

= 94 Meetings =

" 94 Meetings " is the 21st episode of the second season of the American comedy television series Parks and Recreation , and the 27th overall episode of the series . It originally aired on NBC in the United States on April 29 , 2010 . In the episode , Ron is forced to handle 94 meetings in a single day due to an error by his assistant , April . Meanwhile , Leslie tries to stop alterations to a historic mansion while dealing with her hidden insecurities about the escalation of Ann and Mark 's romantic relationship .

The episode was written by Harris Wittels and directed by Tristram Shapeero . It featured guest appearances by several actors who had appeared in previous episodes , including Susan Yeagley , Alison Becker and Yvans Jourdain . It also introduced April Ludgate 's family . According to Nielsen Media Research , " 94 Meetings " was seen by 4 @. @ 03 million household viewers , and received particularly high ratings among males between ages 18 and 34 . The episode received generally positive reviews .

= = Plot = =

Due to a mistake by April (Aubrey Plaza) , Ron (Nick Offerman) is forced to deal with 93 meetings in a single day . He enlists the aid of April , Andy (Chris Pratt) , Leslie (Amy Poehler) and Ann (Rashida Jones) to help handle them , while telling Jerry (Jim O 'Heir) that he is free to go home early . During her first meeting , Leslie learns a historic town monument , the Turnbill mansion , is soon to be altered by its new renter , the former Miss Pawnee beauty pageant winner Jessica Wicks (Susan Yeagley) . Leslie and Tom (Aziz Ansari) leave to meet with her at the mansion , where Jessica is planning a birthday party for her extremely old husband , the wealthy Nick Newport Sr. (Christopher Murray) , founder of the Sweetums candy company . Leslie is shocked Jessica has already made several alterations , such as hanging up nude portraits of herself and painting the floor .

Leslie is outraged when Jessica reveals her plans to demolish an old gazebo in the backyard of Turnbill Mansion , the site of a historic wedding between a Pawnee Native American and white woman , which became a " bloodbath " when knowledge of the wedding became public . Under Leslie 's orders , Tom chains Leslie to the front gate to prevent construction crews from entering . However , she mistakenly assumes the gate opens from the middle , allowing the crews to enter right past Leslie and demolish the gazebo . At the end of the day , Ann and Mark (Paul Schneider) arrive to free her , and Leslie finally reveals to Tom the true source of her anxiety ? Mark 's intentions to marry Ann . Leslie feels emotional confusion over this fact . On the one hand , she wants her friends to be happy . On the other hand , she used to have romantic feelings for Mark , she feels insecure about being single , and she worries about losing her two friends . In response , Tom assures her not to worry , thus empowering Leslie to crash and ruin Jessica 's party .

Meanwhile , Ron and the others deal with their meetings : April acts as uninterested as possible , Andy makes promises to people against Ron 's wishes , and Ann provides several medical consults after revealing she is really a nurse (not a parks and recreation department employee) . Although the two had previously been developing a romantic interest , Andy now acts uninterested in April because he feels uncomfortable about the eight @-@ year age difference between them , further upsetting April on a difficult day . Ron , who views the many meetings as an utter nightmare , calls in the others during the middle of the day for a progress report , and angrily berates April for her mistake . After all the meetings , April arranges her own meeting with Ron , where she announces she is quitting . When Andy learns this , he convinces Ron that April is a great assistant . Ron goes to April 's house and convinces her to come back by telling her about Andy 's compliments . April then reveals that she knows Ron is Duke Silver , since her mother is a huge fan , and that she recognized him the first time that they met . On her first day back , April successfully scares off someone wanting to meet with Ron by scheduling absurd meeting dates and times such as June 50th , the " one @-@ teenth " of " march @-@ tember " and 2 : 65 PM . Ron gives her an approving smile and nod while watching from his office .

= = Production = =

" 94 Meetings " was written by Harris Wittels and directed by Tristram Shapeero . Ron Swanson and his staff handle only 93 meetings in the episode , but the 94th meeting from the episode title refers to April 's hastily arranged meeting with Ron in which she quits the job . " 94 Meetings " was the first episode to introduce April Ludgate 's family , who Ron meets when he goes to April 's house to convince her to return to work . The family includes April 's extremely chipper mother and father Larry and Rita Ludgate (John Ellison and Terri Hoyos) , and April 's younger sister Natalie Ludgate (Minni Jo Mazzola) , who is cynical and brooding very much like April herself . Susan Yeagley , who previously appeared in " Beauty Pageant " , guest starred in " 94 Meetings " as Jessica Wicks , and Alison Becker reprised her role as reporter Shauna Malwae @-@ Tweep , who was first introduced in " The Reporter " . The episode also featured Yvans Jourdain in his recurring role as Pawnee Councilman Howser .

" 94 Meetings " included several references to past Parks and Recreation episodes . The Newport family and their powerful " Sweetums " corporation were first featured in the episode " Sweetums " , where they convinced the public to allow their extremely unhealthy nutrition bars to be sold at a local park . In another scene , April refers to Ron as " Duke Silver " , his secret jazz saxophonist alter ego first revealed in the episode " Practice Date " . It also features several running gags from throughout the series , including angrily complaining Pawnee citizens , Ann helping parks employees despite not working there , and extremely gory and racist historical Pawnee murals .

Within a week of the episode 's original broadcast , a copy of a desk calendar chronicling all of Ron Swanson 's meetings from the episode was placed on the official Parks and Recreation website . That site also featured three deleted scenes from the episode . In the first , 80 @-@ second clip , Leslie and Jessica get into a fight about the gazebo , and Jessica reveals she has trimmed the mansion 's historic hedges into the shape of elephants . The second clip , which lasted one minute , features several more of Ron Swanson 's meetings , including one where he tries to literally will a man away with his mind . Andy also tells Ron he accidentally agreed to sell the recreation center to the Quiznos fast food restaurant chain . In the third , 90 @-@ second clip , Leslie tries to end Nick Newport Sr. ' s birthday party by pulling the plug on the lights , but accidentally disconnects his breathing machine instead .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " 94 Meetings " was seen by an estimated 4 @.@ 03 million household viewers , according to Nielsen Media Research . It received a 2 @.@ 0 rating / 6 share among viewers between ages 18 and 49 , which tied the ratings of the last original episode , " Summer Catalog " , although that episode was seen by around 110 @,@ 000 more viewers . " 94 Meetings " received particularly high ratings among males between ages 18 and 34 , a demographic particularly sought after by the networks . The episode received a 2 @.@ 2 rating in that group , besting the CBS reality series Survivor 's 2 @.@ 0 rating .

Alan Sepinwall , television columnist for The Star @-@ Ledger , said the meetings themselves were very entertaining and allowed for good character development between April and Andy , and Ron and April . However , he said the main plot with Leslie and the historic mansion was not tied strongly enough to Leslie 's fear that Mark and Ann would get married . Matt Fowler of IGN praised the episode , especially the callbacks to previous episodes and the interaction of the characters during the meetings . Although the show was only on hiatus for about a month , he said , " Man , it feels so good to have Parks and Recreation back . [...] I don 't think there 's another comedy on TV right now that contains such ' miss @-@ able ' characters . "

The A.V. Club writer Leonard Pierce said " 94 Meetings " was a particularly strong episode that focused equally on the show 's premise and developing the relationships between characters . He particularly praised Susan Yeagley , but said Tom Haverford was underused , and felt the scenes between Ann and Mark were lacking . New York magazine writer Steve Kandell said it was a fast

@-@ paced and funny episode , calling the jokes about the complaining residents " rapid @-@ fire scenes " . Kandell criticized Mark , who he said has been resorted to boring " straight @-@ man services " , and said he did not mind that Paul Schneider was leaving the series . Kona Gallagher of TV Squad appreciated that the episode reintroduced the fact that Leslie once was in love with Mark , and criticized the show for ignoring that fact all season . Gallagher also criticized the fact that a historic building could so easily be damaged and demolished , which he called unrealistic .

= = DVD release = =

" 94 Meetings " , along with the other 23 second season episodes of Parks and Recreation , was released on a four @-@ disc DVD set in the United States on November 30 , 2010 . The DVD included deleted scenes for each episode .