

**MODERN FAMILY**

"However, Whenever"

Written by

Bruce B. Gordon

BruceGordonMedia.com  
1507 7th Street #273  
Santa Monica, CA 90401  
310-714-7871  
BruceGordon.Media@gmail.com

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

Jay rummages through a stack of magazines on a table. Gloria directs Manny and Alex to search the room. She looks in her purse, on the mantle and under shopping bags. She's frustrated.

GLORIA

Manny, Alex! Help me find where I put my keys and my cell phone.

Manny and Alex try to help her look, but Jay smirks. Then he reaches into his shirt pocket, coming up empty.

JAY

Gloria, have you seen my glasses?

GLORIA

Having a senior moment, Jay?

JAY & GLORIA INTERVIEW

JAY

Senior moment? She's the one who's always forgetting where she puts stuff. Me? I'm captain of this ship!

GLORIA

(challenging)  
The Titanic?

JAY

Starship Enterprise.  
(cocky)  
And I'm Captain Kirk!

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

As before. Jay finds his glasses under the magazines and triumphantly shakes them at Gloria.

JAY

Gloria, if you did like me and put your keys and phone here on the counter, you'd always remember where they were. Kirk out.

GLORIA INTERVIEW

GLORIA

Captain Kirk? More like Captain "Irk." I'm up to here with his teasing! He's going to do it forever if I don't find a way to knock him off the bridge. Or beam up his Scottie!

MAIN TITLESINT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

As before. Jay gloats at Gloria, then exits. Gloria corrals Manny and Alex.

GLORIA

Manny, Alex... I need you to help me hide Jay's stuff in random places so he knows how I feel.

MANNY

Mom, this kind of game playing is going to mess me up in my relationships with women.

GLORIA

You'll do it.

ALEX

Gloria, I'm not going to cite all the legal precedents of co-conspirator convictions for torture. This isn't Guantanamo.

GLORIA

You'll do it.

MANNY

Why don't you just book a relationship therapy session for my 25th birthday right now?

ALEX

While you're at it, why not just sneak up on Grandpa while he's sleeping tonight and water-board him?

MANNY

Mom, I love you, but what kind of wife does this?

GLORIA

The kind that kept quiet when her son broke Jay's motorcycle...

(to Alex)

... her niece scratched his car. And that you both did homework on his computer which gave him a virus.

ALEX

Wait, I never--

MANNY

Me either--

GLORIA

He had to go to the doctor for shots twice last year.

(re: their confused looks)

For the flu!

ALEX

That's blackmail.

GLORIA

Black, blue... I'll just tell Jay--

MANNY & ALEX

We'll do it.

KITCHEN

Jay's cell phone rings.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - DEN - SAME TIME

Phil tickles Claire as she tries to talk on the phone. Luke fusses with a video camera in the background.

CLAIRE

Dad, don't you need Alex to baby-sit a little longer? I mean, Phil and I were trying to...

(retracting)

I'm sorry. TMI.

JAY

Nope. Bringing her now. She'll be back here again all day tomorrow.

(MORE)

JAY (CONT'D)  
 And, remember, you're dropping Luke  
 off, too?

CLAIRE  
 Meaning?

JAY  
 (wincing uncomfortably)  
 You guys will have plenty of time  
 for TMI and TLC. But promise me no  
 sex tape on TMZ.

CLAIRE  
 Hanging up, Dad.

LIVING ROOM

Jay returns to the others still gathered there.

JAY  
 Alex, thanks again for baby-sitting  
 Joe. Let's get you home.

Jay's ready to go, but his keys and cell phone are missing  
 from the counter. He searches the room and finds his keys  
 inside a desk drawer. Now his eyes scour the room again.

JAY (CONT'D)  
 I'll be darned. Gloria, can you  
 call my cell phone?

She does, and following the sound he finds it in the kitchen.  
 In the refrigerator. Alex shrugs at Gloria's glare.

ALEX  
 (whispers)  
 What? No time!

Confused, Jay leaves with Alex.

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

Phil and Claire are in bed. Claire reads a book.

PHIL  
 What'cha reading?

She hands Phil the book. He examines it.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
 "The Three-Day Quickie Solution for  
 Busy Parents: However, Whenever?"  
 (MORE)

PHIL (CONT'D)  
 (laughs)  
 We don't need that.

CLAIRE  
 Well....

PHIL  
 Quickies in closets, stairwells and  
 rooftops?

CLAIRE  
 Public places. Crazy book, huh?

PHIL & CLAIRE INTERVIEW

PHIL  
 I don't like Claire reading sex  
 books. What if she's got like this  
 big stash and that replaces me?

CLAIRE  
 No stash, babe.

PHIL  
 That's crazy. Because she's got  
 the real thing right here with me.  
 Her sex machine. Can't replace  
 this manly man with any stash.

CLAIRE  
 No stash, honey.

