

= Doomsday (The Office) =

" Doomsday " is the sixth episode of the eighth season of the American comedy television series The Office , and the show 's 158th episode overall . The episode aired on NBC in the United States on November 3 , 2011 . " Doomsday " was written by Daniel Chun and directed by Troy Miller . The episode guest stars Ameenah Kaplan .

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 , Dwight Schrute (Rainn Wilson) programs a device that will fire all of the employees and effectively close down the branch if they make too many mistakes . Meanwhile , Gabe Lewis (Zach Woods) attempts to court the new warehouse worker , Val .

" Doomsday " received mixed reviews from critics , with some reviews critiquing the episode 's resolution . According to Nielsen Media Research , the episode was viewed by 6 @. @ 15 million viewers and received a 3 @. @ 2 rating / 8 % share among adult between the ages of 18 and 49 , marking an increase in the ratings from the previous episode . The episode ranked third in its time slot and was the highest @- @ rated NBC show of the night .

= = Plot = =

Robert California (James Spader) confronts Andy (Ed Helms) about the number of mishaps and blunders made in the office , and gives him a firm directive to bring them to a stop . With no ideas on how to make this come about , Andy puts it in the hands of Dwight (Rainn Wilson) , who devises a system to find mistakes made by employees in the office . He programs an " efficiency motivator " that will forward incriminating emails to California if they make five mistakes in one day , effectively causing them to lose their jobs . However , the group manages to make five mistakes barely halfway through the first day with the system , and Dwight reveals that the emails will be automatically sent to California at 5 : 00 pm . Andy pleads with Dwight to deactivate the system , but Dwight refuses , belittles the rest of the office staff for being so careless , and retreats to Schrute Farms .

The office formulates two plans to save their jobs . Jim (John Krasinski) is tasked with tracking down Robert at a squash court and intercepting the emails before California has a chance to view them , while Andy , Pam (Jenna Fischer) , Erin , and Kevin (Brian Baumgartner) head to Schrute Farms , ostensibly to try and change Dwight 's mind . However , Pam consistently silences any attempt to bring up the device , saying she knows Dwight and is confident that he will stop the device on his own . After complimenting Dwight numerous times and having a small meal , Pam makes a joke that emphasizes that everyone is human and makes mistakes .

To justify his presence at the squash court , Jim claims to be a regular player and begins a match with Robert , demonstrating his complete lack of skill at squash and resulting in multiple injuries . He makes an unsuccessful attempt to access Robert 's email from his phone , and finally resorts to trying to " accidentally " break his phone . However , when Robert checks his messages after 5 : 00 , the e @- @ mail has not come through . Realizing that Dwight must have stopped the device , Jim admits that he was obviously lying about being a squash player and prepares to leave , but Robert , apparently oblivious to Jim 's statements , makes him stay and continue playing .

Back in the warehouse , Gabe (Zach Woods) unsuccessfully tries to strike up a relationship with a new warehouse worker , Val (Ameenah Kaplan) . Darryl (Craig Robinson) , observing Gabe 's pitiful attempts , tries to imply that Val doesn 't feel the same way , but to no avail . When Gabe does ask Val out , she politely declines and says she does not date co @- @ workers . Darryl hears all of this and decides he won 't pursue Val either .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by co @- @ executive producer Daniel Chun . It was directed by Troy Miller , his second directing credit after last season 's " Dwight K. Schrute , (Acting) Manager " . The Season Eight DVD contains a number of deleted scenes from this episode . Notable cut scenes

include Jim explaining to the camera that he has never played squash , and then proceeds to convince Robert California to play another game , Gabe explaining his philosophy by saying that " he would throw any brother under the bus for any whore ... woman " , Stanley comparing Dwight 's doomsday device to the Y2K bug , Jim and Pam arguing about whether or not Jim was there on the day Dwight fixed her computer , and Andy offering Robert California a pipe during a meeting that Dwight asks to be a part of .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original American broadcast , " Doomsday " was viewed by an estimated 6 @. @ 15 million viewers and received a 3 @. @ 2 rating / 8 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 3 @. @ 2 % of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds , and 8 % of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This marked an increase in the ratings from the previous episode , " Spooked " . The episode ranked third in its timeslot beating Person of Interest which received a 2 @. @ 7 rating / 7 % share in the 18 ? 49 demographic and The Secret Circle which received a 0 @. @ 9 rating / 2 % share , but was defeated by Grey 's Anatomy which received a 3 @. @ 6 rating / 9 % share and the season premiere of Bones which received a 3 @. @ 3 rating / 8 % share . A repeat of the episode on January 5 , 2012 drew 2 @. @ 61 million and received a 1 @. @ 1 rating / 3 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 , ranking fourth in its time slot , despite the episode being a rerun .

= = = Reviews = = =

The episode received mixed reviews . Several reviews wrote positively of the ensemble and character acting . Hannah Lawrence from Hollywood was happy with romance of the episode , writing " It seems clear that the writers are spending more time on characters finding love , and I actually enjoy it very much [?] I suspect the writers are aware that ultimately what all of us want for the Dunder @- @ Mifflin employees is love . " CliqueClack wrote positively of the episode , praising the ensemble acting , and wrote , " Overall , another solid ensemble episode . Way to go , The Office ! " Many other reviews compared the episode , either positively or negatively , to previous episodes . Jeffrey Hyatt from Screenrave gave the episode an 8 / 10 rating and wrote , " I ? d say it was the strongest of the six episodes so far this season . [?] ' Doomsday ' delivered that classic , ? Office ? formula where everything just works ? and it feels so right . " Joseph Kratzer from WhatCulture awarded the episode 3 @- @ and @- @ a @- @ half stars out of five and compared it to the season 's previous episodes , writing , " For a minute there I thought season eight of The Office was going to be some kind of subpar shut @- @ out , but thankfully Doomsday ' has lifted the series out of the rut it ? s been in [?] I feel ' Doomsday ' was successful because it captured a sense of ease and fluidity the show ? s been lacking severely since Michael ? s departure . "

Other reviews were more mixed , or simply referred to the episode as " decent " . Jill Mader from InsidePulse called the episode " decent " noting that " [that is how the] season has been shaping up . " Dan Forcella from TVFanatic noted that the episode was not a " fantastic episode of The Office , but it had its funny moments , and that 's what I tune in for . " The A.V. Club reviewer Myles McNutt wrote " Doomsday " was not " a terrible episode by any means [but] the various pieces never fell into place , and the resolution didn 't feel as though it was earned by the episode that came before it . It just felt like it was trying to do too much too quickly , never quite narrowing in on character in the midst of manufacturing chaos . " McNutt ultimately gave the episode a B- . Despite some of the more mixed reviews , a large majority of critics found the cold @- @ opening humorous , with many noting that it was the best of the season so far .