

MODERN FAMILY

"Scary Stories"

Written by

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TEASERINT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The annual Dunphy Halloween party. The family, in costumes, stands around the heavily decorated house talking to one another. THE DOORBELL RINGS. HALEY, dressed in a very revealing cheerleader uniform, rushes to answer the door. PHIL, dressed in a toga, is on the stairs and jumps down the last few steps.

PHIL
Oh, too slow!

He opens the door to reveal DYLAN standing outside dressed in his usual leather jacket and jeans, a guitar in his hand. He wears a bow-tie on his neck.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Dylan, my man! What are you supposed to be?

Dylan points to his bow-tie.

DYLAN
A classy guitar player. You know, like from an orchestra?

PHIL
Wow, that's a great idea. Hey, can I see your guitar?

HALEY
You don't have to let him.

DYLAN
No, it's cool. Here.

Phil takes the guitar. He studies it intently for a beat. He suddenly lifts it into the air and mimes smashing it against the wall.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
Dude, be careful!

HALEY
Dad!

CLAIRE, dressed as a princess, appears behind Phil.

CLAIRE
What are you doing?

Phil drops the guitar to his side. Dylan grabs it.

PHIL
 Claire, come on! It's "Animal House!"

HALEY
 Oh, my God, I hated that book. I couldn't even get past the first few pages.

ALEX, dressed as a mad scientist, appears behind Haley.

ALEX
 Sure, that was the book's fault.

PHIL
 I didn't know "Animal House" was a book first.

HALEY
 It was written by the same guy who wrote that book about the 1980s.

ALEX
 I think she means Animal Farm by George Orwell.

HALEY
 Yeah, that's it. What were you talking about?

Phil stares at Haley in disbelief.

JAY (O.S.)
 Okay, who wants to hear some scary stories?

JAY, dressed as a football player, stands in the living room.

PHIL
 Uh, Jay, you know we never tell scary stories here.

JAY
 Yeah, but that was when there were babies in the house. I think they're ready to hear some now.

Jay turns to the rest of the house.

JAY (CONT'D)
 How about it, guys?

A CHORUS OF APPROVAL erupts from the house.

PHIL
What about Lily?

Jay turns to CAMERON, MITCHELL, and LILY, who are seated on the couch. Cameron is dressed as Buzz Lightyear, Mitchell as Woody, and Lily as Jessie the Cowgirl from "Toy Story."

JAY
Hey, Lily, you were adopted by the Village People.

Lily stares at Jay blankly.

JAY (CONT'D)
See, nothing fazes her.

MITCHELL
We're Woody and Buzz from "Toy Story," actually.

CAMERON
Yeah, there weren't any space commanders in the Village People.

MITCHELL
Not helping.

JAY
Whatever. Anyway, I think she'll be okay. Do you see any other babies around here, Phil?

Phil and Jay stare at each other for a beat. Phil finally looks away and shakes his head. Jay claps Phil hard on the shoulder.

JAY (CONT'D)
Okay, then. Gather up over here, gang.

MANNY, dressed as Zorro with a sword at his side, sits on the couch.

GLORIA (O.S.)
What do you think you're doing?

GLORIA, dressed as a genie, stands at the edge of the kitchen.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
(To Manny) Get up.

MANNY

Mom, I'm okay.

GLORIA

No, you'll have nightmares for a month if you listen to one of his stories. Go into the kitchen and have a snack.

Manny stands up and waves his sword in the air.

MANNY

You have offended my honor.

Manny goes into the kitchen.

PHIL

I should keep him company.

JAY

Don't be silly. He'll be fine. I have a prime seat for you right in front.

Jay points to the couch directly in front of him. Phil hesitates for a beat before sitting. He glances at the camera as though he is about to be sick. LUKE, who is covered in aluminum foil and has a sign hung over his neck that reads "Baked Potato," sits right next to Phil.

Jay turns off the lights. He takes out his cell phone and uses it as a light to illuminate his face.

JAY (CONT'D)

A long time ago, before I met Gloria, I was alone in the house. Suddenly, I heard a loud banging on the roof.

PHIL INTERVIEW

PHIL

Jay loves to scare me.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jay gestures wildly as he tells the story. He has a huge smile on his face. Phil and Luke look petrified.

PHIL (CONT'D - V.O.)
I remember when Claire and I
started dating, he told me he would
track me down and kill me if I ever
hurt her.

PHIL INTERVIEW - RESUMES

PHIL (CONT'D)
That's why I married her.

He laughs nervously.

PHIL (CONT'D)
No, I'm just joking.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jay suddenly jumps and waves his arms in the air. Phil jumps
in fright, quickly looking around to make sure no one has
noticed. Jay laughs.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONEINT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Phil stands at the kitchen counter as he pours himself a cup of coffee. Claire appears behind him and starts rubbing his shoulders. Phil suddenly jumps, frightened, and spills his coffee on himself.

PHIL

Ow! What are you doing?

CLAIRE

I was giving you a back rub.

PHIL

Why?

CLAIRE

Well, obviously you look a little tense this morning.

PHIL

I'm not tense. I just don't like it when people sneak up on me while I have a hot beverage in my hand.

Luke enters the kitchen.

CLAIRE

Luke, honey -

Luke jumps, startled.

LUKE

What?

CLAIRE

I was just going to ask you where your backpack was. What's wrong with you guys this morning?

LUKE

Nothing, what's wrong with you?

CLAIRE

Pardon me?

PHIL

Yeah, you look like the one with the problem, crazy lady.

LUKE
Yeah, crazy lady.

Claire stares at Phil and Luke in disbelief. She shakes her head and exits.

PHIL
Ugh, what a nag.

LUKE
Yeah. (Beat) What's a nag?

Phil pauses in thought. He smiles.

PHIL
Your mom.

They laugh and high-five.

CLAIRE (O.S.)
I can still hear you.

PHIL
I was talking to Haley.

CLAIRE
I'm her mom, too.

PHIL
Dammit.

THE DOORBELL RINGS. Claire answers the door. Jay stands outside holding a stuffed pillowcase.

CLAIRE
Hey, dad. What's this?

Jay hands her the pillowcase as he enters the house. Claire shuts the door behind him.

JAY
Oh, just some leftover Halloween candy that we didn't give out last night.

Claire shoves the pillowcase back at Jay.

CLAIRE
No, we have so much right now.

Phil runs into the room.

PHIL
Did someone say candy?

PHIL AND CLAIRE INTERVIEW

CLAIRE

Someone in this family has the tendency to overindulge on Halloween candy and then fall asleep on his computer at work after he crashes from his sugar high.

PHIL

Luke.

Claire shakes her head.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Phil grabs the pillowcase and rushes out of the room.

CLAIRE

Thanks a lot, dad.

JAY

Sorry about that.

CLAIRE

It's okay. I know a way you can make it up to me.

JAY

And what might that be?

CLAIRE

You can hang the Christmas lights early this year. Last year all of the neighbors were giving us dirty looks because our house was the only one not decorated on the block until Christmas Eve.

Jay considers this.

JAY

Okay, but only if I can do it by myself.

JAY INTERVIEW

JAY (CONT'D)

I believe very firmly that it is the man of the house's job to hang up the Christmas lights.

(MORE)

JAY (CONT'D)

However, the first year Phil and Claire lived in a house it took him three hours just to unravel the damn things. So, Claire enlisted me to help him.

CUT TO:

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - NIGHT

Jay and Phil stand on the roof. Jay hangs lights along the roof's edge. Phil holds a string of lights in his hands while loudly singing "Jingle Bells." Jay sighs.

JAY

Did you bring any earmuffs up here?

PHIL

Oh, is the tough guy getting old?
Can't handle the cold?

Jay stares at the camera.

JAY

Yeah, that's it.

JAY INTERVIEW - RESUMES

JAY (CONT'D)

I'm this close to wrapping those lights around his neck.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

CLAIRE

Oh, Phil will be crushed.

JAY

Yes, but at least he'll live.

Claire sighs.

CLAIRE

Okay, but we'll tell him after you finish, otherwise he'll just try to do it himself.

JAY

Yeah, we wouldn't want him falling off the roof or anything like that.

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

Mitchell enters. He wears a bright green shirt and holds a blue tie and a red tie in his hand. He stares at them as he walks.

MITCHELL

What do you think: blue or red?

CAMERON (O.C.)

(in a deep, throaty voice)

Blue.

Mitchell looks up to see Cameron and Lily sitting on the floor. His face falls as he spots a frog puppet on Cameron's hand. Mitchell forces a smile as he puts the ties on a chair.

MITCHELL

Thank you once again, Mister Frog,
for your insightful opinion.

Cameron continues to speak through the frog voice.

CAMERON

I would change the shirt, though.

MITCHELL

But you love this shirt.

CAMERON

(in his normal voice)

I do, but I think green offends
him.

MITCHELL

Uh-huh. So, what are you guys
going to do today?

CAMERON

(frog voice)

We're going to get Miss Lily Pad's
ears pierced.

MITCHELL

I thought we discussed this.
Besides, you know what I think
babies with earrings look like.

CAMERON AND MITCHELL INTERVIEW

CAMERON

Prostitutes.

Mitchell opens his mouth to speak. Cameron holds up his finger.

CAMERON (CONT'D)
Wait. (Beat) Baby prostitutes.

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

CAMERON
(normal voice)
We did, but then Mister Frog and I talked it over and decided that Lily would look fabulous in earrings.

MITCHELL
Oh, really?

Mitchell spots a dog puppet on the floor. He puts it on his hand.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)
Well, Doggy and I talked it over and we think that she's too young to get them pierced.

CAMERON
You did not discuss that with him.

MITCHELL
Yes, I did. Isn't that right, Doggy?

Mitchell speaks through the puppet in his normal voice.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)
Yes, that's right.

CAMERON
You're not even doing a voice.

MITCHELL
(Scooby-Doo impression)
Re rid riscuss rit, and rou and Rister Rog are rot retting Riry's rears rierced.

CAMERON
(normal voice)
Was that your Scooby-Doo impression, or did you just have a stroke? (Beat) Seriously, I have no idea what you just said.

MITCHELL

I said we did discuss it, and you and Mister Frog are not getting Lily's ears pierced.

CAMERON

(frog voice)

We are, too. What's that, Mister Frog?

Cameron holds the puppet up to his ear.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

(normal voice)

Oh, he thinks you should find a doghouse to sleep in tonight.

MITCHELL

(normal voice)

Go swallow some flies.

Cameron gasps.

CAMERON

That is such a stereotype.

Mitchell tosses his puppet to the floor.

MITCHELL

We're not getting her ears pierced.
Discussion closed.

Mitchell grabs his briefcase off of a nearby chair. He picks up the red tie.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

Oh, and I'm wearing the red tie.

Mitchell exits the house, SLAMMING the door behind him. Cameron throws Mister Frog to the floor and storms out of the room. Lily sits on the floor, staring at the discarded frog. After a beat, Cameron rushes back into the room.

CAMERON

I'm still here.

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

Gloria stands at the kitchen table, sorting through bags of groceries. Manny enters the room. Gloria gestures to a gallon of milk and a carton of eggs on the table.

GLORIA
Can you put those away?

MANNY
I don't know. I might be too weak
to lift them.

GLORIA
What are you talking about?

MANNY
I just don't think I should pick up
any heavy objects right now.

GLORIA
What heavy objects? It's a carton
of milk and some eggs.

Gloria stops looking through the bags. She stares at Manny.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
What's wrong with you?

MANNY
Apparently, I'm not a man.

GLORIA
Who says you are not a man? Has
someone been teasing you? Tell me
who it is.

MANNY
It's you.

GLORIA
What?

MANNY
You challenged my integrity as a
man last night.

Gloria stares at Manny, confused.

MANNY (CONT'D)
The scary story?

GLORIA
But you hate scary things.

MANNY
That's not the point. You
challenged me at a public function
and made me look like a fool.

(MORE)

MANNY (CONT'D)

I just don't know if I'll be able
to bounce back from this.

GLORIA

Oh, my poor baby. I had no idea.
I'm so sorry.

Gloria rushes over to Manny and hugs him. She kisses him
several times.

MANNY

It's okay, I guess.

GLORIA

I love my tough little boy so much.

Jay enters.

JAY

Ugh, Gloria, please.

GLORIA

What? I'm just showing my baby how
much I love him.

JAY

Trust me, you're not doing him any
favors. I mean, between last night
and this, he's never going to learn
how to be tough.

MANNY

What's that supposed to mean?

JAY

Look, Manny, you're not a macho
guy. You're sensitive.

GLORIA

And what's wrong with that?

JAY

Girls don't want guys who can cry
with them. They want guys who can
save them from thieves and tigers.

Gloria hugs Manny tighter to her.

GLORIA

What tigers? He's not going to
fight any tigers.

JAY

Well, he's probably going to be eaten by them if you keep treating him like that.

Manny wiggles free of Gloria's hold and walks away from her.

MANNY

Thanks a lot.

Manny exits. Gloria storms over to Jay and pokes him in the chest.

GLORIA

Why would you say that to him?

JAY

What? He asked me a question, and I answered him honestly. You're always telling me I should be more honest.

GLORIA

That's great. The one time you listen to me, it bites me in the boobs.

JAY

I think you mean "butt."

GLORIA

What?

JAY

The phrase is, "It bites me in the butt."

GLORIA

Well, it doesn't matter, because you won't be seeing any of them tonight.

Gloria exits.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - ENTRANCE - AFTERNOON

Claire stands at the bottom of the stairs. She waits to leave the house, a purse slung over her shoulder. She stares at the top of the stairs.

CLAIRE

Alex, are you ready?

Phil enters.

PHIL

Where are you going?

CLAIRE

I told you last night that I had to drive Alex to a friend's sleep over party and that I was going to stay and help out for a little while.

PHIL

I don't think you did.

CLAIRE

I did. (Yelling) Alex, let's go!

ALEX (O.S.)

I'll be right there!

PHIL

Um, I'm pretty sure I'd remember if you told me that. I have a great memory.

CLAIRE

Phil, what's the difference? So you'll be home alone one night.

PHIL

Alone? What about Haley?

CLAIRE

She's out with Dylan tonight, remember?

PHIL

And Luke?

CLAIRE

Oh, I forgot about Luke.

Luke suddenly appears behind Claire.

LUKE

What?

Claire quickly tries to cover her tracks.

CLAIRE

I was...just telling your dad that I forgot how much you love to order pizza when I go out.

Claire quickly digs through her purse and takes out some money. She gives it to Luke.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Here's some money, and you can
order whatever you want.

LUKE
Can I order a light saber?

CLAIRE
I meant from the pizza place,
honey.

LUKE
Oh.

Claire turns her attention back to the top of the stairs.

CLAIRE
(yelling)
Alex!

Alex runs down the stairs.

ALEX
Okay, I'm ready.

CLAIRE
Great. (To Phil and Luke) Okay,
have a great night you guys. We'll
see you later.

Claire and Alex leave. Phil immediately locks the door. He turns to Luke.

PHIL
So, what type of pizza do you want
to order, buddy?

Someone tries to open the front door. After a beat, the person begins banging loudly on the door. Phil and Luke stare at it in horror.

CLAIRE (O.S.)
Phil, open the door! I forgot my
keys.

Phil quickly opens the door. Claire enters and grabs her keys off of a table. She waves.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Have fun!

Claire exits, and Phil locks the door again. He and Luke stare at each other nervously.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. SHOPPING MALL - AFTERNOON

Cameron approaches a small piercing booth with Lily in his arms. He approaches a GIRL in her teens.

GIRL
Can I help you?

CAMERON
Yes, I'm here to get a piercing for my baby.

GIRL
Where?

Cameron stares at her momentarily in disbelief before smiling.

CAMERON
Her ears.

GIRL
Okay. You can take a seat right there.

CAMERON
Thank you.

Cameron sits in a chair a few feet away from the Girl.

CAMERON (CONT'D)
Angry daddy thinks that he runs the house, but that's not true. Nice daddy gets to make decisions sometimes, too. Oh, you are going to look so adorable with a big pair of gold hoops on your ears.

A middle-aged woman, MRS. JONES, approaches the booth holding a baby, NANCY. Mrs. Jones has several piercings in her ears, lips, and nose, and her hair is several different unnatural colors. The baby has two piercings in each ear.

GIRL
Oh, hi, Mrs. Jones. I'll be with you in a few minutes. Nancy's here for another ear piercing, right?

Mrs. Jones nods.

GIRL (CONT'D)

You and Nancy can wait right there.

The Girl gestures to a chair next to Cameron and walks away. Mrs. Jones and Nancy sit. Cameron glances at the baby and then at Mrs. Jones.

CAMERON

She's getting a third ear piercing?

MRS. JONES

Yup! (To Nancy) Nancy just couldn't wait to get her cartilage pierced, no she couldn't!

CAMERON

I'm sorry, I don't mean to be rude, but...why?

MRS. JONES

Well, my mom took me to get my ears pierced for the first time when I was right around her age. After that, I just couldn't stop, I loved it so much! I thought that I should start her early.

The Girl approaches Cameron. She is holding a small metallic tool that resembles a torture device.

GIRL

Are you ready?

CAMERON

What is that?

GIRL

It's what we use to pierce ears. Here, you can hold onto these until I'm finished.

She hands Cameron a few band-aids.

CAMERON

Why do we need these?

GIRL

They're so she won't scratch at her ears and make them bleed.

Cameron's face drops. The Girl reaches for Lily. Cameron holds her away from the Girl.

CAMERON

Actually, I think we're going to hold off on this for now. Lily's suddenly not feeling well.

Cameron begins to leave, but then turns back to Nancy.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

Good luck.

Cameron rushes away from the booth with Lily in his arms. As he does so, he passes a small sandwich shop. Mitchell, who is sitting at a table eating in the corner, spots Cameron walking away from the booth. His mouth drops open in disbelief.

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

The front door, O.S., is heard opening and closing. Gloria closes the refrigerator door, a huge smile on her face. Manny enters, dropping his backpack on the counter. He is obviously still angry at Gloria.

GLORIA

Hello.

MANNY

Hi.

GLORIA

How was school?

MANNY

Educational. (Beat) Why are you so happy?

GLORIA

Well, I thought about what you said this morning, so while you were at school today I decided to set up a few surprises for you.

MANNY

Really?

GLORIA

Of course! I want you to know that I will always believe in you. Now, why don't you get yourself a glass of milk while I get you some cookies?

MANNY

Sure.

Manny opens the refrigerator door. INSANE LAUGHTER is suddenly audible as a balloon with a scary mask attached to it floats out of the refrigerator. Manny lets out a shriek as he slams the door shut. The laughing stops.

MANNY (CONT'D)

What was that?

GLORIA

You wanted to be scared, so I scared you. Surprise!

MANNY

That's not what I wanted.

GLORIA

Of course it is. You got mad when I wouldn't let you listen to Jay's scary story, so now I'm letting you be scared.

MANNY

That practically gave me a heart attack!

GLORIA

Oh, please. That was just a balloon with a mask on it. See, this is why I don't let you listen to Jay's scary stories. You scare too easily.

Manny stares at Gloria, hurt.

MANNY

I'm a man. I don't get scared. I get startled. There's a big difference.

Manny begins to exit and then stops.

MANNY (CONT'D)

I think I'll go in my room and work out for a little while.

Manny exits. Gloria throws her hands up in the air. After a beat, she slaps her forehead.

GLORIA

No, wait, don't go in there!

Manny, O.S., lets out a YELL of surprise. Gloria cringes and shakes her head.

MANNY (O.S.)
Did you decapitate my old stuffed
animals and stick their heads in my
bed?

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - NIGHT

Jay drives up to the house, a ladder attached to the roof of his car. He parks on the street. He gets out of the car and unties the ladder, carrying it over to the side of the house.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Phil and Luke watch a movie on the couch. They look jumpy, as though ready to run at the slightest provocation. A loud THUD is heard against the side of the house. They jump in surprise.

PHIL
What was that?

LUKE
I don't know. It's your house.
(Beat) Aren't you going to see what
it was?

Phil hesitates.

PHIL
I guess so.

Phil cautiously approaches the window and looks outside. He sees nothing.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Nothing's there.

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Phil stares out the window. Jay's ladder is propped up against the house a few feet to the right of the window, past Phil's line of sight.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Phil and Luke are motionless, listening for other noises. After a beat, FOOTSTEPS can be heard on the roof.

PHIL
Oh, my God. Get upstairs.

Phil and Luke rush to the stairs.

LUKE
Won't we just be closer to the
roof?

Phil suddenly stops. Luke crashes into him.

PHIL
You're right. Downstairs.

They start to run to the basement. Phil stops again at the top of the basement stairs. Luke crashes into him again.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Nope, no way to escape down there.
Back upstairs.

They start to run upstairs again.

PHIL (CONT'D)
(as they run)
And give me five feet of decision
room.

Luke moves slightly farther away from Phil. They stop running once they reach Phil's room. Phil slams the door behind them.

LUKE
You're really smart, dad. I never
would have thought of all that so
quickly.

PHIL
It's just logic, really.

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Jay walks along the roof as he begins to string up the Christmas lights. He gets closer and closer to the ladder until he accidentally hits it with his foot. It CRASHES to the ground. Jay stares at it.

JAY
That's great.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEEXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - NIGHT

Jay takes out his cell phone and dials a phone number. He waits for an answer as it rings.

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

Gloria sits on the couch watching television. The phone RINGS. She glances at the phone to see who is calling. She sees that it is Jay and decides to ignore it.

GLORIA

Probably calling to tell me he's bringing home a tiger.

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - NIGHT

Jay is still waiting for an answer. The answering machine picks up. He hangs up the phone.

JAY

So much for our little secret.

Jay dials another number.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

The phone RINGS ONCE before suddenly stopping. Phil and Luke, who are now huddled on the floor near the bed, stare at the phone nervously.

PHIL

Who do you think that was?

LUKE

I don't know. Mom tells me not to answer the phone.

PHIL

Well, she tells me the same thing.

LUKE

When the phone rings in movies and then stops, it usually means someone's going to die soon.

PHIL

Thanks for that information.

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - NIGHT

Jay's phone suddenly stops ringing. He looks at it and sees that the battery has died.

JAY

Stupid piece of junk.

Jay puts the phone back into his pocket. He SIGHS as he stares at the road.

INT. CAMERON & MITCHELL'S DUPLEX - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Cameron sits at the kitchen table feeding Lily, who sits in a high chair. She wears a large pink hat that covers practically her whole head, including her ears. The front door, O.S., is heard opening and closing. Mitchell enters the kitchen. Cameron obviously hears Mitchell, but ignores him.

MITCHELL

Hi.

CAMERON

Hello, Mitchell.

MITCHELL

Listen, Cameron, about our argument this morning - I'm really sorry.

Cameron freezes for a beat before putting down Lily's food. He turns to face Mitchell.

CAMERON

What?

MITCHELL

Yeah. I mean, I'm still not crazy about getting Lily's ears pierced, but I trust you and if you think she'll look great, then she will.

CAMERON

That's nice of you to say.

MITCHELL

I mean it.

CAMERON

Well, I've given this some thought, too, and I really don't want to do anything that will make you unhappy.

MITCHELL

Seriously, it's okay. As a matter of fact, let's take her right now.

CAMERON

Oh, that's not necessary.

MITCHELL

I'm letting you win. Why are you fighting me on this? Is it possibly because you already took Lily to get her ears pierced today? Aha!

Mitchell whips off Lily's hat in a grand gesture.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

Aha!

Mitchell stares at Lily's ears and is dumbfounded when he sees no earrings on them.

CAMERON

Good job, Mitchell. You found the baby.

MITCHELL

What happened? I saw you at the mall today leaving the ear piercing booth during my lunch break.

Cameron SIGHS.

CAMERON

Mitchell, you were right. It was horrible. There was a teenage girl holding a torture device and a mother with rainbow hair and fifty piercings and her baby daughter was getting its third piercing.

MITCHELL

Are you sure you didn't accidentally walk into a strip club?

CAMERON

I just don't want Lily to look like a biker.

Mitchell thinks for a beat.

MITCHELL

You know, they do make stickers that look like earrings. You can put them on and take them off whenever you want. It's totally pain-free.

CAMERON

Really?

MITCHELL

They would look really great on Lily.

CAMERON

Please, she's our baby. She looks great in whatever she wears. I'll go on the computer and see if I can order some.

Cameron exits. After a beat, he sticks his head back into the room.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

And by the way, Mr. Frog is crazy. That shirt looks great on you.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Phil and Luke still sit on the floor.

LUKE

Do you think it's safe to leave yet?

PHIL

I don't know. Whatever is out there might just be trying to lull us into a false sense of security.

Suddenly, there are several LOUD THUMPS on the roof. Phil and Luke stare at the ceiling in terror.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Yup, just what I thought: it's still there.

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - NIGHT

Jay jumps up and down on the roof several times in an effort to get Phil's attention. After a few moments he gets onto his hands and knees and smacks it with his hands.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The THUMPING can still be heard on the roof.

LUKE
What do you think it is?

PHIL
A burglar.

Luke looks terrified. Phil sees this.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Or the wind. Probably the wind,
though.

LUKE
Maybe it's a bird.

PHIL
Or a cat. I read that some cats
can jump really high.

There is silence for a few beats. The noise on the roof has stopped.

LUKE
It might be a werewolf.

PHIL
There's no such thing as
werewolves.

Phil looks out the window and glances at the moon.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Besides, there's no full moon
tonight.

LUKE
Yeah, but Halloween was yesterday.
They don't need a full moon to
change into werewolves when it's
close to Halloween.

PHIL
Wow, I didn't know that. (Beat)
Maybe it's a vampire.

LUKE
Maybe it's a werewolf and a
vampire, and they're fighting each
other.

PHIL
That would be awesome.

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

Gloria sits at the kitchen table. She stares at a spider as it walks along the table. She picks up a newspaper to smack it. She hesitates.

GLORIA
(loudly)
Oh, no, a spider. I need someone who is tough and strong to get rid of it for me.

She waits a few moments.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
(louder)
Oh, no, it's a large spider.

She waits again.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
(yelling)
Manny, get down here and kill this spider.

Manny enters.

MANNY
What are you yelling about?

Gloria holds the newspaper out to Manny.

GLORIA
I need you to kill this spider for me.

MANNY
But you love killing spiders.

GLORIA
When have I ever said that?

MANNY
You didn't have to say it.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

Gloria stares at a spider as it crawls along the wall. She suddenly takes off one of her shoes and smacks it.

She stares at it on the shoe and LAUGHS loudly. Manny stares at her from the doorway, terrified.

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

GLORIA

Well, now I don't like them. Here, kill it.

Gloria shoves the newspaper into Manny's hands. Manny stares at the spider for a beat before whacking it with the newspaper. Gloria grabs the newspaper and hugs Manny.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Oh, you did it! My little boy is so tough. I love you so much.

Gloria releases Manny.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

I mean, you're a very brave man. Thank you.

Gloria shakes Manny's hand. He smiles.

MANNY

You're welcome. Do you need me to do anything else?

GLORIA

That's it for now, but if I think of something I'll let you know.

MANNY

Okay. I'll be in my room if you need me.

Manny leaves the room. Gloria smiles. After a beat, she spots the spider still walking on the table. She smacks the spider with the newspaper.

GLORIA

Die!

Gloria looks at the dead spider on the newspaper. She LAUGHS as she throws it into the garbage.

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - NIGHT

Jay is still sitting on the roof. He is shivering from the cold. Claire drives up to the house. She gets out of the car. Jay spots her.

JAY
 (yelling)
 Claire!

Claire looks around her. She does not see anyone and keeps walking.

JAY (CONT'D)
 (louder)
 Claire!

Claire stops walking and looks around again. She sees nothing. Jay waves his arms.

JAY (CONT'D)
 Up here!

Claire looks up and sees Jay.

CLAIRE
 Dad? What are you doing up there?

JAY
 I'm trying to turn into an icicle.
 What does it look like I'm doing?
 I came to hang up the Christmas
 lights and the ladder fell.

CLAIRE
 Why didn't you call someone to help
 you?

JAY
 My stupid battery died. I tried
 getting your husband's attention,
 but he seems to have suddenly gone
 deaf.

CLAIRE
 Just hold on, I'll be right there.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Claire and Jay enter the house.

CLAIRE
 Phil? Luke?

PHIL (O.S.)
 Claire?

CLAIRE
 It's me. Where are you?

Phil and Luke rush down the stairs. They both hug Claire tightly before quickly releasing her.

LUKE
Mom, you should have been here.

PHIL
It was awesome.

LUKE
Dad was so brave.

PHIL
I was just okay.

LUKE
He saved our lives.

CLAIRE
Wait. What are you talking about?

LUKE
There was something on the roof,
and dad saved us from it.

JAY
Something on the roof, huh? How
did he save you?

LUKE
He found us a really good place to
hide.

PHIL
Well, it was more than that. I
made sure that the area was secure.

JAY
(sarcastically)
Wow. Great job, Phil.

Claire glares at Jay and rubs Phil's back.

CLAIRE
I'm so proud of you, honey.

Jay hesitates and then SIGHS.

JAY
It sounds like you did the right
thing.

Phil beams.

PHIL
Thanks, Jay.

JAY INTERVIEW

JAY
I'm not stupid. I know that Phil
gets scared really easily,...

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Luke gestures wildly as he wildly exaggerates telling the story of what happened that night to Claire and Jay.

JAY (CONT'D - O.S.)
...and that he was terrified to
leave his house when he heard me on
the roof.

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

Gloria attempts to open a new jar as Manny searches the refrigerator. She opens the jar, but immediately places the lid back onto it. She hands the jar to Manny. He opens it easily, and they both smile as he hands it back to her.

JAY (CONT'D - O.S.)
Sure, I could have called him out
on that.

INT. CAMERON & MITCHELL'S DUPLEX - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Cameron sits at the computer. Mitchell stands behind him, Lily in his arms. Mitchell points out the earrings to Lily.

JAY (CONT'D - O.S.)
I guess that sometimes, though,
it's not about what you want. It's
about what the other person needs.

JAY INTERVIEW - CONTINUOUS

JAY (CONT'D)
At least, that's what Claire told
me as she helped me get off the
roof.
(MORE)

JAY (CONT'D)

(Beat) To be honest I would have said something, but Claire threatened to leave me on the roof unless I agreed to keep my mouth shut.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

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

Cameron, Mitchell, and Lily sit on the floor. Mitchell has the dog puppet on his hand.

MITCHELL
(really deep voice)
I love you, Miss Lily.

CAMERON
Oh, thank you, Doggy. It's funny,
I had no idea you were related to
Jabba the Hutt. Try again.

MITCHELL
(creepy, high-pitched voice)
I love you, Miss Lily.

CAMERON
Now you sound like a gay serial
killer.

Mitchell stares at Cameron, offended.

CAMERON (CONT'D)
You know what? Do whatever you
think is best. (Beat) I'm not sure
that we really want to take Doggy
down such a dark road, but whatever
you want.

END OF TAG