

MODERN FAMILY

"It's a Y thing"

Written by

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6th draft

ACT ONE1. INT. AN LA FERTILITY CLINIC - DAY

Cameron comes out of a bathroom, flustered.

CAMERON

I just used the wrong restroom.

MITCHELL

The ladies?

CAMERON

No! The one with a stack of straight porn
and plastic cups?

MITCHELL

(smirks)

Oh.

CAMERON

It's not funny Mitchell. If I'm going to
donate my.

(glances around, lowers voice)

DNA I'm going to need more than Sports
Illustrated.

An assistant enters, calls their names. They follow her to
a room where a doctor sits smiling.

2. INT. FERTILITY CLINIC DOCTOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

DOCTOR

Okay so we have the results back and I think
we're on track for a suitable surrogate.

CAMERON

Wow, they all look perfect!

MITCHELL

Wait I'm sorry, I assumed that we'd be
screening white mothers?

CAMERON

No Mitchell we didn't actually discuss
ethnicity.

MITCHELL

Right like it was a given?

CAMERON

Oh I'm sorry are we creating the next master race?

MITCHELL

No, it's just.

CAMERON

Afraid the ginger genes will get diluted?

MITCHELL

It's not an inappropriate request.

CAMERON

For the Aryan Nation perhaps, but our family's a rainbow, a beautiful spectrum of diversity.

MITCHELL

So if race is not an issue why is me asking for a white.

DOCTOR

Caucasian.

MITCHELL

Mother.

DOCTOR

Surrogate.

MITCHELL

Such a big deal?

CAMERON

Duh! Because Lilly is Asian!

MITCHELL

A family is a family.

DOCTOR

Look why don't you both go home and discuss this?

CAMERON

Thank you so much. We will.

They walk into the waiting room then down the hallway. They wait for the elevators.

MITCHELL

You made me sound like a redneck in there.

CAMERON

Redneck? That'd be a complement. You were a Nazi in there!

MITCHELL

Look if there's a 50% chance of this child being mine I think I have the right to say what ethnicity the mother is.

CAMERON

Surrogate.

MITCHELL

What ever, I have the right to a white mother! I'm white. I'd like a white child!

An African American couple approaches elevator. They over hear the conversation. The couple decides to take the next elevator.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

(rolls eyes)

I just think we should ask the family. Get some impartial feedback.

CAMERON

When it comes to your family Mitchell the word impartial doesn't spring to mind.

INTERVIEW – CAMERON

CAMERON

I don't have a racist bone in my body. I abhor racism in any form. When I was in 1st grade my first love was black. There I said it.

3. INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Jay walks in to see Manny slumped on the sofa phone by his side in the lounge.

JAY

Hey kid. What's up?

MANNY

My dad cancelled again.

JAY

Aw I'm sorry. Want to watch the game?

MANNY

Thanks Jay, I appreciate the effort but it doesn't deaden the effect of being sidelined by my biological father for one of his floosies.

JAY

Good point. But it'll take your mind off it.

INTERVIEW – MANNY

MANNY

It's not that I don't know my father's an alcoholic incapable of maintaining healthy primary relationships. It's just that I'm not old enough to drink the pain away.

4. INT. THE DUNPHY HOUSE/LOUNGE – CONTINUOUS

Claire and Phil observe their kids. Alex sits at table doing homework, Luke is flicking screwed up paper balls into a waste bin. Haley is listening to music, chewing gum thumbing a glossy magazine.

CLAIRE

I guess one out of three isn't bad?

PHIL

Huh?

CLAIRE

I'm talking intellect Phil.

PHIL

Yup those Dunphy genes are strong. (Luke makes the waste bin) Way to go Lukey!

ALEX

(casually looks over at Luke)
Patriarchy is so in trouble.

HALEY

(glares at Alex)

Why are you so weird?

CLAIRE

Now wait just a minute Haley. Is this your new feminist history course Alex?

PHIL

Ach with that man-person Mz. Ballsmulch?

ALEX

Miss Bullsmarch and she's an excellent teacher.

LUKE

What's patriarchy?

ALEX

It's the current global system of economic and political oppression of women by men.

HALEY

(whacks Luke on the head)
Stop with the ball-throwing moron.

CLAIRE

Yes but things are changing guys.

ALEX

No they're not in 300 countries w-.

PHIL

(interrupts)
All right stop with the bitching you're bringing everyone down!

CLAIRE

She's making a valid point Phil let her speak!

(reads a text message)

Oh my god.

PHIL

What - what?

CLAIRE

Cam and Mitchell have a big announcement to make. They want us to come over.

(to Alex)

What were you saying sweetie?

Alex flounces off.

PHIL

(rolls eyes)
You just wouldn't let her speak.

5. INT. CAMERON & MITCHELL'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

The entire Pritchett/Dunphy family sits mute for a few seconds in Cameron and Mitchell's lounge.

MITCHELL

Okay - just to repeat that. We're going ahead with artificial insemination!

CLAIRE
(awkwardly, suddenly)
Congratulations! Wow.

JAY
So this would be your own kid?

MITCHELL
Yes. We wanted a natural option this time around.

JAY
So could you make it a boy this time?

CAMRON
Not in front of Lilly Jay!

MITCHELL
We don't get to choose dad!

JAY
Why not? They can make it a boy.

Lilly runs out of room Haley and Alex go after her.

GLORIA
Oh good one Jay.

JAY
What? A man shouldn't have to apologize for wanting a grandson, right Phil?

PHIL
Anything I say right now will be wrong.

CAMERON
You know there's a 50% chance the child would be mine?

JAY
Not the way Pritchett sperm swim pal. We're practically sponsored by Speedo.

LUKE
Which one would have the baby? Him?
(indicates to Cameron)

MANNY

No they would use a surrogate mother.
Mitchell and Cameron would simply donate
their sp-

JAY

(overlaps)

Spare us the information.

GLORIA

Wait! I'll carry your baby. I would be
honored to offer you my vagina.

MITCHELL

No-no thank you. We're.

CAMERON

Holding out for a white mother and I quote.
(points to Mitchell)

GLORIA

What is this?

JAY

So what's wrong with that?

CLAIRE

It sounds

CAMERON

Racist?

CLAIRE

No, weird considering.

CAMERON

Our daughter's Asian?

CLAIRE

Gays shouldn't be so fussy about the vaginas
they -.

GLORIA

(to Claire)

Oi now I'm okay to sleep with your father
but not okay to-.

CLAIRE

No I meant that.

PHIL

Hey it's not a crime to like white chicks. I married Claire because she's blonde. That doesn't make me a racist.

CLAIRE

So if I had been Hispanic?

PHIL

(looks sheepishly at Gloria)
Sure, a blonde light-skinned Hispanic.

GLORIA

(thumps Phil)
So now you a racist too!

MANNY

It really shouldn't matter. It's what's on the inside that counts.

PHIL

Actually packaging counts buddy.

GLORIA

So we could never have kids Jay eh?

JAY

You kidding? You're just my pleasure model.

GLORIA

You sexist pig!
(storms out)

MANNY

That was insensitive Jay.
(exits)

JAY

It was a joke. Look I've done my part. Now it's up to Mitchell to carry on the family name.

CLAIRE & CAMERON

What?

JAY

Naturally the boy would be a Pritchett.

CLAIRE

(annoyed)
Or the girl!

CAMERON

Or the Pritchett-Tucker.

MITCHELL

(sheepishly)

Tucker-Pritchett sounds good.

JAY

Bingo! I'd get an heir at long last and die a happy man.

CLAIRE

Oh so my kids don't count?

LUKE

What's an heir?

PHIL

It's a male offspring that carries on his f-

JAY

(interrupts)

Grandfather's name.

PHIL

You're my heir Luke.

JAY

But not mine.

LUKE

Oh ...

(disappointed)

What about Manny?

Manny has snuck back into the room to get the car keys.

JAY

Manny? Heck we're not even blood related.

CLAIRE

(shocked)

Dad!

MITCHELL

Look! Obviously this has triggered everyone.

(to Cameron)

I think we should continue this conversation in private?

CAMERON

You know my opinion Mitchell. I want our next child to look like Lilly!

JAY

Chinese? You know how strong their genes are?

CAMERON

She's Vietnamese!

JAY

Same difference.

(to Mitchell)

Just pick a white woman. We got to keep that Pritchett red hair going.

CAMERON

(horrified)

Oh my God. I feel transported back to the Dark Ages.

Lilly enters room with Haley and Alex.

HALEY

What are you guys yelling about?

ALEX

Why does it feel weird in here?

LUKE

Grandpa was just saying.

CLAIRE

Okay time to go.

PHIL

Who wants \$10 and a trip to the mall?

HALEY

(to Luke)

What did Grandpa say?

MITCHELL

I'll make that \$20 if you leave now!

LUKE

Aw nothing just that we're not his real heirs and Mitchell should get a white woman.

LILLY

What's a white woman?

GLORIA

(bursts back into room)

Jay come quickly!

JAY

What's wrong?

GLORIA

It's Manny he run away!

JAY

How do you know?

GLORIA

He left a note. It's all your fault. Come on we got to find him!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO6 INT. THE DUNPHY HOUSE/LIVING ROOM SOFA - EVENING

The Dunphys slouch sad-faced surrounded by shopping bags from the Mall.

CLAIRE

I just hope they find Manny.

HALEY

Well I'll never speak to Grandpa again!
(goes upstairs)

ALEX

This demonstrates how patriarchy primarily functions through family names.

PHIL

It's not that big a deal these days!

LUKE

Can I change my family name?

CLAIRE

No you're way too young.

LUKE

When I'm older?

PHIL

Wait - what?

CLAIRE

And take my name?

LUKE

Luke Claire?

CLAIRE

Luke Pritchett sounds strong.

ALEX

I might change mine altogether. And Haley will get married and change hers.

PHIL

(stands up)

W-wait just a minute here.

CLAIRE

It's not a big deal these days remember?

PHIL

They can't just change their family name to win Jay's affections.

ALEX

Oh I wouldn't take his name.

CLAIRE

You mean my name?

ALEX

I'd make one up.

CLAIRE

What's wrong with my name?

LUKE

Luke D Pritchett sounds better.

PHIL

So the Dunphys just like totally die out?

CLAIRE

Ah what's in a name.

PHIL

A lot actually Claire like history and stuff.

LUKE

I'd keep Dunphy as a middle name dad.

PHIL

That doesn't count everyone knows that!

CLAIRE

Oh really?

PHIL

(to Luke)

You're the only son of an only son Luke, doesn't that mean anything to you?

LUKE

(ponders)

No.

PHIL

Okay. No way no!

CLAIRE

(to Phil)

Where is this coming from?

PHIL
 We're Dunphys and that's final!
 (storms off upstairs)

An awkward silence ensues.

CLAIRE
 (to Alex)
 You could take my mother's maiden name?

Phil from upstairs.

PHIL
 I can hear you Claire!

7 EXT. A STREET OUTSIDE JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT.

Jay, Gloria, Mitchell, Lilly and Cameron huddle gloomily around a street lamp.

GLORIA
 We looked everywhere.
 (wipes eyes)
 Where can he be?

JAY
 Ah he's probably shacked up with some friend waiting us out. He'll come home once he's hungry.

MITCHELL
 Remember when I ran away dad?

JAY
 Yeah.
 (laughs)
 You were shacked up at Barbie world until they threw you out.

INTERVIEW - GLORIA

GLORIA
 Jay is like a father figure to Manny. As a growing Columbian man Jay's racist comments today totally smashed him. I'm very scared Manny will go on the run and live a life of crime like his crazy father. It's in his blood.

8 INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM — LATER/NIGHT

Mitchell walks into Jay's living room. Jay's eating take-out and watching TV.

MITCHELL

No news of Manny huh?

JAY

Nope. Gloria's in bed she's a mess.

MITCHELL

(picks up Manny's letter)

Is this Manny's letter? Gosh it's long.

JAY

Reads like the Magna Carte. Seems like I offended just about everyone.

(looks down at dog)

Except for you hey son?

MITCHELL

(puzzled, looks at dog)

Okay well, I think people just misunderstood what you were saying.

JAY

You don't say.

MITCHELL

All that stuff about carrying on your name.

JAY

A man has a natural urge to see his progeny continue biologically, to see his name carry on. That's your job, your duty towards me.