PHIL  
 I know our lives are busy and all,  
 but-- Boy, I wish you didn't have  
 that stash of--

CLAIRE  
 No stash, Phil! None.

She gives him a reassuring pat, but Phil is lost in worry.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - PHIL & CLAIRE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

As before. Phil makes a romantic move to kiss Claire.

PHIL  
 (hip hop voice)  
 It's time we got our "swerve-on!"  
 (normal)  
 Been how long?

CLAIRE

Let me check my sundial.

They drop the book and nuzzle. Suddenly, Luke, Haley and Alex burst in, yelling at each other.

LUKE

It's not my day. Maybe it's Alex's.

HALEY

No, it's your turn to wash the dishes!

ALEX

I did it yesterday! You're forgetting it's your day.

HALEY

Impossible. Yesterday was Tuesday... "Pink Day." So I know I carried my pink Prada purse and wore my jade Jimmy Choo's.

ALEX

Your point?

HALEY

That's how I remember things. I'm so great with accessorizing.  
(to Claire and Phil)  
Mom, Luke won't help.

LUKE

My night is tomorrow! After Grandpa helps me figure out what to do my video project on for school.

PHIL

Buddy, you mean you still haven't--

LUKE

It's my last chance at a make-up to make up for the failed make-up I never made up.

CLAIRE

Luke, Haley, Alex! Go right downstairs. I'll be down in a minute to supervise, since you can't follow simple turn-taking.

PHIL  
Yeah, Haley washes, Alex dries and  
Luke puts them away. Now go!

The kids groan and disappear. Phil retrieves the book and  
whispers.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
Think Clive Bixby would approve?

CLAIRE  
Julianna would.

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

Mitchell enters, excited and carrying bags from the UCLA and  
USC student stores. He pulls books, calendars and DVDs out.

MITCHELL  
Lily! Back from shopping! Going  
to get you started early at being  
ready for college entrance exams.

CAMERON (O.S.)  
We're in the studio.

LILY (O.S.)  
It's just my bedroom.

Mitchell lugs all his bags to her room.

MITCHELL  
Periodic table calendar, calculus  
formulas and the history of  
political socio-economics. Oh, and  
pre-law, pre-med, pre-sorority--

INT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mitchell enters, shocked to see Cam videotaping Lily dressed  
up as Barbara Streisand and performing the theme song to "The  
Way We Were" on a karaoke machine.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)  
What--? Is that the same karaoke  
machine we said we'd lose after Jay  
dumped it here?

CAMERON  
Mitch, just I couldn't throw it  
away. It's too... pregnant with  
possibility.

MITCHELL

(sotto)

I wish you were.

(regular voice)

Cam, you're going overboard with Lily's fashion videos again. You always do.

CAMERON

Me? Look at all that weird stuff you have in your hands.

MITCHELL & CAMERON INTERVIEW

MITCHELL

Some of the parents at Lily's school are so snooty.

CAMERON

Yeah, always going on about how their kids are such high achievers.

MITCHELL

Who cares if Jenny Mickelson's in Mensa?

CAMERON

Or that Brie Gunn models for BabyGap?

MITCHELL & CAMERON

(unison)

We just want our daughter to be happy.

Eye rolls.

INT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LILY'S BEDROOM -  
CONTINUOUS

As before. Lily sits exasperated.

LILY

Can I just play with my doll?

MITCHELL

I'm trying to prepare you for college, honey. I want you to have a healthy, normal life.

CAMERON

Playing dress-up is normal.

MITCHELL

Not if you've outdone last year's  
Oscar winner for costume design.

Mitchell's cell phone rings.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

JAY

Remember, dinner tonight?  
Featuring Luke's video project.

MITCHELL

Video project, huh? Can't get  
enough of those.

JAY

Huh? Anyway, bring the old balls  
and chain and the little fortune  
cookie.

MITCHELL

Dad, you do realize that's  
offensive, right?

JAY

Aw, you know I'm just kidding. But  
let me ask you: when baby Yoko  
loses teeth, which one of you is  
the tooth fairy?

MITCHELL

Okay... offensive and so... you.  
Wearing your Neanderthal animal  
skin suit tonight?

Jay laughs as they hang up. Mitchell returns to scowling at  
Cameron.

CAMERON

I'm fueling Lily's artistic future.  
Your idea to get her college prep  
materials before the age of ten is  
what's really obsessive.

MITCHELL

Really? If I'm creating a monster,  
at least she'll be a monster  
successful intellectual.

CAMERON

I should remind you that the unabomber was a monster successful intellectual.

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

Jay directs Luke to film boxes of solar panels and plumbing.

JAY

Energy conservation and recycling, Luke. That's the winner.

LUKE

So, just shoot a lot of stuff like the solar panels outside?

JAY

Yeah, and inside, shoot all the insulation and my new water-conserving toilets and faucets. Everybody's crazy these days about going "green."

LUKE

Why would anybody want to look like The Incredible Hulk?

JAY

Huh?

Jay remembers he's talking to Luke and rolls his eyes. Manny and Gloria enter.

Jay opens a cabinet with an old record-player and plays a Frank Sinatra song. He thumbs through a stack of vintage comic books.

Luke picks up his laptop and clumsily films everything with the video camera.

LUKE

What'cha doing, Grandpa?

GLORIA

Yeah, Jay. Why did you dig up all that old junk out of storage?

JAY

I saved this stuff from my youth to pass along to my kids. But Mitch...

(MORE)

JAY (CONT'D)

well, let's just say he wasn't the kind of son who was interested in tough-guy superheroes. Or cool Sinatra songs.

MANNY

His forte was--?

JAY

I got excited when he wanted to read Wonder Woman. Until it was clear he wanted to be Wonder Woman.

Gloria raises an eyebrow and nods.

JAY (CONT'D)

Then it was all about his sister's Barbie dolls and listening to Judy Garland records--

MANNY

We thought you were...  
(air quotes; singing)  
... over his "rainbow" by now, Jay.

JAY

I am.  
(air quotes; singing)  
"Skies are blue." Anyway, my memory is slipping, so I thought I'd give it a kick-start. Get back in touch with my youth.

LUKE

That's not the way to keep your mind young.

JAY

Oh, yeah? What do you suggest?

Luke tries to open his computer, but Jay holds it shut.

JAY (CONT'D)

If you're gonna tell me to do like lots of aging guys who go on web sites to get a sports car and a hot younger woman... check the garage and check out your grandmother again--

LUKE

I meant play the latest videogames and watch Justin Timberlake videos on YouTube, like my dad.

JAY

Phil?

LUKE

Works for him. He's almost as young-minded and immature as me.

JAY

No argument there.

LUKE

So try to be more like my dad.

Jay frowns, incredulous and depressed.

GLORIA INTERVIEW

GLORIA

I hate to see Jay all confused like this. But if I don't teach him a lesson he'll keep making fun of me. Let him suffer a little. It's all in fun, no?

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - JOE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jay enters frantically with one shoe on and holding a single sock. He takes off his glasses and sets them on the dresser top before kneeling to reach under baby Joe's crib.

Outside the room, Gloria nods at Manny, who silently darts in and moves Jay's glasses to an end-table across the room. He dashes out just as silently.

Jay crawls to further extend his arm under the crib with one hand while holding the solo sock in the other. He reaches up to the dresser for his glasses... feels for them. Nothing.

Jay lurches up, then sees them on the distant end table. Baby Joe giggles spontaneously.

JAY

It's hereditary. Your turn's coming.

Off Jay, looking bewildered.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Jay suspiciously whispers into his phone while Gloria tries to talk with him.

GLORIA  
Are you helping Luke finish his  
video project today?

Jay moves away for secrecy, while Gloria follows him around.

JAY  
(whispering into phone)  
No one can know; not even my wife.  
Especially not my wife.

GLORIA  
Jay?

JAY  
(whispering into phone)  
Especially my wife. I'll meet you  
at the course in an hour.

GLORIA  
Jay!

Jay quickly hangs up and stands at attention, ill at ease.

JAY  
Yeah, I'm working with Luke after  
my golf game. We're going to beat  
everybody in his class with our  
video journal project.

GLORIA  
Since when did Luke's project  
become yours too?

JAY  
Since I bought him that new  
complicated video camera and have  
to show him how to use it.

GLORIA  
Just remember that he's the one  
that needs to climb the mountain of  
education. You're already over the  
hill.

JAY

(reacts; then shrugs)  
I'm sure it's a translation thing.  
Anyway, the whole family can watch  
it tonight at dinner.

GLORIA

So who were you talking to on the  
phone?

JAY

Nobody.

She gives him an interrogating glare. Shifty-eyed, he quickly kisses her and exits. Gloria smells something fishy.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

Gloria exits her car and peeks around a tree to witness Jay and an ATTRACTIVE WOMAN putting golf balls.

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN

You've got the perfect touch. I  
just love your stroke.

JAY

Really?

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN

I want to get it inside me as soon  
as possible. Whoo, just thinking  
about how you ease it in makes me  
quiver all over!

JAY

You think I've still got it?

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN

Oh, you have nothing to worry  
about.

JAY

Thanks for meeting me here. Don't  
know what I'd do if my wife found  
out--

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN

Let's go where we can have more  
privacy. Putting around is all  
right for starters, but I really  
need to get you on my couch.

Gloria boils.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - DEN - DAY

Phil and Claire struggle to manage the chaos of Alex, Haley and Luke yelling at each other.

ALEX

Too busy, Haley? You're never too busy for your sugar daddy.

HALEY

He's not my sugar daddy!

ALEX

Sorry. Aspartame daddy!

LUKE

Dad, I can't find the new video camera Grandpa gave me. It was right here.

PHIL

Oh, I was going to return it. Me and your mom were going to--

Claire elbows him as Haley winces at her phone.

HALEY

Mom, can you please tell Alex and Luke to stop spying on my Facebook page every time I forget to log off.

LUKE

I don't care about her stupid Facebook page-- or that she's secretly planning to go to Lake Tahoe with some old guy.

HALEY

Loser!

ALEX

(to Luke)

Then why do you keep looking at Gina Marshall's picture in Haley's photos?

PHIL

Okay, okay. Everybody! Take a chill-pill. Now!

They stop their rabble-rousing as he continues.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
Start acting like a loving family!

He sees them recoil at his intensity, so he softens his tone.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
At least be civil, if you can't be loving.

CLAIRE  
The key word is "loving."

She pulls Phil away.

PHIL  
(flustered; hip-hop mode)  
So get along with each other for the next fifteen minutes so your mother and I can grab a quick piece of--

CLAIRE  
(horrified)  
Piece of-- mind. Peace of mind.

PHIL  
We left it upstairs.

CLAIRE  
In the attic.

The kids go silent with confusion. Phil and Claire step towards the staircase. The kids have another outburst. Phil and Claire step back in their direction and the kids go silent again. They step away again and the kids explode again. They come back and the kids stop.

PHIL  
That's it. Either you behave--

CLAIRE  
Or you're all grounded.

The kids silently go off in separate directions. Claire and Phil are relieved, and skip up the stairs. Suddenly the doorbell rings and they do a U-turn.

PHIL  
(stumbling on a step)  
Fix that step... again?!

CLAIRE  
Step's fine, Phil. What you need to fix is how you walk on it.

They open the front door to see a man in a pest control uniform holding a clipboard.

PEST CONTROL MAN  
Pest-Be-Gone pest control. Got  
pests?

CLAIRE  
Could you come back in, say, an  
hour?

PEST CONTROL MAN  
Sorry, ma'am. Tight schedule.

PHIL  
(remembers)  
Oh, no! That's right. We've been  
waiting months to get an  
appointment with this company.  
Because the last two couldn't--

CLAIRE  
Okay, okay. Could you hurry,  
though? We need to use the attic.

PEST CONTROL MAN  
Ma'am, you can't rush these things.  
So what are we talking, mice, rats?

PHIL  
A raccoon. Probably a raccoon.

PEST CONTROL MAN  
Well, I'll try to get you some  
peace and quiet today.

CLAIRE  
Wish we could get a piece of  
anything.

PHIL  
Anything.

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

Mitchell comes home from work.

MITCHELL  
Cam! Lily!

CAMERON (O.S.)  
Hi, Honey! We're back here!

Mitchell puts his things down one-by-one as he slowly heads towards Lily's room.

MITCHELL

I'm sorry for getting Lily the advanced trigonometry books. Maybe I did go just a little overboard. But actually, the stuff about the sociopolitical history of gay adoptions in the U.S. will probably come in handy sooner than her college years and--

INT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LILY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mitchell enters, mortified to find that Cam has bought Lily various university-themed jackets and skirts... sized for a young adult. Her room is decorated to excess with collegiate sports paraphernalia.

Both Lily and Cam are practicing a routine with cheer-leading pom-poms.

CAMERON

I know what you're thinking. No, Lily won't be able to fit most of this for almost fifteen years.

MITCHELL

That's not all I was thinking. Seriously, Cam?

CAMERON

I thought about what you said and you were right. We do have to get her ready for college.

LILY

(pom-pom dance)  
Go team, go!

CAM & MITCH INTERVIEW

MITCHELL

(snatches Cam's pom-poms)  
Okay, you did really buy those for yourself.

Cameron's embarrassed... busted.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

Whatever happened to "We shouldn't try so early to get her interested in college?"

CAMERON

I figured, "If you can't beat 'em... dress 'em?"

INT. CLOTHING BOUTIQUE - DRESSING ROOM AREA - DAY

Phil and Claire show up at Haley's job with Haley's wallet.

HALEY

Sorry to interrupt you guys. Thanks so much for bringing my wallet.

PHIL

Why the panic?

CLAIRE

Yeah, your dad and I were busy.

PHIL

(hip-hop)  
Busy tryin' to "get busy."

HALEY

(grossed out)  
Well, I didn't remember to take it out of my other purse when I switched them this morning.

PHIL

(not like her)  
Really?

CLAIRE

Your accessorizing fail was worth us derailing our only day off?

Haley gathers her things to leave with her co-workers.

HALEY

I never told you this, but I'm still paying the last ticket I got for driving without my license.

PHIL

Ticket? What ticket?

CLAIRE

You never--

HALEY

Yeah, well, another violation like that and I might have my license suspended.

PHIL

Young lady, where do you think you're going?

CLAIRE

You can't just walk away from us while we're--

Suddenly, there's an announcement over the P.A. system.

STORE ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Our store is now closed. Please proceed to the exits.

HALEY

They lock the doors within an hour. See you tonight at Grandpa's.

Haley rushes out with the other employees, leaving Phil and Claire dumbfounded. Claire's phone rings.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LILY'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

CAMERON

Get my text? Lily's so cute, right?

CLAIRE

Cam! Wait.

She clicks the phone to find the picture. Claire and Phil both cringe at the photo of Lily dressed to excess.

CAMERON

And her designer is to die for!

CLAIRE

See you guys tonight.

She hangs up, sharing a disturbed look with Phil. They recover and head out, but she sees a nice dress and stops.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Cute. I've got to try it on.

PHIL

Now? We finally have a moment to ourselves. You shouldn't think about wasting it in a secluded dressing room of a closed store--

CLAIRE

(winks)

Unless it's Juliana taking off what she has on and Clive Bixby getting into Juliana... I mean helping Juliana get into her hot, new dress. After he gets into Juliana.

Phil slowly gets it.

PHIL

What if we get caught?

CLAIRE

The store's closed, we'll be fine.

They skulk into the women's dressing room and close the door.

PHIL (O.S.)

So, we've got just under an hour?

CLAIRE (O.S.)

They have to finish up all the register and bookkeeping work.

Giggles from inside the dressing room draw a FEMALE SECURITY GUARD.

FEMALE SECURITY GUARD

What's going on in there?

Claire comes out smiling in her own disheveled clothes.

FEMALE SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

Who else is in there?

Phil comes out holding the new dress in front of him.

PHIL

My brother-in-law has someone this would be perfect for.

CLAIRE

So I had to help him try it on to see how it looks on a man.

FEMALE SECURITY GUARD

Right.

PHIL  
Believe me, Ms. Security Officer,  
the world is changing faster than I  
ever can. Keep up with.

CLAIRE  
He couldn't try it on in the men's  
dressing room, because... because--

PHIL  
Because... well, look at me. I'd  
be too much of a tempter.  
Temptress. Temp-ter-tress.

As a store MANAGER walks past, the Guard stiffens.

FEMALE SECURITY GUARD  
You're lucky I don't call the cops.  
Now, get out!

PHIL  
Sorry.

CLAIRE  
Won't happen again.

When the Manager's out of sight, the Guard leans close.

FEMALE SECURITY GUARD  
(whispering)  
"The Three-Day Quickie Solution for  
Busy Parents," page sixty-nine. Me  
and my husband? Last week.  
Dressing room three.

But with the Manager returning she firmly gestures them  
toward the exit. Then she winks.

FEMALE SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)  
"However, Whenever!"

Claire and Phil arch eyebrows.

EXT. MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Gloria fumes as she enters.

GLORIA  
(under breath)  
He never wants to play golf with  
me. And he thinks he can just play  
"putt in the hole" with some other  
woman?

INT. MEDICAL OFFICE - WAITING ROOM/HALLWAY - DAY

Gloria storms past a receptionist and into the hallway with a sign marked "Dr. Elaine Conner."

INT. DOCTOR CONNER'S OFFICE - DAY

Jay sits on an exam table, talking with DR. CONNER, the attractive woman from the golf course. She sits close in a chair.

DR. CONNER

I feel much better doing this where  
I can control our privacy.

JAY

Well, I want to make you feel as  
good as I can.

DR. CONNER

You do, do you?

JAY

Then you'll make me feel as good as  
I can.

DR. CONNER

That is how it works.

JAY

You sure my wife will never find  
out?

DR. CONNER

Relax, I tell you. I'm discreet as  
a matter of policy.

JAY

Should I lie down?

DR. CONNER

We can do it in any position.

JAY

Any position, huh?

DR. CONNER

Let's start by having you take your  
shirt off. Be right back.

She opens the door to leave and Jay starts removing his shirt. Suddenly, Gloria bursts in, yelling in Spanish and strangling the doctor. Jay leaps up to pull her off.

GLORIA  
I've beaten the sisters of drug  
lords. I can handle you!

JAY  
Gloria!

DR. CONNER  
(being strangled)  
Who are you?

JAY  
My wife?

GLORIA  
Who are you?

JAY  
My doctor?

Gloria slowly releases Dr. Conner and composes herself.

JAY (CONT'D)  
I'm having secret consultations  
with a gerontologist.

GLORIA  
What is this?

JAY  
A consultation is where--

GLORIA  
I know what is consultation. But  
what is gerontologist?

DR. CONNER  
(struggling to breathe)  
I specialize in the elderly.

GLORIA  
Jay, why do you need an old  
people's doctor? You're not--  
(thinking)  
You are.

DR. CONNER  
So we'll run some tests to be sure,  
but it looks like he'll be fine.

JAY

Gloria, my uncle Ned had  
Alzheimer's and eventually couldn't  
remember anything... or anybody...  
even his wife and kids.

GLORIA

(realizing her role)  
Oh, Jay. It's not what you think.  
I've been--

Jay interrupts her with a smothering hug.

JAY

It's not you. It's hereditary.

GLORIA

But I... I... I--!

JAY

I don't want to end up like that.  
Kinda scared!

GLORIA

I... I... I--!

JAY

I'm so happy that you love me and  
only want the best for me.

GLORIA INTERVIEW

GLORIA

Aye-Yi-Yi!

Off Gloria as she winces.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Gloria makes dinner as Jay sulks nearby, fiddling with a blood pressure meter.

GLORIA

I'm still sorry for stalking you  
and almost strangling that nice old  
people's doctor.

JAY

She laughed it off. Although she  
had to hold back a couple of eighty-  
year-olds who wanted to shank you  
with catheters.

GLORIA

I'm not worried about you getting  
Alzheimer's or dementia. But if  
you did, I'd stick by your side  
like that Nancy Reagan did with her  
president husband.

Jay's impressed. Then he turns sensitive.

JAY

I'm touched I have a loving family  
that'll look out for me when I lose  
my marbles.

GLORIA

Don't worry, when you lose your  
marbles, you can play with Joe's.

JAY

(under breath)  
And she's back.

He crosses to the far side of the room to redirect Luke, who appears to be mindlessly hovering his video camera over a wall portrait.

JAY (CONT'D)

Luke, are you shooting what we  
talked about, or are you trying to  
get a job with the Smithsonian  
Channel?

LUKE

Great idea! Thanks, Grandpa!

Jay rolls his eyes and shrugs.

On the other side of the room, Manny and Alex enter and huddle privately with Gloria. The duo's excited whispers stop Gloria from getting even one word out.

MANNY

I'm really getting into this sadism thing. Maybe I'll delve deeper into manipulation and games. Possibly abandon my penchant for putting pretties on pedestals and become a ladies man or a gigolo.

(smiling)

Mom, you're really screwing me up!

ALEX

Although my knowledge of world history teaches me otherwise, I'm embarrassed at how intriguing it must have been to "get medieval" on a prisoner. Secure him in a stock, stripe him with a cat-o-nine tails, stretch him on a rack.

(thrilled)

I could be a horrible human being!

MANNY

Mom, we've concocted a plan that will be our "coupe de gras."

ALEX

Yeah, we're going to make Grandpa think he's misplaced his car!

MANNY

When we get through with him today, he'll be sure he's lost his mind.

Gloria rushes over to hug Jay so she can turn him away from the kids. She secretly tries to wave signals behind his back for them to cut the routine. She does a "knife across the throat" signal.

They nod and return the gesture, smiling and whispering so Jay and Luke can't hear.

MANNY (CONT'D)

We'll drive him so crazy he'll want to slit his throat.

ALEX

Yeah, then he'll slit his wrists!

Manny and Alex high-five each other. Gloria blanches. She tries two times to go over and stop them, but Jay keeps her in a tight hug.

JAY  
 (tearful)  
 I love all you guys! So  
 supportive. In sickness and in  
 health.

Finally, Gloria gets away as Jay walks out of the room, blowing his nose in tissue. Luke follows him out with his camera.

GLORIA  
 Manny. Alex. This isn't a game  
 anymore.

ALEX  
 What do you mean?

GLORIA  
 Jay really thinks he's losing his  
 mind.

MANNY  
 Cool!

GLORIA  
 Not cool. He's seeing a doctor and  
 he's depressed.

ALEX AND MANNY  
 (horrified)  
 Oh, no! We didn't mean--

Jay and Luke return with gift bags. The others clam up, ashamed.

GLORIA  
 Jay, there's something I need to  
 tell you.

JAY  
 I just can't believe how lucky I am  
 to have you guys. I mean, I was so  
 scared that--

ALEX  
 Tell him, Gloria.

MANNY  
 Yeah, tell him, Mom.

JAY  
Tell me what?

GLORIA  
That...  
(weasels out)  
That dinner's almost ready.

Alex's cell phone RINGS.

ALEX  
(into phone)  
Mom?

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - STORAGE AREA - SAME TIME

Phil and Claire rush down a deserted corridor lined with storage sheds. Claire talks into her cell speakerphone.

CLAIRE  
Alex, your teacher said your cello already got picked up. We only rushed here because you said your friends flaked--

ALEX  
Sorry to screw up your afternoon like Haley did your morning, but I forgot to text you that Joey and Meg un-flaked--

CLAIRE  
What's with you lately? Now you're even talking like Haley.

PHIL  
(upset)  
Are your friends secretly smoking pot too? 'Cause I could use--  
(Claire elbows him)  
What? Glaucoma runs in my family.

Gloria beckons Alex to follow her and Manny out to the living room.

ALEX  
Gloria needs me. Gotta go.

CLAIRE  
Tell her we got the wine for tonight. Bye, sweetie.

When she hangs up, Claire and Phil find themselves at a dead end of the corridor. Alone outside of unlocked, secluded storage closet, they notice that it's empty. Smiles abound.

They disappear inside the storage shed and close the door. A landscaper passing by hears grunts and groans coming from inside the shed. He turns and runs off.

LANDSCAPER  
(in Spanish)  
Somebody is hurt. Call 9-1-1!

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

Lily wears a Yale varsity jacket and shakes pom-poms as Cam helps her practice a cheer. Mitchell seeks her attention.

LILY  
Who's the best? We are!

CAMERON  
Great, Lily. You'll need to be popular socially, as well as academically.

MITCHELL  
Lily, again, let's go over changes in U.S. foreign policy and the nature of America's role in the U.N. for the debating club.

LILY  
We're America. Who cares what the U.N. thinks?

Suddenly, Mitch gets a "FaceTime" CALL from Haley on his cell phone.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - HALEY'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Haley watches TV on her bed.

MITCHELL  
Hey, my niece, "da... fashionista."  
You got all our Instagrams, huh?

HALEY  
Turn on VH1.

MITCHELL

Haley, you won't believe the awesome progress we've been making with Lily's college prep--

CAMERON

(yelling towards phone)  
Did you like our YouTube clips?

HALEY

Turn on VH1! Now!

Mitchell clicks the remote and fires up the TV.

CAMERON

What could be so important that--

A documentary film on troubled child stars appears. Lily exits.

MITCHELL

"Robbed of Their Childhoods?"  
Wait, what is this?

HALEY

A retrospective on the kid chess genius, Bobby Fischer, the kids from "Different Strokes" and Michael Jackson.

CAMERON

(laughs)  
You can't think that Lily--

Lily returns with a six-pack of empty beer bottles from the kitchen and sits. She smokes an imaginary cigarette and fires an imaginary gun.

LILY

Bang-bang! We're out of beer.  
Let's go to the liquor store. Now!  
Bang!

HALEY

A noted psychologist paints an ugly picture of what happens when kids are pushed by their parents to sacrifice their childhood for grown-up levels of success.

Mitchell and Cam freeze and gape at each other. Immediately, they both toss all the college paraphernalia aside, fling away the pom-poms and sit Lily at a kid's tea-party set with a big doll.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - STORAGE AREA - DAY

Phil is strapped down on a gurney and PARAMEDICS wheel him over bumpy pavement. The commotion has attracted a big crowd of COPS, FIREMEN, school workers and students who all gawk.

PHIL

Not really a heart attack, guys.

CLAIRE

(searching)

No, I was just on top of him doing mouth-to-mouth because--

PHIL

(dismissive)

False alarm.

FIREMAN

We just left a false alarm around the block. Hate false alarms.

Now a COP steps forward.

COP

Yeah. They waste our time and the taxpayers' money.

FIREMAN

(narrows eyes; suspicious)

We catch them... straight to jail.

PARAMEDIC

Sir, your vital signs match somebody who's either just had sex...

PHIL AND CLAIRE

(sotto)

Wish.

COP

(also suspicious)

Jail time.

PARAMEDIC

... or should be rushed to the hospital right away.

PHIL AND CLAIRE

Hospital! Definitely hospital!  
For sure!

The paramedics accidentally drop the gurney and bump Phil around as they put him in the back of the ambulance. Now even news trucks and camera-wielding journalists swarm him.

PARAMEDIC  
(opening Phil's wallet)  
Name, sir?

PHIL  
(humiliated)  
Clive... Bixby?

PARAMEDIC  
Why does your license say Phil Dunphy? Hmm. Maybe he isn't all right. Doesn't even know his name.

Claire rushes to speak privately with the AMBULANCE DRIVER.

CLAIRE  
Could I ride in the back with my husband to the hospital?

AMBULANCE DRIVER  
"However, Whenever!"

Shocked, she tries to thank him. He shushes her and winks.

INT. AMBULANCE TRUCK - DAY

The door closes with Claire alone with Phil, caressing him.

CLAIRE  
(whispers)  
Oh, Phil, thanks for taking the fall for both of us and protecting my honor.

PHIL  
(as "Clive")  
Anything for my dear Juliana.

CLAIRE  
(naughty)  
I'm going to give you a massage on the way to the hospital...

PHIL  
(breaks character)  
Claire, I really don't need--

CLAIRE  
... with a happy ending.

The ambulance drives away with sirens wailing.

PHIL  
 (back to "Clive")  
 Me likey-likey.  
 (melody of "Me So Horny")  
 Me love you long time! Oh, me so  
 happy, oh me so happy!

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

Gloria, Alex and Manny are looking guilty as they gather to sit on the sofa. Jay and Luke fiddle with the TV.

JAY  
 (loud announcement)  
 It's time to watch me and Luke's  
 video project.  
 (at Gloria's look)  
 Luke's video project.

LUKE  
 Mr. Dent said it was a piece of  
 something he wasn't allowed to say.  
 I'm thinking masterpiece.

GLORIA  
 Jay, before we start, there's  
 something we have to tell you.

ALEX  
 Yeah, Grandpa. We've been doing  
 pranks to make you feel like you're  
 losing your memory.

MANNY  
 Mom blackmailed Alex and me into  
 helping her. Columbian drug lord  
 style.

GLORIA  
 I only wanted you to stop teasing  
 me for when I lose my things. I  
 never meant to make you think--

JAY  
 (incensed; moves away)  
 And all this time--! I can't  
 believe--!

GLORIA  
 Jay!

JAY

I thought you guys cared about me.  
How could you be so cruel?!

He storms out.

MANNY

I'm so riddled with guilt! I'm  
considering major penance. Maybe  
I'll become a priest and swear off  
women altogether.

(thinks)

No chance of that!

ALEX

You can come with me when I join  
Amnesty International tomorrow and  
sign up as a volunteer.

Haley enters, frazzled.

HALEY

I forgot my bracelet. Maybe I'm  
not as good at organizing my life  
by my accessories as I thought.

ALEX

(taunts, baiting)

Maybe you should organize your life  
around your underwear.

HALEY

That's stupid.

ALEX

I read where this successful woman  
named Victoria--

HALEY

So that was her secret? Cool!

Haley walks away. Gloria, Manny and Alex guiltily approach  
Jay again. He crosses his arms, ignoring them.

GLORIA

Do you forgive us, Jay?

JAY

Don't talk to me! Any of you!

(to Luke)

Luke, get this over with.

Luke starts the video, which begins with Barbara Streisand  
singing "The Way We Were." Haley enters and sits.

Phil and Claire enter and sit, staring wistfully at each other. Mitchell and Cam also come in and sit with Lily, who wears normal clothes and plays with a dress-up doll.

LILY  
That's my song!

Mitchell and Cam melt. A title flashes onscreen: "Family Fraud." They all watch the show made up of clips that Luke shot of pranks against Jay by Gloria, Alex and Manny.

Gloria, Alex and Manny are shocked, embarrassed, humiliated, then relieved. Finally, they're playfully angry at Jay, who smiles as he gives Luke a "high-five."

JAY  
Took you guys long enough to apologize.

GLORIA  
You tortured us back? What kind of husband does that?

GLORIA, MANNY & ALEX INTERVIEW

GLORIA (CONT'D)  
We deserved it.  
(as Alex & Manny glare)  
I deserved it.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

As before.

JAY  
Actually, I'm happy you helped me to get over my fear of the family illness and to go get checked out to be sure.

GLORIA  
So do you forgive us? Me?

JAY  
I can grant a formal pardon because... I'm still Captain of this ship!

GLORIA  
Thank you, Kirk.

Jay hugs Gloria, Manny and Alex. He returns to continue watching the video, laughing with everybody.

JAY (V.O.)

Sometimes the mind can play tricks  
on us. But just when our fears  
make us think the worst, we find  
what matters most: who we love and  
who loves us.

Everybody laughs at happy video clips of the whole family  
being goofy together.

JAY (V.O.)

And when our minds finally settle  
on what's really important, we  
realize we shouldn't have too much  
anxiety for what may happen in the  
future...

Both Mitchell's and Cam's cell phones RING and they each try  
to hide who's calling.

CAMERON

(shame)

It's just an admissions rep in  
Cambridge.

MITCHELL

(embarrassment)

Palo Alto. Don't judge me.

JAY (V.O.)

... or sadness for what we lost in  
the past.

Phil holds Claire's hand. She gives him a glimpse of the  
book hidden in her purse. The whole family shares hugs.

JAY (V.O.)

No, we've got to make sure we're  
creating great memories right now.

LUKE

(holding camera)

For my next project... a  
documentary on how you all do your  
taxes--

ALL THE ADULTS

(reaching for camera)

No!!

TAGINT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

All the families are still gathered around the TV.

CLAIRE

Phil, do you think the pest control guy got rid of our problem?

LILY

Ew, Luke! Your house has rats?

LUKE, ALEX & HALEY

We don't have rats. Disgusting!

PHIL

(defensive)

I'm sure it was probably a raccoon.

(perks up his ears)

What's that I hear? You guys might have a raccoon in your garage.

Hear it Claire?

CLAIRE

What?

(Phil's nudge)

Oh, yeah! A raccoon.

They both spring up.

PHIL

We'd better check it out.

CLAIRE

Yeah, we'd better.

Everybody else gets up too, curious. But Phil and Claire manically wave them off.

PHIL AND CLAIRE

Alone!

In her rush to get away, Claire's purse opens and the book falls out. Jay picks it up and thumbs through it, while the others look over his shoulder. Off their wide eyes.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW