# MODERN FAMILY

"Growing Pains"

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### ACT ONE

FADE IN:

### INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Claire paces back and forth through the kitchen, phone to her ear.

CLAIRE Hold on, hold on. You heard Lily doing what?

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

MITCHELL holds the phone to his ear while trying to avoid CAMERON. Mitchell moves away from Cameron.

MITCHELL Well, she was on the phone all morning with someone she called, and I quote, "Cute."

Cameron catches up to Mitchell, pushing his head near the phone.

CAMERON It was a girlfriend!

Mitchell moves away from Cameron. Mitchell stares at Cameron, clearly annoyed, he moves away from Cameron.

MITCHELL No, its a boyfriend. Claire, help me out here.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

PHIL enters.

PHIL (softly) What's going on?

Claire removes the phone from her ear and covers it.

CLAIRE Mitchell's telling me about Lily's Special Friend.

Phil leans on the counter. LUKE enters.

PHIL

I remember my first "Special Friend," I started with one, now I've got too many to count.

Luke storms back into the hallway.

MITCHELL (V.O) Hello, Claire, you there?

Claire pulls the phone back to her ear.

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

Mitchell is pacing around the living room, speaking on the phone.

MITCHELL Was that Phil? Ask him what he thinks.

CLAIRE (V.O.) No, that's not a good idea.

### CLAIRE INTERVIEW

Claire is seated facing the camera.

CLAIRE I love my husband very much, but when it comes to love, he generally goes a little overboard. (awkward beat) That's the nicest way I can explain it.

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

Mitchell puts the phone on speaker.

MITCHELL Well, what's your take on it?

CAMERON Yes, please set the record straight.

Lily enters from the hallway.

LILY Why are you two being ridiculous? CAMERON (to Lily) No, sweetie. It's called being a good parent.

Lily turns around and walks back down the hallway.

MITCHELL That's right. So, Claire, where do you do stand?

CLAIRE (V.O.) Honestly, I have to agree with Cam on this one. It just might be a girlfriend.

Cameron mocks Mitchell, Mitchell gasps. Mitchell storms off.

CAMERON (to Mitchell) Don't be a sore loser.

CLAIRE (V.O) I gotta go, but I will absolutely help you get to the bottom of this. After all, mama is the queen when it comes to matters of the heart.

CAMERON (sarcastically) Alright, tone it down there, mama.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Claire ends the call as HALEY enters, holding the twins.

CLAIRE Morning, sweetie, and how are my favorite little people doing today?

Haley sits them in a play pin.

HALEY Glad you're excited to see them, mom because I need you to watch them for me.

CLAIRE Sorry, sweetie. I can't, I'm helping Cameron figure out who Lily's girlfriend is. HALEY You mean boyfriend?

CLAIRE (confused) No, I mean, girlfriend. Wait, how do you even know about it?

Haley turns back and walks into the kitchen.

HALEY

Duh, uncle Mitch called me. He said something about matters of the heart. Clearly, he needed someone who knows what love is.

CLAIRE That's weird, because Cam sure seemed to think I was up for the job.

Haley laughs.

HALEY That's not weird, that ridiculous.

Phil enters.

HALEY (CONT'D) Perfect timing. (to Phil) Do you mind watching the twins for me?

PHIL Sure thing, I would love to spend the day with my two special little people.

Luke is heard from the living room.

LUKE (O.S) I'll help too!

### HALEY

Perfect!

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - JOE'S ROOM - DAY

GLORIA is helping JOE clean his room.

GLORIA (singing) Clean up, clean up.

JOE Maybe, we don't do the song this time?

GLORIA What are you saying, this is our special cleaning song.

JOE I'm too old for that.

GLORIA Don't be ridiculous. You are my little man.

Jay's voice is heard from the living room.

JAY (O.S.) Gloria, could you come here for a second!?

GLORIA

Coming!

JOE Thank goodness.

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

Gloria descends the stairs and meets Jay near the living room table.

GLORIA (annoyed) What? What's so urgent?

JAY I can't find Stella's prototype bed. Have you seen it?

GLORIA No, Jay, I have not seen it.

# GLORIA INTERVIEW

Gloria is seated in front of the camera.

GLORIA I threw that ugly thing away.

### INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Gloria enters the living room. A frantic Jay is searching for something.

JAY Well, will you help me find it?

GLORIA Of course, I'll help my big strong Jay look.

JAY More looking for the bed, and less of all that baby fluff. Maybe it's in the garage, can you look there for me?

GLORIA Alright, Mr. Grumpy pants.

Gloria exits.

Joe descends the stairs and walks right up to Jay.

JOE

Teach me.

Jay looks at Joe, confused.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Phil sits the twins on the couch. He takes a step back.

PHIL (cheerful) Well, you two, what's on the ole todo list today?

Luke enters and sits in the loveseat across from the twins and Phil.

PHIL (CONT'D) (to Luke) Hey buddy, thanks for helping me. (pointing at the twins) Watch these two today. It Should be fun, right? LUKE

Hey, dad, maybe do some magic for them. I'm sure they would love it.

Phil pauses.

PHIL That's a great idea, buddy.

Phil rushes off.

PHIL (O.S.) (CONT'D) I'll be right back.

Luke moves over to the twins.

LUKE (to the twins) Didn't hear you suggesting anything. Point One, Luke.

# LUKE INTERVIEW

Luke is seated facing the camera.

LUKE What do you do when a baby threatens your spot? That's right; you out-baby the babies.

END OF ACT ONE

### ACT TWO

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

Jay and Joe are sitting in the living room.

JAY You want me to do what now?

JOE Simple: Show me how to do what you just did with mom.

JAY And what would that be?

JOE Getting her to stop treating me like a little kid.

JAY Technically, you are a kid.

Joe rolls his eyes.

JOE You are missing the point. Mom doesn't baby you. I want that, and you're gonna teach me to be more of a man, got it.

Jay smirks. Gloria enters from the garage but is not seen by Joe or Jay.

JAY Well, you see, the key to being a man is commanding a room, you got to demand it from any and everyone.

JOE

So wise.

JAY I know, I know.

Gloria is clearly upset.

JAY INTERVIEW

Jay is seated in front of the camera.

JAY (CONT'D) Of course, the kid is gonna ask me for help when it comes to being a man. Who else is there? Manny? (chuckles) Don't be ridiculous.

#### GLORIA INTERVIEW

Gloria is seated in front of the camera.

GLORIA (annoyed) So, Jay is gonna help Joe be a man. Like we say in Columbia, "Two can play that game."

### INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Phil, dressed head to toe in a magician get-up, stands in front of Luke, and the twins preparing his act.

PHIL I call for silence among the audience and that the faint of heart, please leave. I, The Great Phildini, will be preforming the mystifying disappearing act.

#### LUKE

Bravo, that's an amazing trick, dad, bravo.

Phil pauses.

PHIL Um, buddy, I haven't done the trick yet.

LUKE I know, I know, but I want to be supportive. (looking at the twins) Unlike some people.

PHIL (confused) Um, thanks, buddy.

Phil throws something on the ground, with a loud bang and a plume of smoke, Phil disappears. The twins begin to cry. Phil appears from behind the loveseat.

PHIL (CONT'D) (to the twins) Oh no, did I scare the little guys?

LUKE (to Phil) Maybe watching something relaxing would calm them down. What about 'Footloose?'

PHIL Buddy, another great idea, you calm them down, while I get my limited edition copy.

Phil Leaves.

LUKE (to the twins) Crying was a nice touch, but you two haven't won yet.

The twins giggle and coo at him.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Cameron is seated at a table. Claire enters and joins him.

CAMERON So what's the plan?

CLAIRE Are you asking me? I thought you already had one.

CAMERON You're the one who claims to be a love guru. (sarcastic) I'm just concerned with Lily's wellbeing.

CLAIRE Uh-huh, and what is Mitchell and Haley's play?

CAMERON What do you mean, "their play?"

CLAIRE Haley and Mitchell, oh yeah, they are working the whole boyfriend angle. CAMERON

(scoffs)
Well, that's silly, because we are
the ones who have the right idea.
 (sarcastic)
For Lily's sake.

#### CLAIRE

Of course, did you know Haley told me that I'm not good when it comes to things like love and relationship advice? I mean, how ridiculous is that.

Cameron freezes.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Right?

CAMERON (sarcastic) Of course, Claire. Why else would I have asked for your help?

CLAIRE Well, I don't know, maybe we ask Lily what's going on directly. (awkward) That's all I got.

CAMERON INTERVIEW

Cameron is seated in front of the camera.

CAMERON Clearly, I picked the wrong Dunphy for this.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP (OUTSIDE PATIO) - DAY - SAME TIME

Mitch and Haley are seated outside.

MITCHELL And why are we here?

HALEY Why else, for love fuel. Gossip Monthly swears lattes are the key to romantic energies. MITCHELL Uh-huh. So what's the plan? How do we approach, Lily, with this?

HALEY Oh, that's easy, we just ask.

Mitchell is clearly underwhelmed.

MITCHELL That simple, huh? (confused) So why have we been everywhere exact where, Lily, is all day?

HALEY I don't know, guess I used you to run my errands.

Mitchell is baffled.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - JAY AND GLORIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Joe is dressed in mature attire. Jay is combing his hair to match the attire.

JOE And you sure this will work?

JAY Hey, who came to who for help here?

JOE Your right.

Gloria is heard from downstairs

GLORIA (0.S) Joe, it's time for lunch!

JAY Now, remember what we talked about, command the room.

JOE

Got it.

### INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

A clearly calm Gloria is standing behind the counter. Jay and Joe sit in chairs in front of the bar.

JOE Hello, mother. Don't worry about my lunch. I'll find something. GLORIA Oh, I wasn't concerned about that at all. Gloria plops an assortment of ingredients in front of Joe. Jay is clearly concerned. JOE What's all this? GLORIA Ingredients. Okay, so the oven is over there. (pointing to the cabinet) And the pots are over there. Good luck. JAY What the hell is the kid supposed to do with that? GLORIA I don't know. (staring at Jay) Why doesn't he try "commanding them." Jay grows ever more concerned. JAY INTERVIEW Jay is seated in front of the camera.

JAY

Dammit.

#### INT. MITCH'S CAR - DAY

Haley calls Lily. She puts the phone on speaker. Haley asks Mitch to act casual.

HALEY Just be cool, alright. Women know when something is up.

MITCHELL I'm chill. I can be chill. See this me being chill. HALEY Less of that.

The call connects.

HALEY (CONT'D) (to Lily) Hey, girl, how are we?

LILY (V.O.) (awkward) Fine, why are you calling me? Are you with my dad?

MITCHELL She is, but she's just helping me run errands.

HALEY No, I'm not, I'm helping you get the deets on Lily, remember.

Mitchell is baffled.

LILY (V.O.) So ridiculous.

Lily ends the call.

MITCHELL Great, now she knows what we are up too.

Haley is clearly satisfied with herself.

HALEY That's the plan, knock her off guard, and when we get there, she will be on the spot. Easy as 1-2-3-4.

MITCHELL Ok, I think you mean 1-2-3? And how do you know this will work.

HALEY Dylan and I snuck around a lot until mom caught us. That put us on the spot. So I know all about the hidden boyfriend game.

MITCHELL (sarcastic) And that explains a lot. HALEY Doesn't it.

INT. CLAIRE'S CAR - DAY - SAME TIME

Claire and Mitch are stuck in traffic.

CAMERON I think we should just call her?

CLAIRE That does sound like a good idea.

CAMERON Anything is better than us sitting here, Haley and Mitch probably have already gotten to her.

Cameron honks his horn. Claire calls Lily and puts the phone on speaker.

CLAIRE Alright, so we both need to act casual here.

CAMERON Me, I'm always casual.

The call connects.

LILY (V.O.)

Hello?

CLAIRE Hello, sweetie, how are you doing?

Cameron interjects.

CAMERON Hi, sweetie, everything good, there?

LILY (V.O.) Why are you with aunt Claire?

CAMERON No reason, you know, running errands.

Lily scoffs.

LILY (V.O.) Dad called earlier saying the same thing.

CLAIRE Was he with Haley? Were they asking about anything in particular?

LILY (V.O.) Yeah, Haley talked about a plan to get me to talk about a boyfriend.

CAMERON So, it is a boyfriend?

Lily scoffs.

LILY (V.O) Why does it matter, geez? Why are you both being so ridiculous?

CLAIRE We're just trying to give you the right advice, sweetheart.

LILY (V.O.) Then why didn't they ask uncle Phil to help?

Lily hangs up, and Claire is clearly baffled.

CLAIRE Why is everyone saying that?

Cameron remains silent, honking the horn drowning out Claire's questioning.

### INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Jay and Joe struggle in the kitchen, while Gloria sits amused at their short-comings.

JOE So we boil this for how long?

JAY Why are you asking me?

JOE You know what, maybe I'll just have some dessert first.

Joe eagerly opens the freezer.

JOE (CONT'D) Where's the ice cream?

GLORIA Oh, that, I threw it out. With nothing but grown men here, there wouldn't be any need for sweets.

Gloria goes to the refrigerator and pulls out a bottle of Jay's Prune juice.

GLORIA (CONT'D) Here, this is drink for men, it's more mature, don't you think, Jay?

JOE (to Jay) So much for "commanding the room."

Joe rushes off in a huff.

JAY Now was any of that necessary?

GLORIA I don't know, was trying to force grow Joe, necessary?

JAY INTERVIEW

Jay is seated in front of the camera.

JAY Double dammit.

END OF ACT TWO

#### ACT THREE

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Luke is comforting an emotional Phil, as credits to Footloose roll in the background. The twins lie fast asleep on the couch.

PHIL If only it were that simple. Changing a whole town, with the power of dance.

LUKE

(awkwardly) Your right dad, it sure was something. You don't have to cry. I'm right here for you.

Phil turns his attention to the sleeping twins.

PHIL Aw, would you look at that? Little guys are all tuckered out.

LUKE Fine, they win.

Luke quickly gets to his feet.

LUKE (CONT'D) They can have my room. I'll clear my stuff out.

PHIL What are you talking about, buddy? (puzzled) What's going on? You've been acting strange all day.

Phil sits Luke down.

LUKE The twins, they can have my spot. Clearly, you'd rather they have it anyway. PHIL Is that what this is all about? Suggesting the magic (beat) Again, a fantastic idea. (beat) But, are you jealous of the twins?

LUKE I mean, maybe. You were bragging about both of them all morning, calling them "special."

# PHIL (chucking) Buddy, I was talking about all of you guys, the whole family is special to me. Sure the babies are important, but you are my son. There's no replacing you.

Luke and Phil hug it out. The menu music for Footloose blast on the T.V., The twins, are alerted by the noise as they cry inconsolably. Phil and Luke stare at each other, nervously.

# LUKE INTERVIEW

Luke is seated in front of the camera.

LUKE There you have it. I'm clearly the winner here. And don't you forget it.

EXT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX (OUTSIDE DOOR) - DAY

Claire and Cameron approach the door.

CAMERON So, could you give me the plan one more time?

CLAIRE Right. We march right in there and demand to know. Maybe not demand, more like persuade, maybe?

Cameron is underwhelmed.

CLAIRE (CONT'D) Well, I don't see you coming up with anything spectacular, either.

# Good point, your way it is.

Cameron reaches for the door when he hears voices already inside.

### INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Mitchell and Haley are confronting a clearly annoyed Lily.

HALEY Just spill it girlfriend, no shame in it.

MITCHELL (awkward) Yeah, girlfriend, no shame here.

LILY For the last time, I don't know what you're talking about.

HALEY Trust me, hiding Dylan from my parents wasn't easy, so I know what it's like. We use to sneak around all the time.

LILY That explains some things.

MITCHELL I know, right.

LILLY (to Mitchell) I can't believe you, first, dad, and Aunt Claire, now you're here badgering me.

HALEY

Wait, my mother is helping Uncle Cameron? (puzzled) Why didn't he just call my dad?

MITCHELL Oh, please. Cameron and Phil together is one emotional cocktail we don't need.

A loud gasp can be heard from outside the door. Cameron storms in, an equally frustrated Claire follows behind.

## (throws her hands up) Oh great, now they're here

### INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jay is seated in the living room, clearly trying to avoid Gloria. Gloria sits on the arm of the loveseat. Gloria sighs, trying to catch Jay's attention. Jay tries his best to ignore her. Gloria sighs louder.

> JAY Is there something you want to talk about?

GLORIA Yes, your whole plan with Joe.

JAY What do you want me to say, the kid wanted help growing up.

GLORIA You didn't have to agree to help.

JAY

Well, you have to admit, you have been babying him a lot more lately. Maybe Joe just wants some space.

#### GLORIA

No! I'm his mother, what happens when he gets out there and finds something that takes him away, away from me.

#### JAY

Gloria, maybe just maybe, this isn't about Joe. Maybe it's about something else.

#### GLORIA

(nervous) No. What are you talking about?

JAY You sure this has nothing to do with Manny?

GLORIA No, don't be ridiculous. This has nothing to do with Manny. JAY Alrighty, then.

Jay begins flipping through channels on the T.V.

#### GLORIA

Well, since you asked, I have missed Manny, a lot more. Manny use to come home often when he started school, but now he hardly comes around. I don't know. I just miss him, I guess.

JAY Your right. It hasn't been the same lately.

GLORIA Exactly, that's why I want to savory the time I have with Joe before he's gone.

JAY I understand I'm sorry for trying to take that away from you, Gloria.

GLORIA I forgive you, Jay.

Gloria and Jay hug lovingly. Joe descends the stairs in a more simple attire.

JOE Mom, my room is all messed up again. Can you help me?

JAY Actually Joe...

Gloria cuts Jay off.

GLORIA Of course, I will, my little man.

JOE We might have to sing the 'clean-up song.'

Gloria goes to the stairs. Joe grabs her arm, ushering her up the stairs.

GLORIA Of course, we can, and after we can get ice cream, just the two of us. Joe is delighted.

JAY (softly) I give up.

### GLORIA'S INTERVIEW

Gloria is seated in front of the camera.

GLORIA (smug) See, I told you I knew how to play this game.

## INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Haley, Claire, Mitchell, and Cameron all argue amongst each other while Lilly watches.

MITCHELL Boyfriend. HALEY Boyfriend.

CLAIRE

CAMERON Girlfriend.

Girlfriend.

CAMERON (CONT'D) (to Mitchell) And what was that dig at me earlier, Mitchell?

MITCHELL (passive) What dig? I didn't dig.

LILLY You guys are acting like children.

Lily!

Lilly storms off.

MITCHELL

CAMERON

Lily!

Cameron and Mitchell chase after Lily.

CLAIRE Great, now they are dealing with that, and it's all our faults. HALEY Speak for yourself. I think we made good headway here.

CLAIRE Uh-huh, back to this whole, "me not being good at romantic advice thing." Is that what you think?

HALEY I mean, it's kind of true mom. Every time we come to talk to you about things like that, it usually doesn't turn out well.

Claire gasps.

CLAIRE That's not true. I'm always helpful.

HALEY Really, what about Dylan?

CLAIRE Wasn't right for you first the time around.

HALEY

Andy?

CLAIRE To childish.

HALEY

Arvin?

CLAIRE

Know it all.

HALEY

Rainer?

CLAIRE Too old, and he was married.

HALEY

Kenny?

CLAIRE He was an a-hole. HALEY

See, my point exactly: no emotion, just logic. Love isn't logical all the time, mom.

Claire is offended.

### CLAIRE

Well, I'm sorry you feel that way.

#### HALEY

Come on, mom. You're so good at other things; it's ridiculous to name them all. Like your my inspiration with my kids. It doesn't matter if you're bad at relationship advice. You're awesome at so much more.

### CLAIRE

Aww, sweetie.

Claire and Haley hug lovingly.

HALEY Yeah, dad's way more relationship savvy anyway.

CLAIRE Don't ruin the moment.

## INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Lily slams her room door, locking it from the inside. Cameron and Mitchell try to open the door.

CAMERON Sweetie, can you please open the door.

MITCHELL Yeah, we might have gone overboard with the snooping, Cameron, more-so than me.

CAMERON (to Mitchell) Not the point. (to Lily) The point is we shouldn't have snooped where we weren't wanted. Exactly, we just wanted what was best for you, Lily. But it doesn't matter to us if you like a boy.

Quick beat.

CAMERON

Or a girl.

MITCHELL We will love you for you, no matter what.

CAMERON That's right. Forever and always.

Lily unlocks the door.

LILY

Okay, I guess. But again, I don't know what any of you have been talking about all day. I don't have a boyfriend or a girlfriend.

MITCHELL

Now, sweetie, we are airing it all out right now, no need to feel shame.

CAMERON

That's right; we heard you call some "cute" this morning.

LILY That was me expressing how "cute" my friend's new puppy is, not how "cute"a person was.

MITCHELL

CAMERON

What?

What!

Quick beat.

CAMERON (CONT'D) (sassy) Okay, that dog isn't even that cute.

## LILY INTERVIEW

Lily is seated in front of the camera.

LILY Okay, that was a lie, but I'm not gonna tell "them" that. Well, halflie, my friend did get a new puppy. (shaking head in agreement) (shrugging her shoulders) So technically it was a half-truth.

### INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Phil and Luke are dressed up in magician outfits, entertaining the twins together.

### INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - JOE'S ROOM - DAY

Joe and Gloria are dancing and singing while cleaning Joe's room.

# INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Haley, Claire, Mitchell, and Cameron converse in the living room.

MITCHELL (to Claire) So wait, you and Haley came up with the same plan?

CLAIRE Technically, the plans were similar.

CAMERON No, that's not a technicality.

Lily is heard laughing on the phone. Cameron wants to snoop again.

MITCHELL No, no, we just give her space.

CAMERON You're right, you're right.

CLAIRE Look at you two, making real progress.

# CAMERON AND MITCHELL INTERVIEW

Cameron and Mitchell are seated in front of the camera.

MITCHELL (to Cameron) So, what did we learn today?

CAMERON (to Mitchell) That space for your child is better than invading their privacy.

MITCHELL

That's right.

CAMERON You realize you were doing the same thing I was, right?

MITCHELL None of that matters, we both learned a valuable lesson.

CAMERON Yes, that we both were trying to be nosey.

Cameron and Mitchell stare awkwardly into the camera.

# END OF ACT THREE

# TAG

## INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - EVENING

Claire walks in, Phil is leaving the living room.

CLAIRE It looks like you all had some fun today.

PHIL Oh, it was great.

Phil and Claire kiss.

PHIL (CONT'D) Did you have a good day?

CLAIRE I did, but funny thing, everyone kept telling me I'm not good with the romantic advice.

Phil laughs.

CLAIRE (CONT'D) I'm not joking.

## PHIL

Oh.

Phil throws down another smoke bomb, with a poof of smoke he vanishes.

CLAIRE

Phil!

END OF SHOW