MITCHELL

(childishly)

What?

JAY

(sighs)

Maybe it's just something you wouldn't understand.

MITCHELL

No! I do! Look we picked our surrogate.

JAY

Fantastic! Let's see!

(peers at surrogate profile)

Jesus it's a Sasquatch! What are you aiming for the missing link?

MITCHELL

She was our compromise.

JAY

To what? A gorilla?

MITCHELL

Cameron wanted someone less white.

JAY

With her hair and your color you'll get an orangutan.

MITCHELL

We go ahead tomorrow. You know, the insemination.

JAY

(winks)

Need some help with the donations?

MITCHELL

I'm sorry?

JAY

I got a stack of classic porno's upstairs, Gloria never found them, go take a look!

MITCHELL

Uhm dad I hate to break it to you but I'm gay so.

JAY

Aw an ass is an ass! Come on.

INTERVIEW - MITCHELL

Mitchell holds up a pile of tattered girlie magazines.

MITCHELL

That was probably the second most excruciating father-son experience I've very had. The first one involved a baseball.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE9. INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE/GARAGE - LATER NIGHT

Jay takes a bottle of scotch into his garage it's set up like a workshop. Jay tries to organize a chore, but gets frustrated. He pours a drink and slugs it, then pours another. From another angle we spy Manny, wedged between some boxes, wide-eyed.

JAY

(slugs drink, slumps down)

Aw gee Manny. Where are you kid? You're killing me here.

Manny inches out from behind boxes.

JAY (CONT'D)

Holy sh..

MANNY

I was going to come in tonight. But I ran out of -.

(throws candy wrappers down)

JAY

(hugs Manny)

You had us so worried, now go into your mother, she's.

MANNY

Not so fast. I don't want to squander this opportunity.

JAY

Huh?

MANNY

You acted very thoughtlessly today. I had to take a stand. As the head of this family you made people feel.

(pause)

Less than with your comments on the surrogacy process.

JAY

You don't need to tell me.

MANNY

Clearly someone does. You need to make reparations. You need to apologize to Claire, my mother, Cameron, Luke-.

JAY

It's easier if you just tell me who I didn't offend.

MANNY

Phil and Mitchell.

JAY

Gotchya. Thank god I don't have to grovel to Phil.

MANNY

Maybe begin with my mother.

JAY

I adore your mother and if I thought I was young enough to have kids with her I would. And you're the closest thing I have to a son.

MANNY

What about Mitchell?

JAY

Aw he has his own life.

MANNY

He still needs your validation. I wouldn't be surprised if he's trying to win your approval through this surrogacy process. Plus Claire now feels relegated to some kind of second-class citizenship.

JAY

Really?

MANNY

They need you. We all need you Jay.

JAY

Goes both ways kid.

(they hug)

Manny exits. Jay sits alone thinking.

10. EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE/BACK YARD – THE FOLLOWING MORNING

Jay pulls up, approaches Claire's backyard. She's throwing a ball hard against the garage wall.

CLAIRE

Hey dad. Heard you found Manny, where was he?

JAY

In the garage the whole time. Believe that?

CLAIRE

Gloria must be relieved. Here.
(throws ball hard to Jay)

JAY

Jeez. You still got the arm.
(they play catch)
You were amazing at sports. Poor Mitchell
was useless.

(laughs)

Remember how I used to yell at him 'why
can't you be more like your sister!'

CLAIRE

(smug)

Yes sir I do.

JAY

One time I took him fishing.

CLAIRE

(interrupts)

Mitchell fell into the river and caught a
chill.

JAY

Then I took him hunting.

CLAIRE

When you got your first deer. Mitchell threw
up.

JAY

That would never have happened to you.

CLAIRE

I would have bought down that stag. I just
know it.

JAY

But I never asked you.

CLAIRE

It was a father son thing you said.

JAY

(puts his arm around Claire)
 Yeah well I was a jerk. It was a parent
 child thing. And I made Mitchell miserable
 to boot. I'm so sorry kid.

CLAIRE

It's okay dad. We just wanted to please you,
 make you proud.

(they hug)

JAY

You both have.

(ponders, mumbles)

Well mostly you.

(Claire smiles broadly)

11. INT. CAMERON & MITCHELL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Cameron sits in their living room. Mitchell enters
 phone in hand.

MITCHELL

That was Gloria, Manny came home last night.

CAMERON

Oh thank goodness. Listen. I've been
 thinking. I've been hard on you about this
 whole surrogacy selection thing.

MITCHELL

I appreciate you saying that.

CAMERON

I understand now what it's been about.

MITCHELL

You do?

CAMERON

I was an only child. I never had to compete
 for my father's love.

MITCHELL

Wait. Who says I.

CAMERON

Or live in anyone's huge shadow.

MITCHELL

Whose shadow?

CAMERON

This baby is not for Jay. It's no make-up for being gay. Gosh I should be a lyricist.

MITCHELL

What are you talking about?

CAMERON

Whether the baby is mine, or yours, it'll be ours. And he or she will be perfect.

MITCHELL

You're right. All this time I just wanted to be a good son.

CAMERON

You don't have to make anyone proud. You're a wonderful son and father just as you are.

MITCHELL

Sweetie, you're the best!

As they hug Cameron discreetly pushes surrogate papers to one side.

CAMERON

I'm ready. Let's go make this baby.

MITCHELL

What should we take?

CAMERON

Excuse me?

MITCHELL

You know for stimulation?

CAMERON

Use what you always use.

MITCHELL

You know about that?

CAMERON

Oh sure!

MITCHELL

Wow relief! Thank you.

CAMERON
 (frowns)
 Wait. What are you talking about?

MITCHELL
 The same thing you're talking about?

CAMERON
 I'm talking about those sepia erotic pictures
 you took of me last year?

MITCHELL
 Right-right!

CAMERON
 Mitchell?

INTERVIEW - MITCHELL

MITCHELL
 (nervous)
 I thought Cameron had discovered my fetish
 app. It's nothing just you know spanking,
 sailors, that kind of stuff.

Mitchell accidentally switches app on, heavy male
 grunts are heard.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)
 Oops.

12. EXT. INSIDE THE DUNPHY CAR - AFTERNOON.

Phil attempts to engage Alex and Haley in the car.
 They seem annoyed and keep earphones on.

PHIL
 Yo Wassup mammas? Oh come on!
 (pulls over to side)
 Okay what's with the faces?

HALEY
 You totally dissed us at breakfast.

PHIL
 Huh?

ALEX
 (does an impression of Phil)
 I got one heir and two spares!

PHIL
It was a joke!

HALEY
Nobody laughed dad.

ALEX
It's like Luke is this last in the Y lineage
of Dunphy succession or something.

PHIL
(misty eyed)
Wow.

ALEX
Wrong response!

PHIL
Oh my god, you're so right. I've been a
total jerk. You know what? I don't care what
you call yourselves when you grow up, it's
not like you're adopted or something.

HALEY
What?

PHIL
Yo my DNA continues it doesn't matter what
name it goes by. It's an evolutionary win-
win.

ALEX
Unless we're all sterile or childless.

PHIL
(horrified)
What?

HALEY
(snickers)
Mom will be mad.

PHIL
(pulls away in car)
How come?

ALEX
She downloaded some legal documents.

HALEY
So we could change our names.

PHIL
(speeds off)
Aw man that's it!

13. INT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S HOUSE — EVENING

The entire Pritchett/Dunphy family sits in Mitchell and Cameron's living room. They are toasting the insemination process. There's some awkwardness around popping the champagne between Cameron's legs.

CAMERON

Thank you so much for coming over y'all. We are just so happy, right Lilly?

JAY

(winks at Mitchell)

Glad the magazines helped.

LILLY

I get a new baby brother?

MITCHELL

Or sister Lilly.

JAY

This whole surrogate business well it made me realize. I may have out-dated views but I got me a very modern family. And it's a family I wouldn't trade for all the world. Come here.

Jay instigates a group hug. Phil closes in.

JAY

(to Phil)

Not you.

INTERVIEW CAMERON — MORNING

Cameron fiddles nervously with his hands.

CAMERON

Yes I mixed up the surrogates on purpose. This baby will be the equivalent of a potluck. Can't wait to see Jay's face.

(titters)

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW