

= Last Day in Florida =

" Last Day in Florida " is the eighteenth episode of the eighth season of the American comedy television series The Office and the show 's 170th episode overall . The episode originally aired on NBC in the United States on March 8 , 2012 . " Last Day in Florida " was written by Robert Padnick and directed by Matt Sohn . The episode features the final appearance of Lindsay Broad and guest stars Georgia Engel .

The series ? presented as if it were a real documentary ? depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania , branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In the episode , Robert California ( James Spader ) reveals he hates Nellie Bertram 's ( Catherine Tate ) business plan and Jim Halpert ( John Krasinski ) swings into action to keep Dwight Schrute ( Rainn Wilson ) from getting fired . Meanwhile , Andy Bernard ( Ed Helms ) learns that Erin Hannon ( Ellie Kemper ) is not going to return to Scranton . Also , Toby Flenderson ( Paul Lieberstein ) and Darryl Philbin ( Craig Robinson ) compete to sell cookies to Kevin ( Brian Baumgartner ) .

" Last Day in Florida " received mixed reviews from critics , with multiple critics praising Wilson and Krasinski 's performance . Like the previous episodes involving Florida , the Scranton sub @-@ plot received mixed reviews . According to Nielsen Media Research , " Last Day in Florida " was viewed by an estimated 4 @.@ 89 million viewers and received a 2 @.@ 6 rating / 7 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . The episode ranked second in its timeslot and was also the highest @-@ rated NBC series of the night .

= = Plot = =

Dwight ( Rainn Wilson ) celebrates his winning of the Vice President position on a golf outing with Jim ( John Krasinski ) , Robert California ( James Spader ) , and Nellie Bertram ( Catherine Tate ) . After playing , Robert tells Jim that he dislikes the business plan for the Sabre store , citing the poor quality of the products ; he only approved it because Jo Bennett wanted it , but he plans to sandbag it at a high @-@ level meeting , and Jim is stunned when Robert strongly hints he 's going to fire Dwight over it . Jim makes several attempts to stop Dwight from attending the meeting with Robert , but Dwight is heedless and continually insults Jim , who finally decides to leave Dwight to his fate . However , a guilt @-@ inducing phone call to Pam ( Jenna Fischer ) makes Jim decide he has to keep parsing Dwight 's insults until he directly tells him that he 's going to lose his job . Dwight ignores the news , thinking Jim is jealous of him , so Jim resorts to wrestling with Dwight outside the conference room . In the meantime , Nellie has Todd Packer ( David Koechner ) stand in as VP in Dwight 's absence . When Dwight makes it into the conference room , he hears Robert planning to fire the VP , so he sneaks out of the conference room and lets Packer take the fall in front of those present . Dwight then silently extends a hand to Jim , and they head back to Scranton with Stanley ( Leslie David Baker ) , who has reverted to his old grumpy self over the thought of leaving Florida .

Back in Scranton , Darryl ( Craig Robinson ) and Toby ( Paul Lieberstein ) are both trying to sell girl scout cookies for their daughters . When Toby 's requests clash with Darryl 's , Darryl tells him they need their own sections of the office to sell to in order to not interfere with each other . Darryl takes accounting while Toby gets every other section . Darryl asks for accounting because Kevin ( Brian Baumgartner ) buys more cookies than everyone else put together . Toby eventually realizes Darryl 's plan and the two end up fighting over who sells Kevin cookies , with Kevin coming up with absurd competition ideas . After doing a song and dance for Kevin , Kevin still can 't make up his mind , so Darryl and Toby contemplate giving up until Kevin mentions he plans to buy hundreds of boxes of cookies , at which point continue the competition . They finally give up for good when Kevin wants to ride them like a pony , citing they still want to maintain their dignity and will not go beyond the limit to what they 'd do for their daughters . When they walk away , Kevin says he 'll doing any absurd thing for them to continue , kissing Meredith ( Kate Flannery ) to prove it , but they still refuse .

Meanwhile , Andy ( Ed Helms ) learns that Erin ( Ellie Kemper ) isn 't coming back to Scranton after she takes a job helping an elderly lady she met at the Sabre store opening , leaving Andy very distraught , especially when he learns that everyone else already knew through Ryan ( B.J. Novak )

, who is revealed to have returned to Scranton after freaking out during the previous episode . When Dwight , Jim , and Stanley return to Scranton and Andy sees Jim happily reunite with Pam , Andy decides to travel to Florida to try and bring Erin back .

