

# modern family

**MODERN FAMILY**

"Catch the Cat"

Written by

Tyler Chatham

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CAST

JAY PRITCHETT.....ED O'NEILL  
GLORIA PRITCHETT.....SOFIA VERGARA  
PHIL DUNPHY.....TY BURRELL  
CLAIRE DUNPHY.....JULIE BOWEN  
MITCHELL PRITCHETT.....JESSE TYLER FERGUSON  
CAMERON TUCKER.....ERIC STONESTREET  
HALEY DUNPHY.....SARAH HYLAND  
ALEX DUNPHY.....ARIEL WINTER  
LUKE DUNPHY.....NOLAN GOULD  
MANNY DELGADO.....RICO RODRIGUEZ

ACT ONE

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - HALEY'S ROOM - DAY

Phil balances awkwardly on a chair while mounting a large, framed painting. Haley is lost in her phone.

PHIL  
How's this?

Haley doesn't hear him. Phil is in pain.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
Haley, honey, are you there?

Alex enters and puts her hand over Haley's phone, breaking the trance.

ALEX  
Can you pick my cat up from the vet today? I have to take an online exam.

HALEY  
Can't. I'm promoting this new club downtown.

HALEY INTERVIEW

Haley holds up a flyer for the club.

HALEY  
Silently Sauced. It's a new *quiet club* where people duct tape their mouths shut. It's cool, cause you have to communicate without words.  
(a beat)  
They struggle with drink sales.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - HALEY'S ROOM - DAY

Alex takes her hand away from the phone. Haley is 'gone' again.

ALEX  
Dad, can you pick my cat up?

Phil's look of pain turns into a look of fear.

PHIL INTERVIEW

PHIL  
I have a...  
(beat)  
(MORE)

PHIL (CONT'D)

*History*, with cats. I don't know what it is, they just don't like me. I think it stems from when I was six.

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - DAY

Phil, in a suit and tie, walks to his car carrying a briefcase and a cup of coffee. Outta nowhere, a cat pounces him.

PHIL (O.S.)

We had a cat and one day I caught it drinking the milk in my cereal.

INT. RANDOM HOUSE - BIRTHDAY PARTY - DAY

Phil is among the adults and children huddling around an 8-year-old. The boy is given a kitten with a bow around it's neck.

PHIL (O.S.)

To punish it, I left it outside.

The kitten leaps out of the boy's hands and pounces Phil.

INT. MOVIE THEATER

Phil enjoys popcorn in a dark, somewhat empty movie theater.

PHIL (O.S.)

Shortly after I let it out, the cat was hit by a car.

Outta nowhere, a cat pounces Phil.

PHIL INTERVIEW

PHIL

The car then swerved into a PetCo.  
(a beat)  
Fourteen cats. Ever since then, they've had it out for me.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - HALEY'S ROOM

PHIL

Sure, Alex. I'd love to pick it up.

ALEX

Thanks, Dad!

PHIL  
Wait! Real quick, does this look  
straight to you?

ALEX  
Yeah, it looks fine.

Phil lets go of the painting, gets off the chair and takes a  
step back to check it out.

PHIL  
Voila!

The painting drops to the floor, taking the nail with it. The  
nail rips a large slit down the wall. Phil looks at Haley,  
she's still on her phone.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
I'll get another nail.

INT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S CONDO - DAY

MITCHELL  
Cam! Hurry up, Lily is already in  
the car.

Cameron enters the living room wearing a Native American  
chief outfit.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)  
No.

CAMERON  
You're right. I should've gone with  
Sacagawea.

Cameron retreats back into the room.

MITCHELL & CAMERON'S INTERVIEW

CAMERON  
We're enrolling Lily in Indian  
Prince-

MITCHELL  
*Native American Princesses.*

Cameron rolls his eyes.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)  
It's offensive.

CAMERON

Anyways! The first father-daughter campout is this weekend.

MITCHELL

I'm excited to finally get away from the world and spend some time with my daughter.

CAMERON

And I'm excited to pass on my survival skills.

MITCHELL

We're staying in air conditioned cabins. What are you going to survive, a high electric bill?

CAMERON

Coming from the man who licks batteries.

MITCHELL

It's a thing! How else do you check the charge?

CAMERON

They're like fifty cents, Mitchell.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Gloria organizes chairs in a semi circle in front of the TV. Jay flips through the channels. Manny enters taking selfies.

JAY

What the hell are you making that face for? Is something wrong?

MANNY

I'm snapchatting Amy.

JAY

What's snapchatting?

MANNY

You send pictures that are deleted a couple seconds after they're viewed.

JAY

That's dumb. You should have to live with the consequences when you send something stupid.

GLORIA

I think it is romantic. Like when people write S.O.S. in the sand and then the water washes it away.

Jay gives a concerned look, but brushes it off.

JAY

Do you know what channel it's on?

GLORIA

Just start from the beginning and flick up the channels.

JAY

They're going to be here any minute now! And where are the Combos?

GLORIA

They didn't have Combos, so I bought pretzels and wrapped them in cheese.

There's a platter of thick pretzel logs wrapped in Kraft cheese slices.

JAY

Put those in the trash before someone sees them.

JAY & GLORIA INTERVIEW

GLORIA

Jay is having some of his buddies over for the golf masters.

JAY

Every year we vote, Olympic committee style, to see who hosts the group.

GLORIA

Jay bought a new TV so that they would come here.

JAY

That's not *why* I bought the TV.  
(a beat)  
It's one of those curved ones though. 4K. 70 inches. 120 Motion-

CUT TO:

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Gloria dumps the cheese pretzels into the trash. The doorbell rings. Jay skips over to the door.

JAY

Coming!

Jay opens the door. Eight men around his age wait in a line outside. They're each carrying a six pack of beer. Gordon, a man in his 60s with a sharp, white goatee, leads the group.

JAY (CONT'D)

Coach!

GORDON

Coach! How the hell've you been?!

JAY

Get your ass in here and pop open a cold one.

COACH #1

(to Jay)

What's good, coach?!

COACH #2

(to Jay)

Coach, you gonna let us in or leave us out in the cold?

COACH K

I brought the Combos!

Gloria gives the camera a confused look.

COACHES INTERVIEW

The coaches squish together on the tiny couch.

GORDON

PeeWee Football '96 to 2002.

COACH #1

Little League Baseball '98 to '08.

COACH #2

Youth basketball '04 to '06.

COACH #3

Diving '02 to current.

COACH #4

Football, flag, '99 to 2011.



COACH #5  
Tennis 2000 to '09.

COACH K  
Duke basketball, 1980 to current.

COACH #6  
Two games of little league baseball  
in '03 when Coach Leukert went to  
Orlando.

INT. CLAIRE'S OFFICE - DAY

Ben works on Claire's computer over her shoulder.

CLAIRE  
And this shows me where Luke's  
phone is at all times?

BEN  
Yup! You think he's going to strip  
clubs or something?

CLAIRE  
He's been getting home late from  
school everyday.

BEN  
Probably taking advantage of the  
wing specials at The Cubby Hole.

CLAIRE  
I knew something was up when he  
said he was staying late to *study*.

Claire looks at a map with a blinking dot on the computer.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
I knew it! He's seeing a girl. You  
know I found SCRATCH marks on his  
back?

Claire grabs her phone and starts dialing.

INT. VET'S OFFICE - BACK ROOM - DAY

Cats are playing on Luke's back. His phone rings.

LUKE  
Hello?  
(then)  
I'm, uh, watching the baseball  
game.  
(then)  
(MORE)

LUKE (CONT'D)

You don't have to do that.

(then)

No, really, you'd be bored.

(then)

Ok! See you soon!

Luke scrambles to put the cats back in their cages. He can't figure out which cat goes where. He starts shoving the cats in the closest kennels.

LUKE INTERVIEW

LUKE

After failing to find a place that would pay me to volunteer, I decided to get my service hours at the vet's office. The problem is I lied to my parents earlier this year and said I already did my service hours. They bought me these shoes as a reward.

(a beat, whispers)

They're blood sneakers.

INT. VET'S OFFICE - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

The Vet's office is next to the pier. It overlooks the ocean. Luke pulls out of the parking lot as Phil pulls in. The two don't notice each other.

INT. VET'S OFFICE - RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

Phil walks up to the receptionist.

PHIL

Hey, I'm here to pick up my daughter's cat.

RECEPTIONIST

Name?

PHIL

Phil.

RECEPTIONIST

The cat's name.

PHIL

Oh! I'm actually not sure.

RECEPTIONIST

What does it look like?

PHIL  
Um. Well, it's a cat-

A beat.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry.

RECEPTIONIST  
What's your last name?

PHIL  
Dunphy.

RECEPTIONIST  
Ok, I'll be right back.

PHIL  
Purrrr-fect.

The receptionist gives Phil a disgusted look.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
I'll just wait over here.

INT. NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM - LOBBY - DAY

Cameron, Mitchell and Lily are at the registration booth.  
Cameron is in his Sacagawea costume.

LILY  
You're the only one dressed up.

CAMERON  
I'm also the only one who could get  
you out of a BEAR TRAP.

NAP EMPLOYEE  
Alright, and which of you is the  
father?

CAMERON  
We both are.

MITCHELL  
Despite one of us looking like  
Pocahontas.

CAMERON  
Sacagawea.  
(whispers)  
Who's being offensive now?

NAP EMPLOYEE

Which one of you will be going on the trip?

MITCHELL

One?

NAP EMPLOYEE

Only one father per father/daughter duo may attend.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Jay and his friends watch golf. Manny sits with them, taking selfies. He makes a sad face for a couple of seconds and then goes back to smiling.

JAY

What was that? You ok?

MANNY

Yeah, I'm fine. Amy's Netflix isn't working.

GORDON

I watch Netflix with Penelope all the time.

JAY

Coach, you said you didn't like Netflix.

COACH #4

I just don't understand how it works.

COACH #1

Come on, coach! New TVs come with all those movies in them.

COACH K

You gotta pay the Netflix to unlock them.

The coaches all nod in agreement. Gloria enters with sandwiches. She freezes.

GLORIA

Jay, you weren't sitting in that seat before.

JAY

We switch seats after every hole. Just another one of our traditions.

GLORIA

Wonderful. Who ordered the turkey  
and swiss?

JAY

Turkey swiss? That was coach.

Gloria walks in front of the semi circle of coaches, eyeing  
all of them, searching for the answer. She holds the plate  
out in front of no one in particular.

GLORIA

Here you go, coach.

A beat.

COACH K

Jeez, gonna make me get up, aren't  
ya?

They all chuckle as he grabs the sandwich. Gloria extends  
another sandwich.

GLORIA

Ham and cheddar... for you, coach.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

Alex is on her computer. The proctor is seen on her screen  
watching her as she takes an exam. Phil enters carrying a  
violently shaking kennel.

PHIL

Hey Al-

He catches himself.

PHIL (CONT'D)

(mouthing silently)

Got the cat!

Alex's eyes widen. She grabs a piece of paper and scribbles  
on it. Phil puts the cat down and reads it. The paper reads  
"WRONG CAT." Phil looks back, the cage is open and the cat is  
gone.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Cra-

He catches himself. He scribbles on the paper and slides it  
to Alex. It reads "CRAP." Alex rolls her eyes.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM - DAY

The fathers and daughters sit criss-cross-applesauce on the floor in front of a presenter.

PRESENTER

The Tongva have inhabited the land for more than 10,000 years!

CAMERON

(whispering to Mitchell)  
We'll go through orientation and then let Lily decide who goes.

MITCHELL

(whispering to Cameron)  
That seems like the fairest way.

PRESENTER

And I know what you're thinking:  
"Howgh" did they survive so long.

Crickets.

MITCHELL

(to Lily)  
Do you think daddy will wear that costume the whole trip if he goes?

Cameron glares at Mitchell.

CAMERON

(to Lily)  
Did you know daddy doesn't know the difference between spring and purified water?

MITCHELL

They taste the same!

CAMERON

You think Bill Paxton and Dennis Quaid are the same!

MITCHELL

OK! Sorry I didn't know Dennis Quaid was in Apollo 13!

CAMERON

That's Paxton!

The entire room is staring at them.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

So the Toga-

MITCHELL

Tongva.

CAMERON

Tongva tribe?

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

Gloria stands in front of 9 different six packs. She checks to see that no one is looking. She pours random beers into solo cups.

GLORIA INTERVIEW

GLORIA

I don't know who is who! They are all coach! It's like I'm back in Columbia. Everyone is Juan Carlos! And Jay is of no help. I feel like the target in Tejo.

(a beat)

Tejo is a Colombian sport where you throw things at another thing. We are a simple people.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Gloria nervously hands them all beers. They grab the beers with their eyes glued to the TV. They simultaneously take a sip as Gloria cringes.

Nothing. They all seem to be happy with their beers.

GLORIA INTERVIEW

GLORIA

Lucky for me, all beer taste the same. No matter what men say.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Luke is one of 10 people sitting in the bleachers. He calls his mom.

LUKE

Where are you?

INT. CLAIRE'S OFFICE - DAY

Claire is on the phone, smiling.

CLAIRE  
Oh, sorry I didn't say anything.  
Something came up.

SPLIT-SCREEN OR INTERCUT AS NEEDED

LUKE  
I've been waiting here for over an  
hour.

CLAIRE  
But you were watching the game  
anyway, right?

LUKE  
Right. Which is why I'm not mad.  
Ok. See you at home. Bye!

Luke hangs up on Claire.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Phil slowly walks through a poorly lit garage.

PHIL  
Here kitty, kitty, kitty.

The faint, eery sound of wind chimes can be heard.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
Here kitty, kitty, kitty.

The cat's tail can be seen dangling behind him. A shadow of the cat's swinging tail is cast on the wall in front of Phil.

Phil turns around. The cat hisses and Phil screams. The cat launches at him.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

We see what the proctor sees on Alex's computer screen. An uneasy Alex is taking her exam. Phil is seen wrestling with a cat in the background. The cat is strapped to Phil's face like the facehugger from *Alien*.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Gloria hands the coaches another round. She calls them all coach as she hands them a beer. One chair is empty.

GLORIA  
Where is  
(a beat)  
Coach?



JAY  
He's takin' a squirt.

GORDON  
(drunk)  
Jay, your wife is so cool. She remembers me of Penelope.

Jay gives Gordon a suspicious look.

JAY  
Remembers? You good, coach?

GORDON  
I'm so more than good. If good was quanti-ta-table, I would have all the good. Why?

JAY  
I just didn't know you started drinking again.

GORDON  
Nah, no drinking for me, coach. I brought non-alcoholic.

Jay and Gloria share a worried look. Coach #1 enters.

COACH #1  
It's the weirdest thing. I'm on my sixth beer, and I'm not feelin' anything.

Manny takes a selfie with a huge smile and a thumbs up. Jay shoots him a look.

MANNY  
She got her Netflix working again.

INT. NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM - CRAFTING ROOM - DAY

The group sits around a large, round table. They pass around a giant spear with feathers in it.

PRESENTER  
As you add your feather to the spear, think about what it means to be a part of a tribe.

CAMERON  
I will.

MITCHELL  
Woah, you're adding the feather?!

CAMERON

I'm done playing the 'appease Mitchell game.'

MITCHELL

I am beyond over your smug assumption that you're the one going on the trip!

CAMERON

Oh, really? Well assumption this.

Cameron grabs the spear from the person next to him and attempts to insert the feather. Mitchell grabs one end of the spear and they fight over it.

MITCHELL

I'm done being the boring dad! I need to show Lily that I'm fun too!

CAMERON

She *needs* to learn to protect herself from wolverines!

MITCHELL

It's a safe campsite! There are no wolverines, Cam!

CAMERON

No place is safe from Wolverines!

The spear snaps. The momentum of the snap forces Mitchell to fall back. Mitchell, having the pointed end of the spear, accidentally shoves the spear through a display case.

The display case and an ancient vase both shatter. The room gasps. Cameron tries to sneak out.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

(quietly to Mitchell)

I don't think I wanna go anymore.

INT. PHIL'S CAR - DAY

Phil drives with claw marks all over his face. The cat is screaming in the trunk.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

We're really sorry about the mishap, Mr. Dunphy.

PHIL

Mishap?! This is a cat-tastrophe.  
And don't be fooled by my humor, I  
can't turn it off. I am very much  
upset! I almost lost my face!

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

Again, we're really sorry.

PHIL

I suffer because some idiot put the  
cat in the wrong cage. What kind of  
people are you hiring?!

INT. CLAIRE'S OFFICE - DAY

Claire is working on her computer when she hears a ping. She  
pulls up the map and Luke is on the move again.

CLAIRE

And they wonder why I drink.

Claire grabs her keys and purse and storms out.

EXT. VET'S OFFICE - PARKING LOT - DAY

Phil parks his car and walks to the trunk. He opens the trunk  
to find an empty cage. The cat is perched on the back seat.

PHIL

No! Get away from there, you bitch!

The cat lunges at Phil. Phil ducks.

The cat sprints past Phil towards the water. Phil reaches  
after it.

PHIL (CONT'D)

No!

The cat tries to stop itself on the boardwalk, but slides  
instead. The cat glides into the ocean.

Phil looks around for witnesses. No one saw.

EXT. VET'S OFFICE - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Phil is seen on the edge of the pier in the distance. He  
ensures no one is near and throws the cage into the ocean.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Gordon sits in a chair with the coaches surrounding him.

JAY  
You're gonna be fine, coach.

GORDON  
Ten years. Ten years down the...

A beat.

JAY  
Drain?

COACH #1  
Chute.

COACH K  
Toilet.

COACH #2  
Tubes.

GORDON  
Tubes.

COACH K  
(to Coach #2)  
Nice, coach.

JAY  
Gloria! How could ya let this happen?!

GLORIA  
Don't blame me, Jay! You are the one who threw me to the jaguars!

JAY  
This is my fault?!

COACH #1  
[Expletive beep], we're out of combos.

GLORIA  
You didn't introduce me! I know none of their names, so I have to listen to content clues. But you are all *coach*!

JAY  
That's ridiculous-

GLORIA  
(mocking)  
Hey *coach*. Can you get this *coach*.  
Anything for you *coach*. Your wife  
is so hot *coach*.

COACH K  
You heard that?

GLORIA  
I bet you don't even know each  
others' names!

JAY  
Of course we do!

GLORIA  
Prove it!

JAY  
Fine. This is- Luke.

COACH #1  
It's Marcus.

JAY  
Right! You're Luke.

COACH #2  
Steve.

JAY  
Luke?

COACH K  
My name actually *is* coach.

Gloria gives a smug smile.

GLORIA  
I'll be in the kitchen. Let me know  
if you need anything, *coach*.

EXT. VET'S OFFICE - PARKING LOT - DAY

Phil is seen walking in the distance. Luke pulls into the  
parking lot.

INT. VET'S OFFICE - RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

Luke enters the Vet's Office and is surprised to see Claire waiting for him. Claire glares at him in silence.

LUKE

Wait a second. This isn't the library!

INT. NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM - LOBBY

Cameron and Mitchell stand in the lobby. They argue in front of the NAP employee.

MITCHELL

You think I'm no fun, is that it?

CAMERON

Oh Mitchell, I *know* you're no fun.

MITCHELL

Why? Because I won't go on the trip dressed as *Squanto*?!

NAP EMPLOYEE

Squanto actually resided on the East coast, in the Cape-

CAMERON

Time and place, sweetheart.

(to Mitch)

I'm just saying there are certain parental duties you're best-

MITCHELL

I'm best at all the mean, disciplinary duties and you're good at the fun ones, is that it?

CAMERON

I think I'm good at *all* duties, but if you wanna get specific-

MITCHELL

It's not fair. You know how hard it is *knowing* Lily sees me as the "serious" parent?

CAMERON

Oh.

MITCHELL

I thought this trip would change that.

A beat.

CAMERON

I'm sorry. If I had known you felt that strongly about it, I wouldn't have been such a Mariah.

MITCHELL

It doesn't matter now that we're banned from the organization.

CAMERON

You think it had to do with us being-

MITCHELL

Gay?

CAMERON

Yes.

MITCHELL

One hundred percent.

CAMERON

The spear in the vase might've had a little something-

MITCHELL

Mhm.

Lily enters.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

We're so sorry we embarrassed you, Lily.

CAMERON

If you still want to go, we can ask one of the other fathers to take you.

LILY

I don't want to go.

MITCHELL

What?

LILY

I don't wanna go. Not if you guys aren't going.

MITCHELL

Aww.

CAMERON

Aww.

NAP EMPLOYEE

If you guys aren't going on the trip, I'm going to have to ask you to leave.

MITCHELL

Oh, give me a break-

Mitchell looks closely at the employee's nametag.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

Minerva. Oh my god I love your name.

CAMERON

Is that Roman?

INT. VET'S OFFICE - RECEPTION - DAY

Luke sulks in a chair. Claire stands over him with her hands on her hips.

CLAIRE

Explain.

LUKE

I lied about my service hours. I never actually did them.

CLAIRE

Service hours? My son is sneaking around my back to do service hours?

LUKE

What'd you think I was doing?

CLAIRE

I thought- this. I knew this was what you were doing because I am a mother and you can hide nothing from a mother.

LUKE

I knew it! You did put a tracking device in my body when I was a baby!

CLAIRE

Uh- Yup, that's exactly it. But wait, we bought you those sneakers.

LUKE

I know! That's why I've been lying.



CLAIRE

Wait till your father hears about this.

Phil enters, trying to play it cool. He is not cool.

PHIL

Hey- family! My family is here!

CLAIRE

Phil?!

PHIL

So glad you guys are here.

RECEPTIONIST

Mr. Dunphy! Where's the cat?

PHIL

You know, the funniest thing happened. I actually fell in love with the little guy. Decided to keep him. So I'll just grab Alex's cat and be on my way.

RECEPTIONIST

Mr. Dunphy.

PHIL

I killed it. It killed itself. I assisted in its suicide.

The receptionist sighs and picks up the phone.

PHIL (CONT'D)

You're calling the police?! It was an accident! You gotta be kitten me. Now's not the time, Phil!

RECEPTIONIST

I'm calling the owner. You're going to explain what happened. Unless you want me to call the police.

PHIL

(to Claire and Luke)  
You guys can go.

CLAIRE

I think we'll stay.

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

Gloria cleans the kitchen. Jay enters.

JAY

We finally got him to calm down.

GLORIA

Who? Coach?

JAY

Gordon. Coach Gordon.

(a beat)

Gloria, I should've taken the time to make sure you were... comfortable. I guess I got caught up in the excitement of hanging with my old friends.

GLORIA

Jay. You can get excited. I'm happy you get to hang out with your friends. All I want is for my husband to think about me every once and a while.

JAY

Wow. Well, that was easy. I thought you'd be more angry with me.

GLORIA

I'm not as high maintenance as you think.

GLORIA INTERVIEW

GLORIA

I'll yell at him when his friends leave.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

JAY

You sure you're good to drive?

GORDON

There's nothing more sobering than finding out you're no longer sober.

GLORIA

Again, I can't say sorry enough.

GORDON

Look coach's wife, sometimes you're having a great career as a catcher and then Pete Rose comes barreling down the third base line in the 1970 All Star game.

(MORE)

GORDON (CONT'D)

(a beat)

You Pete Rosed me.

Gordon starts crying.

GORDON (CONT'D)

But hey. It can happen to anyone,  
right?

COACH #1

What about Adam Greenberg.

COACH #2

Oh, yeah, that was bad.

GORDON

I just wanna get home to Penelope.  
She'll get me through this.

COACH #1

First plate appearance.

COACH #2

First pitch.

COACH #1

Compound skull fracture.

COACH #2

Right to the head.

COACH #1

What can ya do?

INT. VET'S OFFICE - RECEPTION - DAY

PHIL

(to Receptionist)

What's the cat's name?

RECEPTIONIST

Penelope.

Phil takes a deep breath. He notices Claire and Luke staring at him. He gives them a nervous smile and a thumbs up.

PHIL

Hey is this- Gordon?

(then)

This is Phil Du- D'Angelo.

(then)

How are you today?

(then)

How about this rain? Huh?

(MORE)

PHIL (CONT'D)

Makes you wonder why they call it  
the city of flowers and sunshine.

(then)

I'm pretty sure some people call it  
that.

Well, I'm actually calling to talk  
about your beautiful Penelope.

(then)

She's dead. She ran into the ocean  
and drowned. Probably drowned. I'm  
not sure, but if I were a betting  
man-

A beat.

CLAIRE

Did he hang up?!

PHIL

No, he's screaming. Or crying. I'm  
not sure, it's hard to tell.

(then)

He just told me to go... funkybunch  
myself.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - MOMENT LATER

Gordon can be heard screaming outside.

GLORIA

What?! I thought he was ok?!

JAY

Some jackass killed his cat.

GLORIA

No! That's terrible!

COACH #2

You know he never took the field?

COACH K

Greenberg?

COACH #1

Yeah.

COACH K

Shame.

COACH #2

What can ya do?

Manny sulks in.

GLORIA  
What's wrong with you?

MANNY  
She opened the snap. 45 minutes ago. No reply.

GLORIA  
Ay, Manny, I'm sorry.

MANNY  
Swing and a miss boys. Swing and a miss.

PHIL & CLAIRE INTERVIEW

PHIL  
Communication is key. Poor communication can lead to missteps and mistakes. I think we both learned that today.

CLAIRE  
You killed a cat.

PHIL  
Well you thought Luke was seeing a girl!

CLAIRE  
You killed. A. Cat.

PHIL  
(defeated)  
I know.

EXT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Mitchell, Cameron and Lily sit near a tent in the backyard. There is a small fire.

PHIL (O.S.)  
But it's how you recover from those mistakes that matters. Make the best of bad situations.

Cameron sneaks a package of sparklers to Mitchell. Mitchell hands them to Lily as if they were his idea all along.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Gloria lays in bed. Jay brings her a platter of cheese and pretzels.

PHIL (O.S.)  
And even if you screw up. As long  
as you try your best, people will  
understand.

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

Manny lays in bed staring at the ceiling. He gets a Snapchat notification.

PHIL (O.S.)  
Failure is a part of life.

Manny opens Snapchat. The snap is from Haley. She has duct tape over her mouth. She turns the camera to two people "making out." They both have duct tape over their mouths.

PHIL & CLAIRE INTERVIEW

PHIL  
I fail all the time. And I'm still  
standing.

CLAIRE  
You murdered a cat.

PHIL  
I know Ca-Laire!

END OF ACT THREE

EPILOGUEEXT. GORDON'S HOUSE - DAY

Phil sneaks up to Gordon's front door carrying a box. Small meows can be heard. He places the box on the doorstep, rings the doorbell and runs.

Phil hides behind a bush across the street as Gordon opens the door. The box says "PENELOPE 2.0." Gordon looks around, picks the box up and smiles.

Phil smiles too. Outta nowhere, he hears hissing. It's Penelope!

PHIL

Penelope! I thought I killed you.

The cat hisses, slowly crawling towards him.

PHIL (CONT'D)

My god. They *do* have nine lives.

Penelope springs onto Phil's face as he screams.

END OF SHOW