

Modern Family

The Youngest Man in the World

by
Chuck Dudley

COLD OPEN

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Phil stretches a reach into the top cabinets in an attempt to pull out his coffee mug. Claire comes in to see him grab his leg and wince in pain.

CLAIRE

Oh, hunny let me help you.

PHIL

Do nothing of the kind. Not gonna let a little P90X groin-pull keep me from my breakfast of champions.

Phil finally grabs the first mug he can get his fingers around and steps back down.

PHIL (CONT'D)

See?

CLAIRE

You grabbed mine.

PHIL

Because I'm making YOUR coffee silly. Cream and sugar right?

CLAIRE

Awww, Phil you're so sweet.

Phil confidently pours in cream. He looks around for the sugar. Claire points UP -- the sugar jar is on the very TOP shelf. Phil looks at her sheepishly.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Actually, sweet is overrated. I'll just take you light.

Claire takes the mug from him and takes a sip. She grimaces.

CLAIRE INTERVIEW

CLAIRE

Phil's at that age where he doesn't want to admit.

(as a whisper)

He's at that age.

PHIL (O.S.)

I heard that!

Claire rolls her eyes, starts to resume speaking but --

PHIL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You did say something right?

After a beat, Claire starts to speak again --

PHIL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Hunny?

CLAIRE
IT'S JUST YOUR HEARING AGAIN.

PHIL (O.S.)
I didn't hear that.

After a beat...

PHIL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Meaning I heard it, but I didn't
really hear --

CLAIRE
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEANT!

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

Mitchell in a jumpsuit on the sofa tying his sneakers. Lily storms in and throws a wool sweater in his face.

LILY
...it's itchy.

MITCHELL
No. Lily. Really? That's rejection
number three. Caaaam?!

Cameron enters wearing all white with a yellow flat cap and matching yellow loafers.

CAMERON
What's the hold up? Are we ready?

MITCHELL
(off Cameron's outfit)
Rejection number four.
(then)
Look, Cam.
(MORE)

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

I think it's great you found a couple of gift cards while cleaning under the sofa cushions, but our daughter is way too young to have a wardrobe. Especially one that requires Calamine Lotion.

CAMERON

Hello? Gift cards have expiration dates? If not for me, those cards would have never been found, the balance would have dropped to zero, and our Lily would have missed out on Thee Neiman Marcus felted sweater sale of the century.

MITCHELL

Cam, we're in Southern California.

CAMERON

They were sixty percent off.

MITCHELL

So glad you spent the cards before they expired...

Mitchell tosses the sweater in Cameron's face.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

...like the woolly mammoth that sweater came from.

Cameron scratches his cheek.

MITCHELL AND CAMERON INTERVIEW

MITCHELL

Silly me. Turns out, Lily didn't need to dress for a stroll on the beach after all because --

CAMERON

-- because today isn't stroll on the beach day. Today is...

Cameron gestures steering a car. Mitchell looks at him.

MITCHELL

What? Driving Mitchell insane day?

CAMERON

GPS Lily day.

EXT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S DUPLEX - DRIVEWAY - MORNING

Cameron straps Lily in the backseat as Mitchell gets behind the wheel. Cameron is way more excited than Mitchell.

CAMERON (V.O.)

This is where we all get in the car
and Lily does all the talking while --

MITCHELL AND CAMERON INTERVIEW - RESUME

MITCHELL

Mitchell does all the driving.

CAMERON

Doctor Slock's top ten tips on how to
raise a kid under the age of twenty
one? Number nine? A child learns
independence by empathizing choices
and giving them authority over their
actions at an early age.

MITCHELL

What?

CAMERON

Or something to that effect. The point
is, this is Lily's day to be in
control.

MITCHELL

Uh... lets clarify "doctor" as in,
make a ton of money on cable t.v.
telling irresponsible punks they're
not the father and your alma mater
shows you gratitude by awarding you an
honorary doctorate...

CAMERON

It's still commendable.

MITCHELL

After you build the school a new
indoor swimming pool.

CAMERON

What's wrong with students learning
the backstroke?

MITCHELL

It's an online university.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Mitchell drives while Lily gives orders from the backseat. Cameron has a big proud papa smile.

LILY

Left.

Mitchell turns the wheel and the car makes a left. Cameron claps gleefully.

LILY (CONT'D)

Left.

MITCHELL

Lily, I can't make a left, this isn't a stree --

LILY

LEFT!

Mitchell startles and begins turning the wheel. Now Cameron looks worried. They finally come to a stop.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

REVEAL that they are in the middle of an OUTDOOR MARKET.

Annoyed shoppers detour around the car. A CANOPY of pretty HANGING DRESSES just outside Lily's window. She smiles.

MITCHELL

...does the doctor have a book for parents who can't say no to their children?

LILY

I want THAT ONE!

MITCHELL

Okay get out the gift card.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Jay has a seat and is about to bite into his sandwich when he turns to see Stella the French Bulldog licking her chops.

Jay grabs his plate and his bottle of beer and leaves the kitchen annoyed.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Manny is sitting at the table working on his homework. Jay walks in with his sandwich and beer. Manny looks up.

MANNY

Wait. It's over?

Jay is momentarily confused until he realizes Manny is referring to his food.

MANNY (CONT'D)

I won the carb contest? Yes! That was the easiest twenty bucks ever!

(then realizing)

Wait. Did I just catch you CHEATING?

Jay is gone.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jay flops down on the couch and uses the remote to turn on the ball game. He's about to take a sip, but notices Gloria in the rocking chair just about to give the baby its feeding.

GLORIA

Look at father and son together.
Enjoying the game. Having a drink...
It's so...

JAY INTERVIEW

JAY

...creepy.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jay labors back up from the sofa with his sandwich and beer and starts to leave.

GLORIA

Where are you going?

JAY

Look, call me traditional but, people need their privacy.

GLORIA

Oh don't be silly, I don't mind. It's natural.

JAY

I was talking about me.

...and Jay leaves with his sandwich and beer.

JAY INTERVIEW - RESUME

JAY

Look, it's no secret. Between the dog, the wife, kid one and kid two, the house is gettin' a little crowded. So I decided it's time to make some...

He reaches down and reveals a HAMMER and his look turns evil.

JAY (CONT'D)

...changes.

(then realizing the possible misunderstanding; smiles)

As in a finished basement. A Jay-Cave.

He BONKS his head with the hammer -- it's made of rubber.

JAY (CONT'D)

See? It's the kid's toy. Which also means I won't be lifting a damn finger.

(laughs)

Or breaking anyone else's.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Luke is standing dangerously on a chair while holding up Phil's leg as high as he can. Both are in workout clothes. Phil tries to keep his balance using the counter as support.

PHIL

...because if you don't stretch properly you can really do your body harm.

LUKE

I once pulled my Stretch Arm Strong too much and green stuff oozed out of his butt.

PHIL

I know the feeling -- now on the count of three. THREE!

Luke gives a THRUST. Phil loses his balance and his leg comes down on Luke's face as they both go tumbling. Phil lands on the back of the chair -- like it's a bicycle bar.

Claire comes in with groceries and sees the aftermath of Phil and Luke recovering.

CLAIRE

Guys. How many times have I told you.
No mixed martial arts in the house!

PHIL

No, I believe you said archery.

Claire notices Luke's face.

CLAIRE

And you're bleeding?

PHIL

My foot did that?

CLAIRE

You KICKED him?

Claire rushes to Luke. Alex and Haley enter with groceries.

ALEX

Luke, what happened?

CLAIRE

Dad drop-kicked him.

ALEX

WHAT?

HALEY

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

The girls rush to Luke. All attention on Luke and he's loving it. He gives Phil a look. Phil glances at us.

PHIL & CLAIRE INTERVIEW

CLAIRE

Phil is taking these workouts a little
too far.

PHIL

I have something to prove. Age is just
a number.

CLAIRE

Sure, even if it means hurting the
ones you love the most.

PHIL

It's amazing what a little ice will
do.

CLAIRE

I was talking about your kids!

After a beat...

PHIL
So was I.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOEXT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Gloria carrying colorful shopping bags headed for the house until she stops short -- a table saw on the walkway.

REVEAL WORKERS with tools and equipment in and out of the house.

CARPENTER DAN and his HELPER rudely step in her way. Carpenter Dan holds a 2X4 while the helper begins sawing. Gloria waves them to stop.

GLORIA

¡Ay, ay, ay, YOU! Dusty man. Get all of these equipment from my driveway! Vámonos!

CARPENTER DAN

That's no way to talk to us workers.

GLORIA

This coming from a guy who needs another man to hold his wood?
(off their looks)
What? The accent offend you?

Carpenter Dan and helper take their wood and cross as Jay approaches.

JAY

Honey, back so soon?

As Jay follows Gloria into the house...

GLORIA

Four hours in the mall, even flowers wilt in too much sun.

JAY

My hope was this would all be done by the time you finished clearing what's on clearance.

GLORIA

Full price!

JAY

Oh gees. When you pay retail, you're angry at me. What's wrong, hunny?

GLORIA

What's wrong? All this mess is what's wrong. And for what? So you have excuse to disappear from me, Manny, and baby Joe?

JAY

None of that is remotely true. By the way. Where is the little guy?

Gloria looks down at her hands -- both carry shopping bags.

Camera swings to Gloria's car -- the doors are wide open and inside are more shopping bags with the hint of a car seat.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Gloria sets the baby's car seat down.

GLORIA

This is how it begins. The husband needs his space, then the wife gives him his space. Then the husband needs alone time, then the wife gives him alone time. Then the husband mentions a girlfriend, then the wife kills the husband.

JAY

Now you're being crazy.

GLORIA

That was the wife's defense.

JAY

Gloria relax. Consider it a guest room. And I'm the guest.

GLORIA

Back in Colombia, just having one room was considered a blessing.

JAY

In that case. Welcome to Heaven.

GLORIA

You don't get it. A small house kept us close. The whole family. Together. Me, my mother, my sister...

(then)

My uncles.

(then)

Their wives.

(MORE)

GLORIA (CONT'D)

(then)
Their kids's kids--

JAY

You know, you're very persuasive.
(calling out to crew)
Boys, throw in a bathroom.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Way out on the 30 yard line is Phil struggling to do sit-ups while Luke struggles to hold down his feet.

Claire, Haley, and Alex are watching from the bleachers.

ALEX

You know, I admire his work ethic.
It's kind of inspiring.

CLAIRE

Awww what a nice thing to say, Alex.

ALEX

Dad could learn from him.

Haley rolls her eyes perturbed like she doesn't want to be here.

CLAIRE

What's wrong, Haley?

HALEY

It's like I'm back in high school but without the school part.

ALEX

What? Does being out here bring back old memories?

HALEY

Uh... yeah. Friday Night Lights?

ALEX

Really? I didn't think you could see the game from under the bleachers.

HALEY

Uh... halftime? Duh.

ALEX

Wow. A whole ten minutes. Classy.

CLAIRE

Stop. Both of you. We all agreed we'd be out here as a family to support dad. Look at him. He's really trying to impress us -- oh LOOK!

...Phil is running, he's looking up -- he reaches -- and makes the catch and runs it in for the TOUCHDOWN! Claire and Alex stand and cheer!

...Phil SPIKES the football and does a dance in the end zone...

...and the real WIDE RECEIVER finally arrives and picks the ball up gesturing to Phil a "WHY"?

REVEAL there is a real high school football practice going on and the ball wasn't meant for Phil.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - ON TRACK - DAY

Phil and Luke side by side on their marks... get set...

CLAIRE

GO!

Both take off. Luke is running his heart out. Phil looks like he's running in pain but he puts on his game face and catches up to Luke and passes him.

Phil crosses the finish line then finally Luke crosses the line breathing heavily where he goes to the side and bends over like he's going to puke. Claire crosses and approaches Phil.

PHIL

I did it. I really did it!

CLAIRE

Really, Phil? You beat your own son?

PHIL

Did you see him? The kid's lightning in a bottle. But guess who shocked us all.

CLAIRE

Oh, well you of course. Phil Dunphy beats thirteen year old. How does that sound? Does that make you proud?

Phil glances at the camera.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Phil, sometimes you just cease to
amaze me.

PHIL

Okay you're right. I know. I'm sorry.
I don't know what came over me. Wait,
yea I do.

PHIL INTERVIEW

PHIL

(as Charlie Sheen)

WINNING.

(as Phil)

I know, I know, it's a little dated
but... it still feels so damn GOOD!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - ON TRACK - RESUME

Luke still in a slump recovering from defeat. Then we hear a
SLOW CLAP. Luke looks up to the bleachers to see Alex
standing up.

Haley follows Alex's lead and joins in. The claps get faster.
Now SPECTATORS stand and CLAP for Luke...

PHIL

No, no, wait. What is this?

CLAIRE

(to Phil)

You wanted to make a point and prove
to everyone you still got it. Well
congratulations.

The FOOTBALL TEAM clap for Luke. Luke raises a fist.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Your pride just turned your son into
the underdog.

PHIL

So wait if he's the underdog then that
must make me...

Luke approaches him.

LUKE

(to Phil)

I want a rematch!

PHIL INTERVIEW

PHIL
(proud but devious smile)
...the favorite.

INT. MITCHELL'S CAR - DAY

Mitchell driving. He looks tired. Cameron has dosed off.
Mitchell nudges him and he startles out of it --

CAMERON
...Caramel Macchiato whip cream no
foam --

MITCHELL
Hey. We're you just dreaming?

CAMERON
I'm sorry. One moment I'm staring at
the double yellow line and the next
I'm being served by a burly Barista
named Keanu.

MITCHELL
Yea well, we've been driving on this
excellent adventure for miles and Lily
hasn't said a word.

CAMERON
Because we're obviously going in the
right direction. Right Lily?

REVEAL Lily in the backseat fast asleep.

MITCHELL AND CAMERON INTERVIEW

MITCHELL
So our little GPS unit has run out of
batteries.

CAMERON
Tsk. She looks so peaceful when she's
sleeping.

Mitchell yawns and widens his eyes.

MITCHELL
So do I. Until I suddenly wake up to
myself careening into the guardrail.

CAMERON

A vente non-fat expresso from Keanu
would have solved all your problems.

MITCHELL

It was just a dream, Cam.

CAMERON

In that case make it a triple.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

The studs of the wall frame are built (pre-sheetrock). Jay has placed himself in a chair in the middle of the room as the WORKERS mill around him.

He mimics aiming a remote control presumably where a television will be.

MANNY (O.S.)

Ah-hem.

Jay turns to find Manny coming down the stairs.

JAY

Oh hey, champ.

MANNY

Sorry to bother you.

JAY

Not at all. Welcome to the Jay-Cave.

MANNY

It could use another coat of paint.

JAY

Now that's funny. Oh before I forget.

Jay pulls out a twenty dollar bill and hands it to him.

JAY (CONT'D)

Next time, I make the bet. Like the first to use my new bathroom.

MANNY

But you said I'm not allowed down here.

JAY

Then I guess you don't wanna make that bet, kid.

MANNY

I almost don't recognize you. You seem so happy now.

JAY INTERVIEW

JAY

"Happy"? Happy is your proctologist telling you exam over. No. I'm ecstatic. I'll finally have my own place. And I didn't even have to get divorced.

WIDE to reveal Gloria beside him holding the baby.

GLORIA

So now my luv-is-a-yoke...?

JAY

Gloria, I'm just kidding.

She reveals a pair of keys and jingles them in his face.

JAY (CONT'D)

Whattaya got there.

GLORIA

The keys to the doors of your new prized possession. Who laughs now, huh?

JAY

I guess I do because Jay-Cave locks from the inside. Sorry honey. Guess the "yokes" on you.

And Jay belts out a hardy laugh.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - FINISHED BASEMENT - LATER

Painted, rugged, crown molding -- even a sofa with a flat screen. The room is perfection. Jay stands before Carpenter Dan and the other helpers congratulating them.

JAY

...so in closing, I just want to say job well done in achieving "The 5 B's" in record time.

CARPENTER DAN

"The 5 B's"?

As Jay pompously showcases the room...

JAY

Yeah. I'm in my finished *Basement*,
where I'll be watching the *Ballgame* on
my *Big Screen TV* next to my very own
Bathroom...

CARPENTER DAN

Hey that's only four --

JAY

-- sipping a *Beverage*.

Jay gestures the BOTTLES OF ALCOHOL seen through the glass of
slick OAK LIQUOR CABINETS installed in the walls.

JAY (CONT'D)

Drinks on me, boys.

CARPENTER DAN

Sweet!

JAY

Southern Comfort it is.

Jay goes over to the cabinets and tries the door. IT'S
LOCKED. He furiously rattles the other doors -- LOCKED. In a
panic he pats himself down then realizes in HORROR!

Camera swings to Gloria on the staircase -- she's dangling
the keys with a BIG SMILE.

GLORIA

Jokes on me? *Bar* closed!

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Mitchell's car is pulled over to the side with a popped hood.
Mitchell emerges with his sleeves rolled up and he goes to
Cameron whose holding Lily safely out of harm's way.

CAMERON

Is it bad?

MITCHELL

You know how you get when the DVR gets
full and your novelas don't record?

CAMERON

Yea I get steamed -- oh my god the car
overheated?

MITCHELL

Probably a leak because the radiator's dry.

CAMERON

Dry as in...

MITCHELL

...as in not the opposite of sweet --
Look, this isn't a wine tasting
contest this is serious, Cam.

CAMERON

Wine is serious.

MITCHELL

Well yes that is true.
(then back to Cam)
Look, the point is, you should have
listened to me miles ago when I wanted
to turn around. Until road service
gets here we're like stranded.

CAMERON

Oh I wouldn't say stranded there's
plenty of people around.
(re: the highway)
Can't see them at ninety five miles
per hour but they're around.

MITCHELL

Stop it.

CAMERON

What?

MITCHELL

This thing you do when you know you're
in the wrong. You say things in an
attempt to divert attention from the
real issue. You're like a politician.

CAMERON

My mother always said I should run for
office.

MITCHELL

See?

CAMERON

Mitchell, please. We both know this is
not about politics, or wine, or the
car breaking down.

(MORE)

CAMERON (CONT'D)

This is all about you not trusting my parenting skills. Just admit it.

MITCHELL

Admit that the side of route 10 is not the best place to be raising our daughter? Okay I'll admit to that.

CAMERON

Today was my turn to teach Lily a thing or two about being independent and you just couldn't go along with it. You Mitchell Pritchett have an issue with sharing responsibility.

Cameron still holding Lily, turns away in a pout. Mitchell realizes the hurt he's caused and goes to him.

MITCHELL

Cam, you're right. I get so wrapped up in my own way of doing things I forget we're in this together. As a team. Do you forgive me?

After a moment, Cameron finally turns to him and they hug --

HONK HONK

...the hug interrupted by a shady looking OLDSMOBILE that has pulled up. The windows roll down.

Mitchell and Cameron confused until both turn to Lily who has her thumb out like she's hitchhiking.

In unison they push her arm down. The car peels away.

CAMERON

Okay Lily, independence day over.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - FINISHED BASEMENT

Jay is flopped down on the sofa with his sandwich and beer watching the ball game. He's in heaven. He turns up the volume to the ball game.

Manny is coming down the stairs with electronic equipment, Gloria is behind him with a box.

GLORIA

Hey caveman. You got visitors.

Jay sighs and turns the volume back down.

JAY
What is that?

GLORIA
Your stuff from upstairs.

JAY
Oh. Just set it down in the corner.
I'm kinda watching the game.

Jay turns up the volume again.

Manny sets down the electronics.

Gloria sees Jay is busy watching the game and paying no attention to their presence. She lets go of the box and it drops to the floor making a noise.

Jay once again turns down the volume and turns around.

JAY (CONT'D)
Oh. Still here?

GLORIA
Don't you want to know what we're bringing down?

JAY
Is it food?

GLORIA
No it's not food.

JAY
Then I'm okay with not knowing.

GLORIA
Jay Pritchett...

JAY
I know that tone.

GLORIA
Jay?

JAY
It has different levels.

GLORIA
JAY!!!

Jay shutters.

JAY

And we're already at level 10.

Jay labors up from the sofa and goes over to them to look through all the stuff now on the floor.

He picks up a dusty silver box.

MANNY

It was hooked up to the old t.v.

JAY

My VCR. But why'd you move it?

GLORIA

Because no one uses the thing but you.
It's ancient.

JAY

Sure it's old. But it still works.

GLORIA

Where have I heard that one before.

Jay peruses through the box.

JAY

Hey all my old videotapes. Oh look my
John Ford films.

MANNY

Now you can hook it up to your new
t.v. In your new room.

GLORIA

Where you can spend time watching all
your old movies in your new life.

JAY

Am I detecting a little animosity
here?

GLORIA

I care no more. Enjoy your lonely life
in your lonely cave.

Gloria storms up the stairs.

JAY

Well then. I guess she won.

MANNY

I think you got this one wrong, Jay. I don't think she was trying to win at all.

JAY

Okay smart guy then tell me, what DO you think?

MANNY

I think she wanted you to invite her to movie night to watch old movies. Like you used to do.

Jay considers this.

JAY

You picked up on all that?

MANNY

I have a keen ear for hearing the needs of women without them having to say anything.

JAY

You're pretty perceptive, kid.

MANNY

Yea. It's a talent of mine.

JAY

You want to know how to be really talented?

MANNY

How?

JAY

Perform a disappearing act so I can watch the game in peace. See ya, kid.

And Jay goes back to flop on the sofa. Manny lowers his head and goes back up the stairs. Jay glances at him and considers this. Is Jay regretful? But then he aims the remote and turns up the volume to the ball game really loud.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN

Alex is standing on a chair while holding up Luke's leg -- same position we saw Phil in earlier.

ON CLAIRE

...watching from the hallway. She moves off to find Phil in the living room doing intense jumping jacks.

CLAIRE

Phil.

PHIL

Can't talk honey. I'm in the zone.

CLAIRE

Your son is really taking this seriously. Don't you think you've taken this competition thing far enough?

Haley enters with t-shirts.

HALEY

Dad, they came out great.

CLAIRE

What came out what?

PHIL

My t-shirts.

CLAIRE

T-shirts? What t-shirts?

Haley opens up a shirt which shows Phil in a sprinting pose and underneath his picture the caption:

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

"Youngest Man In The World"? What does that mean?

PHIL

Exactly what it says. Never get old. Never give up. Never die.

CLAIRE

It doesn't say that.

PHIL
Well not in so many words.

CLAIRE
Not in any words.

HALEY
Dad aren't you tired yet?

PHIL
Not anymore I've gotten used to
Claire.

CLAIRE
I think she was referring to your
jumping jacks.

HALEY
No I wasn't.

And Haley leaves.

PHIL
The truth is I am tired.

CLAIRE
Then stop.

PHIL
I can't.
(almost in tears)
I feel like my legs are gonna fall
off.

CLAIRE
The t-shirts, the bravado... This is
not the kind of example I want you
setting for our kids.

PHIL
Relax it's just a little harmless
father and son competition.

SMASH -- it came from the kitchen. Claire and Phil react.

CLAIRE
Oh my gosh.
(calling out)
Luke are you okay?

Camera swings just as Alex limps in covering her left eye.

ALEX
Luke drop-kicked me.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - ON TRACK - DAY

Luke on one side of the track practicing his starting position. He's getting tips from a couple of high school track athletes.

Phil on the other side grabbing his ankles and hopping around. It doesn't look like exercise at all.

Claire, Haley, and Alex are again watching from the bleachers. Haley is wearing the t-shirt.

ALEX
I have to admit, this is kind of exciting.

CLAIRE
Well I think it's wrong. How is Luke going to feel when he loses again.

HALEY
Lets ask.
(then)
Alex? How does it feel to be a loser like all the time?

ALEX
Is that another pimple on your face?

HALEY
What? Another one? When did I get the first one!?

Haley gets out her makeup mirror and frantically checks her face.

ALEX
(to Claire)
Oh the irony.

Phil is touching his toes then he comes up straight to see Luke standing in front of him.

PHIL
Hey.

LUKE
Hey.

PHIL
You looked good out there.

LUKE
Really?

PHIL
A natural. Like a young Bruce Jenner.

LUKE
Whose that?

PHIL
Gold medal Olympic decathlete turned
reality t.v. star. Someday you might
be a reality t.v. star.

LUKE
Well. Have a good race, dad.

Luke starts to walk away not looking very confident.

PHIL
Hey son?

Luke turns around.

PHIL (CONT'D)
No matter what happens today, dad's
proud of you.

LUKE
Thanks for telling me that. I was kind
of worried of what you might think
after I win.

Phil looks slighted, then he look ups to the bleachers.

ON CLAIRE

...blowing a kiss and a wave.

Phil gives a thumbs up. Behind him, Luke accepts mom's kiss.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - ON TRACK - DAY

Luke gets into position. Phil gets into position.

CLAIRE
On your mark, get set...

And they both blast out of the starting line. From the look on Luke's face, he is really giving it his all. But so is Phil. They are neck in neck.

JAY (V.O.)
Sometimes you have to swallow your
pride and focus on what's really
important in your life.

Claire, Alex, and Haley all cheering along with the football players and spectators. At this point it doesn't really matter who's rooting for who.

INT. TOW TRUCK (DRIVING) - CONTINUOUS

Mitchell and Cameron squeezed into the front seat and Lily between them. Cameron is closest to the OLD DRIVER who is telling a story and just seems happy to have company.

JAY (V.O.)
Sometimes the best intentions don't
always go as planned.

LILY
(to Tow Truck Driver)
LEFT!

The driver nods as if to oblige to her request.

MITCHELL
Do not take a left!

CAMERON
Just keep straight!

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - FINISHED BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Manny is behind the flat screen t.v. hooking up the wires to the VCR. Jay, Gloria, and baby are snuggling together on the sofa with popcorn. The movie starts and Manny joins them.

JAY (V.O.)
But if we just take a moment from all
the chaos and stop to tell those we
care for how much we truly love
them...

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - ON TRACK - DAY

In SLOW MO:

CLOSE on Phil's face. His look is fierce.

CLOSE on Luke's face. His look is determined.

JAY (V.O.)
...then all things will work out in
the end.

CLOSE on Phil's face. His look has turned to surprise then
to defeat.

CLOSE on Luke's face. His look has turned to:

INT. LUKE INTERVIEW - DAY

LUKE
WINNING!

END OF SHOW