

= Cooter (30 Rock) =

" Cooter " is the fifteenth episode of the second season of 30 Rock and thirty @-@ sixth episode of the series . It was written by series ' creator Tina Fey and was directed by one of the season 's producers , Don Scardino . The episode first aired on May 8 , 2008 on the NBC network in the United States . " Cooter " follows Jack Donaghy 's (Alec Baldwin) attempt to get fired from his new job in politics ; Liz Lemon 's (Fey) pregnancy scare and decision to adopt a baby ; Tracy Jordan 's (Tracy Morgan) creation of a pornographic video game ; and Kenneth Parcell 's (Jack McBrayer) aspiration to be an NBC page at the Beijing Olympics .

" Cooter " received positive review from critics , and several considered it to be among the series ' best episodes . Several critics noted that Liz had a pregnancy scare the same week that Fey 's film Baby Mama was released , possibly used as cross promotion . The episode was watched by 5 @-@ 61 million American viewers on its original broadcast , and was nominated for two awards , winning one .

= = Plot = =

Jack gets a job in politics as the " Homeland Security Director for Crisis and Weather Management " ; however , it is not what he expected . When he learns that Don Geiss (Rip Torn) , the CEO of General Electric , said " Jackie Boy " while in his coma , he schemes with another government employee , Cooter (Matthew Broderick) , to get fired after his letter of resignation is rejected . Jack also enlists the help of Celeste " C.C. " Cunningham (Edie Falco) , his Congresswoman (D @-@ VT) ex @-@ girlfriend , to approve research into a " gay bomb " . Jack hopes that the bomb , an old Pentagon project that is expensive , inefficient and offensive to " both the red states and the gayer blue states " will ultimately result in their dismissal .

Meanwhile , Liz thinks she may be pregnant and is horrified when she discovers it is most likely the baby of her ex @-@ boyfriend , Dennis Duffy (Dean Winters) . After several pregnancy tests , she tells a visiting Jack that the positive tests are a result of her eating " Sabor de Soledad " (" Taste of Loneliness " in Spanish) cheese puffs , which contain bull semen . Nevertheless , she tells Jack that she is ready to have a child and wants to adopt . Kenneth learns of an opportunity to be an NBC page at the Beijing Olympics , however head page Donny Lawson (Paul Scheer) tries to make sure that he does not submit his essay on time . Jenna Maroney (Jane Krakowski) helps him complete his essay , but Donny stalls Kenneth by forcing him to deliver paper . Pete shoots Donny in the leg with an arrow and Kenneth delivers his essay in time . Tracy 's invention , the world 's first pornographic video game , is nearly complete . He gives Frank , who has helped him , the prototype copy of the game .

The episode shows what happens three months later , in August 2008 . Jack and Cooter present their " gay bomb " to the Pentagon , which only works in closed areas , thus useless in combat . However , Cooter accidentally breaks the vial , causing everybody in the room , including Vice @-@ president Dick Cheney , to " feel funny " . Frank emerges from his office after playing Tracy 's game non @-@ stop for three months , not realizing the amount of time that has passed . While in Beijing , Kenneth gets involved with a Chinese woman who wants his kidneys . The last point was said in Mandarin without subtitles , leaving the English @-@ speaking audience unaware of Kenneth 's trouble .

The conversation roughly translates as :

Lady : " Kenneth , I like you , because I am attracted to your two healthy kidneys . "

Kenneth : " What ? "

(Man breaks down the door with gun drawn)

Kenneth : " I had no idea ! "

The conversation in Mandarin : Lady : Kenneth , ???? ? ????????????????? ?

Kenneth : ?? ?

(Man breaks down the door with gun drawn)

Kenneth : ???? ?

= = Production = =

The title of the episode is one of Fey 's favorite words , which she used multiple times when she appeared as an anchor on the Saturday Night Live sketch Weekend Update . Fey explains that she likes the word because " it 's one of the least graphic ways to describe the female genitals " . This episode marks the final appearance of Edie Falco , who was hired for a three episode arc . Falco made her debut in the episode " Somebody to Love " as Celeste Cunningham , a Congresswoman and romantic interest of Jack . She appeared in " Secrets and Lies " , where James Carville helps the fledgling relationship . The pair breaks up in Episode 210 , when they realize their careers prevent them from staying together . Falco said that she was " thrilled for the opportunity to work with such great comic actors " , and expressed her enjoyment of watching the series . Fey was " thrilled to have such an amazing actress come join us " , and joked that " a lot of guys on our crew want The Sopranos ending explained to them " , in which Falco was a series star .

= = Reception = =

" Cooter " was watched by 5 @. @ 6 million viewers , and received a 2 @. @ 6 rating and 7 share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . The 2 @. @ 6 refers to 2 @. @ 6 % of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds in the U.S. , and the 7 refers to 7 % of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds watching television in the U.S. at the time of the broadcast . By comparison CBS 's CSI was viewed by 17 @. @ 82 million viewers , ABC 's Grey 's Anatomy received 15 @. @ 60 million viewers , Fox 's Don 't Forget the Lyrics ! received 6 @. @ 22 million viewers , and The CW 's Supernatural received 2 @. @ 53 million viewers . The finale was watched by 206 @, @ 000 more viewers than the previous episode .

Terry Morrow of the Knoxville News Sentinel said that although 30 Rock is struggling to find viewers , this " tiny show ... shines with absolute brilliance " , and declared " Cooter " one of its best episodes . He speculated that the lack of viewers may be because the show has failed to create an emotional bond with its audience , and is " happy to be a very witty sitcom " . He felt the entire cast was " spot on " , but singled out Jane Krakowski for her " scene @- @ stealing " moments when she revealed the art of backhanded compliments . Verne Gay of Newsday praised Jenna and Kenneth 's storylines , and liked the cameo by Broderick , stating his " comic chops [were] on full display . " Robert Canning of IGN praised Kenneth and Tracy 's storylines , and described Tracy 's voice recording session for his porn video game as " thank @- @ goodness @- @ this @- @ is @- @ airing @- @ later @- @ than @- @ 8 : 30 " . Alan Sepinwall of The Star @- @ Ledger felt the " nearly @- @ perfect " episode was marred by Kenneth 's page rivalry which " didn 't work . " Time called " Cooter " the eighth best episode of 2008 .

Mark A. Perigard of the Boston Herald felt " Cooter " was one of the best episodes of 30 Rock 's shortened season , with something for everyone in the ensemble cast to do . He noted that Fey 's character Liz has a pregnancy scare the same week that Fey 's film Baby Mama was in theaters , asking " how much mama drama does Tina Fey think viewers want " ? Bob Sassone of TV Squad originally thought the episode might have been secretly cross promoting Baby Mama , but ultimately decided against his judgment . Jeff Labrecque of Entertainment Weekly was disappointed that Liz was not actually pregnant , and hoped that her former boyfriend Dennis would continue to reappear in the next season . Oscar Dahl of BuddyTV speculated that the episode may have been hinting at Alec Baldwin 's real life political plans , who was considering running for office .

The episode was nominated for Primetime Emmy Awards , winning one . Tina Fey won for Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series and Ken Eluto was nominated for Outstanding Single @- @ Camera Picture Editing for a Comedy Series .