

MODERN FAMILY

"X-rated"

Written by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Phil absentmindedly flips through the morning paper while repeatedly glancing at his watch. He picks up his coffee cup at the same time we hear Claire yell. He freezes.

CLAIRE (O.S.)
Phil! Where are you?!

Phil throws the camera a sinister smile.

PHIL
Down here honey.

Phil bops around the kitchen humming "God Bless America", anxiously waiting for Claire to come downstairs.

Claire enters the kitchen holding a pile of different colored construction paper. She throws them down on the counter top.

CLAIRE
Phil, these posters have got to stop.

PHIL
I have no idea what you're talking about.

CLAIRE
Oh really? So you didn't tape this to my mirror this morning?

Claire holds up one of the posters, an Obama'esque flyer, revealing a distinguished head shot of Phil with a lightning bolt tattoo on his forehead, reading at the bottom: **CHANGE**.

Phil admires the poster as if he has seen it for the first time.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
And what the heck are these supposed to mean?

She rummages through the pile and takes out two other posters. One is of Phil wearing Uncle Sam memorabilia reading: **I WANT YOU TO GO TO MICHAELS**.

The other is a **WANTED** poster of a hen laying an egg. On the egg is a drawn-on letter **A**.

PHIL
Wow, those are really neat.

PHIL INTERVIEW

PHIL
My favorite class in high school was always History. I loved learning about atomic bombs and Indians and dispatch carriers and silversmiths...
(searching for more examples)
Oh! And the Hindenburg, yeah. A little boy's explosive dream. But what I loved the most was the idea of propaganda. The whole act of talking to people in cryptic messages is so in right now.
(having a moment with himself)
Especially with my birthday coming up in a couple days, I needed to bring out the big guns because she never has a clue what to get me.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - BATHROOM

Claire is engrossed in a phone conversation. She holds the phone against her shoulder with her cheek while she holds a garbage bin. Posters litter the walls. She rips off two from the toilet and throws them in the bin.

PHIL (V.O.)
I made a set of posters for each day for the past week so that she will for sure get me at least one of my toys.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN

Claire is sipping coffee while looking at one of Phil's posters. She rotates the poster, trying to figure it out. Her face shows zero comprehension.

PHIL (V.O.)
You see, propaganda is a mind game. Propaganda posters provide subtle hints and make people subconsciously do as they're told. Oh man, Claire won't even know what's hitting her.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - STAIRCASE

Claire rips off a poster from each step, getting angrier with each one.

PHIL (V.O.)
I narrowed it down to my top 5.
A snow machine, travel humidifier,
motion activated greeting for the
front door--

PHIL INTERVIEW

PHIL
(putting his fourth finger
up)
Oh! One of my favorites: one of those
face in hole wood displays that you
always see at berry picking patches.

Phil searches through a pile of posters next to him. Once he finds the right one, he takes it all in and then shows the camera.

The poster is a blown-up picture of the Dunphy's House and overlaying it is an American Gothic cut-out with Phil and Claire's smiling faces inserted.

PHIL (CONT'D)
I've been doing these tricks since I
was a tadpole.

CLAIRE INTERVIEW

CLAIRE
Yup. It's that time again. He's going
to be three this year.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

CLAIRE
Seriously Phil, let's make our lives
all easier and just tell me what you
want me to get you.

PHIL
But then it won't be a surprise.

Alex enters carrying one of the posters. She puts it on top of the pile as she walks by.

CLAIRE
Then I will just get you what I was
already planning on.

Phil takes the posters from her hands and places them down on the counter side-by-side.

PHIL
How does this not make sense?
(looking at Claire)
You really don't feel any unconscious
urge to go to Michael's?

Claire gives the camera an empty stare.

ALEX
He wants a Henna Kit, Mom.

PHIL
See! Everyone understands it but you.

CLAIRE
What on earth would you do with a
henna kit, Phil?

PHIL
Lots of things! I could write
reminders on my hand that don't get
washed away in the shower, I could
have a picture of myself on my back
like Steve-O, and obviously as you can
see from this poster I could become
Harry Po--

HAILEY (O.S.)
MOM! Seriously, Luke get away from me!

Hailey storms in followed by Luke with a hand-held video
camera.

LUKE
(into camera)
Luke is walking. He hears yelling.

HAILEY
He has been walking around with that
thing all morning, and I think he got
my butt!

LUKE
I did not, I had my eyes closed.

HAILEY
Mom, you have to take it away from
him!

LUKE
But it's for school. That's like...
cutting all my hair off when you want
to put it in a pony tail.

CLAIRE

Luke, why are you taking videos of your sister in her underwear?

HAILEY

I was wearing a thong!

Phil first covers his eyes and then switches to his ears.

PHIL

TMI! TMI!

Luke walks over to the table and opens up Claire's laptop.

LUKE

The school is starting a young director's program, and they gave everyone in the class a camera. We are supposed to do a "Day in the Life" thing.

Phil and Claire both give each other an amazed look. They both take in the moment as they walk over to see his footage. Alex sits across from Luke, gawking.

Hailey grabs the camera off the table and runs into the other room.

Luke opens up a program on his computer containing all his footage.

LUKE (CONT'D)

They gave us this program to edit our stuff.

CLAIRE

Wow, buddy. You seem to know what you're doing.

LUKE

Wait til you see what I got.

Luke opens a file and presses play. A washed out image appears on the screen that looks like a flashlight shining into a mossy cave. Claire and Phil lean in to try and get a better look.

PHIL

What is it?

LUKE

Just wait for it.

A large mass pushes against the lens as it goes into the cave. As the camera pulls away we realize it is a recording of Luke picking his nose. Luke moves the camera away from his face and flicks whatever was on his hand.

LUKE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
And that's how it's done.

CLAIRE PHIL
Was that in the living room!? I guess it is an action shot.

ALEX
Wow, you guys must be so proud. Maybe tomorrow he will show you how to make a hat out of his underwear.

LUKE
(scanning the computer)
Oh! I totally have that in one of these files.

EXT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - FRONT LAWN - MORNING

The grass looks more unkept than usual. Three signs are posted out front.

One sign reads: **Beware of Dog**. Another has a Mastiff silhouette on it, reading: **Mastiff Xing**.

The third sign off to the right is a flimsy hand-drawn **ADT** sign.

MITCHELL AND CAMERON INTERVIEW

Cameron has his body angled away from Mitchell and is looking towards the wall.

MITCHELL
So, there has apparently--

CAMERON
There has been, Mitchell. It has been proven.

MITCHELL
Apparently, there has been a group called the Walmart robbers in our neighborhood. People say that they wait outside Walmart for people coming out with big merchandise and then they follow the customers home.

Cameron is getting noticeably upset but Mitchell continues to ignore him.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

The robbers wait for the people to leave their house and then steal their newly bought TV or whatever. So, when our neighbors got robbed last week, Cameron is convinced it was them.

Cameron turns his body back towards Mitchell.

CAMERON

I know for a fact that it was them.

EXT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S NEIGHBORHOOD - SIDEWALK

Cameron pushes Lily in her stroller and stops next to a cop car parked in a driveway. A horrified look crosses his face as he sees a large Walmart Plasma Screen TV cardboard box leaning up against two garbage cans outside the house.

MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S INTERVIEW

MITCHELL

Ever since, Cameron has gone ballistic and has insisted we theft proof our entire house.

INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LIVING ROOM

Cameron has a pile of jingle-bells draped over his shoulder. He goes to the next window and ties two strings of jingle bells to the window frame. He gives them a jingle once they are tied securely.

MITCHELL (V.O.)

I told him that we could get a home security system, but he thinks he can do a better job.

INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - BATHROOM

Mitchell is trying to unplug the toilet with the plunger. He moves his hand on the tip to get more leverage, but then jumps back in pain. We see that the tip of the plunger has been sharpened to a point that resembles a spear.

MITCHELL (V.O.)

He has gone around to almost every one of our appliances and somehow managed to make them into a weapon. He insists it is for our safety.

INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cameron carries an array of gardening tools, putting a digging hoe behind one of the curtains.

MITCHELL (V.O.)

I can't decide if our room looks more like a gardening shed or a slaughter house.

INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mitchell walks into the living room from the kitchen holding a plate of cheesecake. The only illumination is from a small light from the refrigerator. Mitchell feels around for the couch and just as he sits: SIRENS and STROBE LIGHTS go off. Mitchell chucks his plate in terror.

MITCHELL (V.O.)

I think his most valuable addition to the house was the motion sensor strobe light with an alarm. Oh, you can look it up. It exists.

Lights turn on and silence fills the room as we pan to a stone-faced Cameron standing near the light switch, holding a remote.

MITCHELL AND CAMERON INTERVIEW

CAMERON

You know what, growing up on the farm has taught me to be resourceful. Thieves these days are expecting the classic cliché security system. We need to give them something they aren't expecting. Also, I am sorry for believing in making full use of the materials we already have. And you know what else, I also apologize for being the man of the family and only wanting to protect our home.

MITCHELL

Whatever. You...
(searching)
Pilgrim.

CAMERON

The pilgrim that caught you stealing my cheese cake.

Cameron gives the camera a regal look while Mitchell couldn't look more annoyed.

INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Cameron is swaying with Lily as he follows Mitchell around the living room. Mitchell looks flustered as he goes around the room collecting files.

CAMERON

So, when are you planning on being home?

MITCHELL

I don't know, probably around 8.

CAMERON

But there is that special on at 8. You know how I hate watching TV while eating my dinner out of my lap. I have despised people like that ever since I watched Matilda.

MITCHELL

Then just eat without me.

Mitchell collects everything and puts it into his briefcase. He heads for the door. Cam follows closely behind. Mitchell turns on him just as he's about to head out the door.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

Cam, you need to stop this. Go out and, I don't know, walk the block. Just get some fresh air.

CAMERON

What is that supposed to mean?

MITCHELL

I just mean that you need to get out of the house, alright? I have to go, I'll see you tonight.

CAMERON

Just make sure you get home before 9 because that's when I scheduled my new pulley system to bar the door.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Jay is reading the paper. Manny is next to him typing on his phone. Gloria stands, continuously hits the same button on the coffee machine.

GLORIA

Jay, Manny, we need to figure out what to do for Phil's birthday.

Jay and Manny both give half-hearted responses, both engrossed in what they are doing.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Eh! You two, did you hear me?

She reaches over and takes the newspaper and phone from them.

MANNY

Hey! I was in the middle of something.

GLORIA

Oh, really. Too busy using... new
twit... who is this glassy bras limbs?

Gloria moves the phone closer to her face trying to understand what she is reading. Manny reaches over and grabs the phone away from her.

MANNY

It's my twitter. And for your
information, it's classy boy problems.
I'm the new rave, if you would like to
know.

(raises chin)

I now have 430 followers.

GLORIA

I don't care how many flowers you
have. We need to plan Phil's birthday.

JAY

(ignoring Gloria)

What the heck is this twitter thing?
Everyone talks about fleets and hash
tags at work, and I am beginning to
think drugs are involved.

MANNY

It's a site where I write things about
what happens to me during the day for
other people's enjoyment. For example,
my latest tweet said, "When I reached
for my glass of water, my pinkie
subconsciously rose up all on it's own-
#classyboyproblems".

Manny looks all too entertained with himself. Jay looks more confused than ever.

GLORIA

Enough with hashes and beeps. Phil's
birthday. I think we should have him a
game night.

JAY

Ah Gloria. Why can't we send him a gift card or something.

GLORIA

Because it's his 40th birthday and we need to do something nice.

JAY

I thought he was turning 38?

GLORIA

I don't know, I estimated. He looks slightly younger than Daniel Craig, and Googles say he's 42.

(getting back on track)

It doesn't matter! We are doing something nice for him this year. And Phil loves games and is always talking about having a game night. So, we all need to bring the ideas.

MANNY

How about a Pinochle tournament? Oh! Or what about shuffleboard?

JAY

Seriously, how old are you?

Manny thinks for a second, and then begins to type furiously on his phone.

GLORIA INTERVIEW

GLORIA

I read somewhere that family game nights make people happier and keep families together longer. Jay always gives me a problem every time I suggest it because he thinks it's a childish thing. Personally, I think he is just bitter because I beat him in our Slap Jack tournament the last time. You'll see though. He will come around.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Gloria is perched on the edge of her seat with her hand raised and ready to strike. A large pile of cards lies on the table. Jay looks uneasy about flipping his next card. Fingernail marks can be seen on his hand, one cut bleeding lightly.

GLORIA

Jay! I haven't got all day!

Manny peeks from around the wall, looking as if he is witnessing a homicide.

MANNY

Don't do it! For God sakes man, don't do it!

JAY INTERVIEW

JAY

I would rather swim in my own pee than plan Phil's game night.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOEXT. RESIDENTIAL HOME - DAY

Phil looks over some papers in his binder. He closes it as a flashy car pulls into the driveway. He heads over and opens the passenger side door.

PHIL

Hello, hello. It's so good to see you again Mrs. Arc--

Phil catches his tongue as a leggy, hot blonde named CANDY steps out of the car. She acts oblivious to Phil's confusion and extends her hand.

CANDY

(sultry)

Hello, I'm Candy.

MR. ED ARCHIBALD comes around the front of the car and hits Phil playfully on the back.

MR. ARCHIBALD

Hey, Bucko. So you ready to show us the house?

Mr. Archibald and Candy proceed towards the front door together as Phil tries to process everything, still holding onto the car door.

INT. RESIDENTIAL HOME - KITCHEN

Phil shows them the kitchen, trying not to watch his clients canoodling in the corner.

PHIL

Ah, and over here. They put in brand new marble counter tops. Baltic granite if I remember correctly, which is super because it's less obvious when the counter is dirty. Oh, this is a nice addition to the house. On every plug there is an on-off switch so that you can conserve energy. The builder became inspired by European models... I guess.

Phil looks disgusted as he sees Candy grab Mr. Archibald's bottom mid-kiss.

CANDY

How about I go take a look at our room, hmm.

Mr. Archibald looks like a dog waiting for dinner.

MR. ARCHIBALD

I'll be right behind you.

Candy prances out of the room. Mr. Archibald looks longingly after her.

PHIL

Mr. Archibald, if you don't mind me asking... what happened to... Mrs. Archibald?

MR. ARCHIBALD

She dried up on me. I think she watched too many Diane Lane movies.

PHIL

Oh, I see.
(clueless)
What?

MR. ARCHIBALD

The passion! The excitement! It all dried up the second she had that menopause.

PHIL

But, what about all the high school sweetheart stuff? And the buying two rocking chairs together? And the his and her Velcro shoes?
(getting lost in thought)
And having that photo shoot dressed up as all the dead presidents when your hair gets grey?

Mr. Archibald opens his arms wide.

MR. ARCHIBALD

Come here, Phil. Come on.

Phil robotically walks into Mr. Archibald's arms.

MR. ARCHIBALD (CONT'D)

Sometimes things don't last forever. It's just nature running it's course. And if you don't dwell on it, you can move on to much bigger things.

Phil's face shows discomfort. He shifts uncomfortably once he feels something below the belt moving against him. He jerks away from Mr. Archibald.

PHIL

Okay, then. How about we go see the master bathroom.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - PHIL AND CLAIRE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Phil is sitting up in bed, lost in thought. Claire is applying moisturizer to her face.

CLAIRE

Are you still thinking about that video Luke showed us?

PHIL

What? Oh, no. I thought that was kind of cool.

CLAIRE

How on earth can you think making a farting noise with an armpit is cool?

PHIL

Where do you see us in 15 years?

CLAIRE

Well, Hailey is married with kids, Alex is finishing medical school, and Luke, well he is probably going to be living in the basement.

PHIL

No, I mean like you and me.

CLAIRE

That's easy. I'll be putting on a garage sale to sell all your forgotten toys and you'll be playing with our newest sprinkler head.

PHIL

Common, I'm being serious.

Claire sits down on the bed, unsure about what to make of the situation.

PHIL (CONT'D)

I was wondering, do you watch Diane Lane movies?

CLAIRE

Phil. Stay on task. What has gotten into you today?

Phil springs out of bed, an instant smile on his face.

PHIL

A movie! A movie to let us remember a day in our life so we will never forget!

CLAIRE

Oh my God. I am honestly having a conversation with myself.

PHIL

Honey, wait here.

Phil bolts out of the room. He quickly returns with Luke's camera. He locks the door behind him.

PHIL (CONT'D)

I know what I want for my birthday.

CLAIRE

But I already got you something.

PHIL

What is it?!

CLAIRE

A virtual golfing simulator.

PHIL

Wait don't tell me!

PHIL (CONT'D)

Wait, that is kind of cool.

Phil looks pleasantly surprised and thinks about his options.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Just give it to me for Christmas. My marriage is more important to me. Okay, how do you feel about making a love tape?

CLAIRE

You mean a sex tape?

Phil's smiling face says it all.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Absolutely not. Especially on Luke's school's camera.

PHIL
I promise I will delete it all by
tomorrow. It will be so fun!

Phil heads to the end of the bed and attempts to seductively move towards Claire. He resembles a baby who just learned how to crawl. She is unaffected.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Juliana... Clive can only keep the
flame ignited for so long.

CLAIRE
Phil, I'm not even in the mood. And
besides I just put Vaseline cream on
my face.

Phil kisses her to show he doesn't care. His face glistens when he pulls away. He tries to hold back making a face for the bad taste in his mouth. A white glob rests unattractively near his mouth.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Only under three conditions.

Phil is ecstatic and jumps up to find a good position to mount the camera.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
One, no more posters. Two, this counts
as this year's and next year's
birthday presents. And three, Phil.
Are you listening?

PHIL
Yeah, definitely.

Phil has no idea what he is agreeing to.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Phil is on his computer, still in his bed clothes. His hair is disheveled. A DVD ejects out of the computer. Phil takes it out, treating it as if it were live dynamite, and puts it in an "Inception" DVD case.

Alex enters, startling Phil.

ALEX
Hey, have you seen my Physics book?

Phil closes his computer and puts the DVD back on the shelf.

PHIL
Physics? That's a ph right?
(completely flustered)
No, haven't seen it all night.

Phil leaves the room with his computer under his arm.

ALEX INTERVIEW

ALEX
If I were put on a scale from 1 to
adopted, I would be Angelina and
Brad's next child.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Claire is busy picking up the living room when Mitchell comes through the front door.

MITCHELL
Hey, Claire. I was wondering if I
could borrow a movie for tonight.
Cameron still won't leave the house.

CLAIRE
Yeah, sure. Take whatever you want.
Phil bought a bunch of new movies, and
I'm sure he has already seen all of
them. He has the boy-on-Christmas
syndrome and can never seem to wait.

MITCHELL
Great, I will take a few then. I know
that Cam was anxious to see that new
Leonardo movie.

Claire isn't really paying attention and turns on the vacuum.

CLAIRE
Sure. Take whatever you want.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S CAR - DAY

Jay and Manny look miserable. Gloria could care less.

GLORIA
Okay. We will each have our own game.
I am going to do water toss. What are
you going to do Jay?

JAY
Mine's called drown yourself in the
pool.

GLORIA

That doesn't sound fun so I vote that.

JAY

(begrudgingly)

You veto that, Gloria. When you don't want something you veto--

GLORIA

Don't snap at me because you are a sour puss. Just because I don't talk politically like you doesn't mean you get to ruin Phil's birthday.

Now everyone in the car is miserable.

INT. WALMART - DAY

Gloria is at a shopping cart. Jay shows up with an Apples to Apples box and Manny carries a Yahtzee game. They both throw their items into the cart.

GLORIA

See, was that so hard.

JAY

Piece of cake. So, can we go now? The game is on at 7.

MANNY

Yeah, my phone is about to die.

GLORIA

Don't be such ants in your pants, I still need to get all the food. Manny, if you don't put that phone away I'm going to send you back to Columbia to work on a chicken farm so then there will be no more glass boy problems.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - DEN - NIGHT

Everyone but Claire is watching Inception. Luke is videotaping the whole thing while Hailey does her toe-nails.

LUKE

Luke watches TV.

ALEX

Luke, you do know that if you look through a video camera for too long it will begin to fry your brain.

Luke quickly holds his camera at an arms length.

PHIL

It's okay buddy. It's kind of a slow process.

LUKE

How slow? Like swimming across an entire length of a pool slow?

PHIL

(giving it some thought)
No, I think it is more like sewing a quilt kind of slow.

HAILEY

Can you guys stop bouncing up and down? I'm going to have to re-do this whole foot now.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - PHIL AND CLAIRE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Claire is sitting in bed reading. Phil yawns as he enters.

PHIL

I can't remember the last time we did a family movie night. I was confused most of the time, but man, Inception sure seemed awesome.

CLAIRE

Oh really? And when was that?

PHIL

I told you about it Grandma pants, you were just too busy talking to Kendra.

CLAIRE

It's Brenda, but it's not my fault that someone volunteered me to--

Phil jumps onto the bed and sits close to Claire.

PHIL

Do you want to watch it? We can watch it right at midnight so then it's really like my birthday present.

Claire ignores Phil's request.

CLAIRE

Wait, did you say you watched Inception? The movie about the dreams?

PHIL

Yeah. Why?

CLAIRE

Huh. Because my brother stopped by this afternoon to pick it up.

PHIL

Oh, it's been in the DVD player since we got it. Isn't a 6-disc machine magical?

Claire returns to her book.

CLAIRE

(absently)

Well, I guess Cam's going to be disappointed then.

PHIL

(beat)

Wait, he took the case?

Phil sits very still as reality sinks in. Claire notices his change in behavior.

CLAIRE

Phil?

Phil shakes his head as denial noises come from his mouth but his lips remained sealed.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Phillip. I swear to God if you don't tell-

Phil jumps up and starts pacing the room.

PHIL

Okay! It's in there.

CLAIRE

It!?

Phil's look says it all. Claire gets out of bed and starts putting her shoes on.

PHIL

What are you doing?

CLAIRE

What do you think I'm doing moron, I'm going over there to get it.

(temper rising)

I am going to hit you if you don't start moving.

Phil bolts to the closet.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEEXT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - FRONT LAWN - NIGHT

Phil and Claire stand under the street light outside Mitchell and Cameron's duplex. Phil is decked out in all black spandex. Claire is wearing her jogging gear.

PHIL

I still don't understand why we can't just call.

CLAIRE

Oh yeah? And say what birthday boy? Hey guys! Can we stop by so we can grab our short-lived sex tape? There seems to have been a mix up.

PHIL

Hey, it was like almost three minutes long. Not even including the credits.

Phil senses he should change the subject.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Okay. Well I do know that the window on the side of the house near the bird feeder is usually open. I think it's because Cam tries to get birds to eat out of his hand or something.

Claire snaps into action with Phil following close behind.

CLAIRE

Maybe that's why I always hear the Beauty and the Beast soundtrack playing.

INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - BEDROOM

Mitchell and Cam are in bed, asleep. A distant jingle can be heard in the background. Cam rolls over onto his side, sleepily swiping his hand across his drooling mouth. The jingling continues, soon breaking through Cam's slumber.

Cam's eyes dart open. He jumps up instinctively and grabs a garden cultivator from underneath the bed.

CAMERON

(hisses)

Mitchell! Mitchell! Get up!

Mitchell holds back a scream when he sees Cam looming over the bed with the cultivator.

MITCHELL

Cam, for the love of God!

Cameron puts a finger to his mouth to get Mitchell to stop talking. Mitchell hears the jingling and jumps out of bed to hide behind Cameron.

EXT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LIVING ROOM WINDOW

Phil manages to get the window up. He holds the ripped jingle bell string in his hand.

PHIL

I think I may have broken something.
And what is it with these bells.
Christmas has been over for months.

CLAIRE

Phil, who cares. Just go.

Claire pushes him towards the window. Phil tries to maneuver his body in a way that will fit through the small window.

INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Cam and Mitchell hover near the entry-way of the kitchen. They see a dark shape pushing against the curtains. The shape struggles to make it through the window. Eventually the intruder decides to go head first.

We then see Phil's dark shape peeking out underneath the curtain with his feet still sticking out the window. Grunts come from his corner.

Cam makes army signals at Mitchell. Mitchell moves his hands in jerky motions silently telling him he doesn't understand.

INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Phil slides into the room like a seal. When he gets to his feet SIRENS and STROBE LIGHTS go off. Phil crashes into the wall in confusion.

EXT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LIVING ROOM WINDOW - CONTINUOUS

Claire ducks down and looks for cover, knocking over Cam's precious bird feeder on her way down.

INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cameron runs into the room bellowing with his weapon raised. Mitchell's high-pitched scream can be heard behind him.

Phil sees Cameron coming and army crawls to take refuge underneath the coffee table.

Cameron gives out a battle cry and brings the cultivator down on the coffee table, imbedding its spikes in the wood.

PHIL
 (shrieking)
 Stop! Stop! Please stop!

Cameron tries to free his weapon from the table. When he can't get it out, he goes to Phil's feet and pulls. Phil holds onto the table's legs for dear life.

CLAIRE (O.S.)
 (yelling)
 Cam, stop! It's Phil!

Mitchell quickly flips on the lights. Cameron looks over to see Claire standing outside the window and then throws himself on the couch in relief. His rugged demeanor is gone, replaced by a face of childish terror.

MITCHELL
 What the hell are you guys doing here?

Phil lies motionless on the ground and Claire comes in the same way Phil did.

CLAIRE
 I-- we can explain.

CAMERON
 (breathing heavily)
 Mitchell, I told you that robbers are real!

MITCHELL
 They wouldn't have been able to get in if you remembered to lock the window.

CAMERON
 And we wouldn't have heard them if it wasn't for my alarms, smarty pants.

Phil and Claire quietly get up during their altercation and start to look around for the DVD case.

MITCHELL
 (hissing)
 Claire, seriously, what in God's name are you two doing here?

Phil is checking his body for any wounds. Claire rummages through one of Mitchell's satchels on the floor.

CLAIRE

Oh, I just ah, you see, we didn't want to wake you...

Claire finds the DVD and snatches it out of the bag. She puts it behind her back, failing to be discreet.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

(pulling Phil towards the door)

We really are sorry for disturbing you.

Claire reaches the front door and tries to pull it open but there is a large wooden contraption attached to it.

Mitchell and Cameron get up and walk towards Phil and Claire. Cameron's macho act is back on.

CAMERON

Claire, where do you think you are going.

Phil and Claire both slink back towards the open window.

CLAIRE

It really is a funny story, but wow look at the time, we really have to go.

PHIL

(elated)

Hey, will you just look at the time. It's my Birthday!

Claire pushes Phil out the window and dives out after him.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Phil's on the couch, still wearing spandex pants but now in a fresh T-shirt. Phil carefully transfers the DVD to a empty disc case. He writes his name in permanent marker on the front of the case.

CHILDREN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Phil jostles the case in surprise as his kids start to sing "Happy Birthday" to him. He tosses the case absently on the couch as he welcomes his kids' hugs, each bearing a gift.

Claire stands behind them. Phil throws her a glorified smile but she walks off without acknowledging it.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - POOL AREA - DUSK

Gloria stands at the front of the pool as two groups stand on opposite sides. Each person is paired up, the right side all holding a water balloon. Hailey is lounging in a corner chair playing a game on her phone.

GLORIA

Ok. On the count of three, you throw.

The only people who look enthused are Phil and Luke.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Whoever wins gets cake first.

People start to perk up, especially Phil.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Ok. One!

Cameron gets in ready position. Phil throws a practice toss to himself and catches it.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Two!

Manny puts his phone in his pocket and rubs his hands together. Alex pretends to throw it to Luke who falls for it, still looking around.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Three!

All the water balloons sail over the pool. Cameron's bounces off his chest, hits the pavement and rolls into the pool. Luke's hits him in the face. Manny's was too short, causing him to lean too far over and go head first into the pool.

Claire steps aside so their water balloon breaks on the pavement. Phil looks devastated. Hailey enjoys the entire scene from her lawn chair.

Manny comes to the surface victoriously holding his water balloon, but soon realizes his phone is broken from the water.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The three families crowd the kitchen, all eagerly waiting their turn as Gloria serves the cake. Phil stands off to the side, looking happily on at his family.

Claire approaches Phil, extending a second plate of cake to him. He reaches to take it, realizing it is a peace settlement when a slow smile crosses Claire's face.

PHIL (V.O.)

After all of these years in my life, I have realized that nothing ever really goes according to plan.

Alex, Luke, and Hailey stand around his video camera, laughing at what they are watching.

PHIL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And even though we try, we can't always control how things happen.

Cameron and Mitchell both helicopter cake into Lily's mouth. They smile fondly at one another and rest their foreheads together as they look at their daughter.

PHIL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But at the end of the day, it's more about who's there with you than if things all work out.

Manny, still soaked, gives the water balloon back to Jay, who high fives him. Gloria claps excitedly for them.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

The group is crowded around the coffee table playing apples to apples. Jay victoriously takes the green card as Luke picks Jay's card out of the pile.

PHIL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And I'm not afraid of anyone getting dried up or nature running any kind of course. I would pick this family over any other every single time.

PHIL AND CLAIRE INTERVIEW

Phil is lost in thought, while Claire stares blankly at the camera.

CLAIRE

Who said anything about getting dried up?

Phil gives Claire an awkward hug as she keeps her arms crossed.

PHIL

Aw, honey. No one's going to dry up.
Especially because I got--

Phil takes the disc case out from behind his back. Claire grabs it, takes out the DVD and breaks it against her leg. Phil looks like he just saw his iPhone get run over.

PHIL (CONT'D)

That was my birthday present.

CLAIRE

Sex was your birthday present.

PHIL

Can I at least have my virtual golf stick?

CLAIRE

I already sold it on E-bay.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

The group gets comfy on the couch as they get ready to watch a movie.

LUKE

Wait, I want to show you guys my project first. I just finished it today.

HAILEY

Oh this is going to be a treat.

ALEX

Did he get to keep your butt in there?

Manny instantly becomes alert and focuses intently on the screen.

The screen remains black for a few seconds and then Phil's face appears. His face is pressed up close to the lens, looking way too happy.

PHIL (O.S.)

I think I finally got the perfect angle.

It takes Phil and Claire a second to register, but then they both jump up from the couch and throw their bodies in front of the screen causing a loud crash and a BLACKOUT.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

EXT. WALMART - DAY

Cameron walks out of Walmart, holding onto a pack of gum. He peels back the plastic and dramatically waves the pack around.

He bravely heads into the parking lot. His face freezes when two hooded teenagers walk past him, one brushing his arm as he passes.

Cameron starts to pick up the pace, soon breaking into a dead sprint towards the car.

CAMERON (O.S.)
(yelling desperately)
Mitchell! Start the car!
(banging on the windows)
Unlock the doors!

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW