

Citation needed.

TROY

You're only just recognizing Wikipedia's power? Check this out.

Troy holds up his English paper, on which in red marker is written "A+! As thorough as a Wikipedia entry!"

JEFF

Listen, can we go get something to eat? I'm literally about to die of starvation.

SHIRLEY

How does some cherry pie sound?

Shirley brings a pie out from under the table. Everyone OOHs and AAHs.

TROY

(genuinely concerned)

How did she sneak that in here without any of us noticing?

Shirley brings out plates and begins slicing and passing out pie.

SHIRLEY

I thought we could all use a treat at the end of this rough week.

PIERCE

(muttering to self)

So many betrayals. I feel like a desperate housewife.

Shirley places a slice of pie in front of him.

PIERCE (CONT'D)

Over it!

He digs in.

ANNIE

You know, Shirley, this is, excuse me, *damn* fine cherry pie.

JEFF

(through mouthfuls of pie)

Too bad Abed's asleep. I'm sure he'd have something to say about the pop cultural significance of all this.

Troy gets an idea. He grabs the recorder and hits record.

TROY

Uh, it's Suzanne, right? Yeah, so, okay...
We're all eating pie. And it's like... that part
from... "2 Broke Girls" where Max--

Troy looks up at Jeff, who has a very grave expression on his face. He shakes his head 'no' at Troy, very slowly and seriously. Troy turns off the recorder and slowly sets it down, looking sheepish and dejected.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. DEAN PELTON'S OFFICE - EVENING

The Dean is throwing out the platypus cage, which is all bent and messed up. He SIGHS. There's a KNOCK at the door.

DEAN PELTON

Yes?

The door opens and the HUMAN BEING walks in. The Dean stands up.

DEAN PELTON (CONT'D)

I have nothing to say to you.

HUMAN BEING

[MOANS]

The Human Being holds up a test paper with the heading "Packaging Science 101 - Unit 1 - Box Orientation." There are a series of poorly drawn boxes on it (some of them round) and a huge circled, red 'F' in the top right.

HUMAN BEING (CONT'D)

[STARTS CRYING]

DEAN PELTON

(sympathetic)

Oh, I see.

The Dean gets up and walks over to the Human Being. They embrace.

DEAN PELTON (CONT'D)

There, there. It's alright.

(beat)

Now, I hope we learned a lesson here.

Hmm?

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW