

Modern Family: The Real Winner

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ACT 1

INT. PHIL AND CLAIRE'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Claire answers the door to see DEBRA CONNORS (40s, well-dressed, well-manicured). Claire recognizes Debra from the local news.

CLAIRE
Omigod! Debra Connors?? This is unbelievable--

DEBRA
Hi, you must be Mrs. Dunphy?

CLAIRE
Yes, wow! How did you--

DEBRA
Your daughter had the winning idea for the school district's first-ever Make the World a Better Place contest the school district held this year- congratulations!

We see Haley coming down the stairs. Debra spots her.

CLAIRE
What?? That's amazing!

INTERVIEW -- PHIL AND CLAIRE

CLAIRE
With the earthquake in Japan and the tornadoes in Alabama and Missouri, the county's been promoting this "make the world a better place" campaign, and all the students k through 12 had to submit an idea for how they might do that.

PHIL
My idea: a wi-fi connection that covers the entire town, so no matter where you go, bam! Wireless signal on mah iPad.

CLAIRE
How does that make the world better?

PHIL
(confused, stumbling)
Cause it's wireless... and it's
everywhere...

INT. PHIL AND CLAIRE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Debra spots Haley walking down the stairs.

DEBRA
(to Haley)
And that must be our winner!

HALEY
Omigod, are you serious?! This is
so amazing, I wanted this sooo
badly!!
(a beat)
What'd I win?

CLAIRE
(suspicious)
Wait, which daughter did you say--

Debra's hidden ambivalence becomes genuine excitement. She
turns and speaks to someone behind her.

DEBRA
This is perfect! Beautiful
cheerleader-type with idea to make
the world a better place-

HALEY
(failing at humility)
Well, I mean, beautiful? I
certainly can't ARGUE...

DEBRA
(condescending, muffled to
person behind her)
Yes!! Viewers eat up this jail-bait
crap. Keep the camera on the young
one.

CLAIRE
Excuse me, who are you talk--

Door opens fully to reveal a cameraman and a boom operator.

DEBRA
(to Haley)
So how does it feel to know that,
out of the entire school district,
(MORE)

DEBRA (cont'd)
 your idea was selected as the best
 way to make the world a better
 place?

CLAIRE
 (to Debra)
 Excuse me, I think you--

Claire sees how excited Haley is- she doesn't want to
 embarrass her on TV.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
 Should tell'em, honey.

HALEY
 Well I'm honored, I mean, I never
 expected that--

DEBRA
 How old are you?

HALEY
 I'll be seventeen innnn...

DEBRA
 (mumbling to herself)
 THANK you God I don't believe in.
 (to Haley)
 Seventeen, amazing. Well young
 lady, you've certainly done your
 fellow man a service, and we look
 forward to hearing all about it
 next week on Channel 2 News at 7.

Debra motions the cameraman to cut. They pack up.

DEBRA (CONT'D)
 Great- we might actually be able to
 make this thing watchable.

Haley runs off, dialing her cell phone.

HALEY
 (into phone)
 Omigod, Dylan! I'm gonna be on
 TV!!!

CLAIRE
 Listen, I think you may've been
 mistaken.

DEBRA

Someone will be in touch about when and where to show up for the on-air interview.

CLAIRE

I think you meant to congratulate my *other* daughter. She's only 13 but she's kinda the bookworm in the family, ya know?

Claire finds the mix-up humorous. Debra finds it job-threatening.

DEBRA

(dropping the polite act)
Look lady, the only people who care less about this crap than I do are the viewers. If I can use your little beauty queen over there to maybe get SOME ratings, that's what's gonna happen, okay?

CLAIRE

Are you saying you're not going to give my youngest daughter the credit she deserves because she doesn't have
(cringing at the idea)
sex-appeal??

DEBRA

(patronizing)
Awww, is this your first trip to the real world? That's so cute. We'll be in touch.

INTERVIEW -- CAMERON AND MITCHELL

MITCHELL

(bragging)
We already knew that Claire's daughter had won.

INT. HAIR SALON - DAY

A rather flamboyant man, RAY (early-30s, gay), is cutting Cameron's hair; Mitchell is nearby with Lily.

RAY

(to Mitchell)
Omigod, so I heard about your family the other day.

MITCHELL
Really? And uh, in what context
would that have been in?

Ray stops and looks at Mitchell as if he has to defend himself.

RAY
(to Mitchell)
Now why would you assume something
negative?
(to Cameron)
Why does he do that?

Cameron plays along, trying to agitate Mitchell.

CAMERON
Insecurities, mostly...

MITCHELL
Me? Oh, right...
(sarcastic)
Because I'm the one who has to
spend eighty-dollars on a
haircut...

Ray becomes upset and acts like that was the worst insult of his life. He stops cutting.

RAY
(to himself, exhaling)
Omigod...

CAMERON
Ray, you know he didn't mean that-
(to Mitchell)
Ray does not give hair *cuts*- he is
a hair *stylist*, Mitchell!

Mitchell feels bad; he thought they were joking back and forth.

MITCHELL
I know- I was just- I thought we
were, like--

Ray smiles and goes back to Cameron's hair.

RAY
Oh, he is just too easy.

CAMERON
Not the first man to say that...

Ray and Cameron share an "ohhhh! Good one!" moment.

MITCHELL
Hilarious. So you were saying?

RAY
Huh?

MITCHELL
My family?

RAY
Ohhh, right. Your sister, actually.
Yeah, pretty great about your niece
winning that contest, huh?

MITCHELL
My niece?

CAMERON
You have two. Alex and Haley?
Remember?

RAY
Yeah, one of my regulars was saying
somethin' bout it- he works for the
county commissioner's office or...
school coroner's office or...
somethin' like that.

MITCHELL
Which of my nieces was it?

RAY
Said somethin' bout a school
contest bout--

Cameron and Mitchell look at each other and simultaneously
confirm the obvious. Ray keeps talking.

	MITCHELL		CAMERON
Alex.		Alex.	

RAY
...making the world more better or
somethin'?

MITCHELL
Wow! I didn't hear that! She must
be thrilled!

CAMERON
(to Mitchell)
Not a surprise, she's just like her
uncle Mitchell when it comes to
having the brains in the family.

Mitchell's flattered but tries to act modest.

MITCHELL
Well, I don't know about that--

RAY
(joking, to Cameron)
I hope that's the *only* similarity
they share...

Ray and Cameron act like Mitchell just got burned.

MITCHELL
What's THAT supposed to mean?

CAMERON
(sweet)
Whatever you want it to, sweetie.

INTERVIEW -- CAMERON AND MITCHELL - CONTINUOUS

CAMERON
(excited)
That was the best news I'd heard in
months!

MITCHELL
What about last week when I got
promoted after winning that huge
case I'd been preparing for the
last seven months??

Cameron waves off and ignores Mitchell's question as if it
was rhetorical. He speaks as if a huge weight has been
lifted.

CAMERON
I have been looking for an excuse
to throw a dinner party for AGES.

Mitchell's not surprised by Cameron's selfish interior
motive.

INT. CAMERON AND MITCHELL'S DUPLEX - DAY

Cameron and Mitchell enter through the front door; Cameron has Lily.

MITCHELL
You're going to organize and throw
a dinner party for a news-bit
that'll last about 2 minutes?

CAMERON
Ever heard of the Kentucky Derby?

MITCHELL
(convincing)
What does a NASCAR race have to do
with anything?
(short pause)
I'm kidding, what about the derby?

CAMERON
That's a two-minute race and people
throw parties for it all the time.

MITCHELL
But they probably don't plan it
(looks at his watch)
27 hours in advance.

INTERVIEW -- CAMERON AND MITCHELL

CAMERON
Before I got burnt out by dinner
parties, I was the QUEE-

Mitchell quickly shoots a look at Cameron, who also catches
that he was about to call himself a "queen" of something.

CAMERON (CONT'D)
KING of dinner parties. The royal
wedding? I could've planned that
little extravaganza in half the
time and with twice the class.

INT. PHIL AND CLAIRE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Phil and Claire are in the kitchen. Alex enters.

ALEX
Hey, mom.

PHIL
Hey, Alex, how was your day?

ALEX
Is it true about Haley? That she won?

CLAIRE
Uhh where'd you hear that?

PHIL
Of course it's true.
(confused beat, then to Claire)
Won what?

ALEX
Can you believe it?

CLAIRE
(avoiding the question)
What's that, sweetie?

ALEX
(joking)
Can you believe *Haley* won something from the *school*...

Claire has to come clean.

PHIL
(shocked)
Haley won something at school??

CLAIRE
Listen, Alex... I know how hard you worked on... that idea you had for the project-

Phil speaks simultaneously, trying to pretend he remembered, and understood, Alex's idea.

ALEX
Using solar panels to power ultraviolet radiation sanitizers for water treatment in third world countries.

PHIL
The, right, the panels that- violet radiation... water treatment- third world countries.

CLAIRE
When the news reporter came and saw Haley... she sort of... *assumed* Haley was the daughter who won the contest, but-

ALEX
But, what...

CLAIRE
But there's a chance she may have
gotten confused about... *which*
daughter...

Alex interrupts; she's figured it out.

ALEX
Wait- so it was MY idea that won
but they're giving the credit to
Haley?!?!

PHIL
Oh, boy...

Alex storms off and goes upstairs, Claire follows.

CLAIRE
Alex, wait!

Claire follows; Phil stops her in cliché-movie fashion.

PHIL
Let'er go, Claire... let'er go.

CLAIRE
What?

PHIL
I dunno, just seemed like... huh?

Phil and Claire both realize Phil was just trying to be
involved; Phil steps aside and Claire follows Alex.

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

Gloria's in the kitchen cutting vegetables for dinner. Jay's
nearby reading the newspaper. Manny enters.

GLORIA
Hey, Manny! Did you hear about
Haley? She's going to be on the TV
news tonight!

MANNY
(apathetic)
Yeah... I know.

JAY
 Alright kid, what's the matter?

INTERVIEW -- JAY

JAY
 Every week it's something new with
 this kid. I swear he's not happy
 unless he's making himself feel
 like crap.

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

MANNY
 Oh, it's nothing.

JAY
 (satisfied)
 Okay.

Jay goes back to his newspaper.

MANNY
 Nothing at all...

Jay continues reading, hoping Manny's not going to start
 sharing something.

MANNY (CONT'D)
 It's just that-

Jay drops his head, disappointed that he's now forced to
 engage.

MANNY (CONT'D)
 Haley won this huge contest and is
 gonna be on TV- Alex is gonna be
 valedictorian- what's MY thing?

JAY
 What're you talking about? You're
 good at a ton of stuff. You write
 poetry, you beat me at chess, you-

MANNY
 Great- on my tombstone it can say,
 "Manny Delgado- he beat an old man
 in chess, may he rest in talentless
 peace."

GLORIA
 Manny, how can you say that? You
 are very talented.

JAY
How many fencing tournaments have
you won?

MANNY
Fencing's a sport- am I not good at
anything that matters?

Jay can't believe what he just heard. Gloria comes over to
comfort Manny.

GLORIA
Oh, Manny, you're just
over-reacting again over nothing.

JAY
(joking)
Hey, maybe that's your thing.

Manny walks off, still upset. Gloria gives Jay an evil look
over that last joke.

JAY (CONT'D)
Hey, don't blame me- that's on you
for setting that one up so
perfectly.

GLORIA
Ohhh, so maybe that's my thing,
huh? Setting you up to make fun of
our son?

JAY
I wouldn't say you're *that* good..

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. PHIL AND CLAIRE'S HOUSE - HALEY/ALEX'S ROOM - DAY

Alex bursts through the door. Haley's on the bed talking on
her phone.

ALEX
(angry)
You took credit for MY winning
idea?!

Haley has no idea what's going on. Claire enters.

HALEY
(offended)
Excuse me?! What, like you're the
only one who can do anything right
around here?

Alex looks around as if to say, "see anyone else competent?"

ALEX
Yes!

CLAIRE
Girls, enough!
(to Haley)
Haley, look- there may have been
some confusion with the reporter
earlier today.

HALEY
What??

ALEX
They're giving you credit for MY
idea!

CLAIRE
(to Haley)
The reporter was here looking for
my daughter, she saw you and
assumed you were my daughter.

HALEY
I am your daughter.

ALEX
(snooty)
Maybe- the tests were inconclusive.

CLAIRE
They assumed you were the daughter
who won the school contest.

HALEY
But if you knew they messed up then
why'd you stand there and let me
think I'd won??

Alex joins in on Haley's side.

ALEX
Yeah, mom, why didn't you say
anything?!

CLAIRE
Look, I tried, okay? I told her it
was probably a mistake-

HALEY
Wait, right away you *assumed* it
couldn't have been me that won?!

Alex takes a shot at Haley; speaks as if to say, "duh!"

ALEX
Wouldn't you?

CLAIRE
But all she cared about was having
some pretty high school girl in
front of the camera to--

ALEX
She gets credit for MY idea because
I'm not *pretty* enough?!

CLAIRE
You know that's not true, honey, of
course you're pretty--

HALEY
Wait- they don't actually care
about the contest, they WANT me on
TV? Omigod!!

Haley takes the reporter's decision as a compliment. Alex
storms off.

CLAIRE
(to Alex, pleading)
Honey!
(to Haley)
Really, Haley?

Claire leaves. Haley looks remorseful until she hears Dylan
pick up on the other end of her phone.

DYLAN (O.S.)
Hey, baby.

HALEY
Omigod, Dylan, guess what!

INTERVIEW -- PHIL AND CLAIRE

CLAIRE
I was thrilled when I found out I
was going to have a little girl-
both times.

Phil looks like he's hoping she doesn't expect him to say
the same thing. He looks at her as if he's guilty of
something.

PHIL
(defensive)
What? I love our daughters.

Claire moves on.

CLAIRE
I would've loved to have a sister.
So when they fight, I feel like
they're taking each other for
granted.

EXT. PHIL AND CLAIRE'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

Alex is sitting on the front porch, looking upset. Claire
exits the front door and sits down next to Alex.

CLAIRE
Alex, I know it sucks.

ALEX
No- you don't!

CLAIRE
(coming clean)
You're right, sweetie- I don't
know. Like Haley, I've never won
anything. I never got any plaques
or certificates of achievement...
I never even won a raffle; heck, I
was lucky to pass high sch-

Claire cuts herself off; doesn't want to reveal that info.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
school calculus...

ALEX
So? You saw her in there- she
doesn't even care that she's
stealing my moment.
(imitating Haley)
Oooo Dylan, I'm so pretty and I'm
gonna be on TV, oooo...

CLAIRE

She may have missed the point on that one, but you know why? Because this is her 15 minutes--

ALEX

But it should be MY 15 minutes!

Claire's tone indicates she's surprised Alex doesn't know this already.

CLAIRE

You think you're only gonna get 15 minutes?? For Haley this'll be her 15 minutes. For you- this would've been the first 15... seconds of the first minute of your 15... hours, or... months.

ALEX

What're you talking about?

CLAIRE

Honey, you've won more awards... honors... spelling bees... by 13 than our entire family has combined. That's why Haley wasn't feeling as sorry for you as she should've- cause she knows, just like we do, that this is just a drop in your... success... bucket... thing.

ALEX

You really think she sees it like that?

CLAIRE

I know she does, sweetie.

INT. PHIL AND CLAIRE'S HOUSE - HALEY/ALEX'S ROOM - DAY

Alex enters her and Haley's bedroom. Haley's on her bed talking on the phone. Alex calmly sits down at her computer and starts doing homework. Haley looks at Alex like they should talk about what happened. Haley hangs up.

HALEY

(into the phone)

Hey- I'll call you back, okay?

DYLAN (ON PHONE)
But we're already on the phone--

Haley wasn't listening, she hangs up and cuts him off.

HALEY
(to Alex)
Hey, Alex?

Alex responds but continues to look at her computer.

ALEX
Yeah?

HALEY
I'm sorry they gave me the
credit... I didn't know that's what
happened.

ALEX
I know. It's okay.

HALEY
(kind of chuckling)
I guess I should've known there was
a mistake when they said I'd won
something *school*-related and not
you, ya know?

Alex doesn't respond, Haley assumes Alex isn't listening and
is still upset. Alex prints off something.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Guess that'll be obvious on TV when
they ask me about my idea, huh...?
All I could come up with was this
stupid phone app that-

Alex turns in her chair, grabs a sheet off the printer and
walks it over to Haley. Alex hands it to her.

ALEX
No you won't.

The printout is what Alex turned in for her idea; it
describes how her idea works.

HALEY
Omigod! Seriously??

ALEX
Just because that reporter's an
idiot doesn't mean you should have
to look like one on her show.

Haley can't believe it; she appears very grateful.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Besides, the important thing is
that people hear the idea... maybe
it could actually help someone.

Haley's not listening, she's focused on the printout.

HALEY
Yeah, totally.

Alex sees Haley's busy with the printout so she walks
towards the door.

HALEY
Alex?

Alex turns.

ALEX
Yeah?

Haley looks like a confused child.

HALEY
You think you could--

Alex had expected this.

ALEX
(smiling)
Sure.

INT. CAMERON AND MITCHELL'S DUPLEX - NIGHT

Cameron's on the phone. Mitchell's putting out snacks and
other food/drinks for the party. He looks unhappy to be
doing so.

CAMERON
(into phone)
Donnie and Longinus are on their
way, is Krispin riding with you?
(Cameron listens)
Great! Thanks Pepper, see you in a
few!

Cameron puts down the phone and spots Mitchell pouring
Bugles into a large bowl. Cameron looks at Mitchell with
disappointment.

CAMERON (CONT'D)
Bugles, Mitchell? Really??

MITCHELL
You told me to put out snacks,
Bugles are snacks.

CAMERON
They're also brass instruments-
does that mean if I ask you to hire
a string quartet I'm gonna get the
Mighty Mighty Bosstones??

MITCHELL
(confused)
That doesn't even make sense.

CAMERON
I don't think the man who tries to
serve Bugles at a dinner party gets
to say what does and doesn't make
sense.

Cameron takes the bowl, pours the bugles back into the bag
and puts the bag back in the cupboard. He hands the empty
bowl to Mitchell.

CAMERON (CONT'D)
Please rinse this out- I will not
have my guests' snacks tainted with
incompetence.

Mitchell's annoyed but complies.

MITCHELL
And what shall ye master of the
house be serving in this fine bowl,
then?

CAMERON
I don't think I like your tone.

Mitchell's face says he can't believe *he's* the one being
accused of being rude.

INTERVIEW -- CAMERON AND MITCHELL

CAMERON
Yes, I know I can get a little
intense preparing for parties...

INT. CAMERON AND MITCHELL'S DUPLEX - DAY

Mitchell hears a high-pitched scream coming from their guest bathroom.

CAMERON (O.S.)
Ahhhhh!!!

Mitchell runs over and looks through the open door; Cameron has a stunned look on his face as he stares at the sink.

MITCHELL
What is it, are you alright?!

Cameron grabs the soap dispenser and holds it to show Mitchell. He has bar soaps in his other hand.

CAMERON
I did not spend an hour and a half at Bath and Body Works trying to decide between vanilla almond and strawberry melon only to have my guests use liquid from a pump like they're in the bathroom at an Applebee's!

MITCHELL
You screamed over a bar of soap?

CAMERON
No, Mitchell, I can get over that mistake.
(re: towel rack)
But there is NO excuse for not putting out the guest towels!

Cameron looks disgusted; Mitchell can't believe how hysterical Cameron's being. Mitchell moves to fix the towels, but Cameron stops him.

MITCHELL
(trying to apologize)
Sorry...

CAMERON
Nono, it's fine- I'll just do everything myself. Go.

Mitchell gives up and walks out of the bathroom.

CAMERON (CONT'D, O.S.)
The store brand toilet paper?!
Really?! Why not just give our guests sandpaper?!

INTERVIEW -- CAMERON AND MITCHELL - CONTINUOUS

CAMERON

(defensive, but calm)

Mitchell, when you go to a dinner party at someone else's house, what do you think about those people when you notice they've failed to provide the bathroom with guest towels?

Mitchell thinks about it, but he can't answer.

MITCHELL

I don't think that's ever happened...

Cameron thinks he's made his case.

CAMERON

Exactly, Mitchell- because that NEVER happens.

MITCHELL

No, I mean I've never noticed the type of towels that were left out.

Cameron's face shows disgust, as if Mitchell's not noticing makes it even worse.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

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

Jay and Gloria are getting ready to watch Haley's TV appearance. Manny's working on his laptop.

JAY

Hey, kid, you still down on yourself?

MANNY

(given up)

No. I've accepted that I'm going to drift through life without the slightest deviation from normalcy.

Jay doesn't even know how to respond. Gloria comes and sits next to him.

GLORIA

Oh this is so exciting! The first time one of my relatives is on the news and not *in* the news!

Manny's still working on his laptop.

INT. NEWS STUDIO DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Haley, Alex, Luke, Claire and Phil are in a dressing room. Haley has some note cards and looks really nervous.

HALEY
Omigod- I'm SO nervous!

ALEX
Haley, don't worry- it's not like
it's live.

Phil doesn't get what Alex is trying to do; he corrects her and is surprised she didn't know that.

PHIL
Yes it is.

Claire tries to shut him up.

CLAIRE
Phil...!

PHIL
Of course it's live, it's the news.
They don't--

Claire tries again; she grabs his arm and tries to pull him to turn around, back facing Haley.

CLAIRE
Phil!!

PHIL
Claire, I know what I'm talking
about. They may have like a
3-second delay in case someone uses
profanity but, other than that...

LUKE
That would be SO cool.

Phil gives Luke the same treatment Claire tried to give Phil.

PHIL
Luke, come on, pal- don't make your
sister nervous.

A producer's assistant, PA, pops her head in the door.

PA
10 minutes.

In the background we see a TV with the news broadcast; it's going into a commercial. Debra hurries in, practically pushing the PA out of the way, ignoring the family and going straight towards Haley. Phil tries to introduce himself but is ignored.

PHIL
Hi, Phil Dunphy, I'm Haley's...
(being ignored, he trails off)
father...

Debra starts pulling Haley's dress down so more cleavage shows. She speaks quickly and to the point.

DEBRA
Okay, here's how it's gonna go.
I'll say a little something about the contest, you'll smile for the camera. I'll ask you about helping your fellow man, you'll give some B-S answer about wanting to save the world. I'll praise you as a symbol of the compassion of this community and ask you about your winning idea, you'll take about 15 seconds MAX to explain it. I'll ask you the standard boring questions like how you came up with the idea, you give a quick response and keep smiling. Got it?

HALEY
Will I--

DEBRA
Good.
(condescending)
Now try not to screw this up, mmkay?

Debra leaves. Haley's anxiety has morphed into confusion as to what she's gotten into. On the TV we see the broadcast come back from commercial; the family watches.

DEBRA (CONT'D, ON TV)
(into camera)
Welcome back.

Debra turns to her co-anchor, CO-ANCHOR.

DEBRA (CONT'D, ON TV)
I was just talking to our little
planet saver over the break-

CO-ANCHOR (ON TV)
Were you?

DEBRA (ON TV)
(smiling, sweet)
What a doll!

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

Mitchell has a tray of veggies and dip in his hand. He notices that they're talking about Haley on TV. We can hear Debra talking about Haley in the background as Mitchell tries to get Cameron's attention.

DEBRA (CONT'D, ON TV)
She is just a sweetheart and SO so
so pretty! I just love her to
death. I tell ya, I coulda stayed
back there talking to her all
night.

CO-ANCHOR (ON TV)
Well, we can't do that, but we'll
get the chance to speak with this
remarkable young lady shortly.

MITCHELL
Hey, Cam! They're mentioning--

Cameron pops into the room.

CAMERON
Is that where you were taught to
put a veggie tray?

MITCHELL
I was never taught wh--

CAMERON
(snooty)
Clearly.

The doorbell rings. Cameron's mood shifts from annoyed and unemotional to extremely pleasant and polite; it's identical to how Debra acted off-air versus how she acts on-air.

After Cameron opens the door, three men, PEPPER, LONGINUS and KRISPIN enter. They greet one another with hugs and kisses on the cheek.

EVERYONE

Hey!! Hi, so glad you could make it, nice to see you, etc.

PEPPER

So where's the little Angel?

MITCHELL

My niece should be on soon, they were just talking about her.

Pepper and Cameron exchange a look.

PEPPER

I guess we know where someone's family priorities lie...

MITCHELL

Huh?

CAMERON

(to Mitchell)

He was asking about Lily.

Mitchell replays Pepper's question in his head.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

She's our daughter, remember?

(sarcastic, to Pepper)

It's okay; he couldn't remember the guest towels, either.

Pepper's surprised/concerned by hearing that. Mitchell can't believe the fuss Cameron's making.

PEPPER

(to Mitchell, consoling him)

Oooo, bad day?

INT. NEWS STUDIO DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

The PA comes in ready to escort Haley.

PA

(to Haley)

Okay, they're ready for you.

CLAIRE

You're gonna do great, sweetie!

PHIL

Remember everything I told you!

HALEY
(confused)
What'd you tell me?

PHIL
(stumbling)
You know... about the solar rays
and the other... water...

ALEX
FORGET everything he told you-
you've got this, don't worry.

HALEY
I won't. Besides, I've got a
surprise for you.

PA
Let's go, you're on in 20.

ALEX
(to Haley)
Huh?

HALEY
(to Alex)
Just watch.

Another assistant, JAMES, enters the room.

PA
(to rest of family)
James'll take you to the production
control room so you can watch.

Phil starts singing "Space Odyssey" by David Bowie.

PHIL
(singing)
Ground control to major Tom--

Claire stops him.

CLAIRE
Phil!

Phil turns his head; Claire shakes her head no.

INT. NEWS STUDIO - NIGHT

Debra is sitting in a lounge chair in the studio's interview area next to the news desk. She's introducing Haley, after which they switch to a wide shot to reveal Haley sitting in the adjacent chair. The broadcast has already started.

DEBRA

...throughout the county. And here with us, tonight, is Haley Dunphy, the lovely young woman who the school district determined had the best idea for making the world a better place.

(to Haley)

Congratulations, Haley! Brains and beauty, I see!

HALEY

Thank you, Ms. Connors. But actually, my sister Alex is really the one who--

DEBRA

So tell us about this charity iPhone application idea you came up with.

INT. PRODUCTION CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

The family's watching Haley on one of the monitors. She looks caught off-guard. We can hear Debra and Haley underneath the family's conversation.

CLAIRE

iPhone application??

Alex's jaw drops; she's wide-eyed in disbelief. Phil pretends he knew the water sanitizer was phone-app related.

PHIL

Duh, Claire. See the iPhone can be hooked up to the solar ventilators to coordinate the--

Alex interrupts Phil, who was trailing off, anyway.

ALEX

That wasn't my idea...

We can hear Haley speaking in the background as the family talks.

HALEY (ON MONITOR)

(unsure)

It, uh, was an app for local and national charities to

Debra's nodding along; this re-assures Haley that Debra was, in fact, asking about Haley's original idea- she was the winner all along, not Alex.

HALEY (CONT'D, ON MONITOR)
 make it really easy for people to
 donate. Like, if you wanted to give
 five-dollars to the Red Cross for
 disaster relief in Japan, you could
 just log into the app and--

Phil tries to save face.

PHIL
 But... yeah, that's something
 totally different.

HALEY (ON MONITOR)
 Or if a local food pantry needed,
 like, canned goods or winter
 clothes or volunteers for something
 they could post that-

ALEX
 Mom? Did you actually ask the
 reporter the name of who won?

CLAIRE
 Well, honey... I, uh...

PHIL
 (trying to lighten mood)
 You know what happens when you
 assume, right?

Alex doesn't know what to think; she does feel bad, though.

ALEX
 Wow...

HALEY (O.S., ON MONITOR)

Phil continues with his humor attempt.

PHIL
 You look like an--

Annoyed, Claire cuts him off.

CLAIRE
 THANK you, Phil, we got it.

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

Everyone's watching the TV; the broadcast is in HD.

MITCHELL

Haley looks gorgeous. Ugh, I could so NOT pull off being in high-def.

PEPPER

Oh I know, right? I could never.

CAMERON

(to Pepper)

Are you kidding? With your wonderful skin of course you could.

Short pause as Pepper drops the humble act.

PEPPER

I know.

Mitchell's face says, "thanks Cameron" for re-assuring Pepper and not him.

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

Jay, Gloria and Manny are watching Haley; TV is on in the foreground. Jay looks bored, Gloria looks thrilled, and Manny's on his laptop.

DEBRA (O.S., FROM TV)

So basically you're making it simple for people to donate and know how they can help?

HALEY (O.S., FROM TV)

Yeah. I think people *want* to help, they just don't have the time to sit down and figure out *how* to help.

JAY

(critical)

How can a *phone* application do all that? That prob'ly costs a fortune in R and D, and then to pay some team of techs to actually build the thing? Not worth it.

Manny shows them his laptop. He has the iPhone development program called Xcode open where he has written code for an iPhone application. There's also a program that looks exactly like the interface on an iPhone so that you can see how the app looks and functions as you create it.

MANNY

It's just the interface-builder,

Jay and Gloria look at the screen; they're speechless. Manny continues as if anyone could've done what he's done.

MANNY (CONT'D)

but I'm sure someone who knows a lot more than me would be able to figure out the N-S arrays and connect the--

Jay interrupts.

JAY

You designed an iPhone app during a news broadcast?!

MANNY

(finds this idea funny)

NOOO. My idea was for an app, too. But with this, we could put a GPS tracker in Stella's collar, and if she were to get lost, we get in the car and the app leads us right to her.

JAY

You did that in a few weeks?!

MANNY

It's not that hard once you learn how to write the code.

JAY

Yeah, and writing Chinese isn't that hard once you learn the language.

MANNY

(continuing)

The hard part for me were the N-S arrays. I tell ya, it got to the point where if I had to deal with one more N-S array--

Jay cuts him off.

JAY

Unbelievable.

MANNY

What?

JAY

I don't even know why I bother
being amazed by you, anymore, kid.

INT. NEWS STUDIO - NIGHT

The broadcast has ended. The family meets Haley as she walks
off set. They congratulate her.

CLAIRE

Oh my God, sweetie! I am so proud
of you!

PHIL

(raising the roof)
My baby's makin' the world a bettah
place, y'all!

LUKE

Awesome job, Haley- that was really
cool. I hope I get to be on the
news someday.

Claire rubs Luke's head in concern.

CLAIRE

Let's hope not, sweetie.

Haley turns to Alex.

ALEX

Good job, out there...

HALEY

Thanks. And thanks for being
willing to give up the spotlight.

ALEX

Turns out it was yours all along...
sorry I assumed it was me who won
the contest.

HALEY

Don't be--

Claire looks proud of her daughters for reconciling.

HALEY (CONT'D)

That was entirely mom's fault.

Claire's pride becomes embarrassment. Debra walks by in a hurry. Phil tries to stop her to thank her.

PHIL
Ms. Connors, I wanted to thank you
for this opportunity for--

Debra slows but doesn't stop, speaking as she passes him.

DEBRA
(to Phil)
And you are?

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. NEWS STUDIO - NIGHT

While the family congratulates Haley and the news staff wrap up, Phil makes his way towards the news desk, looking around the entire way to see if anyone's going to stop him.

He makes it to the anchor's chair and sits down. After a second of being in awe, Phil looks straight ahead as if the cameras are on and he's an anchor delivering a news story. He starts off softly, but as he gains confidence his voice gets louder.

PHIL
This just in- multiple sources have
confirmed that Phil Dunphy-
handsome and charming father of
three, has been awarded the
National Realtors' Association
lifetime achievement award for
being the best salesman of all-time
in the world-

Phil puts his hand to his ear like he's receiving an update via an earpiece.

PHIL (CONT'D)
correction- the universe. The
source of his awesomeness has yet
to be determined, but
(trailing off as he sees
everyone)
scientists believe...

Phil sees that his entire family and all of the news staff in his peripheral vision are staring at him. Haley's covering her face in embarrassment, Claire's shaking her head with disappointment.

An awkward beat.

PHIL (CONT'D)

(nervous)

I was gonna say, probably something
to do with the water... or could be
genetic...

Another awkward beat. Phil looks at his family and then
takes a quick glance around the room at everyone staring at
him. Debra can be seen chuckling at Phil's stupidity. Phil
now looks into the camera.

PHIL (CONT'D)

We'll be right back after these
words from--

Claire appears in the frame and pulls Phil out of his chair.

CLAIRE

No, you won't, come on!

PHIL

(worried)

Claire, you're gonna upset the
sponsors!

THE END