

# Go On Episode Guide

Episodes 001-022

Last episode aired Thursday April 11, 2013

MATTHEW PERRY

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GO ON

4 TUESDAYS 9PM

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# **Season One**



# Pilot

Season 1

Episode Number: 1

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Wednesday August 08, 2012  
Writer: Scott Silveri  
Director: Todd Holland  
Show Stars: Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Julie White (Anne), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Tyler James Williams (Owen), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), Khary Payton (Don), John Cho (Steven)  
Recurring Role: Sarah Baker (Sonia), Tonita Castro (Fausta), Bill Cobbs (George), Seth Morris (Danny), Allison Miller (Carrie)  
Guest Stars: Terrell Owens (Himself), Matt Knudsen (Jack Madden), Kevin Garnett (Kevin Garnett), Kimrie Lewis-Davis (Terrell's Girlfriend), Angelica Pulido (Iris)  
Production Code: 101  
Summary: Following the death of his wife, a radio sport broadcaster attends a support group at the request of his employer.



Sports talk radio host Ryan King charges through the K-BAL studios to interrupt his show, already in progress — without him. Having cut his trip short, Ryan is back and better than ever, and he can't wait to get back on the air. Ryan's boss and best friend Steven isn't too sure about this plan, since Ryan's beloved wife Janie died less than a month ago. Apparently, corporate thinks Ryan could use some help, and they've enlisted Steven and Ryan's plucky assistant Carrie to send him off to group therapy. All he needs to do is return with proof (a sign-off sheet) indicating that he has attended

10 sessions, and he's back on the air.

Ryan asks Carrie to fill up his iPod with podcasts of his show, then heads off to the local community center, intending to sit and listen to himself during Transitions — a group for life change. Since group leader Lauren is late, Yolanda takes over. She's convinced she can handle the responsibility, until she spots Ryan, "the new person." Suddenly all eyes are on Ryan, who tells everyone to pretend he's not there. An older blind gentleman, George, turns to 20-year-old Owen, asking him to start, but everyone knows Owen's not a talker. Angry Anne butts in. Tomorrow will mark five months since her lover Pat died, and she can't sleep in their bed. Five months on the couch! Don tells her to be happy she has a couch, and the others chime in, each besting each other with their tales of woe. Sensing healthy, sports-like competitive spirit, Ryan proposes a contest to see who has the saddest story, regardless of the fact that Lauren has warned them not to compete over grief.

Owen proposes they call the game "March Sadness," a head-to-head tournament that Ryan officiates. In the final round, blind, diabetic George goes up against Fausta. Although Fausta speaks little English, Ryan thinks he hears the word "muerta" paired with "father," "brother" and "slippers," making her the winner. Ryan has crowned Fausta with a donut box, and everyone is laughing, dancing and clapping when Lauren finally arrives, stunned to find her brood has been

comparing their experiences of grief — a big no-no. Lauren withdraws a gong from her bag, and tries to orient Ryan to the language and practice of the group, which includes self-hugging — the kind of thing that prompts Ryan to stick in his earphones and tune out. That night, Ryan tries but fails to sleep in his marital bed and winds up, like Anne, tossing and turning on the couch.

In the next therapy session, Lauren pairs Ryan with Owen for an exercise: finding three words to express their experience of grief. Ryan tells Owen that he's just there to get his sheet signed, so Owen tells Ryan about something he finds funny: two crazy Norwegian guys dress up in funny costumes and follow around the car that takes location photos for Google maps. His big brother sent him the link the day before the skiing accident that put him in a coma from which he's unlikely to recover. Stunned, Ryan has nothing to say. Afterwards, Lauren's upset to learn Ryan and Owen didn't come up with three words. Ryan admits he thinks therapy is just about wallowing in misery, when they should all be getting on with their lives. When was the last time Anne punched someone, or Danny slept with a woman? Once Ryan's diatribe subsides, Lauren ends the session.

Ryan runs after Lauren — she forgot to sign his sheet, and he needs to get back to work. Refusing to sign, Lauren says she sees his needs differently. In their ensuing discussion, it comes out that Lauren is not exactly a licensed therapist... but she has lead groups and helped thousands in a renowned outreach program... which just happens to be Weight Watchers! Ryan is incredulous, but Lauren is certain she has a gift — the gift of helping people. Ryan climbs out of the car with a parting shot: Lauren has done wonders with the kid whose brother is in a coma.

Lauren rushes out of the car, impressed that Ryan got Owen to talk, which hasn't happened in the last two months since he began attending therapy. When Ryan asks if Owen lost any weight, Lauren lays into him. She would have been happy to sign Ryan's sheet if he shared just a tidbit about his wife. While it may be easy to mock her, opening up is hard. Ryan tells Lauren that his wife, the only woman he ever loved, got a rare blood disease — there one day, gone the next. After Lauren signs his sheet and gives him a hug for his bravery, Ryan admits he just lied. He just did Lauren a favor — she doesn't want a guy like Ryan in his group. With a wave, Lauren storms to her car and drives off.

It's not long before Ryan is back behind the mic at K-Bal, interviewing Terrell Owens. The show goes off great, just like old times. Afterwards, Ryan is waiting for his car at the valet when Terrell drives by texting and not paying attention to what's in front of his car. Furious, Ryan empties the contents of a box of condolence gifts, pelting Terrell's Escalade with fruit. With a one-way fight imminent, Carrie steps in as Terrell's girlfriend starts beating Ryan with her purse.

Realizing that his emotions are making him dangerously explosive, Ryan returns to group therapy with a box of donuts, ready to talk. The truth is, Janie was driving — not fast — while texting, asking him to buy a bag of coffee. At least it was important. She ran a stop sign, and that was it. She was the only girl he ever loved... Even though he knows the group's rules dictate that he shouldn't interrupt anyone, let alone himself, Ryan spies something out a window. Grabbing Owen, Ryan runs outside — it's the Goggle car! Grabbing some costumes from the community center's medieval warriors combat group, Ryan and Owen run behind the Google car, just like the Swedes, with many members of the group joining in. Could this be therapy?



## He Got Game, She Got Cats

Season 1

Episode Number: 2

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Tuesday September 11, 2012  
Writer: Lesley Wake Webster  
Director: Andy Ackerman  
Show Stars: Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Julie White (Anne), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Tyler James Williams (Owen), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), John Cho (Steven)  
Recurring Role: Sarah Baker (Sonia), Tonita Castro (Fausta), Bill Cobbs (George), Seth Morris (Danny), Allison Miller (Carrie)  
Guest Stars: Keelin Woodell (Sophie), Lilli Passero (Reina), Ian Jensen (Maitre'D)  
Production Code: 102  
Summary: Frustrated with the "all talk, no action" philosophy of Lauren, Ryan urges Sonia to dump her boyfriend. When the consequences get out of control, Ryan realizes Lauren may be wiser than he realized. And while trying to keep busy and avoid being lonely, Ryan makes increasing demands on his assistant, Carrie. Meanwhile, Ryan rekindles George's love of basketball.



Ryan is feeling lonely. In fact, he tells his talk radio audience that the reason he won't be running the New York Marathon is because long distance running is lonely. On the way out of work, Steven teases Ryan's assistant Carrie, who's dressed for a night on the town. She declares that this is her first night out in two weeks, and no one's going to spoil it. Contrary to popular belief, Ryan hasn't been keeping her at the office late because there's a lot of work to do, but because he doesn't want to go home to his empty house - so he keeps coming up with lamer and lamer excuses to work

late. Then, when he gets bored of the work, he tortures Carrie with the proposition, "You know what might be fun...?" which always has a lame activity to go along with it.

The support group members are feeling down. George hates his new nursing home, and Sonia hates her boyfriend Jason's face. Lauren suggests digging deeper, prompting Ryan to let loose. They spend too much time in group talking; it's time to take action! When Lauren decides to dump her boyfriend, the group starts chanting, "Dump him!" so she picks up the phone and makes the call. Once again, Lauren tries to get her group under control, but Ryan leads them in another chant: "No more stasis! We want action!"

Ryan snags Carrie as she's about to get on the elevator. They're going to have to work late again tonight. Carrie makes a show of calling her friend Sophie to say no, she won't be able to hang out at The Point tonight after all. After a few excruciatingly bored minutes at the office, Ryan tracks down Carrie and her friends Sophie and Reina at the club. Carrie does her best to get rid of Ryan, but Sophie and Reina are thrilled to have him, so their party of three quickly becomes a party of four.

Ryan and Steven stop by to visit George, who seems to believe Steven is black. Ryan is skeptical, but Steven blames his "innate street credibility" and lets blind George believe what he will.

George announces that he has summoned the guys to look at his most beloved treasure, a signed basketball from Wilt Chamberlain's 100-point game. Unfortunately, the Lucite box that was safe-keeping the basketball is empty. The guys don't want to tell George the truth, but ultimately, they have to.

The next day before group, Sonia thanks Ryan for his suggestion. Her new cat, Fuzzy Jason, is awesome, and so is Ryan. The only problem? Now Fuzzy Jason is home alone while Sonia is at work. Ryan advises Sonia to steer clear of feelings and do something, so Sonia decides she's going to get Fuzzy Jason a friend. Owen is surprised to find George dressed in his good suit, wearing all his jewelry, and wheeling a cart filled with his most precious belongings. Devastated by the loss of his most precious possession, George has made a decision. From now on, he's taking all his valuables with him.

The next day, Ryan tells Carrie he got a text from Sonia and her new cat... and another new cat, and another new cat... It's starting to look like a lot of cats, so Ryan switches his attention to Carrie's social schedule. What's on tap for tonight? Carrie claims she made plans - set in stone - at a place Ryan would hate. It's not long before Ryan is sitting with Carrie, Reina and Sophie at a bar with pink drinks, having their hair blown out. Ryan's prying eyes can't stay away from Carrie's phone, and before long Sophie has spilled it: Carrie talks about a guy named Eric all the time. When Ryan starts chanting, "Carrie and Eric!" Carrie drags him outside for a good talking to: Ryan's gotta stop butting into her life.

Ryan explains that he can't go home because everything reminds him of Janie. No one else cares about him like Carrie, his Vice-Janie. Carrie agrees to work out a deal, but there have to be guidelines, like no more throwing soccer balls at her head. Ryan will settle as long as he can call Carrie to repeat funny lines from "The Daily Show" and receive guidance on what to wear to a Havana wedding. He just wants to know that someone is thinking of him when he's not around. Carrie agrees to think, just as long as sometimes Ryan isn't actually around.

Ryan returns home to find Sonia perched on his doorstep with six cat carriers. She wants him to cat-sit for a few hours because Lauren's stopping by her house to check in, and Sonia doesn't want her to get judgey about using cats to avoid human relationships. Apparently, Sonia has taken Ryan's call to action to heart, and now she can't stop acquiring cats. Later, Ryan's doorbell rings. Anne wants to know whether he told Sonia it was a good idea to start acquiring cats, then hands over a box of three more cats. When Ryan asks how Sonia could have gotten so many cats - and then spread them around - Anne reminds him that Sonia is crazy. It's not long before Owen, Yolanda, Danny and Fausta stop by with more cats. Mr. K stops by too, but for some odd reason, he has no cats.

Ryan calls Lauren in the midst of her visit with a cat-free Sonia. Lauren explains that what Sonia really wants is a meaningful relationship with a boyfriend, but since she's afraid of abandonment, she compulsively turns to cats - they're a crutch, not a cure. Lauren proposes a deal: Ryan takes care of the cats, and Lauren will take care of Sonia. At the next group meeting, Sonia is cat-free. Lauren announces that Ryan got rid of all Sonia's cats except for one, which can be their group cat - a common bond they'll share for a long time to come. Afterwards, Ryan apologizes to Lauren. She really is good at what she does, and he won't interfere again. Lauren reminds him that everyone has unique gifts to bring to the group. Spying George sitting forlornly with all his possessions, Ryan hatches an idea.

Ryan brings George to the Staples Center to enjoy some very expensive courtside seats at a Lakers game. It's a special night, and Ryan is going to be George's eyes. Eating nachos, Ryan is pleased to receive a text from Carrie reminding him that if he's eating nachos, he should take antacid. Ryan calls every single play. After a while, George tells him to shut up, he knows what's happening. He can hear the game better than Ryan can see it.

## There's No "Ryan" in Team

Season 1  
Episode Number: 3  
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Tuesday September 18, 2012  
Writer: Scott Silveri  
Director: Todd Holland  
Show Stars: Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Julie White (Anne), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Tyler James Williams (Owen), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), John Cho (Steven)  
Recurring Role: Sarah Baker (Sonia), Tonita Castro (Fausta), Bill Cobbs (George), Seth Morris (Danny), Allison Miller (Carrie)  
Guest Stars: Alejandro Patino (Miguel), Charles Carpenter (Tim), Timothy Ryan Cole (Waiter)  
Production Code: 103  
Summary: Ryan struggles to keep the group and his "real life" separate, but comes to learn he'll get better faster if he really lets them in. Meanwhile, Steven wants to be there for Ryan and help him overcome his loss, but his efforts to do so are awkward and comical.



Ryan does a radio show, focusing on the darkest day in the NFL: cut day. He admits to his fans that he's the kind of guy who's incapable of delivering bad news. Cut to Ryan, falling out his window in hopes of avoiding his gardener Miguel, who doesn't speak very good English, and doesn't yet know that Janie is dead. Today is no different; Ryan still can't tell Miguel, who has gathered a giant basket of oranges for Janie. Later, Ryan admits to the group that he can't tell people about Janie's death because he can't take the outpouring of grief. Maybe he should just get a T-shirt or vanity plates that say

"dead wife." Mr. K immediately points out that eight letters is too many for a California license plate, and the group spins out, trying to come up with an effective way to spell "dead wife" with seven letters.

The next day, Ryan brings his basket of oranges to work and starts pelting random co-workers with citrus. After all, people aren't calling him on things since Janie died, so he may as well take advantage. The good news is the Porsche Ryan always wanted will be delivered later in the week. Wondering why Ryan has been emailing him in the middle of the night, Steven tries and fails to start a sensitive conversation. When Ryan runs away, Steven turns to Carrie for advice — how can we be a better friend to Ryan? How can he make something sad less sad? Carrie's doubtful, so Steven moves in for an awkward hug and some hair stroking.

The group discusses their hardest, loneliest moments of the day. Ryan's is 1:23 a.m., the time Janie always used to roll over in her sleep, slap him in the face and scare the hell out of him. This story earns kudos for sharing from Lauren. After the session, Ryan walks outside with the group. He's just telling them how much he appreciates all of them when he spies some dudes from work on the basketball court. Ryan makes an abrupt 360, pretending he doesn't know any of the group members, then joins the pick-up game in his suit. Later, Ryan meets Steven for a

lunch. Steven wants to bond and talk about Janie. When he places an assuring hand on Ryan's and gives a reassuring squeeze, Ryan freaks out.

The next day, Miguel meets Ryan at the door asking for Janie. Ryan finally snaps. Unable to lie anymore, he confesses that Janie is "muerta." Manuel offers a heartfelt "lo siento" and leaves Ryan alone. Later the group attacks Ryan — why did he act embarrassed of them the other day in front of his friends? George explains that they all dressed up to play basketball so they could mingle with his buddies, not realizing that Danny forgot to call him when they called off that plan. Ryan claims he's not embarrassed; but Anne doesn't buy it, and Fausta smacks him across the back of his head. Ryan wants to contain his group experience to the room. Anne explains that the group members are friends outside of group. Once a month, they go bowling together, and while it's not fun, they do it together because they're a group.

When the group decides Ryan thinks he's better than them, Lauren tries to soothe their ruffled feathers — which works until Ryan admits he can't go bowling on Thursday because that's the night his new Porsche will be delivered. He's going to drive around and listen to '80s tunes. When Mr. K asks if he can follow Ryan around town in his Chevette, Lauren's all for it. That night, Ryan is up once again at 1:23. The next morning during the show, Steven offers a sentimental gesture through the glass of the studio, but gets rebuffed. Carrie thinks it's hilarious. Having heard about the creepy hand squeeze, she suggests Steven might want to try what the dudes do in Kentucky, i.e. get drunk, punch each other in the face and fall off a roof.

Ryan returns home to find Miguel in the yard with a couple guys, installing an ornate and gaudy fountain as a tribute to Janie. Ryan hates it, but due to the language barrier and his fear of confrontation, the fountain remains where it stands. That night, Ryan drives the streets of Los Angeles in his new Porsche, disappointed that the car isn't sophisticated enough to comprehend his voice commands. Steven calls asking Ryan to meet him in a sketchy abandoned lot. They're going to get drunk, break bottles and bond in a manly way. When Steven pulls out an air gun, Ryan asks if they can hold hands again. Finally, Steven sighs. All Ryan wants to do is go to group. When Ryan admits that he kind of abandoned the group tonight, Steven shows his sensitivity, telling Ryan to go to them, now.

The bowling outing is as dismal as Anne predicted, but Ryan makes a good show of apologizing to the group and asking if he can join in. That's when a drunken Owen stands up and asks if he can drive the Porsche. Ryan relents and the group heads to the parking lot to take turns doing donuts. Anne climbs in the car and pauses to make something very clear: Ryan's not cooler than she is. She knows it; he knows it, and his car is about to know it. Anne pulls on to the street, unaware that Mr. K's Chevette is putt-putting on their tail.

It's 1:23 again, and Ryan's awake. Suddenly, the doorbell rings. The group has stopped by to show their support. Lauren took a prescription sleeping pill, so she has no idea what she's saying. And is she hearing mariachi music? Fausta knows the song, so she leads everyone out to the garden, where Miguel presents his finished fountain. That's when Steven shows up, impressed that this is what Ryan does in his group — sing and cry. Ryan introduces Steven to his friends as his best friend, making everyone happy. Lauren decides that this literal outpouring may be just what the doctor ordered.

# Bench-Clearing Bawl

Season 1  
Episode Number: 4  
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Tuesday September 25, 2012  
Writer: Liz Brixius  
Director: Jamie Babbit  
Show Stars: Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Julie White (Anne), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Tyler James Williams (Owen), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), John Cho (Steven)  
Recurring Role: Sarah Baker (Sonia), Tonita Castro (Fausta), Seth Morris (Danny), Allison Miller (Carrie)  
Guest Stars: Jeremy Roenick (Himself), Erin Foley (Fawning Woman), Dan Moriarty (Player 2), Devin Sidell (Woman in Blue), Jessica Manuel (Lady Skater), Alison Robertson (Sasha)  
Production Code: 104  
Summary: Ryan is thrilled to finally be accepted on to former NHL star Jeremy Roenick's pick-up hockey team not realizing that both the invitation and his success in his first game is out sympathy for the loss of his wife. Meanwhile at the group, Ryan agrees to escort Ann to a wedding and struggles with having to put together a collage of his past and future.



Ryan is thrilled to bring home a larger-than-life-sized cutout of himself. The only place he can find to put it is currently occupied by Janie's sewing machine, so he decides to give the sewing machine to Sonia, since hers broke. Everyone's happy except Lauren. It's a really big deal to start giving Janie's possessions away. The shirt she sewed for Ryan may have been terrible, but she sewed it with love. Ryan doesn't need to suppress his feelings; they have tissues and a safe space. Ryan reacts with sarcasm, prompting disbelief from the others. When Lauren goes for the cry, she usually gets it. Lau-

ren denies that she goes for the cry; however, she does think crying is cathartic. Mr. K breaks into tears, asking, "Why, why?"

At work, Ryan's excited to learn a spot has opened up on Jeremy Roenick's hockey team - did Carrie call to get him in yet? Steven realizes Carrie already called and was denied because Roenick hates Ryan. You'd think there'd be no downside to constantly insulting people on the air... When Steven realizes Carrie didn't use the dead wife card, he picks up the phone and guilties Roenick into letting Ryan onto his team.

Overjoyed, Ryan announces his upcoming hockey game to the group, then frowns to see they're making therapeutic collages about their pasts and futures. Anne speaks up. She's been invited to a wedding, the first since her partner died, and she doesn't think she can face it alone. Anne is surprised to learn Ryan understands, and even more surprised when he offers to be her date. Lauren clasps Anne's hands - this is a great idea! Anne wants to think about it, but Ryan warns her not to take too long, or Lauren will go for the cry. Anne accepts his offer, cry denied.



Steven cheers on the sidelines during Ryan's first hockey game. Roenick tells the other guys to go easy on Ryan since his wife just died, and consequently, Ryan's head inflates - he's killing this game! When Ryan gets on his knees, searching for a lost contact, Steven lets Roenick believe he's crying. On the way to the wedding, Anne asks Ryan if he's wearing glasses to look smarter. He claims he's wearing them to see, and he promises to show her a great time; he's her wingman for the night.

Ryan quickly realizes that this wedding is a lesbian wedding. He's impressed when random women approach him to thank him for the good work he's doing on his show. Clearly it's a smart crowd. Ryan notices a woman checking Anne out and encourages her to say hello, but Anne insists she's not ready yet. Ryan decides to check out Sasha anyway and returns to tell Anne that she's a cool single mom, too. It's not long before Sasha makes her move, and ready or not, Anne is in the midst of flirtation. Ryan hits the bar, and when another woman approaches him with kudos for his journalistic integrity, he realizes she thinks he's Rachel Maddow.

Back at the office, Ryan is just telling Steven he's going to start a fight on the ice, when Carrie bumps into Ryan in the hall. Why does she hit harder than Jeremy Roenick? Carrie reports that Lauren called to see if he's feeling okay about the sewing machine, so Ryan tells her to call his group and invite them to his next game, to prove he's doing just fine. While Ryan heads into the studio to do his show, Sonia shares her latest collages with Lauren, who wants to send the links to Ryan - for inspiration. When Ryan sees a collage of Sonia making a cat bathing suit with Janie's sewing machine, he starts crying on the air. Once again, Lauren has gotten her cry.

Ryan walks into group, asking if anyone has heard any good radio shows lately. Everyone's now calling him "Cryin' King," so its kudos to Lauren, since she got her cry. Lauren insists it wasn't her intention to make Ryan cry at work. It turns out Ryan is now crying over just about anything. He was fine, but Lauren broke him; and now she has to fix him. Lauren explains that he isn't broken; Ryan needs to slow down and feel his feelings - maybe making a collage will help.

Anne storms into the group - she has a stalker! Sasha wants to meet her for a drink, and Anne doesn't know what to do. Claiming other people's problems are easy, Ryan suggests Anne meet Sasha for a fruit smoothie at a time when she's clearly on her way to do something else. Later at home, Ryan tries making his collage, thanking God when there's a knock on the door. Anne charges in - Sasha tried to kiss her, and she freaked out! She's not ready and she doesn't think she'll ever be ready. Ryan feels the same way - they both want to move forward - so Anne grabs him and kisses him. That's the first kiss out of the way. A milestone! Progress!

Steven sits down for a talk with Ryan just as his next hockey game is about to begin. Crying on the air didn't go over too well with his target audience. When Ryan claims he's turning over a new leaf of radical honesty to avoid further outbursts, Steven admits to playing the dead wife card. The other hockey players are letting him win. On the ice, Ryan tells the guys to stop taking it easy on him. He's ready for honesty, and they can bring it on! Unfortunately for Ryan, the truth hurts, as the guys start hitting him with a vengeance. At the end of the game, Roenick gleefully takes a photo of Ryan, beaten to a pulp.

Ryan uses Roenick's photo as the centerpiece of his collage, which makes Lauren get teary-eyed. Everyone admits it feels good to cry. At another hockey game, Roenick admits Ryan's starting to hold his own. When a group of figure skaters take the ice, Ryan's heckles are met with recognition. Rachel Maddow plays hockey, too?

## Do You Believe in Ghosts...Yes!

Season 1

Episode Number: 5

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Tuesday October 2, 2012  
Writer: Mathew Harawitz  
Director: Michael Engler  
Show Stars: Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Julie White (Anne), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Tyler James Williams (Owen), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), John Cho (Steven)  
Recurring Role: Sarah Baker (Sonia), Tonita Castro (Fausta), Seth Morris (Danny)  
Guest Stars: Christine Woods (Janie), Lauren Benz Phillips (Becca), Jennifer Birmingham (Mindy), Robert Parks Valletta (Guy), Jerry Hauck (Proctor), Ross Mackenzie (Man), Holly Walker (Clerk)  
Production Code: 105  
Summary: Ryan comes to grips that he doesn't have Janie around to cook or shop for him anymore. The group discovers that Lauren caves under pressure when taking tests and decides to help her study for her real estate certification exam. Meanwhile, Steven has broken up with his girlfriend and enlists Ryan to be his wingman to go out on the town.



Ryan's fridge has been pretty much bare since Janie's death. While weighing which slightly smelly leftover takeout to sample, Ryan is shocked when Janie appears in his kitchen, wanting to talk. Ryan freaks out and runs away. Later, he interrupts one of Yolanda's monologues to tell the group about his vision of Janie - has he gone crazy? Lauren tells Ryan it's a normal coping fantasy; it happens to people all the time. Next time, he might try being more open to the experience.

At work, Ryan notices that all the photos of Steven's girlfriend Ashley are missing. What happened? Did he take them down because he thinks Ryan's too fragile? The three of them used to hang out all the time! Ryan picks up the phone, calls Ashley and proposes a get-together, only to learn Ashley and Steven broke up last month - and she never liked Ryan anyway. Steven admits he's starting to get lonely; maybe it's time to jump back into the shark tank. Ryan's game. He'll be Steven's wingman, just like old times.

Sonia calls an emergency meeting of the group, and they all pile in Anne's minivan to confirm that yes, Lauren is working as a valet parking cashier at a local hotel. When a customer starts giving Lauren grief, Sonia blows the group's cover, demanding, "Are you sassing my group leader?!" After taking a swig of bad milk, Janie appears in Ryan's kitchen again. Trying to be open, Ryan asks Janie to bestow wisdom upon him. When she tells him to go food shopping and cook something for himself, he can't believe it. She's broken every rule in the universe to tell him that?

Ryan has no idea how to shop. Asking a stocker how much milk to buy doesn't work, so he decides to copy a guy who seems to know what he's doing. Later in group, Fausta talks about how she used to love cooking for her boys, but now that they were sent back to her country,

no more. Sensing an opportunity, Ryan dives deep. Are Fausta's boys fat? Fat and happy. Does she only cook Mexican food? Fausta cooks everything. When Lauren insists Fausta is confusing nourishment with validation, Mr. K cracks up. "She said validation, like parking validation!" he chuckles. Jaws drop, but Sonia plows into the breach. No more secrets. They have to talk about Lauren's valet parking job.

Ryan can't believe Lauren is in charge of his mental health, and also is a parking attendant. She corrects him: she is a parking services manager, and it's a temporary situation. She loves the work she does in group so much, she's studying for her master's degree, so she needs a job with flexible hours. When Owen wonders why Lauren can't get a better job, she admits she's taking her real estate agent test again next week, and this time, she has a really good feeling about it. Yes, she failed the test three times, but it's not because she's stupid. Lauren has test anxiety. Yolanda offers help, but Lauren wants to face her problem alone.

Ryan stops by the hotel where Lauren works at the valet. He figured that since he's "the special one" in the group, he thought he would ignore boundaries and offer his help with her test. Just then a customer complains. Lauren didn't have his car washed, which is exactly why he doesn't tip. Ryan lays into the guy, promising to unleash the ghost of Janie.

Steven and Ryan hike a popular Los Angeles canyon with a "pickup dog" Steven borrowed from a neighbor. Ryan spots a likely couple of ladies, and swings into full wingman mode. When they spot his wedding ring, Ryan explains he's a widower, then goes into a spiel. Steven warns him away from this tack, so Ryan backs off his cavalcade of lies in favor of the truth. They're just two regular guys with an incredibly popular radio show. The girls are thrilled - people are always telling them that they should have their own radio show because they say such outrageous (not) things! Steven takes it home, inviting the babes down to the radio station with a promise to put them on the air.

Lauren is just leaving her job when Anne's van pulls up with the whole gang inside. They want to help with her test anxiety. When Owen points out that helping Lauren might help the group, she gets in the van. Ryan returns home doing a little song and dance about the lasagna Fausta cooked for him. Suddenly Janie appears, and he drops it. She reminds him that he's the one who needs to cook. Ryan gets mad - Janie died, renegeing on their deal to stay together for life. Moreover, why is she really there? This isn't really about shopping and cooking. Janie's not talking, other than to confirm she can't un-die.

The group takes Lauren to the community center to simulate test conditions. Everyone takes part, trying to stress Lauren out while she takes a practice test. While the group tries to be supportive, they have to be honest: Lauren dismally failed the test. At 1:23 a.m. Ryan wakes up like always, but this time, he spends the rest of the night cooking a turkey. He's about to dig in when Janie appears. Ryan knows that if he starts taking care of himself, he'll be admitting she's dead, and it's time to move on - that's why she's been showing up. Ryan has a lot to learn - like folding stuff - so Janie promises she'll return.

That night, Ryan tries to sell Steven as the online talent to their dates, even though there's a huge poster promoting The Ryan King Show. They set the girls up in the studio, making them believe they're on the air, then stick them on mute, because they're boring. Ryan and Steven realize they're having fun anyway, and it would be even more fun if the girls left. Hanging out over the last few days has been great. They head back to Ryan's house to eat turkey and get drunk while playing video games.



## Big League Chew

Season 1  
Episode Number: 6  
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired:	Tuesday October 09, 2012
Writer:	Dennis McNicholas
Director:	Millicent Shelton
Show Stars:	Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Julie White (Anne), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Tyler James Williams (Owen), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), John Cho (Steven)
Guest Stars:	Sarah Baker (Sonia), Tonita Castro (Fausta), Anne Chamberlain (Bride in Suit), John Cho (Steven), Bill Cobbs (George), Erin Folley (Fawning Woman), Allison Miller (Carrie), Seth Morris (Danny), Jonathan Retamoza-Davila (Coffee Shop Patron / Wedding Guest), Nick Schroeder (Hockey Bench Warmer), Devin Sidell (Woman in Blue)
Production Code:	106
Summary:	Ryan manifests a textbook symptom of the grieving process — compulsive eating — but he rejects the notion that he is a "grief cliché." After meeting the man in Lauren's life, Ryan offers unsolicited advice in getting them to the next stage of their relationship. Meanwhile, Ryan tries to snap Danny out of his robust fantasy life.



Ryan runs into Lauren at a restaurant, and although she's alone, she's clearly on a date. Ryan begins to pry, and the situation becomes even more awkward when the whole group walks in, having chosen this restaurant for their monthly outing. Lauren introduces her boyfriend Wyatt, and the tension quickly escalates when Yolanda and Sonia start imagining Lauren in sexual situations. Freaked out, Lauren announces that she and Wyatt are heading to another restaurant. But before they go, Wyatt names every member of the group. Clearly, Lauren talks about them all the time.

Anne and Ryan are walking to a group meeting when a muscle car squeals up. Danny's wife's boyfriend Hector rudely boots Danny out of the car. Regardless, Danny doesn't seem to mind; Hector's been driving him around since he totaled his truck. Before Lauren arrives, the group calls Ryan out at the snack table: he's grief eating. They've all been through it. When Lauren arrives to hear them talking about grief eating, she reveals her nearly sexual obsession with Snickers. It's not long before the group lays into her about telling Wyatt about them. Since turnabout is fair play, Lauren agrees to bring Wyatt to a session to divulge dirt on her, but only if the group promises not to be weird. They do not.

After dropping Danny off at home, Ryan asks how he copes, living with Hector and his wife. Danny describes the happy, peaceful and safe place he seeks refuge when he's feeling low. It's a place where no one locks their doors at night, and ladies dress up to go to the five and dime: Harborville. This imaginary town is fully realized with a population of 700, and Danny knows them all. Ryan thinks it sounds a tad obsessive, but Danny assures him Harborville is a coping mechanism that works. Just then Hector steps up to harangue Danny — they're out of beer.

When he gives Ryan the thumbs up on his show, Ryan asks, "Why are all my fans gross?" In the meantime, Danny seems like he's in a trance, having floated away to Harborville.

On the air, Ryan eats so much while talking that Carrie has to explain that he can't be understood. This insight bounces right off. At the next meeting, Ryan is devastated to learn the group has replaced the snack table with a hug table. Ryan denies he has a problem; but the group heard his show, and they know he's in denial. In response, Ryan announces that, as of this moment, he's going on a subsistence diet, and starting a regimen of cycling, which includes Lycra. Wyatt shows up and reveals a ton of dirt on Lauren, fitting right into the group dynamic. Lauren is mortified. After Wyatt leaves, the group asks why Lauren hasn't married Wyatt after three years of living together. She seems more passionate about Snickers than Wyatt! Like Ryan, Lauren denies her issue and leaves.

Outside the group meeting, Ryan confronts Danny about his own denial and suggests giving up Harborville. After all, Ryan's giving up his emotional eating, and embarking on the most intense bike ride of his life. With the best of intentions, Ryan dons a Lycra biking outfit and gets on his bike, but he only gets as far as his local liquor store. He's just attacking the snack aisle when George walks in and, despite his blindness, catches Ryan amidst his binge. When Ryan admits he can't stop grief eating, George allows that he just might not be ready yet. Ryan should bike home and expect a visit from the group later tonight.

That night, Lauren is sitting up while Wyatt goes to sleep, thinking about what the group said to her. Across town, Ryan's doorbell rings and the group files in with their go-to grief foods, including a Kit Kat lasagna. They're all going to eat together and eat until they can't eat anymore - it's calorie aversion therapy! Overfull, Ryan is relieved when the doorbell rings. Lauren wants to show off photos that prove she's in love with Wyatt. Saying the group overstepped, Anne herds them back inside, but Ryan won't back off. When Lauren asks how she's supposed to know she's in love, Ryan replies, "When you don't know, you know. You know?"

The next morning Danny shows his new personality, all aggression on the outside. Danny tells Ryan that he's come to terms with his terrible life, and yes, Harborville is a pathetic delusion. But Ryan has backed off his former skepticism and asks to hear more about Harborville. Danny agrees, but on one condition: first they have to sledgehammer Hector's car.

At another session, Lauren congratulates Ryan for getting a handle on his grief eating. Would he like to share how he got control of his habits? Blessed out, Ryan doesn't answer, because he's not there. He's in Harborville.

## Any Given Birthday

Season 1  
Episode Number: 7  
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Tuesday October 23, 2012  
Writer: Jon Pollack, Scott Silveri  
Director: Kevin Dowling  
Show Stars: Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Julie White (Anne), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Tyler James Williams (Owen), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), John Cho (Steven)  
Guest Stars: Sarah Baker (Sonia), Tonita Castro (Fausta), John Cho (Steven), Bill Cobbs (George), Allison Miller (Carrie), Seth Morris (Danny)  
Production Code: 107  
Summary: Ryan has never liked celebrating his birthday, but when the group plans a scavenger hunt for him, he reluctantly plays along. Meanwhile, Ryan agrees to let Sonia look after Steven after he's undergone a colonoscopy, and Mr. K and Anne bond over their passion for musicals.



Lauren tells Ryan that the first birthday after a loss can be tricky, so the group wants to support him in the most awesome way possible. Yolanda has set up a scavenger hunt based on Ryan's life! Sadly, Ryan doesn't want to celebrate his birthday, so Lauren pulls out stuffed animals for a role-playing demonstration of Ryan's inner dialogue. Ryan grabs the animals to let everyone know that Janie used to go all-out for his birthday, planning way in advance, which he never liked. He's been looking forward to spending his birthday alone. And besides, he has to watch Steven, who's scheduled for

a medical procedure that day. When registered nurse Sonia offers to watch Steven, Ryan caves to the group.

Steven is still looped on anesthesia when Ryan brings him home from his colonoscopy and launches into an emotional rendition of "Dust in the Wind." Sonia knocks on the door, upset by drama with her ex-boyfriend. Luckily, she's overjoyed at the prospect of Steven, now passed out. He's so pretty, Sonia just wants to pet him and brush his hair. Ryan warns her not to let Steven leave the house or buy anything, then heads off to join the scavenger hunt. The first stop is a dry cleaner where Ryan's team - Lauren, Anne and Mr. K - have to persuade the proprietor to put Ryan's headshot on his wall of fame. The other team isn't far behind. Just as Yolanda begs Ryan to be happy, he takes a scheduled call from Carrie. There's a "code black" at work, and Ryan's gotta go.

Lauren follows Ryan out the door to ask permission to speak outside her role as counselor. The group cares about him, and they're trying; and if he keeps pushing them away, they'll stop trying. Ryan explains that he acts like a spoiled little boy with the people he loves; Janie got it all the time. Being a jerk is a pre-existing condition for which there is no cure. Lauren advises there's a key to being a better person: fake it 'til you make it. Ryan decides to go for it and charges back into the dry cleaners to persuade the proprietor he's Rachel Maddow, claiming a spot for his headshot on the wall of fame.

Steven wakes up, feeling the urge to shop for pretty clothes. Lucky for him, Sonia is a pushover, and it's not long before he's giving her a fashion show in a pricy men's boutique. At one point, Steven has a moment of clarity: did he just spend \$2,000 on cigarette pants!? Sonia explains her part. Steven is a pretty man, and while he was under the influence, he was a dumb pretty man, which is what she used to have with her ex. Now he's got photos of himself and his new, cute girlfriend plastered all over Facebook. How's she supposed to compete with that? Steven takes charge. They're going to dress Sonia up in boobly shirts, take pictures and post them to make her ex jealous. Then they're going horseback riding - he's still high!

Having succeeded in their first task, Ryan's team moves on to the next one: recreating Ryan's act of streaking in college. Everyone looks at Mr. K, but before he can get naked, Danny (on the opposing team) runs by in the buff. Ever a joiner, Mr. K rips off his clothes and prances off, prompting Anne to remark he has moves like Gene Kelly. Next stop is K-BAL, where Ryan is upset to learn Carrie just gave away the T-shirt gun to the other team. Luckily, there's a spare, and in moments, the teams are facing off, shooting down life-size cutouts of Ryan. When Carrie announces there's a limo waiting downstairs, everyone thinks it's part of the scavenger hunt, arranged by Yolanda.

Ryan and the gang bump into a jazzily dressed Sonia and Steven on the street, and Ryan smells a rat right away. She wasn't supposed to let Steven out of the house! Sonia admits people trust her because she has a soft voice, but she's bad. Ryan loads everyone into the limo, then pauses to tell Lauren that truly, this is the first birthday he's enjoyed in years. Lauren climbs in the limo to find a hotel key card nestled in a champagne bucket. She quickly deduces the limo and hotel key are all part of Janie's advance planning of special birthdays. Fausta immediately cracks open the scotch as Ryan hops into the limo, thrilled to see the hotel key card, thinking the hotel is the next stop on the scavenger hunt.

When Ryan remarks that he hates limos - Janie always threatened to get one for his birthday - the gang laughs nervously. Sotto voce, Lauren lays out a plan: someone has to stall Ryan, so an advance team can check out the hotel room to see what they're dealing with. Steven knows the way to stall Ryan: get him talking about himself. Sonia lays the trap as the others scramble upstairs where there's more champagne, rose petals, opera and a romantic candlelit dinner for two. The only solution Lauren can come up with is pretending the room is part of the scavenger hunt. When Ryan finally makes it upstairs, he finds Lauren scooping rose petals off the bed. Did she send everyone away so she could seduce him?

Lauren claims Ryan's blinding self-confidence has led him to the right conclusion: this is a seduction. Ryan is just sensing something is wrong when the rest of the group files into the room. Lauren finally opts for the truth: Janie must have set up the hotel room birthday party before her death. Adding insult to injury, a violin player enters the room, which puts Anne in the mind of Cyd Charisse and Gene Kelly. She holds out her arms to Mr. K, and they perform a dramatic and sexy dance for the group. Pretty soon everyone's dancing.

Ryan heads out to the balcony, where he's surprised to find Janie waiting for him. She probably shouldn't have planned this birthday as early as she did, but she got a great discount. Ryan admits that this is the first birthday he's really enjoyed and didn't act like a whiny baby. He's becoming a better guy, and he wishes she were really there to experience it. She deserved better. Janie insists she loved the Ryan she got and advises him to head back to the party - no looking back.

## Videogame, Set, Match

Season 1  
Episode Number: 8  
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Tuesday November 13, 2012  
Writer: Lesley Wake Webster  
Director: Todd Holland  
Show Stars: Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Julie White (Anne), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Tyler James Williams (Owen), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), John Cho (Steven)  
Guest Stars: Sarah Baker (Sonia), Tonita Castro (Fausta), Seth Morris (Danny), Chris Bosh (Himself), Vanessa Bell Calloway (Joyce), Kaitlin Double-day (Kimmie), Allison Miller (Carrie), Renee Pezzotta (Nurse), Nic Few (Man), Bill Cobbs (George)  
Production Code: 108  
Summary: Though Ryan is reluctant to take Owen under his wing, he begins to realize Owen may need a big brother figure in his life. Meanwhile, Yolanda decides she's ready to graduate from the group and Steven hires a new K-Bal Girl.



A nationwide search has culminated in the final selection of Steven's dream K-BAL Girl. She's the perfect woman to represent the station at promotional events, handing out foam fingers and shooting the T-shirt cannon. Steven can barely contain his excitement as he introduces this "beacon of happiness in a dark, dark world," also known as Kimmie, a gorgeous blonde with a heart of gold, and a jersey-clad bod to match. She's very grateful to meet the gang and, upon seeing Ryan, remarks that he's even more attractive than his voice. Ryan accidentally fires his T-shirt cannon, shattering

an office window. Kimmie's already making quite the impression, that's for sure.

At the Transitions meeting, Sonia expresses her woes about her cat, Cinderella, who's been ignoring her. Ryan is glued to his phone, now addicted to Halo, claiming the exciting game has turned him into a gamer. Owen can relate. When he plays Halo, hours go by without thinking or feeling anything. Lauren interrupts to announce that Yolanda is ready to graduate - a ceremony is in order! Yolanda claims she's over the man who left her at the altar, a realization that came to her as she was watching him marry another woman from her hiding place in a janitor's closet in the church. After the meeting, Ryan and Owen make plans to get together to play Halo. Lauren compliments Ryan on taking Owen under his wing; Owen's in need of an older brother figure to guide him through this confusing time in his life. Ryan assures Lauren it won't go that deep. Owen's the only member of the group who talks less than he does.

Ryan and Owen play Halo all through the night at Owen's house. Owen's mother Joyce walks into the living room at 6:00 a.m., disturbed that an older man she doesn't know is playing videogames with her son. To her, this is rock bottom. Not only does Owen refuse to go to school, get a job or visit his brother who's been in a coma for the past four months, but also now he's hanging out with some stranger playing Halo every waking second! Ryan assures her he isn't



rock bottom: he has a radio show and recently spoke at a high school graduation ceremony! By way of response, Joyce offers to take a picture to show them what she sees, prompting Ryan to agree - Owen really has hit rock bottom.

The next day, the K-BAL office has a new intern: Owen! Ryan assures him it'll be a fun place to intern, and sure enough, Owen is introduced to legendary basketball player Chris Bosh within minutes of getting to the office. Mostly Owen is just happy to get out of the house, so he can avoid dwelling in his family's deep-rooted issues. Ryan dispels his worries: this is a shallow zone, and diving in with emotional issues will result in a cracked head. The newly minted bromance goes well; Ryan and Owen end up spending the entire day playing Halo in Ryan's office, and once again, the session lasts all night long.

It's the day of Yolanda's graduation from Transitions. Although everyone will miss her, Lauren is thrilled to see her go. She's proof the work they do here really makes a difference! When Lauren goes to light the candles, Yolanda begins to panic. What if she's not ready? She still needs Lauren! And her friends! Anne and the rest of the group convince her to get on with it. They'll always be there for her, and more importantly, someone graduating from the group means a great deal to Lauren. Yolanda should do it for Lauren! Terrified, Yolanda grits her teeth and walks hand-in-hand with Lauren through a hallway lined with candles. With a final shove from Anne, Yolanda is out.

The next morning, Owen arrives at the office looking fresh in a suede jacket. This and the unprecedented scent of cologne floating around him do not go unnoticed by Ryan and Steven. They want to know who Owen's trying to impress, and they guess it's Carrie. They scare the daylight out of him while encouraging him to go for it! Meanwhile, Yolanda has gathered the group for the fourth day in a row. Sonia asks if she has any other support system, like family or alcohol, but Yolanda claims she does not. Yolanda tells the aggravated group she's worried Lauren has found a new favorite. She wants her to move on, sure, but not so quickly! The attending members dwindle day by day until it's just Yolanda and Mr. K.

At the office, Ryan and Steven figure out that it's Kimmie Owen's interested in, not Carrie! Actually, they don't figure it out, Carrie tells them. Owen asks Kimmie out, a beautiful bouquet of flowers in hand, but she thinks he's kidding and laughs in his face. Owen's embarrassed and upset, while Kimmie, who's sad that she hurt the "coma kid," winds up in tears. "This is what happens when you bring your bumper people in here!" Steven chastises Ryan.

Worried that Owen isn't returning his phone calls, Ryan drops by his house. Joyce accuses Ryan of taking a vulnerable boy and setting him loose in an adult world, hazing him like he's "pledging some sort of idiot old-man fraternity." Owen's mother understands that for reasons beyond her, Ryan matters to Owen. They have a similar sense of humor, and Owen feels better when he's around Ryan. As such, when Owen is ready to talk, Ryan should start making a difference in Owen's life, or just get the hell out of it.

During the following group meeting, Yolanda comes storming in to accuse everyone of being terrible friends who purposefully ignore her phone calls and Halloween plans, which include dressing up as characters from "Alice in Wonderland." Yolanda tells Lauren the only reason she graduated was because the rest of the group pressured her, wanting Lauren to have a personal victory. Lauren's appalled; she never would have hit the ceremonial graduation gong had Yolanda not been ready to leave. Spiteful, Yolanda tells Lauren that Transitions is B.S. just like her gong.

While playing a game of Halo over the network with Owen, Ryan apologizes. Owen really does need an older brother figure, so Ryan volunteers for the job. The following morning, Ryan and Owen visit Owen's comatose brother. Owen convinces Ryan go into his brother's hospital room to put his class ring on his finger and say Owen's thinking about him. Trying to be a good friend, Ryan does exactly as he's told, but it turns out this is a random patient taking a nap, and Owen's just punked him. Ryan ends up singing to, and putting a ring on, a strange man who has no idea what the heck's going on or who Owen is. Owen's cracking up; this is exactly what he's missed, joking around with his older brother. For what it's worth, being at the hospital makes Owen realize he does need to visit his brother.

## Dinner Takes All

Season 1

Episode Number: 9

Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Tuesday November 20, 2012  
Writer: Liz Brixius, Lesley Wake Webster  
Director: Ken Whittingham  
Show Stars: John Cho (Steven), Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Julie White (Anne), Sarah Baker (Sonia), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), Tyler James Williams (Owen Lewis)  
Recurring Role: Allison Miller (I) (Carrie)  
Guest Stars: Lauren Graham (Amy), Tonita Castro (Fausta), Bill Cobbs (George), Jennifer Jalene (Producer), Allison Miller (Carrie), Seth Morris (Danny), Vanessa Bell Calloway (Joyce), Ethan Herisse (Nate), Haley Tju (Abby), Alexander George (Random Patron)  
Production Code: 109  
Summary: When Amy pays a visit to her old college friends Ryan and Steven, the guys unexpectedly begin to compete for her affection. Meanwhile, Ryan invites the support group to the K-Bal offices for Thanksgiving, Lauren's qualifications are tested by Owen's mom and Anne's kids meet Ryan for the first time.



At the end of a session, Ryan confesses that an old college buddy is coming to town for a job interview, and she'll be staying with him. The group instantly suspects romance. There was one night when they kissed, but really, Ryan assures the group, he, Amy and Steven are just friends. Mr. K wants to know whose house they're all having Thanksgiving dinner at, but Lauren assures him they're not doing that. Ryan comments that setting the precedent of spending holidays together could be dangerous; after all, they're not the Brady Bunch. Within seconds, the group has assumed

the identity of their favorite Brady Bunch characters, making Ryan Alice the maid by default...

Steven and Ryan return to the college bar of their youth to relive old times and await Amy's arrival. Back in the day, the guys used to play a game called Booze Rodeo, and Amy liked to play a specific song over and over again on the jukebox. When the searing guitar notes of "Love Hurts" fill the air, the guys know Amy is in the house. It's not long before she and Ryan are teaming up to get Steven's goat, but all he can see is how sexy she is. When Amy goes to the bar to get another round, Steven tells Ryan what he's thinking, so Ryan tells him to go for it. But once Steven leaves to get more drinks, Ryan finds himself attracted to Amy too...

Later at the house, it's bedtime, and Ryan's feeling awkward. He gives Amy his bed, intending to sleep on the fold out couch, but he yanks too hard and breaks it. Thus Amy and Ryan share the bed - she sleeps; he doesn't. Ryan tells Carrie the whole story the next morning, interrupted only when Steven comes in, happy about the Thanksgiving day trip he's taking with Amy to Santa Barbara. Acting fast, Ryan claims he's hosting Thanksgiving at the station since he has to

work, which will be hosted and cooked by Carrie - who has plans to go to Kentucky to see her parents. Ryan pooh-poohs her and effectively thwarts Steven's plan - he'll just have to come to Thanksgiving dinner at the station with Amy!

Later, Ryan invites the entire group to Thanksgiving, but Anne is immediately suspicious - what's Ryan's angle? Ryan admits this is about Amy; he needs the group to create as desexualized an atmosphere as possible to throw Steven off Amy's trail. Owen begs off - he has to go to angry lady Thanksgiving, where the female members of his family sit around and bitch about the men. Lauren insists Owen bring his family to dinner at the station. His mother Joyce can be "like a deputy in his healing journey." Ryan climbs on board with this plan - Joyce could scare the sex out of anybody, which Owen admits, has worked for him so far.

Ryan's in the booth doing his show as the group sets up for dinner. When Steven arrives with Amy, he excuses himself, and the group descends upon Amy like a pack of mad dogs. They lead her off to give her the 10th degree, as Ryan complains to Carrie about the raisins she decided to put in the stuffing. Anne arrives with her two kids Nate and Abby, who are African- and Asian-American. Anne is disgusted to discover that her son has been listening to Ryan's podcast every night, and moreover, her kids like him. Yolanda, Fausta, Sonia and Mr. K hijack Ryan. They've interrogated Amy; she's good people, and she just left the building with a very attractive Asian man. Ryan runs outside and down the street to catch up with them.

Thrilled to meet Owen's mom, Lauren gives Joyce a big hug. Joyce isn't a hugger, but she's ready to see what Lauren's got in terms of healing. Put on the spot, Lauren further embarrasses herself, and Joyce heads off to get some wine. Finally everyone sits down for dinner. When Steven makes a move to sit next to Amy, Ryan puts the bowl of yams on the chair. Didn't Steven grow up with a Thanksgiving yam chair? Ryan thought everyone did. Smelling a rat, Steven pulls Ryan aside for a talk, while Lauren steps into the danger zone, offering Joyce a piece of parenting advice. Joyce confronts Lauren head on, making her tendency to control her son a major topic of dinner conversation.

Steven confronts Ryan - why is he blocking? Ryan admits he may have feelings for Amy; he'd like to keep his options open, so Steven needs to step back. When Steven refuses, the guys decide the only way to settle the matter is the way they used to in college. The guys head off to a bar for a game of Booze Radio - whoever drinks more drinks belonging to other people before getting punched in the face wins. Steven is already out of the running by the time Amy arrives, just in time to see Ryan make history, passing the ten-drink barrier. He waves hi to Amy before getting punched and passing out.

When Mr. K offers to become Owen's daddy, Joyce decides it's time to go. But Owen stands up for himself and refuses to leave. He's allowed to have Thanksgiving with his friends, and no, he's not choosing them over her. The people from the group are weird, but Joyce wins every single time. Joyce thanks Lauren for helping her son get to this point. Anne tells her kids that they don't have to take the same journey. "You choose me too," she says. "Now hug me."



## Back, Back, Back... It's Gone!

Season 1

Episode Number: 10

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired:	Tuesday November 27, 2012
Writer:	Dennis McNicholas
Director:	Todd Holland
Show Stars:	John Cho (Steven), Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Julie White (Anne), Sarah Baker (Sonia), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), Tyler James Williams (Owen Lewis)
Recurring Role:	Bill Cobbs (George), Tonita Castro (Fausta), Allison Miller (I) (Carrie), Seth Morris (Danny)
Guest Stars:	Misty May-Treanor (Herself), Ehab Elgharabawy (Osama K-ball), Alexander George (Random Patron)
Production Code:	110
Summary:	When Ryan decides it's time to start dating again, Misty May-Treanor offers to help and invites him to play in a game of beach volleyball with her friends. Elsewhere, George outlives his doctors' predicted life expectancy for him and is ready to celebrate and Danny develops feelings for Sonia.



At the beach, Carrie and Ryan make their way towards the volleyball game, where a handful of tall, beautiful women are playing. Ryan's crippled with nerves so Carrie reminds him that he talks for a living. Yes, collectively these women are intimidating, but all he needs to do is attract one. Misty introduces Ryan to the rest of the girls and they begin to play. Ryan tries to talk to the different women, first about Twitter, then about "Twilight." He's met with blank stares. When Ryan's wedding band slips off his finger, he takes his back out trying to catch it. Carrie finds the ring and asks the girls to give Ryan a

little space. A downtrodden Ryan admits to Carrie that he hates this. He just wants to be married. Carrie smears sunblock across Ryan's face and runs to get help. Paralyzed and pathetic, Ryan calls after some attractive women. He's Ryan King and this is how he is now.

Determined to find Puddin', Sonia enlists Danny's help, not because he's search and rescue trained, but because he's bland and willing to take orders. They come across a tree, and Sonia attempts to speak cat to it, as Danny looks on in admiration. Later at group, Ryan shows everyone photos of the volleyball women. He thought he absolutely blew it, but this morning he woke up to six emails! Once they found out he was a widower, his vulnerability proved absolutely irresistible. Anne nods in agreement; she calls it the "Sleepless in Seattle" effect. Anne and Ryan muse about how great women are; the more damaged a person is, the more they want to heal them! Yolanda interrupts; George still hasn't arrived and she's worried. The group take out their phones and play George's voicemails on speakerphone in unison: he pocket dialed all of them last night, and we hear tidbits of odd conversation. Looking frustrated, Danny asks about Puddin'. Why is this group always all about the people? Sonia smiles and they agree to look for Puddin' again later.

The next day, Ryan brings his question to the group: is it too soon for him to date? After all, Anne went crazy when she tried it, but of course, Ryan's not as nuts as she is. He'll be tested sooner than everyone thinks; Olympic champ Misty May-Treanor has invited him to play beach volleyball, so Ryan will be mingling with some of the most beautiful human beings on and earth. Yolanda reminds everyone about George's upcoming "I'm Not Dead" party. Although doctors predicted that the combination of all George's diseases left him with only a year to live, tomorrow they will celebrate George's victory. A flustered Sonia storms into the room holding up a flyer, written hastily in Spanish. It was Fausta's turn to watch the group cat, Puddin, and she lost him! It's time to mount an all-out search.

On air, Ryan ponders when is too soon to get back in the dating game. Later, Ryan announces to Carrie that he's ready to put himself back on the market; his weight is low, his tan is strong, and his gift for saucy banter has returned! Sure, terrible mistakes are most likely up ahead, but Ryan's got to try. Following orders, Carrie and Ryan begin to make over his Facebook page. While having his status as "Widowed" may be a bit dark, Ryan perks it up with a goofy profile picture. He also makes sure that Porsches and Mumford and Sons are to be found somewhere on his profile. Crazy, Porsche-driving widower is the bait. Let's see who he reels in.

The gang strolls into George's apartment, ready to get the party started with cookies and soft drinks. But this isn't the party George had in mind. His bucket list includes Mexico, Vegas, Fausta and a boatload of whiskey shots. It's not long before he's restless with boredom. Ryan hobbles into the apartment, hunched over with back pain. Anne hands Ryan George's itinerary, and Ryan admits it doesn't look safe. Mistaking Ryan's sensitivity for ageism, George throws a few wild punches. Sonia squeals with delight at the "old man fight" she's witnessing. The room is in such a commotion that an orderly intervenes, mistaking Ryan for a patient. George steps out the door, ordering the group not to follow him. He'll have his wild night all on his own.

Bent in two, Ryan arrives at Lauren's house, despondent. He can't move on; he can barely move! Rubbing his back, Lauren assures Ryan that one day soon he'll find a woman who he feels comfortable with, one who admires his humor and good looks. Caught off guard by her kindness, Ryan leans in for a kiss. Lauren recoils. Caught mid-lunge, Ryan falls to the floor. Clearly the woman of his dreams will not be Lauren. Elsewhere, Danny and Sonia continue to look for Puddin'. As Sonia skips ahead to check out a tree, Fausta comes out of her house holding Puddin'. It's a good thing she only microwaves, because he's been in her oven the whole time! Danny tells Fausta to keep Puddin' on the down low. He's been having so much fun with Sonia, and he doesn't want it to end now. When he's ready, he'll pick up the cat from Fausta and appear as a hero in Sonia's eyes.

After the session, Lauren admits she's a little jealous Ryan is dating. Sure, everything is great with Wyatt and all, but a new person could be anything! It's exciting. On cue, Wyatt strolls in and gives Lauren a kiss. Noticing Ryan's back pain, Wyatt gives him a big squeeze, adjusting his back. Ryan's terrified at first, but as the pain fades he turns to face Wyatt with adoring eyes. Handing Ryan his card, Wyatt explains there's a real spiritual component to his work as a chiropractor. If Ryan's ready to enter a healing relationship, he should call. A few hours later, Ryan's driving to his favorite Italian restaurant where he'll be having his date. On speakerphone, he tells Carrie he's wearing the suit "Cloons" wore at the "Ocean's Thirteen" premiere; everything's bound to go smoothly. Upon driving up to the restaurant, Ryan is greeted by a valet, who cheerfully asks if Janie will be joining him tonight. Ryan's back immediately seizes up. Groaning, he climbs back in the car and drives off. So much for smooth sailing.

Back at Lauren's, Wyatt has dragged Ryan into his home office and onto the chiropractic table. As Wyatt examines his back, Ryan tries to feel him out. He's in major panic mode; he's sure Wyatt walked in on Ryan's inappropriate attempt. As Wyatt jerks Ryan's head for a final adjustment, Ryan screams his confession about the almost-kiss. Wyatt's totally cool with the whole ordeal; Ryan's hardly the first. Everyone falls for Lauren. First it was the cute chubbies at Weight Watchers, and now it's the saddies. Anne, Danny, even George, they've all tried the same thing! Wyatt leaves Ryan and Lauren to talk it out. Ryan can't believe that on top of everything, he's a big ol' cliché. Lauren assures him that it's good that he's like other people - it means he's healing! Besides, she was a little flattered. Ryan's probably the cutest of the chubbies and the saddies.

Ryan picks up George from a motel downtown and escorts him back to the home. Ryan asks George for some advice. He's not ready to be with a woman, but he's tired of being without

one. What should he do? George advises him to relax and take his time. Life is long, after all. Ryan should let the right moments come along naturally, and when they do, he should go after them. It's as simple as that. Smiling, Ryan agrees to take a photo with George to end his night. Scrolling through a series of photos, Ryan sees George out dancing at a club, playing the drums, and clinking champagne glasses with some attractive ladies. George achieved his wild birthday after all! The following morning, Ryan once again spots his jogger crush. Seeing an opportunity, he decides to jog after her.

As Ryan walks into the group room later that day, everyone's all atwitter about his attempt to mack Lauren. George has proven to be quite the gossip! Unwilling to go down alone, Ryan informs everyone he knows about all their gifts to Lauren; Anne's erotic vase, George's painting of nothing, Yolanda's repeated invitations to her parents place in Napa, even Fausta's sexy sweater with very large arm holes! Fausta admits she very much likes sideboob, but Sonia's disappointed in the group. Really, who falls for a caregiver? That's just sad. Just then, Danny enters the room, cradling Puddin'. Overcome with admiration, Sonia steps up on a stool and plants a huge kiss right on Danny's lips. Looks like there's a hot new unlikely couple to watch out for!



## The World Ain't Over 'Til It's Over

Season 1

Episode Number: 11

Season Episode: 11

Originally aired:	Tuesday December 4, 2012
Writer:	Seth Raab, Nicholas Darrow, Mathew Harawitz
Director:	Kevin Dowling
Show Stars:	John Cho (Steven), Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Julie White (Anne), Sarah Baker (Sonia), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), Tyler James Williams (Owen Lewis)
Recurring Role:	Bill Cobbs (George), Tonita Castro (Fausta), Allison Miller (I) (Carrie), Seth Morris (Danny)
Guest Stars:	Lauren Benz Phillips (Becca), Karly Rothenberg (Middle Aged Woman)
Production Code:	111
Summary:	When the group settles on a date for their holiday party, it happens to fall on what Mr. K believes will be the end of the world. Ryan invites Anne along on his annual trip to wine country with Steven and Lauren worries her boyfriend is ready to pop the question.



The holidays are upon us and certain members of the group are more enthusiastic than others. Fausta, for instance, has set up an entire nativity scene while Yolanda has planned a holiday party for the group, set for December 21st, 2012. Mr. K dutifully reminds everyone the Mayan calendar finishes on the 21st, which will be when the apocalypse unleashes, so the group decides to turn it into a fusion holiday/end-of-the-world party. The party will begin at eight and end at midnight, when "this little rave we call existence" comes to a close, as Mr. K so valiantly puts it.

Anne arrives late to the group's meeting, in a fuss about a marble monstrosity that has been put up next to the grave of her deceased wife Patty, whom she visits every single day. She admits she could probably skip a visit or two, but she just doesn't know when she'll be ready. When Lauren asks everyone how they'd spend their last day on earth, Ryan brings up the story of legendary basketball coach Jimmy Valvano, who while dying, claimed that on a perfect last day one must laugh, think and cry. After the session, Lauren asks Ryan if he has any idea why Wyatt has been acting weird lately. Ryan suggests Wyatt may be ready to propose, sending Lauren into a fit of terrified giggles. There's no way she's ready for that, right?

While Christmas shopping, Sonia and Yolanda run into Wyatt, who has in fact just purchased an engagement ring for Lauren! When he asks the women to help him plan how he's going to pop the question, Sonia quickly agrees; this way they'll get to sabotage the whole thing. After all, a husband is a big time suck, as are kids, and the group needs Lauren's full attention. At the radio station, Steven's thinking of going to wine country this year; he and Ryan used to go with their ladies every year. Ryan agrees to come along because, let's be real, wine country is the most ideal place to laugh, think and especially cry. Steven's bringing his date Becca. Although Ryan has no love interest to bring, he has the perfect person in mind, someone who could benefit from the magic of wining.

Ryan and Steven roll into the cemetery in an enormous RV to pick up a reluctant Anne. It's Ryan's perfect last day, and he really wants Anne to come. Meanwhile, Mr. K calls Owen to the group room to write a song for the end of the world, ceremoniously handing him an acoustic guitar. Back at the mall, Yolanda and Sonia are prepping Wyatt for the perfect proposal. They tell him to tell Lauren that she's a little too fat and then suggest an open marriage. Hip to their game, Wyatt gets up to leave, believing they don't want to help because they dislike him. He loves Lauren and believes she deserves the most magical proposal ever. Yolanda and Sonia apologize, explaining they're just worried about losing her. Wyatt assures them that being married would never take Lauren away from the group. In fact, he plans to propose at the party tonight, in front of all of Lauren's friends.

Though they've made it to wine country, Anne can't help but feel guilty that she's not with Patty, who should be her priority every single day! Ryan assures her they should be living in the moment and having fun. The two proceed to get drunk. Meanwhile, Sonia and Yolanda continue to prep Wyatt for the proposal. Sonia demonstrates an impressive proposal; the girl's got it down pat. Later that night, the end-of-the-world party is in full swing. When Wyatt runs off for a second, Lauren confirms her worst fears; Wyatt's about to propose. Lauren immediately runs into the bathroom to call Ryan, who advises that if she doesn't know, she knows! She can't say yes if she's unsure; Lauren shouldn't be content to settle. She could have the perfect marriage, just like Ryan did.

When Ryan hangs up, Anne doubts the advice he's just bestowed upon Lauren. How can Ryan be so sure about Lauren's life? Didn't he have doubts before he got married? Ryan flashes back to the night Janie issued her engagement ultimatum: if they're not married within the year, Janie's moving on. Ryan realizes that before he got engaged, he wasn't 100% sure either. Maybe Lauren's feeling the exact same thing, which is only normal. Ryan gives Lauren a call, but she's not picking up. Grabbing an intoxicated Steven and Becca, the foursome starts up the RV and heads to the party.

In the minutes before midnight, Mr. K prepares to premiere the song he wrote with Owen. When he realizes Anne and Ryan aren't there, he postpones the performance, telling everyone that he needs to be with all the people he loves (and Yolanda) in order to truly be at peace when the world ends. Outside, Wyatt proposes to Lauren over the grinding sounds of a malfunctioning snow machine he tried to set up, knowing how much Lauren loves snow. Touched, Lauren happily accepts his proposal. Just as they're announcing it the group, Ryan and crew rush in. Ryan immediately takes Lauren outside, trying to right his wrong - until he realizes she's already wearing an engagement ring. He's happy for her and assures her it's normal to be terrified. Janie practically dragged him kicking and screaming into an amazing life.

With one minute left until midnight, the group circles around and holds hands. Any last sentiments? Danny admits that he's in love with someone here! 3...2...1. The apocalypse doesn't come, but a fresh batch of fake snow falls gently down on the group as the machine finally kicks into gear. Anne thanks Ryan for keeping her out of a sad place for an entire day. She assures him that he's a good man, and Janie was smart to nail him down. As Ryan wells up, Anne congratulates him on doing Jimmy V proud. On his "last" day, Ryan laughed, thought and cried.



## Win at All Costas

Season 1

Episode Number: 12

Season Episode: 12

Originally aired:	Tuesday January 8, 2013
Writer:	Mathew Harawitz, Seth Raab, Nicholas Darrow
Director:	Michael Lehmann
Show Stars:	John Cho (Steven), Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Julie White (Anne), Sarah Baker (Sonia), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), Tyler James Williams (Owen Lewis)
Recurring Role:	Bill Cobbs (George), Tonita Castro (Fausta), Allison Miller (I) (Carrie), Seth Morris (Danny)
Guest Stars:	Bob Costas (Himself), Sarah Baker (Sonia), Rich Eisen (Himself), Jennifer Jalene (Producer), Theresa June-Tao (Make Up Artist), Michael Nanfria (Stage Manager)
Production Code:	112
Summary:	Ryan receives an invitation from Bob Costas, his hero, to take part on his new TV show while Fausta invites everyone in the group to her niece's Quincenierra — everyone except Anne. Meanwhile, after completing a major project at work, Mr. K searches to find a new way to contribute and make a difference.



Checking his voice mail, Ryan is stunned to discover that his idol, Bob Costas, has called. He's nervous about listening to the voice mail at first, but it turns out that not only is Costas a fan, but he's a big fan. Overjoyed, Ryan spends the day playing the message to anyone who'll stop and listen, and by the time he's driving home at the end of the day, he's blasting the message as an auto-tuned remix. Technology rocks!

At group, Ryan shares yet another Costas voice mail with the group - he's playing phone tag with his idol! Fausta tells everyone to be on the lookout for in-

vitations to her niece's quinceanera, and even Mr. K has good news to share. It turns out that Mr. K is an accomplished aerospace engineer, and for years he's been helping design the Curiosity Rover, which is just now taking its first soil sample from Mars - success! As the group quietly applauds Mr. K (loud applause has sexualized him in the past), Ryan asks what kind of challenge Mr. K will take on next. Mr. K's face falls immediately as he rations that because his work with Curiosity is done, his life now has no purpose.

The next day, Bob finally catches Ryan on the phone. Bob's rolling out a new TV show and there might be a place for Ryan on it! Ryan's flattered, but when he hangs up he worriedly tells Carrie that there's no way he can do TV. She's confused until Steven shows her an embarrassing gif that was the result of Ryan's last TV appearance on "Rich Eisen Live": Ryan looks hilariously blank as Rich Eisen waves a hand in front of his face. It turns out Rich surprised Ryan by asking him about soccer, which he knew nothing about, rendering him unusually speechless. Lauren assures Ryan that everyone has embarrassing moments and advises Ryan to make another

appearance on Rich Eisen's show and do it right this time. When Ryan wonders whether he can succeed without Janie's calming influence, a depressed Mr. K perks up. His new life purpose will be replacing Janie!

After group, Danny approaches Owen, clearly the most fashion forward of the group, asking what on earth one wears to a quinceanera. Always ready for a good prank, Owen informs Danny that he must wear a traditional bullfighting ensemble and offers to take him shopping. When Anne asks why she was the only who didn't get an invitation to the quinceanera, Fausta takes out a list of terms Sonia wrote down for her in English and informs Anne it's because she's a "wet blanket, bummer and buzz kill." Also a bit-kah, which in Fausta's broken English means bitch. She pats a stunned Anne on the arm and walks away.

With Mr. K at his side, Ryan returns to Rich Eisen's talk show. Pre-taping, Ryan and Richard throw quick-witted insults at each other about radio ratings and hair loss. Once the cameras roll, Ryan rocks it. Rich even asks a soccer question, but Ryan is nonplussed and walks off the set, pride in hand. Later, Anne barges into Ryan's house to complain about Fausta. Sure, Anne's a little down sometimes but she has every right to be! In her mind, she's dealing with way worse stuff than Fausta. When Ryan admits he was invited, Anne loses it. Just then, Mr. K exits the kitchen wearing an apron, asking, "Honey, is she bothering you?" Anne is so confused at this bizarre scenario that she doesn't even bother asking and storms out. Clearly, Mr. K is taking his role as Janie quite seriously. Sitting next to Ryan, he unveils the three-hour masterpiece lasagna he's been working on, which is really just a layered assortment of cereal. Ryan tells Mr. K-as-Janie to skip the trip to Costas' set.

Ryan's finally makes it to the set of Bob's new TV show, with Carrie and Steven in tow for extra support. After an overly firm handshake from Bob, Ryan reads over the topics for the segment and relaxes a bit. It's all hockey and Red Sox - things he talks about all the time! Meanwhile, at the quinceanera, Danny struts across the ballroom clad in a bullfighting jacket and outrageous pointy-toed boots. He's alarmed that everyone who's dressed in cocktail wear is insulting the event, but all Owen and Lauren can do is giggle at how ridiculous he looks. Moments later Anne arrives, assuring everyone that Fausta doesn't get to exclude her, especially when there are so many empty seats available!

Back on the set, Mr. K bumps into Bob as he's bringing Ryan his lunch. The famous sports anchor is immediately intrigued with the odd Mr.K, first with his equally firm handshake and then with his philosophical musings. When Mr. K tells him he's now being forced to re-evaluate his life and his goals, Bob can definitely relate. He's got a new TV show but he's doing sports... again! If only he could talk about art or mathematics, even nanotechnology. Bob dreams about doing that kind of show. "But you won't," Mr. K tells him as he runs off towards the craft services table. Bob springs into action. Seconds before the show's set to go live, Bob tells Ryan they're going to change things up a little.

On air, as Ryan gets into sports mode discussing the L.A. Kings, Bob pulls up a portrait of Leonardo Fibonacci on screen and asks Ryan his thoughts. Ryan has none, and his eyes begin to glaze over. Off camera, Steven and Carrie panic. Costas is going intellectual and there's no way Ryan's ready! In fact, he's actually secretly stupid. He doesn't know what the Taj Mahal is, and he never uses the term "literally" correctly! Meanwhile, Bob's moved onto analyzing just how much power is allotted to a Supreme Court justice. Ryan takes a hard turn back to sports and brings up David Justice. When Bob asks "Space? Or time? Which are we really moving through? And ultimately, does it matter?" Ryan has reached the end - complete and utter silence. Ryan reprimands Mr. K for coming to the set and ruining everything. This could have been a huge opportunity and Mr. K tanked it. Ryan doesn't want his help anymore. Mr. K hangs his head and walks off, rejected and convinced he only makes things worse.

Back at the quiceanera, Anne sits alone at an empty table, bitterly watching Fausta joyfully waltz around the dance floor. When she gets on stage to deliver a speech in Spanish, Danny is at Anne's side, translating. As Fausta points to Anne's table, Danny explains that the table was left empty to honor those who are no longer with us, like Fausta's beautiful sons, husband and little girl. She misses them every day, and being away from them brings her great sorrow. This knocks Anne off her pedestal. After the speech, Anne apologizes for sitting at the honored table and expresses her condolences for her loss. Fausta waves her apology away, insisting she's glad she has friends that will fill the table. "How do you do it?" asks a conflicted Anne as she gently hugs Fausta. "How do you smile with so much pain?" With a soft smile, Fausta tells her she



chooses to be happy and then advises Anne to start having fun. First step: Anne needs to take off her "sad-man suit."

Minutes later Anne appears in front of the group in a bright pink gown that belongs to Fausta's niece. Fausta then drags Anne off to find a man. When Ryan steps into the ballroom, Lauren already knows the Costas thing went all-wrong. She advises Ryan to apologize to Mr. K, who's a mess, his beard full of tears. Just like Bob Costas means a lot to Ryan, Ryan means a great deal to Mr. K. Lamenting the difficulty of becoming a better person, Ryan apologizes to Mr. K. Days later, Ryan angrily watches Rich Eisen broadcast a brand new gif from the Bob Costas show as Mr. K puts a drink down in front of Ryan, exclaiming, "Look honey! You're on TV." Looks like things are back to normal.



## Gooooaaaalll Doll!

Season 1

Episode Number: 13

Season Episode: 13

Originally aired: Tuesday January 15, 2013  
Writer: Lesley Wake Webster  
Director: Todd Holland  
Show Stars: John Cho (Steven), Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Julie White (Anne), Sarah Baker (Sonia), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), Tyler James Williams (Owen Lewis)  
Recurring Role: Bill Cobbs (George), Tonita Castro (Fausta), Allison Miller (I) (Carrie), Seth Morris (Danny)  
Guest Stars: Shaun White (Himself), Nazanin Boniadi (Hannah), Jared Ward (Dr. Grimes), David Trice (Mr. Davis), Jamie Hill (Maya)  
Production Code: 113  
Summary: Despite Carrie's warning, Ryan wants to get his first date out of the way and asks Carrie's flaky friend, but not without a little competition from Shaun White. Meanwhile, Yolanda starts a new job at the hospital where Sonia works and tries to reinvent herself.



It's lunchtime and Carrie is eating a take-out salad at her desk while watching a "Real Housewives" show. Ryan stops by and cracks a joke, but Carrie knows the truth: deep down inside, Ryan loves girl stuff. He admits it's true. When he was married he had a free pass to fun music and pink drinks because his wife was "forcing him." As proof he offers his "real" iPod, which is packed with Katy Perry songs. Softening, Carrie invites Ryan to be her girlfriend, thus beginning weeks of watching reality TV with Chablis, jewelry-making and Zumba.

To start the new year off right, Yolanda brings Japanese goal-setting dolls sent by her grandmother in Tokyo to the group. Her grandmother has already written goals on the bottom like "be taller," "find a man" and "don't suck." Yolanda allows that one of her dolls helped her to get a better job. Starting tomorrow, she's head of anesthesiology at St. Michael's, which is where Sonia works. Yolanda's hoping she'll finally have a friend at work, but Sonia's not too sure; her cool bar is pretty high. Ryan misses being out with a woman. He's been hanging out a lot with Carrie, but it's time for him to go on a first date. Unfortunately, he feels as nervous as he did in junior high. Laura assures Ryan it's just a question of finding the right woman. After some discussion, the group decides Ryan should find a funnier Rachel McAdams with bigger boobs, which he promptly writes on the bottom of his goal doll.

Later at work, Ryan is interviewing Olympic snowboard medalist Shaun White when he spots a superhot chick outside the booth. Ryan starts stuttering, as does Shaun, but his sexy hair flip draws the lovely lady's eye. After the show, Ryan explains his goal doll situation, asking Shaun not to pursue the hottie - there's no way Ryan can compete with Shaun's hair flip. Carrie walks up to introduce the hottie, her friend Hannah. Ryan is wildly awkward, and Shaun can't help flipping his hair - at both Ryan and Hannah.

Later, Ryan asks Carrie if Hannah was into him. Carrie explains Hannah makes everyone feel that way, which is how she gets everything she wants. When Steven accuses Carrie of being catty, she counters. It's complicated, and Hannah wins at everything. Okay, maybe she's a little jealous, but Ryan should consider himself warned. When his heart's broken, Carrie will be on call with sad girl music and ice cream. Yolanda meets Sonia at the cafeteria at work. She's nervous, afraid she'll be pigeonholed once again as a stick-in-the-mud. Luckily, Sonia has just the ticket. They're going to recreate Yolanda as a "slutty party girl." Sonia wastes no time getting started with the handsome Dr. Grimes.

Ryan takes Hannah to dinner, and it's not long before she's asking if he's okay. Ryan admits he's nervous, which means he's going to spill things and try to seem smart, which Hannah finds cute. She leans over and gives him a kiss, causing Ryan to dump wine on his pants. Later, he tells the group that he colored an eye onto his goal doll. Laura is incensed to learn Sonia is crediting Ryan's goal doll for his success, and Yolanda thinks her goal doll is making her popular as a slutty party girl around the hospital. Danny runs in excitedly. He finally stood up to his wife's boyfriend, and he owes it all to Lauren... who introduced him to Yolanda who gave him a goal doll. Pretty soon everyone's drumming on their knees and chanting about their goal dolls.

The next day at work, Ryan and Steven are in tuxes preparing to go to a fancy broadcaster's dinner when Ryan receives a breakup text. Ryan complains that he can't face the party alone, so Carrie offers to go. Later, Lauren finds Mr. K sitting alone in the group therapy room. Apparently, the rest of the group decided to take the day off to celebrate goal achievement. When Ryan walks in wearing his tux, Mr. K thinks it's costume day and runs off. Ryan tells Lauren that Hannah broke up with him, and now Carrie is his pity date to the fancy dinner. Strangely, he doesn't feel that bad. Maybe Lauren is right - Ryan's built up some emotional armor and has no fear. At least he has no fear until Mr. K runs in wearing naval dress whites to scoop Ryan into his arms and declare, "We're all thinking 'Officer and a Gentleman.' Let's do this!"

Ryan proceeds to the restaurant where he knows Hannah is having a dinner date with Shaun White. Even though Shaun is cool, Ryan has decided not to accept Hannah's text, because he and Hannah have something special. Everyone can feel it, even Shaun. Shaun is impressed that Ryan's going up against him and so is Hannah, who puts down her napkin and leaves with him. Meanwhile, Yolanda is rocking her slutty party girl persona at work with Sonia... until she's approached by a guy from HR, who's concerned about her health and competence. Yolanda is to report to his office for a drug test, but Sonia tells her to refuse or risk ruining her new reputation. That's when good girl Yolanda runs off begging for her job.

Ryan proceeds to the fancy dinner in fearless mode, full-out flirting with Hannah and fully forgetting that he asked Carrie to be his date. Thrilled when Steven's date calls her a skank, Carrie hurries over to tell Ryan at the bar - which is when Hannah sidles up. Ryan tells Carrie she can hang out and assist, but clearly that's not going to be any fun. The next day, Ryan crows about his newfound fearless persona to the group, claiming Lauren deserves all the credit. When he shows her a photo of how beautiful he was, all she can see is a dejected Carrie feeling badly in the background. The group can't believe Ryan forgot to cancel his date with Carrie. He's got to be more careful that his emotional armor doesn't make him numb to the feelings of others.

Yolanda and Sonia walk in to the session late, in mid-argument. Sonia wants to mourn the passing of a friend, Cool Yolanda, whom Yolanda murdered. Lauren nearly murders her gong to make the point that none of them have to worry about being cool. They're all perfect just the way they are. Sonia is going to accept Yolanda for who she is, and Ryan is going to make things right with Carrie. To prove her point, Lauren high-kicks Danny's goal doll to kingdom come.

Carrie's at home eating chocolates and watching "Real Housewives" when Ryan knocks on the door with a heartfelt apology. Carrie is a special person to him and from now on, he's going to treat her that way. And he brought her the expensive hot pink snuggle slippers she wanted to seal the deal. It's a good start, but not enough. Ryan owes Carrie a good night, so he's going to have to put on a tux. Tonight. Later, Ryan's at home putting on his tux when Hannah knocks on the door. She did get his text cancelling their date, but she's not accepting it. She's flying to Milan for a new job in a couple of hours and she'd like to spend those hours in bed with Ryan...

Not much later that night, Ryan finds himself sitting on the couch with Carrie, eating ice cream and watching "Real Housewives." When she learns Ryan chose her over Hannah, she has to admit it feels good. In fact, Carrie was feeling so competitive with Hannah that she thought she had feelings for Ryan. And how could that be? Ryan's so old! Carrie wasn't even born when

"Return of the Jedi" came out... still there's clearly a little something between them, which is evident when Ryan puts his snuggly-slipped feet on the coffee table.



## Comeback Player of the Year

Season 1

Episode Number: 14

Season Episode: 14

Originally aired:	Tuesday January 22, 2013
Writer:	Scott Silveri, Jon Pollack
Director:	Eric Appel
Show Stars:	John Cho (Steven), Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Julie White (Anne), Sarah Baker (Sonia), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), Tyler James Williams (Owen Lewis)
Recurring Role:	Bill Cobbs (George), Tonita Castro (Fausta), Allison Miller (I) (Carrie), Seth Morris (Danny)
Guest Stars:	Terrell Owens (Himself), Piper Perabo (Simone), Andrew Borba (Harvey Marer), Cathy Chang (Charlene)
Production Code:	114
Summary:	Ryan fears the group chemistry will change and feels threatened by the return of the very popular and beautiful former group member, Simone who tries to force the group to choose between her and Ryan. Meanwhile Steven and Mr. K buddy bond and along with Terrell Owens, teach Ryan a lesson. Anne prevents Danny from being taken to the cleaners in his divorce.



The group is on tenterhooks, all excited that one of their former members, Simone, is returning. According to Yolanda, Simone is "the most awesome, coolest person that's even been in this group." In fact, everyone's dressed up: Anne's wearing a dress and George put his earring back in and colored his hair. Sonia thinks Lauren hates Simone, but Lauren denies it; Simone merely demands a lot of attention and is prone to exaggeration...

When she finally makes her grand entrance, Simone gifts everyone with matching scarves from Marrakesh; Ryan gets a watercolor portrait of himself. Then she tells her story: Simone joined the group after a tragic injury forced her to say farewell to her dancing career - for both of which, Lauren sidelines to Ryan, there's no evidence. Simone went to Europe to seek beauty and make art. There she met her soul mate Marco, a poet. She proposed marriage, but he disappeared on their wedding day. Simone's story is a tough act to follow, but Ryan tries. Steven has informed him that from now on, his show is going to be 15 minutes shorter. No one cares except for Mr. K, who announces his intention to revenge Ryan's ultimate betrayal, playing "Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap" on his phone and walking off to get 'er done.

Anne finds Danny in the hallway, gathering his divorce papers. It seems he has a crush on someone in the group... Unfortunately, his ex picked out the lawyer they're both using, and Danny's sure to get screwed. Pleased to hear about Danny's crush, Sonia asks Anne to help him with the divorce. Mr. K corners Steven in K-BAL's parking garage and throws down the gauntlet - which means he uses a gauntlet to slap Steven's face twice, once for each seven and a half minutes he's cutting from Ryan's show. Mr. K holds up his iPhone, playing "Dirty Deeds," just as Carrie spies Steven's beloved car, which has been turned upside down.

Ryan tracks Lauren down in her yoga class to complain about Simone, whom he thinks is taking over the group. They're all over at Anne's house painting each other's beauty... It sucks, so Lauren needs to eliminate her. Lauren advises Ryan to do nothing, but instead he runs over to Anne's to deliver his message to Simone in person. Simone thinks there's room for both of them, but Ryan presses on, trying to win the group to his side. Mr. K points out that it's Yolanda the group doesn't want. Finally, Ryan makes the group choose, Simone or him. It's not long before he's back at Lauren's yoga class to tell her his plan backfired...

In his lawyer's office, Danny reviews his divorce agreement. Despite the suspicion he's being rooked, he's just about to sign when Anne rushes in to take charge - she's Danny's new lawyer. Across town, Ryan has Terrell Owens in the booth. Terrell's hoping for an apology for the time Ryan threw food at him, and he gets one, even if it is lousy. Just then Simone calls into the show, asking Ryan to reconsider her. Simone spreads awesomeness and Ryan should go out with her some time so she can prove it. Terrell agrees: Simone seems attractive from her voice, and Ryan needs serious help.

Steven tries to hide behind his desk when Mr. K appears with a covered bird cage. Mr. K has come to make amends offering up a rare African grey parrot (in actuality, a pigeon) for his attacks on Steven and for pouring superglue on Steven's girlfriend's (in actuality, Carrie) keyboard. Steven admits he's not mad at Mr. K, he's mad at Ryan, who refuses to understand the minutiae of the radio business. Mr. K's all ears - he loves minutiae! - asking, "Can I take notes?" Steven tells him not to bother, ordering Carrie to do it instead...

Anne plays hardball with Danny's ex-lawyer Harvey, who's now solely representing Danny's wife. He promises to take Anne to court and eat her for lunch, which is just the kind of dirty talk she likes to hear. She may be a divorce attorney, but her specialty is winning, and she can bend any jury to her will. That night, Ryan hits a bar with Simone, who's filled with cliches, feels a storm coming on in her dance leg and wants to play Truth or Dare. After a few goes, Ryan has to admit that Simone is either the most interesting person he's ever met or a pathological liar. When Simone asks what about her makes him so crazy, Ryan admits the group is really helping him get over his grief and he doesn't want Simone messing with that.

Mr. K stands in front of a crazy diagram on a whiteboard. Now he understands the complex web of challenges Steven faces at work every day, for which Steven is supremely grateful. But he has no idea the impression he makes when he calls Mr. K buddy. Mr. K offers to help Steven pull a prank on a lesser pair of buddies. Steven does want to teach Ryan a lesson about taking him for granted and Terrell wants to join in the fun.

Danny tells the group that Anne is a miracle worker and poises his pen to sign his divorce papers. Anne stops him - she's going to get more, more, more including Danny's wife's diaphragm! Anne lapses into a diatribe: she's using her fury at her own dead wife to fuel the divorce battle. It turns out Anne's wife never took her heart meds, which lead to her death. Anne's so angry she can no longer sleep in their bed, because every night her wife lied to her there, saying she took her medication. The group advises Anne to let go of her anger, remember the good times with her wife and try sleeping in her own bed. Starting tonight.

Simone takes Ryan up to a rooftop to show him the world is full of magical things. That's when it starts raining. Does Ryan still think she's full of it? Saying he's not certain he cares, Ryan offers her his jacket and a kiss. Meanwhile, the group gathers at Anne's house to eat Fausta's First Night Cake, made with breast milk (ew!) and support Anne on her first night in her own bed. Finally, Anne's feeling strong and determined. She yanks open her bedroom doors only to find post-coital Ryan and Simone in her bed! Everyone's a little grossed out until Simone hops out of bed naked to explain...

After thanking Simone for the experience of the night - a big step - Ryan gives her a kiss and heads to his car... which is upside down. Although both Steven and Mr. K are hiding behind a nearby car, Ryan calls out Terrell and chases him down the street.



## Pass Interference

Season 1

Episode Number: 15

Season Episode: 15

Originally aired: Tuesday January 29, 2013  
Writer: Mathew Harawitz, Lesley Wake Webster  
Director: Jamie Babbit  
Show Stars: John Cho (Steven), Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Julie White (Anne), Sarah Baker (Sonia), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), Tyler James Williams (Owen Lewis)  
Recurring Role: Bill Cobbs (George), Tonita Castro (Fausta), Allison Miller (I) (Carrie), Seth Morris (Danny)  
Guest Stars: Piper Perabo (Simone), Christine Woods (Janie), Hayes MacArthur (Wyatt), Lea Coco (Thomas), Sylvia Brindis (Sasha), Lauren Burns (Amanda), Kristina Hayes (Erin), Michele Gregory (Carol), Kelsey Crane (Margaret Hotchkiss)  
Production Code: 115  
Summary: Despite Lauren's warning to Ryan of no dating among group members, he continues to pursue Simone but each time things heat-up with them, Janie's ghost appears, throwing Ryan off his game. The group helps Ryan deal with the guilt he feels as he starts dating again. Meanwhile Anne, Yolanda, Sonia, and Fausta decide to buy Lauren a wedding dress and use Owen as a body double.



Lauren is leading a weight-loss support group, standing in front of a table filled with toxic trigger foods, when Ryan walks in and sits down. He immediately starts sharing his ghostly problem, but Lauren stops him - this isn't a grief group! Ryan presses on, likening Janie and Simone to cupcakes. Steaming, Lauren refuses to engage and tries to push Ryan towards the door, but he winds up munching at the toxic foods table. He continues his story, while rewarding group members for their advice — go somewhere Janie isn't — with their favorite foods. Everything's going well, until a really big dude and

three of his buddies stand up, ordering Ryan to leave.

Lauren remarks romance has come to the group just in time for Valentine's Day. Last night everyone walked in on Ryan and Simone, and no one wants things to be awkward. Simone insists the people in the room are the ones she'd most like to see her making love. When Lauren reminds them there's a group rule against dating, Owen accuse her of hating love, and everyone chimes in. Ryan cuts the chatter, demanding to know why they need dating rules in the first place? Maybe last night was a one-time thing. When Simone assures him it wasn't, the chanting begins. Yolanda tries to steer the conversation back to loss, but Mr. K refuses to go back — it's too boring!

Yolanda approaches Lauren with her "How to Make a Perfect Wedding" binder — even though her groom left her at the altar. The girls have gotten Lauren an appointment at Salon Martinique to try on wedding dresses. When Lauren puts the girls off, Fausta comes up with another plan:

they'll find the perfect dress on their own — using Owen as a fit model, since he has the exact same body as Lauren. Meanwhile, Lauren tells Ryan he really should obey her no dating rule. A relationship will kick up issues, and if Simone is in the group, Ryan won't be able to deal with them. Ryan promises to keep any such promises out of the group — he can just call Lauren. No, Lauren warns. She is not Ryan's personal therapist...

Anne, Fausta, Sonia and Yolanda drink champagne while Owen tries on dresses at an up-scale boutique. He's having a rough time until the sexy sales associate compliments his ballsy confidence. Suddenly, Owen emerges from the dressing room in tears — they've found the perfect dress for Lauren! Across town, Simone has made dinner for Ryan, and they're having a great time. In fact, being told they're not allowed to date has made everything better... until Janie shows up to interrupt their make-out session. Rather than explain what's happening, Ryan freezes up and turns on the TV.

Lauren agrees, Owen looks great in the wedding dress, then confesses the truth. She's been putting off planning her wedding because all the details freak her out. The girls aren't happy to hear this; they were intending to live Lauren's special day vicariously, and none of them are getting married any time soon. Lauren points out the girls don't have to get married to celebrate themselves. It's not long before the girls have planned to throw themselves a Goddess Party on Valentine's Day, with no Valentine's stuff.

Anne, Fausta, Sonia and Yolanda check out a fancy restaurant as a possible venue for their Goddess Party. Yolanda has been up all night, creating a composite photo of the four of them, which shall ever be known as super bride Sofanda. The girls are nauseated. Since Yolanda picked the venue, she wants the others to take turns picking other stuff to avoid conflict. Anne wants balloons, not flowers. Sonia intends to scat in front of a jazz band, but Fausta's not having it — she wants a Latin funk band, which no one else wants.

Ryan takes Simone to a hipster hotel for an evening without Janie. He asks for a second to set the mood, shutting her out of the room. Then he kisses his hand, pretending he's amidst a romantic situation, and searches the room for any sign of Janie. Simone opens the door and catches him in the act, but Ryan claims he was simply warming up. Simone hits the shower, which is when Janie shows up with her hot ghost boyfriend Thomas. Janie and Thomas hop on the bed, grab the remote and start watching "The Avengers." Freaked out, Ryan tosses the room key towards the shower and takes off.

The next day, tension is thick during the group meeting. Finally Simone breaks the silence. Ryan won't touch her; he keeps kissing his hand, and he left her naked in the shower. When Yolanda warns that Lauren told them not to talk about the relationship, Simone corrects her. They can talk because the relationship is over. Ryan confesses: every time he tries to get romantic with Simone, Janie shows up. After claiming he's quite lucid, Mr. K explains that Ryan's seeing Janie because he doesn't want to hurt her, and he invented Thomas to punish himself. Ryan and Simone both admit Mr. K's advice helps.

After group, the goddesses start arguing, as do Ryan and Simone. Not only did everyone hire the bands of their choice, but Simone called her ex-boyfriend Marco and begged him to take her back — using the very expensive hotel phone. Within minutes, Ryan decides he can't be with Simone because she's too unstable, and the goddesses cancel their party. That night, Anne sits alone at the restaurant bar swallowing helium from one of her balloons. Looking at all the bridal regalia from her cancelled wedding, Yolanda decides to take action, calling everyone down to the restaurant.

Yolanda opens her binder to show the 51st step for the perfect wedding: If it's right, don't take no for an answer. Her wedding wasn't right, but the Goddess Party is. Luckily, Fausta couldn't cancel her favorite Latin funk band — because they have no phone! It's not long before the party is in full swing; even Janie's in attendance. Janie apologizes for the other night, but Ryan thinks everything's fine. He can't be with Simone; she's too crazy. Janie insists crazy Simone might be just the person to understand Ryan's craziness. Ryan gets on his knees and asks Simone if she'd like to be crazy with him. She would!

Lauren calls everyone together to toast the goddesses, who don't need men, rings or sanity to make them whole. Yolanda presents Lauren with the wedding binder — it's time for her to start planning her own wedding! Sonia tells Lauren to start tonight by picking a venue, then offers a surprise to help her along. Wyatt is back one day early from his business trip! From the back, Wyatt hugs Owen, mistaking him for Lauren...

## Go Deep

Season 1  
Episode Number: 16  
Season Episode: 16

Originally aired:	Tuesday February 19, 2013
Writer:	Mathew Harawitz, Lesley Wake Webster
Director:	Linda Mendoza
Show Stars:	Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Julie White (Anne), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Tyler James Williams (Owen Lewis), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), Sarah Baker (Sonia), John Cho (Steven)
Recurring Role:	Tonita Castro (Fausta), Bill Cobbs (George), Seth Morris (Danny), Allison Miller (I) (Carrie)
Guest Stars:	Piper Perabo (Simone), Timm Sharp (Group Leader), Ned Beatty (Coach), Terrell Owens (Himself), Thierre Di Castro (Marco), Ben Hausbach (Meditation Classmate)
Production Code:	116
Summary:	Ryan's prideful indignation over having to read a live commercial for a male enhancement product causes him to stage a walkout, only to be replaced by Terrell Owens whom he just hired as a temporary assistant. Lauren obsesses over a single low group evaluation score and solicits help from George to find out who gave her the poor rating. Meanwhile Simone invites Ryan to a meditation center where he does everything but calm himself. And in group, it's Anne who helps put Ryan back on track with the truth.



As the custodian for everyone's emotional well-being in the group, Lauren has asked everyone to fill out a performance evaluation so she can do her job better. In order to ensure anonymity, she's asked that they all type their answers to her survey. Besides an essay, they're asked to grade her in a variety of areas on a scale of one to five. Before she can finish, the group takes the opportunity to complain about the snack situation at all the meetings. Not exactly the feedback she was looking for.

At the office, Steven has brought in a few candidates to fill in for Carrie while she's away. There are four average looking temps - and a wild card - Terrell Owens. Ryan immediately hires Owens and sends the rest out the door. Getting right to work, Terrell answers a ringing phone for Ryan, as Simone has called the office. She's stopping by in a few. She wants to see where Ryan works. Eager to impress, Ryan asks Carrie to empty his office of anything "shallow" or "crass."

When Simone arrives, Ryan tries way too hard to impress her. It's important that he seem intelligent and deep, as he thinks she's very special and wants to live up to her standards. As Simone is touring his office, Steven enters with news from The Big Cheese, Ryan's boss. He wants Ryan to start pitching live ads on his show, beginning with one for a male enhancement cream. With Simone present, Ryan storms out in protest, determined to let his superiors know that he is an artist that will not be held down by such cheap corporate gimmicks.

Back at the therapy group, Lauren is distressed to find out somebody gave her a two out of five for listening skills on the anonymous survey. She's determined to identify the culprit, thus ignoring the whole anonymous part. During the meeting, she overcompensates for any perceived lack of listening skills by emphasizing how much she's listening after every person speaks. Ryan informs everyone that in light of his recent strike at work, he's taking the opportunity to go on a weeklong meditation retreat with Simone. Lauren realizes she's having an anxiety attack over the low listening score, and asks Yolanda if she'd go on a coffee date with her to help ease her worries. Yolanda agrees, trying to withhold extreme excitement.

It's clear Ryan is out of his element at the meditation retreat. He's immediately concerned by the leader's tendency to pause for awkwardly long amounts of time and emphasize the wrong syllables in a word. When he tries to quiet his mind, Ryan realizes his inner thoughts are way too loud. Mr. K on the other hand, reaches a heightened sense of being within seconds. He no longer fears death. Simone high fives him, happy to have an "epiphany buddy."

On their coffee date, Lauren is put off by Yolanda's aggressive personality. Instead of a small coffee shop, they've met at a nice, candle-lit restaurant at an upscale hotel. Champagne is served. When Yolanda reveals her plans for a couples massage following the lunch in a room she's booked upstairs, Lauren lets her know she's crossed the line. As the lunch progresses, Lauren tries to figure out who could possibly be angry about her listening skills. Yolanda admits she's covertly recorded all of the group's sessions. Understanding the moral quandary that places them in, Lauren insists they burn the tapes... after they listen to them all first.

Back at the retreat, Ryan's had a breakthrough with his meditation. He's reached the great white void of his mind, but his old hockey instructor, Coach Spence, barges in. In an angry rant reminiscent of Ryan's glory days on the ice, Coach Spence tells Ryan that he doesn't have any depth, and his pathetic attempts at faking substance for Simone aren't working. He urges Ryan to get back to his awesome job and forget about the girl. Ryan exits his trance, now hating this whole meditation thing.

A full-blown criminal investigation has just about broken out in the therapy room. Lauren and Yolanda have all of the group members' faces on a board, with X's over the people who are no longer suspects. When George enters and asks if they have any leads, Yolanda reminds a confused Lauren that he used to be a detective. When Lauren fails to recall this fact, Yolanda plays back the tapes and reveals the many times George spoke about his detective career in therapy. Clearly, Lauren does have a listening problem.

Ryan storms into Steven's office, demanding to speak to The Big Cheese. Steven reluctantly admits that The Big Cheese doesn't exist, but is Steven's creation - a means of distributing bad news without screwing up their friendship. Steven gives Ryan an ultimatum: he must make a decision — does he want to keep his job or get the girl? At therapy, Ryan rudely interrupts Yolanda and asks everyone to keep Simone in the dark about his decision to do the male enhancement cream ads. As he's about to rush back to the enlightenment retreat, Anne warns Ryan to be honest about who he is with Simone... or one day, he'll rue the consequences. If she likes that version, then they're right for each other.

George finds Lauren in her car and tells her he figured out the case of the mysterious low listening score. Yolanda had Sonia write it for her because she was angry about how much attention Ryan has commanded since he joined the group. Even though she heard things she didn't necessarily want to hear, Lauren knows that ultimately the truth will help her be a better group leader. At the retreat, Ryan confesses to Simone that he went back to work and plans to do the ads. He wants to be open to new things, but the truth is, he thinks the meditation thing is super weird. Simone admits to exaggerating her spiritual depth as a means of impressing Ryan. Ryan realizes that the true Zen of life is in knowing who you are and being the best version of that person that you can be.



## Ring and a Miss

Season 1

Episode Number: 17

Season Episode: 17

Originally aired:	Tuesday February 26, 2013
Writer:	Bill Callahan, Dennis McNicholas
Director:	Todd Holland
Show Stars:	Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Julie White (Anne), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Tyler James Williams (Owen Lewis), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), Sarah Baker (Sonia), John Cho (Steven)
Recurring Role:	Tonita Castro (Fausta), Bill Cobbs (George), Seth Morris (Danny), Allison Miller (I) (Carrie)
Guest Stars:	Ethan Flower (Italian Waiter), Ethan Herisse (Nate), Piper Perabo (Simone), Haley Tju (Abby)
Production Code:	117
Summary:	When Simone tells Ryan not to wear his wedding ring, he can't seem to get rid of it no matter how hard he tries. That doesn't stop him from asking Simone to move in with him, spurred on by an encounter with his sad, middle-aged bachelor friend, Hughie. Meanwhile Anne, desperate for a babysitter, reluctantly accepts Mr. K's offer to fill the job and as a result she grows closer to her kids.



Ryan and Simone are having a great time together, but when Ryan accidentally calls her Janie on a date, Simone worries he's holding back in their relationship and his deceased wife is the reason. Ryan promises Simone he's moved on, even if he's still wearing his wedding ring. She's not convinced, as memories of Janie are scattered all around his house. Simone gives Ryan an ultimatum — if he wants to prove he's over his wife, he's got to take off the ring.

In light of Simone's request, Ryan calls a secret meeting with the group at his office to help him figure out the best

plan moving forward. Sonia immediately realizes Ryan's setting up a shadow group, and Steven quickly joins in. Everyone agrees Ryan shouldn't take off his ring unless he's doing it for his own reasons and has truly moved on from Janie. Anne shows up late because her nanny quit. In need of a babysitter on short notice, Mr. K enthusiastically volunteers — this is his chance to make something of himself.

Ryan opens up to Simone, telling her that while he simply isn't ready to take off his wedding ring, he still wants to continue their relationship. She's 31, and without a committed relationship Simone needs to move on with her life. In a desperate and grandiose romantic gesture, Ryan slings his ring off the side of the road. See? He can move on. But within seconds, Ryan is running into the brush and rolling down the hill after it, still unable to let go. Simone sees this as their relationship's final straw.

Mr. K shows up to his babysitting gig dressed in a Mary Poppins' style outfit. He's a little over the top, but Anne doesn't really have a choice, so he'll have to do. Anne gives strict instructions for her children to finish their homework, but when she leaves, Mr. K decides they should make

a spaceship out of sofa cushions instead. Anne's set up a computer camera at her office to spy on Mr. K, so when she catches wind of his shenanigans she realizes she's made a mistake. Mr. K tells her she needs to learn to let go of her anxiety and ditches her web cam in a closet.

After Simone decides to move to San Francisco, Steven tries to lift Ryan's spirits by immediately throwing him back into the field. The two meet up with hot tub salesman Hughie, a friend — and irresistible party force — at a trendy downtown nightclub. Steven wants Hughie to help Ryan have some fun and get his mind off Simone. But when Steven runs off to hit on some ladies, Hughie breaks down and tells Ryan the single life is a slow, lonely death ride that's chipping away at his soul. He's a shell of man at this point, and all but demands Ryan patch things up with Simone before she's out of his life for good. The pep talk helps Ryan realize what he has to do.

Anne comes home fully prepared to lay into Mr. K for his negligent babysitting, but is instead greeted by her angelic children, dressed like the Von Trapp family, singing her a harmonious bedtime lullaby. The kids' homework is done, their teeth are brushed and house is spotlessly clean; somehow it looks better than when Anne left! Mr. K's such a great babysitter that the children beg to have him back. Anne's speechless.

Based on his behavior at group, Mr. K's new role as babysitter has gone to his head. He's treating the kids like his own now, just like a glorified, bragging parent, except of course they're not his kids. Anne's clearly uncomfortable with his enthusiasm. The group has mixed feelings about Ryan's chivalrous plan to drive up to San Francisco and ask Simone to move in with him, and Steven charges in hoping to kibosh it. Though most are caught up in the romanticism, Steven and Lauren know it's unhealthy. After all, there's a reason Ryan wouldn't take off his wedding ring before... Unfazed, Ryan calls Carrie and asks her to replace all his furniture with stuff Simone will like.

Anne's kids have become obsessed with Mr. K, so much so that they want him around all the time. Anne feels the pains of being emotionally replaced as she puts her daughter Abby to bed next to her Lite-Brite depiction of Mr. K — how come he can connect with the children so easily but she can't? When Abby's crisis peaks, Anne breaks down and calls K. He tells her she's trying to be the work of two kids. She needs to give herself the space to be a kid with her kids. The next time Mr. K comes over, he finds Anne inside a cardboard spaceship, laughing it up with her kids. Seeing the transformation, Mr. K tenders his resignation — his work here is done.

Ryan shows up at Simone's door in San Francisco ready to display his love for her. He's moved on from Janie and is ready to commit. But when Simone answers the door and her ex-fiance Marco's inside, Ryan pulls her onto the porch for a heart-to-heart. Simone's crazy about Ryan, and she's all in if his gesture truly is about her. But if it's just an attempt to replace Janie, he's got to let her go. This is their moment of truth... all Ryan has to do is say it's Simone and she'll jump in the car with him and drive back to Los Angeles.

Devastated, Ryan returns to Los Angeles without Simone only to find Carrie has replaced all his furniture per his request. Later, Steven and Lauren come over to cheer him up. Lauren sees his relationship with Simone as proof that he can move on from Janie, eventually. Steven is more optimistic, per "16 Candles" — he promises Ryan his Jake is looking for him and she's right around the corner. The three cuddle up on Ryan's new lady couch together and help Ryan realize that he'll never be alone as long as he has his friends.

## Double Down

Season 1

Episode Number: 18

Season Episode: 18

Originally aired: Tuesday March 5, 2013  
Writer: Seth Raab, Nicholas Darrow  
Director: Michael Lehmann  
Show Stars: Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Julie White (Anne), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Tyler James Williams (Owen Lewis), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), Sarah Baker (Sonia), John Cho (Steven)  
Recurring Role: Tonita Castro (Fausta), Seth Morris (Danny)  
Guest Stars: Annie Heise (Brittney), Brian Scolaro (Player #1), Silvia Curiel (Dorotea), Gloria Sandoval (Lourdes), Frank Gerrish (Bingo Caller), Tyler F. Anderson (Good), Joseph Bertot (Marty), Christopher Cho (Dealer), Tahmus Rounds (Player #2), Shelley Dennis (Attractive Woman), Gordon Greene (Roulette Dealer)  
Production Code: 118  
Summary: Ryan, still pained from the breakup with Simone, backslides into his old gambling habit, though sternly warned by Lauren to steer clear. But when he receives the life insurance check for his deceased wife, it's more than he can bear and he starts making bets on anything and everything. Meanwhile Anne meets a stunning, young bookstore clerk, Brittney, who turns out to be all beauty and no brains. Lauren comes to Ryan's rescue by fleecing him at poker and in the aftermath, Ryan bonds with Anne over their respective lost loves.



Yolanda has made everyone a mix CD, filled with music from artists that died too soon, in hopes of bringing some fresh tragedy to the group. When Yolanda turns on "Chantilly Lace," Fausta immediately asks why Owen is singing. Ryan's got his own fresh tragedy: the loss of Simone. When Sonia suggests Ryan needs a good breakup song, Mr. K gets busy, urging the group to join him in creating the perfect tune. On top of everything else, Ryan just received Janie's life insurance check, and he doesn't want to be alone with it over the weekend. Anne's planning a trip to the bookstore - too bor-

ing - but when Ryan learns Fausta is going to bingo at her church, he's in.

At the bookstore, Anne's taken aback when smokin' hot yet dumb Brittney, the register girl, flirtatiously offers her phone number. Meanwhile, Ryan joins Fausta and her buddies at the church for bingo and spiked horchata. At first Ryan refuses to play, explaining he used to be a bit compulsive with gambling in his younger years, but when Dorotea accuses him of losing his cojones, he antes up. It's not long before a pumped-up Ryan wins his first bingo game, and Fausta reminds him that winning feels good because for a brief moment in time, winning is all there is. Realizing that truth, Ryan climbs on board the gambling train.

Not wanting to spend the night at home alone, Ryan invites the group over for March Madness gambling. He tells them he learned a valuable lesson from Fausta - everything is better with



gambling. Turns out, Fausta's golden rule is everything's better with alcohol, but whatever. It's not long before the group is totally into it - except for Owen, who despite his superior knowledge of basketball, is losing to the point where his name has become synonymous with losing. As the group descends into looking for random symbols of good luck based on wins, they discover that when Owen is spanked, winning ensues.

When Ryan insults a coach on air talking about betting spreads, Steven charges into the booth, upset Ryan's gambling again. Doesn't he remember what happened in college? Ryan protests, but Steven knows he's an addict, who promised Janie he'd never gamble again. On the way to a session, the group is stunned to spy Brittney dropping off a seemingly blissful Anne. Ryan quickly corrals Fausta, Sonia and Yolanda into a new gambling game. Since Owen sounds like *The Big Bopper*, everyone else will compete, trying to trick him into saying lines from "Chantilly Lace."

Anne rushes in late to the group meeting in a very good mood. It's not long before the group is talking about Brittney. Anne claims she hasn't noticed that Brittney's attractive, but one thing's for sure, she's very intelligent. Ryan offers to invite his good friend Stephen Hawking over for the evening's March Madness betting session so Brittney will have someone to talk to. Alarmed, Lauren perks up - gambling can lead them down a very dangerous path, as it did her own father. She makes everyone promise to stop gambling, but Ryan refuses, since he's killing *The Big Bopper* game as they speak.

March Madness continues. When the group shows up at his house, a distraught Ryan is in the midst of a losing streak. Luckily, his bookie Marty is on hand to phone in bets, and Ryan's got games going on three TVs and two laptops. When Anne and Brittney arrive, Ryan instantly decides Brittney's good luck, despite her super-dumbness. Upset, Danny sets out to prove he's the dumbest guy in the room, making Anne realize she's dating hot Danny. That's when Steven bursts in to announce he's closed out all of Ryan's accounts. Losing his final bet of the night, Ryan starts throwing remotes at all of his TVs.

The next day, Anne admits she broke up with bimbo Brittney after Ryan's party out of respect for her dead wife's memory. How could she stoop so low? But Lauren and the group assure her she's allowed to have fun and do what makes her feel good. Anne misses Brittney, so she takes Danny's advice and runs out to make up with her. That's when Lauren realizes Ryan's missing. Luckily, Mr. K has hacked everyone's phones with a tracking device, so he knows Ryan's located at a casino in Temecula. Since Steven cut off all of Ryan's accounts, he's using Janie's life insurance check to gamble.

Ready for some action, Lauren finds Ryan raking in the chips at a poker table. After urging the gamblers to walk away from the table to experience the jackpot of self-love, Lauren has to try another tactic learned from her gambling-addicted father. She's going to take away the thrill of winning by beating Ryan every time, and he better get ready to hit rock bottom. Meanwhile, Ann returns to the bookstore in hopes of winning Brittney back. Knowing she deserves to be with someone who's proud of her, Brittney says goodbye forever, just as another hot lady hits on Anne.

As predicted, Lauren wins everyone's money, and Ryan's down to the last of his chips. Knowing all his tells, Lauren quickly wins the last hand. Luckily, she's prepared to give Ryan back Janie's life insurance money as long as he stops gambling. The next day, Anne stops by to commiserate over the loss of Brittney and Simone. They agree it's going to be really hard to meet someone. When Anne decides they need a fresh start, Ryan gets an idea. Sitting outside, they tie their wedding rings to helium balloons and let them float away.

## Go for the Gold Watch

Season 1

Episode Number: 19

Season Episode: 19

Originally aired:	Tuesday March 19, 2013
Writer:	Dennis McNicholas, Bill Callahan, Mathew Harawitz
Director:	Todd Holland
Show Stars:	Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Julie White (Anne), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Tyler James Williams (Owen Lewis), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), Sarah Baker (Sonia), John Cho (Steven)
Recurring Role:	Tonita Castro (Fausta), Seth Morris (Danny)
Guest Stars:	Hayes MacArthur (Wyatt), Rich Eisen (Himself), Ben Falcone (Carlo), Ricardo Sanchez (El Mandril), David Grant Wright (Customer #3), Gil Zuniga (Maitre D'), Rob Kerkovich (Waiter), Tinsley Grimes (Kate)
Production Code:	119
Summary:	Ryan's show is rated #1 but even this new, exalted status does not provide the personal happiness he wants in his life. Lauren explains that happiness comes from within and real joy can only be found by helping others. Ryan attempts to achieve inner happiness by helping Danny hook up with Sonia but she fancies the stranger, Carlo instead. Meanwhile Owen and Anne snoop around the house of the strange Mr. K only to leave more disturbed than when they arrived.



Ryan asks his assistant, Terrell Owens, to update him on his radio show's ratings. He's always second behind his sleazy competitor, El Mandril, and desperately wants to move up the totem pole. Suddenly, Steven shows up with a gold watch from corporate, which can only mean one thing. Ryan looks outside to see a billboard change... his show is #1 now! Terrell Owens celebrates NFL style, dumping a jug of Gatorade on Ryan's head - and Ryan's so stoked, he goes with it.

Ryan updates the support group on his new ratings success. He's on cloud nine, and to celebrate, Steven's taking him out to the nicest steak place in the city. Lauren lets the group know she's no longer eating red meat on advice from her fiance Wyatt, and though she tries to veil it, everyone realizes the decision is killing her. Lauren loves meat, but can't eat it! Danny's divorce has finalized, and he's trying to get back in the game, though his flirting tactics are at a sixth-grade level. When Mr. K offers to help Danny using his patented soul-mate algorithm, Owen and Anne set out to uncover Mr. K's true identity once and for all.

Ryan King is enjoying his new #1 limelight at the city's most posh steak house with Steven. When Ryan notices radio nemesis Rich Eisen sitting at a nearby booth, he takes the opportunity to gloat-walk past him... not once, but twice. Steven thinks Ryan ought to be extremely happy now, but this only serves to make Ryan question his whole life — if he's not happy now, when will he ever be? Ryan has an anxiety attack, grabs his piping-hot food from the waiter and barricades himself in the men's room.

Lauren comes to Ryan's aid in the bathroom; he's called her to talk him down from his heightened anxiety. Lauren is quick to offer support, though the giant porterhouse steak in

Ryan's hands is awfully distracting. He lets her at it, and it's as if she was eating food for the first time. Ryan was hoping a huge win in his life would help bring him back to normal, but it didn't. Lauren tells him that only he can make himself happy, nothing external. She suggests he try helping someone else. It's the best way to build personal self-esteem.

Lauren's advice turns out to be a complete disaster. Ryan joins the Big Brother program and winds up with a jerky rich kid who's driving him off the wall. Lauren suggests Ryan help someone he already has a personal relationship with; looking around the group, Ryan realizes he can help Danny in his shaky quest to win Sonia's heart. Seizing the opportunity, Anne and Owen suggest throwing a party at Mr. K's house to help Danny practice his social skills. To their surprise, Mr. K agrees... they've broken through a wall.

Preparing for the party, Anne and Owen are taken aback by the normality of Mr. K's place. The only peculiarity is the lone pillow on the couch that reads, "Stay in there and think about what you did." Anne and Owen set out to uncover its meaning. Meanwhile, Ryan is excited at Danny's progress — he even decided to get sentimental and wear the coat his father courted his mother with! But when Danny shows up in a bellman's outfit, Ryan, Terrell and Steve scramble to give Danny a makeover before Sonia arrives. Unfortunately for Danny, when the girl he's trying to sweep off her feet finally does show up, she's brought a date with her. Danny skulks away, resigned to always being a loser.

Ryan approaches Sonia and asks why she brought a date to the party. Sonia tells Ryan she self-sabotages. And since she knew Danny liked her she panicked and brought some random shmuck with her; she even likes Danny too! Ryan tells her to go outside on the patio at 9 p.m. If she does that, Danny will be waiting, and they can fall in love. Terrell Owens walks by in Danny's abandoned bellman's outfit, and Sonia comments on what she'd do to see Danny "in that!" These two have to be soul mates.

Lauren is a little upset when Mr. K's algorithm reveals her and Wyatt to be a 23% compatibility match. That's beyond a failing grade! She commiserates with Steven, who agrees mathematics have no place in romance. Mr. K decides to break out his piano skills, and when he plays "Islands in the Stream," Lauren wants to sing a duet. It's not Wyatt's thing. Steven fills in the male part, and the chemistry between him and Lauren is unexpectedly hot. Mr. K lets Lauren know their compatibility match is a 99%! Later on, Lauren and Steven enjoy running with the joke of their "compatibility," but they eventually see Mr. K might've been onto something.

Mr. K tells Owen and Anne to stay away from the room at the end of the hall, which is off-limits. This of course piques their interest. After hearing Mr. K speak so fondly of his mother, they're convinced she's rotting in there, Psycho-style. When they do finally go in, they find a human-sized doll stuffed to look like Mr. Belvedere. Mr. K surprises them, then explains. As a child, he had dreams of Hollywood stardom, but his embarrassingly short stint auditioning for Mr. Belvedere got him blacklisted in Tinsel Town. His tragic line was, "Stay in there and think about what you did," a failure he's held on to all his life. It's why he's in the group... well, it's one of the reasons. The Mr. K intrigue continues.

Danny has given up hope after seeing Sonia with her date, so Ryan asks the female cook at the party to help lighten Danny up so he can build courage to talk to Sonia. When 9 p.m. rolls around, Sonia's waiting outside for Danny, only to see him leave with the cook. Ryan's attempt at helping someone failed miserably. He takes Sonia out for a drink and promises her the right guy is just around the corner. Sonia just has to commit herself to being happy. To prove his point, Ryan breaks the gold watch he got for being #1. Now Sonia will always have a reminder of the exact time she made the commitment to live happier. She hugs Ryan, saying it's the nicest thing anyone's ever done for her.

## Matchup Problems

Season 1

Episode Number: 20

Season Episode: 20

Originally aired:	Tuesday March 26, 2013
Writer:	Bill Callahan, Jon Pollack, Scott Silveri
Director:	Beth McCarthy-Miller
Show Stars:	Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Julie White (Anne), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Tyler James Williams (Owen Lewis), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), Sarah Baker (Sonia), John Cho (Steven)
Recurring Role:	Tonita Castro (Fausta)
Guest Stars:	Courteney Cox (Talia), Bill Cobbs (George), Hayes MacArthur (Wyatt), Chase Kim (Russ), Marcus Choi (Guy), Scot Zeller (Waiter), Shannon McClung (Waiter #2), Keith McDonald (Kitchen Guy), Mike Nojun Park (Purple Man)
Production Code:	120
Summary:	Anne offers to set up Ryan with a new acquaintance, Talia, a recent widow struggling to find her emotional direction. When the three go out together, Talia ends up heavily flirting with them both. Meanwhile Lauren accidentally attracts a man away from Yolanda who has gone on an Asian singles cruise to find a man for herself.



Yolanda enters the therapy group with a tight dress, cutlets and a scowl. Her parents feel her window of opportunity for marriage is closing quickly and they want to marry her off, so they're sending her on an Asian Christian singles cruise. When Ryan enters, he immediately takes a never-before- shown interest in Yolanda, until he finds out about her fake breast inserts. He's suddenly less enthused, though he agrees it's really hard to meet someone new; everyone should take help where they can get it. Anne tells Ryan she has a woman that might be perfect for him... The only wild

card? Anne's not sure this woman likes dummies.

Ryan's confused when Anne takes him to the grave of her dead wife, but she's really in the process of setting him up on a blind date. Anne points Ryan over to a widow laying flowers on her dead husband's grave. When Ryan approaches Talia the widow, she surprisingly eats up his lame gravestone joke. Snowballing off the good vibes, Ryan asks her out, but Talia thinks he means all three of them... including Anne. Ryan panics and doesn't correct her.

Later, in therapy, Anne tells the group she'll be accompanying Ryan and Talia on their first date, but promises to leave as soon as Talia gives Ryan a "sign." Yolanda reports in via Skype from the single's cruise and asks the group for help finding a guy at an onboard mixer. Carrying her laptop around, the group helps her decide which guys to approach, only when she does, one of them takes a liking to Lauren, who creepily flirts back.

On the three-way date, Talia shamelessly uses her widow status to guilt-trip the waiter into giving the table free drinks and buffalo wings. Ryan likes Talia's spunk, but when Anne reveals Ryan is sensitive and cries a lot, he puts on a tough exterior. Of course, when Talia says she

likes a sensitive man, Ryan does a complete 180, then starts boasting, a nervous habit. Talia affectionately rubs his arm, and Ryan looks at Anne. Was that the sign she was referring to?

Later on, the date takes a bewildering turn when Talia seems to be giving "signs" to both Ryan and Anne! When Talia goes to order more shots, Ryan and Anne try to figure out what's going on and develop a plan of action, but Anne's a terrible wingman. When Talia returns, Anne just blurts out the question: "Which one of us are you hitting on?!" Talia explains she was hitting on both of them and that she wants to explore life following the death of her husband. She doesn't know what direction her love life is going, so she gives Ryan and Anne the choice. Talia will be back at the restaurant tomorrow, awaiting whichever of the two shows up...

In therapy, the group confronts Lauren about her weird flirting over Skype with the cruise ship guy. Lauren's getting married to Wyatt, who's wonderful, and she needs to cut it out! Anne shows up dressed to the nines, and Ryan realizes she's going to make a play for Talia. If it's a competition she wants, Ryan won't back down... game on. Yolanda skypes in and confesses she's terrible at meeting guys. She always thought she was single because she worked too much, but this cruise has caused her to give up on love.

Talia is flattered when both Ryan and Anne show up at the restaurant the next night, but she doesn't want to make it a competition; they should just enjoy each other's company. Ryan and Anne don't pay any attention and begin flowering Talia with compliment after compliment. Naturally, Talia likes this much better and encourages them to continue. Anne's slam-dunk looks nearly complete when she convinces Talia to accompany her to the ladies' room.

Meanwhile, Sonia confronts Lauren about her Skype-flirting with the guy from Yolanda's cruise ship (Russ). Lauren assures her it's innocent and fun, but when she abruptly receives a video call from Russ — and he's naked — she realizes she was sending the wrong signals. It's no excuse, but Lauren admits she never felt attractive when she was younger, so getting attention still feels like a thrill. Wyatt deserves better, she needs to tell him everything. George and Fausta strongly suggest she keep the secret repressed, as she'd only be confessing to Wyatt to soothe her own guilt. Lauren wrestles with the decision.

Back at the restaurant, the waiter tells Ryan the kitchen's overheard what's going on at his table... and they're all rooting for him. When Talia comes back from the bathroom, the waiter spills a drink on Anne, and Ryan tells them he's going home. Talia says she wants him to come home with her. What? He won! Talia thinks they have a real connection. But when Ryan gets inside Talia's Corvette, Anne seems unnervingly serene. From outside the car, Anne tells Ryan that Talia initially chose her in the bathroom, but Anne declined. She got a weird vibe. Talia puts on the song "Get Your Freak On" and drives off with a petrified Ryan.

Talia admits she stole the Corvette — the perks of being a widow! When she tells Ryan she's not ready to be physically intimate, he's beyond confused. Talia runs a red light and bails as the cops pull her over. Later, on the radio, Ryan talks about free agency in sports and how you really have to assess what you want out of a partnership before making a commitment. Lauren asks herself the same question in bed as Wyatt sleeps. In therapy, Ryan says he's off "set-ups" for a while. Mr. K somehow boarded the cruise ship, determined to find Yolanda a mate. Maybe she'll find one after all. As for Anne and Ryan, well they both learned they've still got game, but they'll have to be more selective about their mates in the future.



## Fast Breakup

Season 1  
Episode Number: 21  
Season Episode: 21

Originally aired: Thursday April 4, 2013  
Writer: Lesley Wake Webster, Matthew Harawitz  
Director: Eric Appel  
Show Stars: Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Julie White (Anne), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Tyler James Williams (Owen Lewis), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), Sarah Baker (Sonia), John Cho (Steven)  
Recurring Role: Tonita Castro (Fausta), Allison Miller (I) (Carrie)  
Guest Stars: Hayes MacArthur (Wyatt), Kendall Foote (Intern), Kevin Peake (Man)  
Production Code: 121  
Summary: Ryan finds a new rival in the K-Ball Mascot. Also, Ryan is unsure how to handle a flirty, drunk-dial call from his secretary Carrie. In a strange role reversal, Ryan becomes counselor to Lauren in her confused love life while the group prepares a bachelorette party that will never be.



The group shows up at K-BAL's fan appreciation night to support Ryan, who's struggling to get along with the company's oblivious and shameless mascot, a plush basketball. Steven's worried Lauren is about to put a move on him, considering the romantic moment they shared a few weeks back, but Ryan assures him she's happily engaged. Later that night, Ryan receives a mysterious anonymous booty call. He hightails it over to Lauren's, but she wasn't the one who made the call. However, she does confess that she can't bring herself to marry Wyatt. Ryan advises her to tell Wyatt imme-

diately, but he's so nice she just can't!

The next day, Ryan and Steven give Carrie a hard time when she shows up at work with a hangover. While recounting her wild night, Carrie remembers calling Ryan at 1:30 in the morning - she's the booty caller! In a panic, Ryan calls the group, currently in session, for advice: he likes Carrie but she's younger than him, and he's her boss. They can't date. Later, Ryan calls Carrie into his office, but he can't bring himself to discuss the matter face-to-face. Telling Carrie he'll be right back, Ryan swipes the mascot costume, and thus disguised, rushes out of the office to meet up with the group.

To Ryan's surprise, life is actually way better inside the basketball costume. Everyone loves a mascot, and Ryan enjoys the positive energy - along with the anonymity - that comes with the outfit. But at the group meeting, Lauren accuses him of failing to confront his problems head on. It's exactly what she's doing with her fiance Wyatt, and Ryan knows it. But when the group gets super-excited about Lauren's upcoming bachelorette party, she realizes she's in too deep. After the meeting, Lauren confides in Ryan. Wyatt's way too nice to break up with - he even agreed to take her last name! Lauren and Ryan make a pact: she'll break his bad news to Carrie if he'll break her bad news to Wyatt.

The next day at work, Steven calls Ryan out for visiting a local mall dressed as the K-BAL basketball. Yes, Ryan took the costume to the mall - but life is wonderful inside that suit! Suddenly, Wyatt shows up at the office for his meeting with Ryan. Ryan gears up to break the news,

but it soon becomes apparent that Lauren's absolutely right: Wyatt's way too nice to break up with. In a moment of weakness, Ryan tells Wyatt that Lauren wants to move up the wedding - to tomorrow! What the heck kind of spell does Wyatt put on people?

The girls and Mr. K are having an amazing time at Lauren's bachelorette party, especially Anne, who ate weed brownies on the way over. If they knew Lauren's true feelings about her impending nuptials, the mood would obviously be much different. The guilt weighs on Lauren, who hasn't yet heard from Ryan about his talk with Wyatt. After a "grief stripper" shows up to entertain Lauren, Ryan arrives and pulls her away from the party.

Ryan confesses: he couldn't break things off between Lauren and Wyatt - the guy's just too nice! Lauren's furious since she followed through on her end of the agreement having convinced Carrie that Ryan's definitely not the right guy for her. Lauren realizes she enlisted the help of the one person in the world who's worse at relationships than her. When the group gathers round to investigate the commotion, Ryan breaks Lauren's news. They're devastated, especially since Lauren's always instructed them to confront their problems. Lauren decides she has to do better, so when Wyatt shows up unexpectedly, she tells him they need to talk.

At the next therapy session, Lauren announces her breakup with Wyatt. She apologizes for her failure as group leader, then reminds everyone they're there for their own problems, not hers. At work, Ryan approaches Carrie and let's her know he has feelings for her. He knows it's weird since he's her boss, but he'd like to think there's a still a possibility that something could happen with her. Carrie agrees; it's complicated because they work together. She gives Ryan a big kiss on the lips, then immediately quits her job. No more excuses, the ball is in Ryan's court.

Later that night, Ryan stops by Lauren's place to see how she's doing now that she's a single girl. Although she puts up a good front, the truth is she's eating pizza and drinking red wine while looking at pictures of babies. Ryan reminds her it's okay to let her guard down; she doesn't need to be perfect. Lauren laughs. Who'd have thought when they first met that Ryan was someone she'd be leaning on? Ryan claims he's only become that man with Lauren's help. When Ryan suggests she try the K-BAL mascot costume as a momentary distraction from her problems, it doesn't take long before Lauren has swallowed the Kool-Aid. Ryan's right; life in a giant plush basketball suit is amazing!



## Urn-ed Run

Season 1

Episode Number: 22

Season Episode: 22

Originally aired: Thursday April 11, 2013  
Writer: Bill Callahan, Jon Pollack, Scott Silveri  
Director: Linda Mendoza  
Show Stars: Matthew Perry (Ryan King), Laura Benanti (Lauren Schneider), Julie White (Anne), Suzy Nakamura (Yolanda), Tyler James Williams (Owen Lewis), Brett Gelman (Mr. K), Sarah Baker (Sonia), John Cho (Steven)  
Recurring Role: Bill Cobbs (George), Tonita Castro (Fausta)  
Guest Stars: Christine Woods (Janie), Jack Carter (Sarge), Torino K. Johnson (Fake Orderly), Jeff Hiller (Eric The Actor), Michael Eauslin (Sports Fan)  
Production Code: 122  
Summary: Worried that his career is in shambles, Ryan travels to New York with Steven to interview as host of a national show, set up for him by Anne. Meanwhile, the group grumbles they're getting nothing out of their sessions and blame Lauren to such an extent that Yolanda and Sonia make up a big problem for her to fix. When both plans crash, the group finds renewed strength from their failures.



It's Lauren's first week without Wyatt and she's doing fantastic — she's used the opportunity to rededicate herself to her craft: healing people. She's bought new scented candles and an affirmation ball and has created personalized healing portfolios for every member of the group. It's been almost a year since Janie passed and Ryan still hasn't found a place to spread her ashes. Lauren fears his attempts to hold onto the past are inhibiting him from forming meaningful relationships. Ryan accepts the challenge — it's time for him to be a man and confront the things he's holding on to.

Ryan wakes up in the middle of the night after having a vivid dream about his wedding day. It won't be easy moving on, but it's an important progression. The next day, Ryan takes the therapy group to a small a campsite he once visited with Janie, where she said she'd like to "look up at the stars forever." He spreads her ashes in a picturesque lily pond, so her passing wish can become a reality, at least in a way. Afterwards, Steven gives a stunningly bad performance of a spiritual song, which Janie would have loved for its badness.

Ryan's courageous act inspires the group to tackle their own issues. But when Mr. K's private investigation reveals Ryan spread Bisquick in the pond instead of his wife's ashes, the group is shocked and disappointed. Ryan comes clean, saying he feels so much pressure to be better but just... isn't. He's still haunted by the memories of his wedding day and lost his nerve. Now the rest of the group back off their commitments of personal furtherance and quickly assume a new posture: relapse! Which means Lauren is failing at her craft...

When Sonia and Yolanda see how depressed Lauren's taking her perceived failure, they set out to conjure up a fake "problem" for her to solve. Maybe if Lauren can see herself fixing a new tragedy, it will reignite her confidence! Sonia and Yolanda haphazardly come up with a

"meaty" story about a coworker, named Zander, dying in the hospital, and Lauren jumps at the opportunity to help them get through their pain. She just read about therapeutic pottery and is eager to try it out on her "grieving" friends. Sonia and Yolanda praise Lauren for assisting them in overcoming the loss of their imaginary friend.

Anne and Mr. K also decide to help out a friend in need. When Ryan comes home to a ransacked house, he worries a robber is still inside. Calling from his newly purchased Winnebago, Mr. K offers an ultimatum — he and Anne abducted Janie's ashes and plan to spread them in the lake at 6 p.m., whether Ryan's there or not. Ryan's healing needs a bit of a push, and Anne's determined to propel him through this mental blockade. Ryan's frustrated, but his options are limited.

Sonia and Yolanda are mortified when Lauren shows up unannounced at the hospital where they work with a plan to help their other coworkers cope with the loss of their imaginary friend Zander. Sonia tries to dissuade her, saying Zander was kind of a jerk anyway and everyone's kind of over it, but Lauren insists. She'll be back at the same time tomorrow to continue testing her new therapeutic pottery. Yolanda doubles down on the lie by Photoshopping a collage of Zander and hiring people to play her bereaved coworkers. But when Lauren shows up for therapy and praises her friends' openness and honesty, Sonia caves. She can't continue the lie and spills the beans on the whole scheme.

Ryan and Steven set out to stop Anne and Mr. K before they spread Janie's ashes without them. On the road, Ryan spots Mr. K's Winnebago in a gas station parking lot and rolls in to confront his friends. Ryan still needs to find the perfect place to spread his wife's ashes and doesn't like that his friends stole her urn! But Anne insists they've been very careful with the remains, never letting them out of their sight... until she realizes she set them on the roof of a random car, which is now driving away. The urn topples to the pavement and shatters. As the ashes waft across the gas station lot, Steven launches into the spiritual song he sang by the lake.

At the next group meeting, Ryan announces the group doesn't actually help anyone — it just makes things worse. Thanks to Mr. K and Anne, Janie's ashes will spend an eternity at a gas station on the highway. Lauren asks about Ryan's wedding — why is it haunting him? He admits he made the "Big Day" too big, when all Janie wanted was something intimate and memorable. Lauren sees the connection — Ryan's doing the same thing with her ashes that he did with their wedding; he's trying to make it big and perfect, when Janie would've just wanted him to spread her ashes in a way that was special to the two of them. Lauren's back! And Ryan's got an idea...

While driving on the highway, Ryan remembers his wedding day, when he took Janie away from their massive, overly planned nuptials and sought shelter at a local batting cage. It's where they went on their third date, and though they're way overdressed, Janie loves the gesture. It's all she wants and she doesn't need anything else. Ryan decides to spread Janie's few remaining ashes over home plate at the batting cage — all by himself, no fanfare.

For the first time in a long time, Ryan sleeps through the night. At a group bonfire, Lauren let's everyone know it's important to honor the past, but there comes a time when you must move on. Ryan started off with the ashes, and the group follows his lead. One by one they toss the symbols of their grief into the bonfire as a means of letting go. Ryan lets everyone know this group is the most important thing in the world to him — they've taught him how to heal.

# Actor Appearances

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## A

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Tyler F. Anderson ..... 1  
 0118 (Good)

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## B

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Ned Beatty ..... 1  
 0116 (Coach)

Joseph Bertot ..... 1  
 0118 (Marty)

Jennifer Birmingham ..... 1  
 0105 (Mindy)

Nazanin Boniadi ..... 1  
 0113 (Hannah)

Andrew Borba ..... 1  
 0114 (Harvey Marer)

Chris Bosh ..... 1  
 0108 (Himself)

Sylvia Brindis ..... 1  
 0115 (Sasha)

Lauren Burns ..... 1  
 0115 (Amanda)

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## C

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Vanessa Bell Calloway ..... 2  
 0108 (Joyce); 0109 (Joyce)

Charles Carpenter ..... 1  
 0103 (Tim)

Jack Carter ..... 1  
 0122 (Sarge)

Thierry Di Castro ..... 1  
 0116 (Marco)

Anne Chamberlain ..... 1  
 0106 (Bride in Suit)

Cathy Chang ..... 1  
 0114 (Charlene)

Christopher Cho ..... 1  
 0118 (Dealer)

John Cho ..... 2  
 0106 (Steven); 0107 (Steven)

Marcus Choi ..... 1  
 0120 (Guy)

Lea Coco ..... 1  
 0115 (Thomas)

Timothy Ryan Cole ..... 1  
 0103 (Waiter)

Bob Costas ..... 1  
 0112 (Himself)

Courteney Cox ..... 1  
 0120 (Talia)

Kelsey Crane ..... 1  
 0115 (Margaret Hotchkiss)

Silvia Curiel ..... 1  
 0118 (Dorotea)

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## D

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Shelley Dennis ..... 1  
 0118 (Attractive Woman)

Kaitlin Doubleday ..... 1  
 0108 (Kimmie)

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## E

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Michael Eauslin ..... 1  
 0122 (Sports Fan)

Rich Eisen ..... 2  
 0112 (Himself); 0119 (Himself)

Ehab Elgharabawy ..... 1  
 0110 (Osama K-ball)

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## F

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Ben Falcone ..... 1  
 0119 (Carlo)

Nic Few ..... 1  
 0108 (Man)

Ethan Flower ..... 1  
 0117 (Italian Waiter)

Erin Foley ..... 2  
 0104 (Fawning Woman); 0106 (Fawning Woman)

Kendall Foote ..... 1  
 0121 (Intern)

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## G

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Kevin Garnett ..... 1  
 0101 (Kevin Garnett)

Alexander George ..... 2  
 0109 (Random Patron); 0110 (Random Patron)

Frank Gerrish ..... 1  
 0118 (Bingo Caller)

Lauren Graham ..... 1  
 0109 (Amy)

Gordon Greene ..... 1  
 0118 (Roulette Dealer)

Michele Gregory ..... 1  
 0115 (Carol)

Tinsley Grimes ..... 1  
 0119 (Kate)

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## H

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Jerry Hauck ..... 1  
 0105 (Proctor)

Ben Hausbach ..... 1  
 0116 (Meditation Classmate)

Kristina Hayes ..... 1  
 0115 (Erin)

Annie Heise ..... 1  
 0118 (Brittney)

Ethan Herisse ..... 2  
 0109 (Nate); 0117 (Nate)  
 Jamie Hill ..... 1  
 0113 (Maya)  
 Jeff Hiller ..... 1  
 0122 (Eric The Actor)

J

Jennifer Jalene ..... 2  
 0109 (Producer); 0112 (Producer)  
 Ian Jensen ..... 1  
 0102 (Maitre'D)  
 Torino K. Johnson ..... 1  
 0122 (Fake Orderly)  
 Theresa June-Tao ..... 1  
 0112 (Make Up Artist)

K

Rob Kerkovich ..... 1  
 0119 (Waiter)  
 Chase Kim ..... 1  
 0120 (Russ)  
 Matt Knudsen ..... 1  
 0101 (Jack Madden)

L

Kimrie Lewis-Davis ..... 1  
 0101 (Terrell's Girlfriend)

M

Hayes MacArthur ..... 4  
 0115 (Wyatt); 0119 (Wyatt); 0120 (Wyatt); 0121 (Wyatt)  
 Ross Mackenzie ..... 1  
 0105 (Man)  
 Jessica Manuel ..... 1  
 0104 (Lady Skater)  
 Misty May-Treanor ..... 1  
 0110 (Herself)  
 Shannon McClung ..... 1  
 0120 (Waiter #2)  
 Keith McDonald ..... 1  
 0120 (Kitchen Guy)  
 Dan Moriarty ..... 1  
 0104 (Player 2)

N

Michael Nanfria ..... 1  
 0112 (Stage Manager)

O

Terrell Owens ..... 3  
 0101 (Himself); 0114 (Himself); 0116 (Himself)

P

Mike Nojun Park ..... 1  
 0120 (Purple Man)  
 Lilli Passero ..... 1  
 0102 (Reina)  
 Alejandro Patino ..... 1  
 0103 (Miguel)

Kevin Peake ..... 1  
 0121 (Man)  
 Piper Perabo ..... 4  
 0114 (Simone); 0115 (Simone); 0116 (Simone); 0117 (Simone)  
 Renee Pezzotta ..... 1  
 0108 (Nurse)  
 Lauren Benz Phillips ..... 2  
 0105 (Becca); 0111 (Becca)  
 Angelica Pulido ..... 1  
 0101 (Iris)

R

Jonathan Retamoza-Davila ..... 1  
 0106 (Coffee Shop Patron / Wedding Guest)  
 Alison Robertson ..... 1  
 0104 (Sasha)  
 Jeremy Roenick ..... 1  
 0104 (Himself)  
 Karly Rothenberg ..... 1  
 0111 (Middle Aged Woman)  
 Tahmus Rounds ..... 1  
 0118 (Player #2)

S

Ricardo Sanchez ..... 1  
 0119 (El Mandril)  
 Gloria Sandoval ..... 1  
 0118 (Lourdes)  
 Nick Schroeder ..... 1  
 0106 (Hockey Bench Warmer)  
 Brian Scolaro ..... 1  
 0118 (Player #1)  
 Timm Sharp ..... 1  
 0116 (Group Leader)  
 Devin Sidell ..... 2  
 0104 (Woman in Blue); 0106 (Woman in Blue)

T

Haley Tju ..... 2  
 0109 (Abby); 0117 (Abby)  
 David Trice ..... 1  
 0113 (Mr. Davis)

V

Robert Parks Valletta ..... 1  
 0105 (Guy)

W

Holly Walker ..... 1  
 0105 (Clerk)  
 Jared Ward ..... 1  
 0113 (Dr. Grimes)  
 Shaun White ..... 1  
 0113 (Himself)  
 Keelin Woodell ..... 1  
 0102 (Sophie)  
 Christine Woods ..... 3  
 0105 (Janie); 0115 (Janie); 0122 (Janie)  
 David Grant Wright ..... 1  
 0119 (Customer #3)

Z

Scot Zeller ..... 1  
    0120 (Waiter)

Gil Zuniga ..... 1  
    0119 (Maitre D')