= = Production = =

" Last Day in Florida " was written by Robert Padnick , his second writing credit for the season after " Gettysburg " . The episode was directed by Matt Sohn , his third director 's credit for the season after " Pam 's Replacement " and " Tallahassee " . The episode marks the fifth appearance of Catherine Tate as Nellie Bertram and her fourth consecutive appearance . Her character , Nellie , worked with several of the office workers on a special project for Sabre in a six episode arc . The episode also features a guest appearance from David Koechner , who appears as Todd Packer in the series . He recently made a deal with NBC to do more episodes for the series and also possibly join the cast of series developer Greg Daniels 's next series , Friday Night Dinner , an adaption of the British series of the same name . Lindsey Broad , who portrays Cathy Simms , Pam 's replacement during her maternity leave , makes her twelfth and final appearance on the series . The episode also marks the second appearance of Georgia Engel as Irene , Erin 's elderly new friend . Showrunner Paul Lieberstein said in an interview that he was excited for her appearance calling her performance " fantastic " . She will appeared three episodes in the season . The Season Eight DVD contains a number of deleted scenes from this episode . Notable cut scenes include Irene introducing Erin to her grandson who asks Erin to go on a date with him , which she says yes to , and Packer attempting to have a conversation with California over the HBO medieval fantasy series Game of Thrones , but learns Robert has not seen the series .

= = Cultural references = =

In the episode , Ryan mentions that he told everybody through his Tumblr account that Erin was not coming back from Florida . Kevin forces Toby and Darryl to sing " Hello ! Ma Baby " in the style of Michigan J. Frog . Sabre 's Pyramid tablet makes a reappearance in the episode . The device serves as a parody of several tablet computers , specifically the Apple iPad . B. J. Novak described the device as " really the worst piece of technology that you 've ever seen . " The device was created by Paul Lieberstein , who originally envisioned that the device only had the rights to the 1993 film Coneheads .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Last Day in Florida " aired on March 8 , 2012 . The episode was viewed by an estimated 4 @.@ 89 million viewers and received a 2 @.@ 6 rating / 7 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 2 @.@ 6 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 7 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This marked a slight rise in the ratings from the previous episode , " Test the Store " . The episode finished second in its time slot , beating Fox drama series The Finder and reruns of the ABC medical drama Grey 's Anatomy and The CW drama series Supernatural . Despite this , the episode was defeated by the CBS drama Person of Interest . In addition , " Last Day in Florida " was the highest @-@ rated NBC television episode of the night .

= = = Reviews = = =

" Last Day in Florida " received mixed reviews from critics , with many of them praising Rainn Wilson and John Krasinski 's performance in the episode and their characters ' interaction . Writing

for New York , Michael Tedder called the scene featuring Dwight helping Jim up " eloquent " and wrote that it summarized their relationship over the years . The A.V. Club reviewer Myles McNutt called the episode the " most satisfying episode in the Florida arc " , mainly praising the Jim @-@ Dwight relationship , and said that since Steve Carell left the series they have become the " emotional core " of the show . He also complimented the writers for adding " business logic " to Sabre , specifically with Robert criticizing the Sabre Pyramid . Despite mainly praising the Florida plotline , he went on to criticize the Andy @-@ Erin plotline for Erin 's incompetence and also the fact he stopped caring about Andy and Erin 's relationship , although he did call their video chat " charming " . He ultimately gave the episode a B + . Brian Marder of Hollywood.com had a mixed response to the episode and wrote that it ruined the positive momentum the previous two episodes had . He also wrote that the episode wasn 't a good episode until the final scene of Andy telling the camera he 's going to Florida to get Erin back , calling the development " half intriguing , half mildly uninteresting " .

IGN writer Cindy White considered the Jim and Dwight scenes to be one of the only highlights of the episode , especially due to them being the core element to the series . She criticized Robert 's role in the episode and series , calling his character " a tool [ ... ] I mean that in both senses " , and also wrote that he was too much of an inconsistent character . She concluded that while the episode wasn 't " terrible " , it was a mediocre conclusion to the Florida storyline and wrote that " I 've got a suspicion that the best part of Season 8 is behind us " . She ultimately gave the episode a 7 @. @ 0 / 10 . Jeffrey Hyatt of Screen Crave gave the episode a review of seven out of ten , writing that the only drawback for the episode was the Scranton subplot , because it " turned really old , really fast " , although he did compliment Lieberstein 's performance in the episode .

Like the previous episodes , the Scranton subplot received mixed reviews . Tedder called the subplot " typical , but likable " . VanDerWerff wrote that while it had good moments , the storyline ultimately felt like " rejected storylines from an old sitcom " while White wrote that she enjoyed the storyline .