

Breaking Strings
A Modern Family Spec

by
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PREVIOUSLY ON MODERN FAMILY:

This episode spec, *Breaking Strings*, rests in between episodes 7 & 8 of the third season. Phil has taken Haley to visit his Alma mater but it is doubtful that she may ever attend college.

COLD OPEN

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

Manny plays a video game. Gloria enters.

GLORIA

Papi, come with me to the farmer's market. We'll practice your bartering.

MANNY

Sorry mom, I'm meeting friends.

GLORIA

Friends? Manny, I'm so happy. Street ball, or kick the can?

MANNY

I know you're technology immigrant, but I'm technology native.

GLORIA

I have a green card.

MANNY

I don't expect you to understand. We meet online, on the x-box.

GLORIA AND JAY INTERVIEW

JAY

Last weekend I brought home a gaming system for Manny. A reward for good grades.

GLORIA

In my country war isn't a reward, it's a punishment.

JAY

It's a boy thing.

GLORIA

Obviously, I'm not a boy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAY

Obviously.

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

Mitchell is in the living room. Cameron enters.

CAMERON

Lily's waiting for you.

MITCHELL

Cameron. It's your turn.

CAMERON

I did mid-afternoon. I remember because it was right after my manicure.

Cameron goes through the mail.

MITCHELL

I did the morning change. If she's pooping more than that we should see the doctor.

CAMERON

We should bring this letter to Haley, looks important.

MITCHELL

Don't change the subject. Do your duty.

After a beat, Cameron exits bashfully.

MITCHELL AND CAMERON INTERVIEW

MITCHELL

Cam has a poor gag reflex.
(Cameron gags as he lists)
Everything from rotten fruit to spoiled milk. Just the sight of chewed food.

CAMERON

I have to cover my eyes if a cartoon character vomits.

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

Cameron re-enters.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CAMERON

Are you aware I washed the car? I also ironed your pants. It's not easy to get that crease you like.

(off Mitchell's look)

Fine, but when you look like a 3 year-old's used Kleenex at our next barbecue, you'll know where I let Lily blow her nose.

MITCHELL AND CAMERON INTERVIEW

CAMERON

When the baby is little, its poops are little. I can handle that.

MITCHELL

Then the baby got bigger. That's when the bargaining started. Now it's theatrics.

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

Lily runs to Mitchell. Cameron appears sweaty, teary eyed, slumped on the wall.

CAMERON

It was the size of a banana. No, a plantain. Brownish, solid. Healthy though. And it smelled like... it smelled like...

Cameron starts to gag.

MITCHELL AND CAMERON INTERVIEW

MITCHELL

We start potty training next week.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT 1

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Claire is at the counter reading. Haley studies with a classmate, JOSH CHAMBERLIN, at the table. Alex enters lugging her cello.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLAIRE

Alex, what kind of cupcakes should I make for your recital?

ALEX

Do I dare ask for something vegan? I think it's out of your range.

CLAIRE

I'll take that challenge. Sure, defy the laws of baking. No milk, no eggs, no butter--

ALEX

(sotto to Claire)

What's Josh Chamberlin doing here?

CLAIRE

(sotto)

I ran into Mrs. Chamberlin at the post office and set up a study date for Haley.

ALEX

(sotto)

Haley and a smart guy? I'll have to remember your matchmaker skills are sub-par.

CLAIRE'S INTERVIEW

CLAIRE

Actually, I'm a great matchmaker. Haley needs help getting into college and flirting is her best extracurricular.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Phil enters.

PHIL

I'm picking up Luke from your dad's. Any last requests?

CLAIRE

Just don't stay for dinner again.

PHIL

What? We were invited.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLAIRE
I doubt it.

PHIL'S INTERVIEW.

PHIL
Okay, we weren't invited. But
anything Gloria makes is better
than Claire's pot pie.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

PHIL
(noticing Haley and Josh)
Is this another tutor? She really
is a man-eater.

ALEX
Mom's playing cupid. Her aim's off.

CLAIRE
I've finally found a way to get
Haley to think more academically.

At the kitchen table: Haley texting.

JOSH
You can't use the same essay for
every application. Colleges don't
even ask the same questions.

HALEY
Can you wait until I'm done
texting?

In the kitchen Phil exits.

PHIL
You really nailed it, Honey.

Alex drags her cello past the kitchen table.

JOSH
You play the cello?

ALEX
I didn't get these biceps from
carrying the flute.

JOSH
I used to play the trumpet, before
I gave it up to join football.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HALEY
(immediately interested)
You play football?

JOSH
My dad thought it would help me
make friends my senior year.
(to Alex)
Hey, don't you have AP English
second period?

ALEX
Yeah, you have it first?

JOSH
I'll tell you how that quiz goes.

ALEX
Awesome.

Alex exits. She smiles in private. Haley puts on lip gloss.

HALEY
I didn't know you played football.
What kind of car do you drive?

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

Manny and Luke play a video game. Gloria enters.

GLORIA
Manny, Luke, I have a snack for
you.

Manny and Luke don't reply.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
I have chocolate chip cookies. Warm
gooey, fresh out of the oven.

Nothing.

GLORIA'S INTERVIEW

GLORIA
All this bang bang bang, I haven't
gotten a hug from anybody in a
week. So I'm bribing them.

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

GLORIA

Food! Eat!

The boys turn around and grab the cookies from her.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

What? No thank you, no small talk?

MANNY

LUKE

Thank you.

Thank you.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Stop! You are acting like barbarians!

MANNY

Sorry mom, we're playing *Call of Duty*, we must still be in character. How was your day?

GLORIA

It was good but I could use a hug.

LUKE

Grandpa will be back soon.

GLORIA'S INTERVIEW

GLORIA

That's it, I'm hiding the controllers.

INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - DAY

Mitchell reads Lily a book. Cameron enters with a large bag and a little potty on his head.

MITCHELL

What took you so long? I'm fielding a lot of questions here.

CAMERON

Sorry, I got emotional.

MITCHELL

Cam, bodily functions aren't something to get misty over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CAMERON

Well, excuse me for being sensitive about our baby growing up.

MITCHELL

Just show me what you bought.

Cameron starts unloading.

CAMERON

I got the potty, I got the pull-ups, I got the big girl underwear. I got three books for us, and the latest copy of "O". I got sheet protectors, and a great coupon for carpet cleaning. I know you aren't a fan of the naked method, but if this takes longer than 48 hours--

Mitchell picks up a magazine.

MITCHELL

Potty training in one day? That has to be a lie.

CAMERON

Dr. Phil recommends it. Teach by example, and there's a darling little doll that comes with it.

Cameron holds up the doll.

MITCHELL

I like the book. Everybody Poops. It's so true.

Cameron grabs the book out of Mitchell's hands.

CAMERON

Mitchell! You've been reading her the boy version!

MITCHELL

She already has two dads.

CAMERON

What if that matters? What if she grows up with all the hardships of a drag queen?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MITCHELL

You made it through your twenties,
I'd hardly call that hardship.

CAMERON

You know how competitive it is.

MITCHELL

We can still wait a few months.

CAMERON

Out of the question.
(he gags)
I'm having aftershocks.

MITCHELL

Okay, okay.

CAMERON

You should call your sister.

MITCHELL

I don't know. Sometimes I don't
trust her judgement.

MITCHELL AND CAMERON INTERVIEW

MITCHELL

Last week she brought over a pot
pie. Just because you put pineapple
in it doesn't make it Hawaiian.

Cameron gags.

INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - CONTINUOUS

CAMERON

She's raised two girls up through
their periods, I'm sure she's got
something for a three year old's
first pair of panties.

Cameron hands Mitchell the phone.

MITCHELL

Okay. Because she's a woman, not
because she's a mother.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Claire makes cupcakes, answers the phone. Intercut as needed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLAIRE
Hi Mitchell.

Claire licks the spoon. She gags.

MITCHELL
Hi Claire. Listen I was wondering
about potty training.

CLAIRE
Don't tell me you're still wetting
the bed? Poor Cam--

MITCHELL
We're potty training Lily.

CLAIRE
Oh, well, Alex taught herself.
Haley needed a pretty steep reward
system. That's how she got the
majority of her Barbie collection.
And Fruit Loops worked for Luke.

MITCHELL
Fruit Loops?

CLAIRE
Target practice. I think that's why
he's so good at video games.

MITCHELL
Must be.

CLAIRE
Pooping was the hardest. He needed
a pep talk until he was five--

MITCHELL
Okay... Thanks for the help.

Mitchell hangs up.

CAMERON
Well?

MITCHELL
Lily's smart. She's going to figure
this out.

Lily has the potty on her head like Cameron did.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LILY
My hat, daddy.

Pregnant pause.

MITCHELL
I think the doll thing might work.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S - EVENING

Gloria is in the kitchen. Jay, Manny, Luke play a video game with an EXPLOSION. Gloria hits the deck. The doorbell rings.

GLORIA
Jay... Jay... Jay!

JAY
What Gloria?

GLORIA
Get the door.

JAY
Oh, honey, can you get it? We're in the middle of something.

Gloria gets to her feet and stomps to the door. Phil enters.

PHIL
Are they still at it?

GLORIA
Every night this week, Monday they were fighting zombies, today it's Nazis. I don't see the difference.

PHIL
Nazis, huh?

LUKE
Come on, dad! We found the controllers.

Phil rushes past Gloria, sits down and starts playing.

MANNY
Stifler12 is on our team.

PHIL
I love that guy. He really helped me get away from that witch.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHIL(CONT'D)

(beat)

Hey, um, Gloria?

GLORIA

Yes?

PHIL

Would you mind calling Claire and asking her if we could stay for dinner?

Off Gloria's look.

END ACT ONEACT TWO

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - THE NEXT DAY

Claire bakes cupcakes, again. Haley and Alex enter bickering.

HALEY

What's the big deal? He's my date.

ALEX

You don't even like him.

HALEY

I put lip gloss on. I do too like him.

ALEX

Lip gloss?

HALEY

He plays football.

ALEX

He warms the bench.

HALEY

He asked me to be his study partner, not you.

ALEX

That's because mom asked him to. He probably made twenty bucks.

HALEY

Mom, tell Alex that's impossible.

CLAIRE'S INTERVIEW

CLAIRE
I paid him 30. Ten for each application.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Claire is silent.

HALEY
Mom! How could you?

CLAIRE
You don't want to be single your senior year. There's prom, parties, and he really helped you with that essay.

HALEY
I don't need help. And I can find a date.

CLAIRE'S INTERVIEW

CLAIRE
Can she get a date with the admissions office? I'd try, but 30 dollars doesn't go far with them.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

CLAIRE
Haley, if you're going to be in the backseat of anyone's car it should be someone who's been accepted to an Ivy League.

HALEY Mom?! ALEX Ivy League?!

Haley exits angrily.

ALEX
I've had a crush on Josh since computer camp last summer. Now he likes her?

CLAIRE
She doesn't really like him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX

She's bringing him to my cello
recital tonight. And she's going to
wear lots of lip gloss.

Alex exits.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - LATER

Gloria looks for Jay with his shirt in her hand. Jay enters.

GLORIA

I have your shirt.

JAY

Thanks.

Jay grabs the shirt from her. She puckers up to kiss him.

JAY (CONT'D)

Did you have onions today?

Jay exits. Manny enters.

GLORIA

Papi, you look very handsome. Come
here.

Gloria forces a hug. Manny denies.

MANNY

I was going for mysterious. Is the
007 look not working for me?

GLORIA

You look just like a W-7.

Gloria tries for another hug.

MANNY

Not W-7. Double-oh-seven.

GLORIA

That's what I said. Be happy you
don't look like a K-9.

MANNY

I gotta go change.

Manny exits.

INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - EVENING

Mitchell packs a bag.

MITCHELL

Cam, we can't be late. Not after you let Claire talk you into baking those cupcakes.

CAMERON

It's a challenging recipe, a little out of her range.

Lily enters.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

What if she has to go when we're out?

MITCHELL

You have an honorary pass to the ladies room, I'm sure it works at the High School.

CAMERON

Do you have a change of clothes?

MITCHELL

Yes. She'll be fine. We've practiced with the doll all day, no accidents.

CAMERON

But you-know-what's coming and that would be a really big mess.

(he gags)

And that dress is so cute.

LILY

Daddy, I have to go.

MITCHELL

I know sweetie. Let's wait for McGaggers in the car.

LILY

No, daddy, I have to go!

Lily runs into the bathroom.

CAMERON

This is it! Grab reading material.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Cameron exits. After a beat he reappears gagging.

MITCHELL
Okay, you're okay.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Claire enters. Phil holds Haley and Alex apart, they ARGUE.

HALEY
He's on his way over now.

Haley puts on lip gloss. Alex grabs at it. Phil struggles.

PHIL
Honey, little help?

Haley breaks loose and Phil gets lip gloss on his face.

CLAIRE
Haley, I told you no socializing
until the last application is done.

HALEY
I mailed it yesterday.

CLAIRE
What? I needed to proof read that.

HALEY
My study boyfriend looked it over.

ALEX
Ugh. Dad, let's go.

Alex pushes past them. Phil follows. The Doorbell rings. Alex opens the door to see Josh. Off Alex's look.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - LOBBY - LATER

Claire enters to meet Phil.

PHIL
That's one pissed off cello player.
She's gonna break some strings
tonight.

CLAIRE
Is Mitchell here with the cupcakes?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHIL

Cupcakes won't help. I saw steam coming out of her ears.

CLAIRE

How was I supposed to know she has a crush on him?

PHIL

Because she circle hearted him in her camp photo.

CLAIRE

Haley's just going through with this to spite me.

PHIL

What about this Josh fellow? My question is, what's his angle?

CLAIRE

Where's Alex?

PHIL

In the rehearsal room, but you aren't allowed back there. They only let me because I choreographed the musical last year.

Claire is already gone. Haley and Josh enter. Haley giggles.

JOSH

But the answer isn't Pi. It's four.

HALEY

You're so smart and funny.

JOSH

It was really funny, actually. I didn't know you were an Algebra enthusiast.

Haley just smiles.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Hi Mr. Dunphy.

PHIL'S INTERVIEW.

PHIL
I'm usually Mr. Cool Dad, but this
guy's got all my gals fighting.
Time for hard ball.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

PHIL
Hello Josh. Don't I remember you
from computer camp with Alex?

HALEY
You remember him as my study date.

Pause.

JOSH
Cool, they have refreshments. Does
anyone want some punch?

PHIL
Yes, and thank you for asking.

Josh exits, Phil eyeballs him. Haley follows, Phil stops her.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Not so fast, heartbreaker.

Luke enters chewing gum.

LUKE
I only had enough chewing gum to
save one row of seats.

PHIL
Chewing gum?

LUKE
You'll see. It's brilliant.

Cam enters with cupcakes, Mitchell has Lily and a large bag.

MITCHELL
Sorry, we had a false alarm.

CAMERON
There are 3 more trays in the car.

PHIL
Haley will help you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Haley glares at Phil. She exits with Cameron.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Potty training?

MITCHELL
Yeah. First day. It's going well.

PHIL
Fruit loops. Right, buddy?

Phil and Luke high five.

INT. JAY'S CAR - SAME TIME

JAY
I've been using that move all week.

MANNY
We're never going to beat
RealCleons02.

JAY
Sure we are. I set up a play time
right after the recital.

GLORIA
We are staying for the reception.

JAY
Sure, we'll just leave a little
early so we can meet the gang.

GLORIA
No Jay. We aren't going to leave
family for people you don't even
know what they look like.

MANNY
Some of them use their picture as
their avatar.

GLORIA
(almost yelling)
I don't care if they are all blue
aliens. We are staying. We will hug
our family. That's it.

Jay and Manny are silent.

INT. BACKSTAGE GREEN ROOM HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Claire avoids eye contact with TEACHER.

TEACHER
You can't go back there.

CLAIRE
I'm a mom, I do what I want.

Claire sprints turning a corner.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - PUNCH TABLE - SAME TIME

Phil corners Josh.

PHIL
I'm going to ask you again, don't I
know you from computer camp?

JOSH
Uh, yes. Sir.

PHIL
You think you're pretty smart
playing both sisters. I know, I had
a similar dream once.

JOSH
No, sir. I only helped Haley with
her applications. I really - I came
to hear Alex play.

PHIL
You did?

JOSH
Yes, sir. I like your daughter.

PHIL
So you're a liar.

JOSH
Alex, I like Alex... Sir.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHIL
I got my eye on you.

Gloria, Jay and Manny enter.

GLORIA
Not another word about this bang
bang bang until I get a hug.

Phil seizes the opportunity. Gloria ignores him, she exits.

JAY
We have to cool it for a while with
the gaming.

PHIL
You're in the dog house, huh?

JAY
No.

PHIL
Or worse, the outhouse.
(off Jay's look)
This is Josh, he'll show you where
we saved seats.

Phil exits.

JAY
You look like a gamer, how would
you like to join a new team?

MANNY
Quick before she comes back.

INT. BACKSTAGE REHEARSAL ROOM HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Claire knocks. Alex opens the door and shuts it in her face.

CLAIRE
I know you're mad at me, but let's
talk. I have a vegan cupcake?

The door opens just wide enough for the cupcake.

ALEX (O.S.)
Not bad, which bakery are they
from?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLAIRE

Listen, your sister is acting like this to get back at me. It has nothing to do with Josh or you--

ALEX (O.S.)

I don't care.

Alex slams the door.

CLAIRE

Fine. But you have to get on stage at some point, and I know you like showing off. I am going to stay right here until you have to come out.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Luke, Manny, Jay, Josh, Haley, Cameron, Mitchell, Lily wait for the recital to start.

JOSH

I'd love to Mr. Pritchett, but my mom only lets me play on weekends.

JAY

Only on the weekends, huh?

JOSH

Living vicariously through a virtual world isolates you. I learned the hard way. Online friends aren't the same as real friends.

JAY

But you still play on the weekends?

JOSH

Yeah. It's a hobby, like flying model planes.

JAY

Right. If you're good at it.

MITCHELL

What's taking so long?

CAMERON

I don't know but I saw the tuba player belch outside...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CAMERON (CONT'D)

(gags)

I can't get out of my head.

LILY

Daddy, I got to GO!

MITCHELL

Oh wow, that was assertive.

CAMERON

I can't, Mitchell. The tuba player.

Mitchell exits with Lily

INT. LADIES BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Gloria leans against the wall, hiding out.

MITCHELL (O.S.)

Hello? Can a gay man come in with his 3 year old angel?

Lily slowly wanders in.

GLORIA

Hi Lily.

Mitchell enters.

MITCHELL

Oh good, it's you Gloria.

GLORIA

Potty training?

Lily rushes into the stall.

MITCHELL

Three false alarms today. Pooping really is harder than peeing.

GLORIA

Aye, yes. I would tell Manny about the little burro's journey across Colombia. The story takes so long, by the time it's done they're done.

MITCHELL

Are you hiding in here?

GLORIA

Maybe. I've been coming in second to a video game. It's a boy thing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lily exits the stall.

LILY
I can't.

MITCHELL
Lily, you didn't even try.

GLORIA
I'll leave.

MITCHELL
Wait Gloria. Will you tell the
burro story to Lily? Girl to girl?

GLORIA
Of course.

Gloria takes Lily's hand. They walk into the stall.

INT. HALLWAY GREEN ROOM - LATER

Claire sits at the foot of the door and bangs her head
repeatedly. Phil enters with a cupcake.

CLAIRE
I already tried that.

PHIL
Oh this is for me.

CLAIRE
Great Phil, way to help out.

PHIL
I thought you might have gotten
locked up in theater jail.

CLAIRE
Please, I blew past those nerds.
I'm just waiting for Alex.
(louder)
She's holding up the concert.

PHIL
The concert's almost over.

CLAIRE
How did she...?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHIL

If you knew the layout of the theater department like I do.
(off Claire's look)
There's a stage door on the other side.

CLAIRE

She just let me sit here?

PHIL'S INTERVIEW

PHIL

It was a good move.
(beat)
Now if there was only two doors in every room of the house.

INT. HALLWAY GREEN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Phil sits down next to Claire.

PHIL

Once Haley realizes Josh is the 4th string water boy--

CLAIRE

She's not that shallow. This is her revenge for my study date set-up. Now their both mad at me.

PHIL

The Josh thing will work itself out. He only came to see Alex play.

CLAIRE

How do you know?

Alex waits down the hall, she overhears this. Her fellow musicians rush past her.

PHIL

I intimidated it out of him. Really, he called me sir.

CLAIRE

Okay Phil. Then intimidate our daughters into forgiving me.

Musicians enter.

PHIL'S INTERVIEW.

PHIL
I'll just bribe them. 30 bucks.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - LOBBY - LATER

Claire and Phil enter to join Manny, Jay, Cam, Luke, and Haley.

CLAIRE
Haley. You're grounded.

HALEY
Why am I grounded? You're the one who screwed up. Dad?!

PHIL
She has a point, honey.

CLAIRE
Using your sister to punish me is a grounding offense.

HALEY
Why are you taking Alex's side?

PHIL
You'll get over him. It's not like he's a cheerleader.

JAY
(looking OS)
Haley, you may have won the battle but I think you lost the war.

The family turns to see Josh walk to Alex. He has a carnation for her.

HALEY
I'm not mad because you set me up, I'm mad because you doubted me.

CLAIRE
I just want you to get into college.

JAY
Claire, be a little more forgiving. I didn't think you'd graduate from High School.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CAMERON
Oh that reminds me.

Cameron pulls a letter out of oversized diaper bag.

CAMERON (CONT'D)
This came for you Haley.

Off Claire's look.

HALEY
I put their address on my college applications so you wouldn't have to see any rejection letters.

CLAIRE
Haley.

Haley exits to open the letter. Gloria enters.

JAY
There you are.

MANNY
We were afraid you left.

GLORIA
I could never leave my fighters.

JAY
We discussed it and we're sorry.

MANNY
We weren't aware it had gotten out of hand. We're limiting playing time to two hours on weekends.

GLORIA
Aye, that seems reasonable.

JAY
We just want to make this playtime, so we don't let the group down.
(off Gloria's look)
I'm kidding.

MANNY
(sotto to Jay)
I told you it wouldn't work.

Mitchell and Lily enter.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CAMERON
How did it go?

MITCHELL
Thanks to Gloria and the Little
Burro on the long trip, Lily is a
very big girl.

Lily runs to hug Gloria. Cameron hugs Gloria too. Gloria
relishes in her hugs.

CAMERON
Thank you. Thank you so much!

Haley enters, excited.

HALEY
I've been wait listed!

PHIL
You're a bulldog!

CLAIRE
Almost a bullfrog.

PHIL
Bulldog.

CLAIRE
Next time it better be an
acceptance letter.

Everyone looks at Claire with criticism.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
This is great. I'm so proud of you.

Claire hugs Haley.

CAMERON
Hugs all around.

Everyone piles in a big group hug. Even Jay.

GLORIA
Eee, Jay what's on your back?

MITCHELL
Looks like chewing gum.

CAMERON
Ew Mitchell, it's in your hair!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LUKE
 (to Phil)
 I told you it was brilliant.

Cameron starts gagging. One by one, they all realize they have gum on their backs.

CLAIRE (V.O.)
 Sometimes you don't know what sticks you together.

Haley pulls Alex aside to hand her lip gloss.

CLAIRE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 We're all soldiers playing on the same side.

Lily still clings to Gloria as the family helps each other to get the gum off their backs.

CLAIRE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Every army has it's struggles, but when we stick together we can get through anything. With family...

CLAIRE'S INTERVIEW

CLAIRE
 ...Someone always has your back.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - KITCHEN - DAY

Mitchell and Lily sit at the table. Cameron enters.

CAMERON
 Mitchell, I'm sorry I watched *Dancing with the Stars* without you, but this kind of passive aggressive retaliation hurts us all.

MITCHELL
 What are you talking about?

CAMERON
 Our bathroom! It looks Mardi Gras and Cottonelle had a love child.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MITCHELL

I don't even know what that means.

CAMERON

It's been T-Ped worst than Claire's house on devil's night.

Cameron and Mitchell exit.

INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

The bathroom has toilet paper hanging from everywhere. Mitchell and Cameron both look down at Lily.

LILY

It's a potty party!

She starts twirling.

MITCHELL

(to Cameron)

She gets this from you.

END OF SHOW