

Modern Family Spec TWO

INT. DUNPHY KITCHEN-MORNING

Claire, Phil, Alex and Haley are all waiting for Luke to come downstairs

PHIL

Is Luke still sleeping? I'm getting worried; kid's gotta be up before noon.

CLAIRe

Oh it's fine, it's his birthday. We'll let him sleep in.

ALEX

(Peeking out from laptop) Wouldn't speak too soon-remember that one time he fell asleep at two pm, woke up at three pm the next day and thought he only slept for an hour?

CLAIRe

(Suddenly panicked) Oh god, you're right. If he's not up in twenty, just knock on his door.

HALEY

I'll get the water cup.

CLAIRe

No, that's only for certain school mornings, not birthday mornings.

Luke enters the kitchen in his pajamas, rubbing his eyes.

PHIL

There he is! Our little ELEVEN year old champion!

CLAIRe

Happy birthday, Luke! You ready for some fun today?

LUKE

Yeah! I can't wait for the party!

CLAIRe

Great. We're gonna leave for bowling soon. Why don't you go get

(MORE)

CLAIRe (CONT'D)  
dressed and then you can have some  
pancakes?

She scruffs his hair as she says this and sends him off. Luke exits.

CLAIRe  
(To Phil, Alex, and Haley) You  
three are in charge of decorating  
for the party tonight, okay? Just  
pick up the cake, buy some  
balloons, and find a good  
magician.

PHIL  
Easy-peazy. So, pick up the cake,  
buy balloons and find my old magic  
supplies.

CLAIRe  
No, Phil, we talked about this.  
We're getting him a professional  
magician this year. Luke's shown  
interest in magic tricks lately  
and I don't want you to ruin it  
for him. And you always do the  
same old tricks around here  
anyways.

She reaches into her purse.

PHIL  
Oh, do I? Then how do I know what  
you're grabbing from your purse  
right now?

Claire pauses with her hand in her bag.

CLAIRe  
(Annoyed) What, Phil? What am I  
getting?

PHIL  
Keys

CLAIRe  
Aspirin

PHIL  
(Overlapping Claire while she says  
it, sounding defeated) Aspirin...

## INT. PRITCHETT-DELGADO HOUSE-MORNING

Mitchell and Cam are over at Gloria and Jay's house. Gloria is wearing a zebra print top, Lily in a gorilla shirt. They're planning a zoo day.

GLORIA

(To Lily) Is Lily ready to see some animals today?

CAM

(To Lily) Yes, she is! (To Gloria) She's been excited to see the gorillas all week-they're her favorite! Manny, are you coming with us?

MANNY

Yeah, I'll tag along. I have to write an essay on an animal for biology, but I'm still debating on which one I want to pick.

GLORIA

Well, today's the day to do it! (A beat, to Mitchell and Jay) What's going on with you two today?

MITCHELL

You know, Dad and I are going to go back to our place and set up the new flat screen that Cam and I just bought.

GLORIA

That should be easy for Jay. Isn't that what your old friends used to call you-King of the flats?

JAY

No. That's what the guys at the auto repair shop called me when I took in the car after you drove it over a Japanese garden.

GLORIA

(Argumentative) It was hard to see when the fountains are so little.

MANNY

(Puts hand on Gloria's shoulder) You almost hit Keiko.

GLORIA

(Quieter, still defensive) She is  
also very small.

CAM

Well, either way, it's good that  
Jay can help because Mitchell  
needs to learn a thing or two  
about electronics.

MITCHELL

Um, excuse me; I've set up plenty  
of electronics successfully.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH MITCHELL-DAY

MITCHELL

I'm actually pretty great with  
technology.

INT. CAM AND MITCHELL'S HOME OFFICE-EARLIER

They're behind a computer with an I-Pod plugged in. It loudly  
plays strange chanting music.

MITCHELL (V.O)

I figured out how to download  
songs onto Cam's I-pod for him

INT. INTERVIEW WITH MITCHELL-CONT.

MITCHELL

Granted, I could only get Easter  
Island chants to sync onto it.  
But, I managed to set up the  
electronic back-massage chair.

INT. CAM AND MITCHELL'S LIVING ROOM-EARLIER

Cam is on the electronic back massage chair and it's  
uncomfortably vibrating. He gives a weak thumbs up as he  
jolts around awkwardly.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH MITCHELL-CONT.

MITCHELL

And we can't forget about Lily's  
toy train! I'm still so proud of  
myself for that one. But the weird  
thing is-

INT. TOY ROOM-EARLIER

Cam and Lily are watching a barely moving toy train go backwards. A doll falls off of it and it stops working.

MITCHELL (V.O)  
I never see her playing with it  
anymore.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH MITCHELL-CONT.

MITCHELL  
Kinda strange. (A beat) But this  
flat screen should be a piece of  
cake.

CUE THEME:

INT. BOWLING ALLEY-DAY

Luke's birthday party is at the bowling alley; about six of his friends are there.

CLAIRE  
Are you guys ready for some  
bowling? You better watch out,  
because Mr. Birthday boy here has  
been getting pretty good this  
year.

She playfully punches Luke's shoulder.

LUKE  
Mom I-

CLAIRE  
(Interrupting) He beat his dad by  
26 points last time we all played.  
So I want to see everyone with  
their game faces on!

The boys react by making tough game faces.

CLAIRE  
Nice! Ooh scary game face, Mason.

Luke pulls Claire away from the group of friends.

LUKE  
Mom. I didn't beat dad by 26. My  
score was 26. I'm a terrible  
bowler.

CLAIRe

(Suddenly realizing her mistake, her enthusiasm dims) Oh, that's right. Well, I'm sure you'll still play a good game today, honey. And hey a 26 isn't the worst score. You still shot better than Haley.

LUKE

She used the five and under bowling ramp. We had to convince the employee to let her use it.

CLAIRe

You could use the ramp!

Luke is extremely irked by this.

CLAIRe

(Softer) Bumpers?

LUKE

Out in the world of lanes, it's kill or get killed. And if I'm seen with bumpers, I'm a gonner.

Luke dramatically exits towards group of friends.

CLAIRe

Sheesh.

INT. DUNPHY KITCHEN-DAY

Haley, Alex, and Phil are huddled near the laptop looking for magicians to book.

HALEY

Oh, here's one! He was rated five stars and he's not too pricey.

ALEX

(Squinting to read the screen) Aaaand he's booked for the next seven weeks.

PHIL

Ugh-this is killing me. Why can't I just be the magician for tonight?

ALEX

We went over this already-you always do the same cheesy magic tricks and we want a professional.

HALEY

Wait! I think I found someone. His website says: seemingly impossible tricks, Matthew Higgins can perform endless pages of (voice grows less excited in realization) calculus, algebra, and geometry. Never mind-it says mathematician.

Alex steers the computer closer.

ALEX

(Enthusiastic) We-we could still use him. I like this guy already.

HALEY

(Annoyed) I'm not surprised that you do.

PHIL

Alright, that's enough scavenger hunting for sub-par magicians for now. We have a birthday cake to pick up.

ALEX

(Pointing to screen) But-wait...

Phil begins heading out the door.

PHIL

We're leaving!

HALEY

(Under breath) If we keep looking for other magicians, he's just gonna play Magic by Olivia Newton-John and start crying.

ALEX

Ugh, you're right.

EXT. ZOO ZEBRA EXHIBIT-DAY

Cam is pushing Lily in the stroller as they approach the zebra exhibit. Gloria and Manny walk beside him.

CAM

This is so exciting! I haven't seen a pig since I was back at the farm with mama and the whole family. And to see one that isn't going to the slaughter house? Oh, it's just so thrilling!

MANNY

What's this next exhibit?

LILY

GOWILLA!

CAM

No, the sign says 'zebras'. I know you're excited for the gorillas, Lily, but we have to look at some other animals first.

A local zoo employee overhears them.

ZOO EMPLOYEE

Not much luck with these guys.  
They haven't come out all day.

GLORIA

This is the zebras?

When Gloria pronounces 'zebras', she stresses the e wrong.

ZOO EMPLOYEE

Yep.

GLORIA

Oh, that's too bad then. (Gestures to her blouse) zebras are my favorite!

Gloria walks up to the glass. As they're all watching, two zebras appear and walk near them. People begin to see this in excitement and crowd by the glass.

MANNY

Mom! Your zebra print shirt! They think you're one of them!

The crowd grows; phones flash with pictures and Gloria poses and smiles.

INT. CAM AND MITCHELL'S LIVING ROOM-DAY

Jay and Mitchell begin the process of setting up the new flat screen TV.

JAY

Okay, so take the cable jack and-no, it's the other wire.  
(Frustrated) That's not even near the cable jack.

MITCHELL

Could I just see the instruction sheet again?

JAY

Instructions are what weeds out the weak people. Let me in here.

Jay moves behind the screen and works at the cable box.

MITCHELL

You know, sometimes I feel like you never let me do things for myself. It's like you just automatically think I'm going to fail.

JAY

(He lifts his head in doubt) I do not. (Continues sorting wires)

MITCHELL

Remember when I tried boy scouts for a few months?

JAY

Days.

MITCHELL

Fine, when I tried it for a few days. We went camping. I tried to set up the tent; I picked up the first connector piece and you already had it done. And the same thing happened with the campfire, too. You said I "constructed s'mores the wrong way".

JAY

Everyone knows that you put the chocolate on the bottom and then the marshmallow.

MITCHELL

Dad, I'm serious. Would you let me set some of this up? At least half? Also, where did you even put the instructions?

JAY

Mitchell, I'm gonna be frank with you. If I let you set this up yourself, cable is the very last thing this TV will have.

MITCHELL

Wow. you're really going to stoop  
that low? I think you're  
forgetting that I'm an adult and I  
can do these things for myself.

Jay stops working with the wires.

JAY

Okay, princess. Let's have it your  
way. You do it yourself.

Jay sits back on the couch.

MITCHELL

Alright, then. Great. All I need  
is that instruction guide. Where'd  
you put it?

JAY

Ah yeah, that's in the trash.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY-DAY

Luke's friends are doing significantly better than him in  
their game of bowling.

TOMMY

Whoa, Mason! I can't believe you  
got three strikes in a row?

MASON

I know! I haven't gone bowling  
since like second grade.

TOMMY

I guess it's just too easy.

MASON

Oh-Luke, I think you're up next.

LUKE

It's the last frame? Oh, god.

CLAIRE

(From distance) Oh, god.

Luke stretches his arms and prepares himself for the shot.

CLAIRE

You got this, honey!

The scene turns into a slow-mo as Luke begins to throw the  
shot. "Chariots of Fire" begins to play. Claire does the sign

of the cross. Luke let's go of his grip. His friends are nervously squinting and veering to the right to see the ball. The anticipation is built up as the seen reveals everyone's hopeful faces. This anticipation dies as the ball rolls into the gutter. The music cuts and the score board shows "0 points".

MASON

Aw, man.

TOMMY

Good try, dude.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH CLAIRE-DAY

CLAIRe

Okay, so bowling wound up being a disaster. Was this all my fault?  
(Playing with the idea, then answering) Uh, yes. Definitely. I mean, seeing Luke so disappointed on his birthday made me feel awful! No kid deserves that.  
(Change into sneakier tone) But lucky for him, there's an arcade across the street. And the party is not over, friends.

INT. BAKERY-DAY

Phil, Alex, and Haley are waiting in a long line to pick up the birthday cake.

ALEX

(Sighs) This is taking way too long. We're burning daylight. We have to find a magician by tonight.

PHIL

In that case, I hope this line doesn't move an inch.

HALEY

(Reading cake shop sign) Look! They have strawberry vodka cake samples!

She attempts to run to the tray. Phil veers towards her and pulls her arm back.

PHIL

No, Haley, no.

HALEY

(Defeated) It's just cake, it's not like it's an actual shot. A shot is way harder than that.

PHIL

I'm just going to pretend like I didn't hear you tell me what a shot tastes like.

Haley realizes she gave herself away and becomes embarrassed.

ALEX

Wait, I think that's our neighbor from across the street getting a sample up there. That's (trying to remember the name) Xavier Santos.

HALEY

Oh, I remember him! We always saw him at those block parties at the... (Remembers and suddenly smiles) Magic show booth! Oh my god, we have to ask him to show us his old tricks-we might've found our guy!

ALEX

That's right!

PHIL

(Bitterly) I-I don't remember him.

HALEY

Well, we do.

ALEX

Wait, but he did those magic tricks when he was like what? Eight years old? Do you think his tricks have you know... gotten better?

HALEY

Probably. We'll see.

EXT. ZOO-DAY

Gloria, Cam and Manny are leaving the zebra exhibit. They're on their way to see the gorillas. Cam is snapping pictures of Gloria.

CAM

No worries, I got your good side.

GLORIA

Thank you, Cam! I've never seen a zebra in real life before!

CAM

You know, I think it's actually pronounced zEE-bruh and not zEH-bruh.

GLORIA

(Sarcastically) Sorry I can't pronounce an exotic animal's name in a language that I'm still learning new words in.

CAM

(Defensive) I just wanted to correct you so that you would know how to say it for future reference.

GLORIA

(Sarcastic) Yes, because I use the word (mispronounces) zebra every single day.

CAM

(Patronizing but quick) zEE-bruh.

GLORIA

(Frustrated) Aye, you know what I mean.

CAM

Gloria, I'm trying to *help* you. A zebra isn't just an exotic animal. It's a fashion statement- you being a perfect example of course.

They walk away and their conversation is inaudible. You can see that Cam has taken the wrong stroller without noticing-emphasizing her still being in the stroller at the zoo exhibit while they walk away.

INT. ARCADE-DAY

CLAIRE

(Talking to Luke's friend group)  
Okay, I bought you boys ten tickets each, so use them carefully.

They each grab the tickets.

MASON  
Who wants to try the claw machine?

The group bursts out into many individual "I do"'s

INT-CLAW MACHINE-CONT.

The group is standing by the claw machine, focusing deeply as one boy tries to get a mini basketball toy, but fails. The group hypes it up as "Almost! almost! awe..."

TOMMY  
I'm all out of tickets. Who's next?

LUKE  
(Weakly) I am.

CLAIRE  
You know what? I'm gonna go on the other side and tell you when to drop the claw so you can get a better angle.

LUKE  
Good idea.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH CLAIRE-CONT.

CLAIRE  
No-it was a great idea. I learned a little thing or two from taking my conniving genius child-Alex-to the arcade year after year. She's cleaned out an entire claw machine before. So, I decided to help Luke out for this round. I cashed a token on the other side and used that claw machine...

INT. CLAW MACHINE-FLASHBACK.

Claire is guiding the claw back and forth on the other side of the machine without being noticed.

CLAIRE (V.O)  
To make Luke *think* he was doing all the work.

INT. CLAW MACHINE-REAL TIME

CLAIRE  
Okay, hit the button!

Claire hits the real button. Luke hits the inactive button. He wins the basketball, the boys cheer. Claire smiles at the camera from other side of the machine.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH CLAIRE-CONT.

CLAIRe

I got Luke a win, but I didn't want it to stop at just one so-

INT. CLAW MACHINE-CONT.

We see a small montage of claw machine toys being dropped into the winner bucket.

CLAIRe (V.O)

I might've gone a little overboard.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH CLAIRE-CONT.

CLAIRe

But, then again, that's what mom's are for.

INT. EXIT/PARKING LOT OF ARCADE-LATER

Luke and his friends are giving each other high-fives and are drenched in toys-capes, stuffed animals, glow sticks, basketballs-from the claw machine as they exit the arcade and walk to the parking lot.

INT. MITCHELL'S LIVING ROOM-DAY

Mitchell and Jay are still working on the TV installation with the same annoyed tension. Jay is drinking iced tea on the couch as he watches Mitchell struggle to set up.

MITCHELL

(To self) Cable jack hook in the... out socket... aaaaand...

JAY

(Interrupting) the jack goes into the CABLE IN socket.

MITCHELL

(Passive aggressive) Got that, thanks!

Mitchell continues playing with the wires.

JAY

That's still not it. That's for  
the DVD player, which you haven't  
even gotten to yet.

MITCHELL

Thanks for that reminder! And  
here's one for you-let me do this  
myself! I don't have the  
instructions anymore so this is  
just trial and error for me.

JAY

I'm seeing a lot more error than  
trial.

Mitchell angrily drops the extension cord and glares at Jay.

MITCHELL

Are you even listening?

JAY

(Defensive) Okay, okay! I won't  
help you. I mean, who needs cable  
when I can watch this reality TV  
mess right here?

We see Mitchell's extreme annoyance with Jay.

INT. DUNPHY LIVING ROOM-DAY

Phil, Alex and Haley are sitting on the couch in their living room watching Xavier perform old magic tricks for them. They're desperately trying to hide their disappointment because he's awful. Xavier is holding up a pencil.

XAVIER

You see this pencil, correct?

HALEY, PHIL, ALEX

(Unenthusiastically) Yes.

Xavier puts the pencil behind his back and shows his empty hands to them.

XAVIER

Where did it go? Nobody kno-

As he says this, he's interrupted by the pencil-taped to his back-falling off an onto the floor.

PHIL

(Whispering to Alex) Did he just  
tape the pencil to his back?

ALEX  
(Whispering back) And it fell.

XAVIER  
Time FOR the next one!

He does jazz hands.

XAVIER  
FOR you guys, this trick will blow  
your mind. It's perfect FOR  
everyone. Most audiences love it,  
especially FOR me. Mr. Dunphy,  
pick a number one through ten.  
Don't tell me what it is.

PHIL  
Okay, I got one.

Xavier closes his eyes and breathes deeply, opening them.

XAVIER  
Was your number...

Xavier runs up to Phil and begins to read his palm. He then  
deeply looks into his eyes.

XAVIER  
Four?

Phil stares blankly at him for a solid three seconds until he  
passively aggressively breaks.

PHIL  
It was! That was an awesome trick,  
Xavier! Unfortunately, we have  
some party balloons to pick up  
soon, but it was GREAT catching up  
with you-

As Phil talks to him, he is guiding/almost pushing Xavier to  
the door.

PHIL  
Amazing tricks, man. You're a real  
prodigy. You should totally major  
in magic.

Phil gets him out the door and immediately shuts it.

PHIL  
My number was seven.

ALEX

What a waste of time! What are we gonna do now?

PHIL

That is a sign from God himself telling us that I need to be the magician at the party tonight.

ALEX

(Annoyed) No, we'll just buy a ring toss or something equally stupid fun.

HALEY

(Looking at her phone) Wait, wait, wait! My friend Samantha's mom does some sort of magician party thing! I've heard she's good. I could call and see if she can come to the party tonight.

ALEX

Yes! Anyone will work at this point. Anyone besides (glaring at Phil) you or pencil boy. I'll look up her website reviews. What's her name?

HALEY

Magic Megan I think?

Alex reads the laptop screen, simultaneously we see Phil's bitterness.

ALEX

Oh yeah, check this out. "Megan made the whole party jump out of their seats! She really knows how to whip up some magic!" And one more: "The balloons we're great." See that? She even does balloon animals! Haley, is she booked for tonight?

HALEY

(Holding up phone) No, she can come at 6! Finally, we found someone!

PHIL

(To self) I was so close.

He makes the "So close" hand gesture.

## EXT. GORILLA PIT-DAY

Manny, Gloria, and Cam are at the next exhibit, still not noticing they took the wrong stroller.

MANNY

Look at all these gorillas!  
They're so similar to humans; it's  
incredible. I think I'm going to  
write about them for my paper.

GLORIA

Oh good, Manny! I agree. Gorillas  
are such interesting animals.

CAM

That's funny, gorillas are Lily's  
favorite animal and she hasn't  
said a word! Lily?

Cam bends down to look in the stroller, quickly popping back up.

CAM

Oh my god. OH MY GOD.

GLORIA AND MANNY

(Joining in on panic) What?

CAM

This isn't Lily!

A small blonde boy is revealed sitting calmly in the stroller.

CAM

We took the wrong stroller!

MANNY

That's right! The lady next to us  
at the zebra exhibit had the same  
stroller. We should split up and  
look for Lily.

CAM

Good idea. I'll call the front  
desk and security. You two check  
somewhere-anywhere-just try to  
find her!

Cam runs off, shouting "We're gonna find you, Lily!"

MANNY

I think the lady with the other stroller was wearing (thinking hard) a bright blue shirt. So we have to keep our eyes out for that.

EXT. ZOO CAFETERIA-DAY

A huge group of moms and kids are wearing bright blue shirts, eating lunch.

MANNY

Of course. It's a mommy and me group. They're all wearing the same thing-blue.

GLORIA

So much for narrowing it down.  
Aye, start checking strollers!  
Quickly!

MANNY

On it.

They split up and start checking each stroller rapidly.

INT. MITCHELL'S LIVING ROOM-DAY

MITCHELL

One last wire and we are all  
(pushes in wire) done! Let's watch  
some cable.

Jay gets up from the couch.

JAY

Not so fast. Let me see that remote.

Mitchell hands him the remote.

MITCHELL

It should work perfectly fine.

Jay clicks on the TV. The screen shows fuzzy gray stripes and static.

JAY

Ah yes, my favorite channel.

Mitchell rubs his temples and tries to grab the remote back.

MITCHELL  
Just give me this-

JAY  
(Interrupting) No, no, this is my  
favorite part!

MITCHELL  
Just fix it!

EXT. ZOO CAFETERIA-CONT.

Manny and Gloria are still hurriedly searching the strollers.

MANNY  
Lily? Lily? (Shouting over to  
Gloria) did you find her yet?

GLORIA  
No, I don't see her! LILY!

Aggressively checking strollers, she suddenly finds her.

GLORIA  
Ah, here she is.

Cam runs in quickly with zoo employee.

CAM  
Oh, Gloria! Did you find her yet?

GLORIA  
I just did!

She lifts Lily out of the stroller. Cam picks up the blonde  
baby and puts him in the other stroller.

CAM  
Oh, Lily! Thank god we found you!

Manny is sweating as he runs over with an Asian child in his  
arms.

MANNY  
You guys! I found her! I found  
Lily!

Gloria and Cam confusedly just point to their Lily.

MANNY  
(Panicking, begins to run back)  
Never mind, this is not Lily.

INT. FAMILY PARTY AT DUNPHY'S-LATER

Everyone has arrived. Luke is showing off his claw machine toys.

LUKE

And then-I didn't think I was going to win the dinosaur, but at the VERY last second of the count down, I hit the drop button, and I grabbed him at the perfect angle.

CLAIRE

Yeah, you did great today, sweetie! Just make sure you clean up some of those toys. (To Phil) Did you guys find a good magician or what?

PHIL

We found one, but you passed up on the best one.

CLAIRE

Phil, I know you want to do your magic and all but like I said-it just wouldn't be fair to Luke. It's his birthday and he deserves a professional-or at least someone to teach him real tricks.

PHIL

Oh, but it's right to just throw away my dreams like it's no big deal?

CLAIRE

I'm not having this argument anymore, Phil.

INT. DUNPHY LIVING ROOM-CONT.

Cam and Mitchell are talking.

MITCHELL

So, how was the zoo today?

CAM

It was super! Lily went crazy for the gorillas.

MITCHELL

Ah, yes-you told me you'd take a picture of her by them, can I see it?

CAM

Oh you know, we were having so much fun-we just forgot!

MITCHELL

Cam, I know you. You would never forget to take a picture of our daughter.

CAM

Okay, fine! I'll just say it.

(Panicked) We lost Lily-very briefly-but we took the wrong stroller.

MITCHELL

(Fuming) You lost our daughter at a public zoo?

CAM

And we found her! (He gestures to Lily happily playing with claw machine toys) She's perfectly safe and sound. It was the tiniest mix up-I swear. (Trying to change the subject quickly) You didn't tell me how setting up the flat screen went.

JAY

(Smirking as he walks by) Oh, he couldn't set it up for the life of him. It's gonna take another week to finish that. Isn't that right, Mitchell?

MITCHELL

Not another word from you!

CAM

Oh, so I'm not the only one who screwed up today?

JAY

All I'm saying is that I gave you a shot to show me you could do something on your own and -

Jay trips on one of the claw machine toys and falls on his back.

Mitchell and Claire run over to help him.

MITCHELL

Dad-Dad! Are you okay?

CLAIRE

Oh no, did he fall on the basketball? Luke! I told you to pick up those toys!

JAY

(Sarcastically, weakly) I'm doing great! Phenomenal, actually.

Suddenly the doorbell rings.

HALEY

Oh! That must be Magic Megan!

She runs over to the door and opens it. Outside stands a rusty looking blonde woman in her mid-40's. She wears a skimpy black outfit, holds a large trunk, and puffs a cigarette.

MAGIC MEGAN

Alright, where are the gentleman at this rodeo? I've got thirty-five minutes and I'm starting the timer.

She tosses and stomps on the cigarette. Then proceeds to put on a magic cape and play sexy-slow music she begins dancing to.

PHIL

Oh my god. She's a stripper.

ALEX

THAT'S what the balloons we're.

Claire gets up from helping Jay and runs over to stop the music and kick Megan out.

CLAIRE

(Struggling) Get her out! Ma'am this is the wrong party!  
Okay-someone please get her out!  
Hurry!

Megan is sexy dancing and waving around a wand to 'Magic' by Olivia Newton-John. Claire is covering Luke's eyes with one hand and pushing Megan's stuff away with the other. Phil opens the door and pushes her to leave. While this occurs, and she's on her way out, Megan shouts at them.

MAGIC MEGAN  
I still expect compensation for  
this! I have your card number!

She is finally kicked out. Everyone wears a face of shock.  
It's quiet.

LUKE  
(Weakly) Is that what magicians  
do?

INT. DUNPHY KITCHEN-CONT.

Claire, Phil, Haley and Alex are having a mini meeting in the kitchen after the horrific event.

CLAIRES  
(Masked anger, almost scary calm)  
One thing. I ask you to do one  
thing. A magician. Even if not, a  
cool card game for the family. And  
what do you do? (Tension explodes)  
YOU HIRE A STRIPPER!

ALEX  
It didn't say that on the website!  
But, now the reviews make sense I  
guess.

CLAIRES  
I don't care what you thought she  
was! Luke is sitting out there  
thinking he was getting an actual  
magician. I took care of his party  
at the bowling alley earlier. It's  
up to you three to fix this one.  
Now.

Claire storms off into the living room angrily.

PHIL  
(A sliver of excitement) Well,  
well, well. Look who's the only  
magician left.

INT. DUNPHY LIVING ROOM-CONT.

Mitchell is helping Jay with his back.

MITCHELL  
Alright, so to crack it into  
place, I just have to-

Mitchell pulls Jay's shoulder back and we hear a 'pop'.

MITCHELL  
Do this- and then

He does the same thing the other side, Jay lets out a small cry of pain.

MITCHELL  
I'll get some ice and it should feel better.

Mitchell walks off.

GLORIA  
Oh my poor baby, are you alright?

JAY  
(Rubbing back) You know, I actually have to hand it to Mitchell. My back is already feeling a lot better. I never thought I'd say this but, that was really impressive.

Mitchell returns with ice.

MITCHELL  
Okay, this should help with the upper back. And... what was it you just said?

JAY  
Aw, come on. You heard me.

Mitchell shoots him a look.

JAY  
Fine, Mitchell. I'm impressed. You fixed my back in a matter of minutes. I couldn't have done that. Thank you.

MITCHELL  
(Sentimental) No problem, dad.

Phil appears from the kitchen in full magician costume and set up.

PHIL  
Are you all ready for... PHIL THE FANTASTIC? What can I say? My tricks are... PRICELESS!

As he says the word 'priceless', a handful of coins fall out of his sleeve. Everyone is enjoying it.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH CLAIRE-EVENING

CLAIRe

(Admittedly) I guess I was just being ignorant when I told Phil he couldn't be the magician for Luke's party. Because...

INT. DUNPHY LIVING ROOM MAGICIAN SHOW-FLASHBACK

Phil is wowing everyone with funny tricks. Luke loves it and everyone is delighted by the show.

CLAIRe (V.O)

...he is a pretty great magician. And although we didn't quite dodge a big stripper bullet, it was still a success. And Luke was happy.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH CLAIRE-CONT.

She just shrugs and smiles.

CLAIRe

That's all that mattered anyways.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH MANNY

MANNY

So. I decided to write about gorillas for my essay. I had to explain why I chose them. So here's what I've penciled in so far. (From paper) Gorillas are one of my favorite animals, because they are so much like humans.

INT. JAY HOLDING ICE ON HIS BACK-FLASHBACK

Pan over Jay after his fall, being aided with help.

MANNY (V.O.)

Some of their characteristics include being a little clumsy.

INT. CLAIRE MANIPULATING CLAW MACHINE-FLASHBACK

MANNY (V.O.)  
They also can be conniving and  
sneaky to get things that they  
want.

EXT. GLORIA AND CAM TAKING THE WRONG STROLLER-FLASHBACK

We also see them searching stroller-by-stroller for Lily  
frantically.

MANNY (V.O.)  
And, they can get a little  
careless at times.

INT. PHIL DOING MAGIC TRICKS AT THE PARTY-FLASHBACK

MANNY (V.O.)  
At the end of the day, they still  
show qualities of being helpful  
and affectionate towards each  
other in their actions.

INT. JAY AND MITCHELL ON COUCH-FLASHBACK

Mitchell hands Jay more ice and Jay smiles sentimentally.

MANNY (V.O.)  
Even though sometimes it can be  
difficult to show it.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH MANNY-CONT.

MANNY  
I chose them because in a weird,  
animal-kingdom way, they're like a  
family.

He sighs happily.

MANNY  
I better get an A on this.

CREDITS ROLLING  
FINAL SCENE:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD SIDEWALK NEAR DUNPHY HOUSE-LATER

Magic Megan dejectedly walks with her stuff on the sidewalk.  
Xavier is walking next to her in the middle of showing her  
his awful pencil trick. She's unexcited.

XAVIER

Ta Da! Where did the pencil go?

MAGIC MEGAN

(Extremely unimpressed) That was the stupidest thing I have ever seen. You know I can see the tape on the pencil, right?

XAVIER

Sheesh. If mine are so terrible, why don't you show me a trick?

MAGIC MEGAN

(Almost laughing) I'm afraid I've gotta charge in advance for that, honey. You sure you don't have any better ones?

XAVIER

(Smiling) Well, I have a great trick FOR you. FOR audiences, it blows their mind. But personally FOR me-

END OF EPISODE

