

MODERN FAMILY

"Coaster World"

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. DUNPHY KITCHEN - MORNING

CLAIRE, wearing a blue T-shirt that reads "Coaster World," excitedly packs a bag with bottles of water.

CLAIRE
(to no one in particular)
C'mon guys, we've got to leave in
15 minutes if we're going to beat
the morning rush.

LUKE walks in wearing an ill-fitting bathing suit.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Luke honey, where are your shorts?

LUKE
I have them on under my bathing
suit. Like you said.

CLAIRE
No, I said to put your suit on
underneath your shorts. That way
you can jump on the water rides
without going to the changing room.

LUKE
But won't my bathing suit keep my
shorts dry?

CLAIRE
(sighs)
Maybe one day we'll have that
bathing suit technology. Please go
switch.

Luke walks out as HALEY and ALEX enter, looking disheveled.

ALEX
Mom, it's 8:15 on a Saturday. I
need the weekend to rest my brain.

HALEY
Who goes to Coaster World at the
crack of dawn? If anyone from
school sees me, I'll be de-friended
- and not just on Facebook.

CLAIRE

If you don't get ready for a happy day of fun and adventure, then your family will de-friend you... OK, we'd never do that. Just get ready.

(to Alex)

You too, smarty pants.

(beat, then annoyed)

Happy Day! March!

CLAIRE INTERVIEW

CLAIRE

I love the rides at Coaster World. But what will really exhilarate me is if my family actually enjoys themselves and no one has to go to the hospital. My last two events were a money-losing car wash and our block party, where I accidentally broke the neighbor's hip and...lost two dogs.

EXT. DUNPHY BLOCK PARTY - DAY

Jay is sitting on a lawn chair, drinking a beer, as Stella barks at two large dogs who are leashed to the chair next to him. Claire briskly walks over to the other chair.

CLAIRE

Hey Dad, I need to grab this chair for Mrs. Harris.

JAY

Wait, it's...

Claire picks up the chair, freeing the dogs - who run off.

CLAIRE INTERVIEW

CLAIRE

Meanwhile Gloria organized the most elaborate middle-school fashion show in history and successfully lobbied the town council to ban street construction before 9 AM.

INT. TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OFFICE - DAY

Gloria, in a low-cut dress, frantically mimics a jackhammer, as four men sitting on the council gaze adoringly at her.

CLAIRE

I'm on the brink of losing my alpha-female, competent, reliable leader status. I need my mojo back - or at the very least, to beat Gloria.

INT. DUNPHY KITCHEN - MORNING

As Claire packs PHIL slides behind her, wearing a thick mustache.

CLAIRE

Phil, is the car packed yet?

PHIL

You can say we're all ready to be whiskered away.

CLAIRE

Great, because the traffic to the park can get a little hairy.

PHIL

(to camera)
You have no idea.

CLAIRE

What do you...

Claire turns to look at Phil and grimaces.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

That's not what I meant when I asked you to shave.

PHIL INTERVIEW

PHIL

A week ago I attended the Annual West Coast Independent Realtor Convention. I've been going to AWCIRC for 10 years, but this time before I left...

INT. DUNPHY BATHROOM -DAY

Luke is screaming while staring at the bathroom mirror with a small cut on his lip and Phil's electric shaver in his hand. Phil walks in and sees the blood and screams. Luke, surprised by Phil, drops the shaver in the toilet. Phil screams even louder at the sight of his shaver in the toilet.

PHIL INTERVIEW

PHIL

Dad gave me Smitty when I was 18. I didn't have time to replace the old gal. But soon I started rocking my Sonny Crockett look.

INT. CONVENTION HALL - NIGHT

Phil talks to realtors with a five O'clock shadow and his suit jacket sleeves awkwardly rolled up.

PHIL INTERVIEW

PHIL

I let my facial hair grow for a full week for the first time since high school. Claire thoughtfully bought me a new razor - but when I was shaving this morning, I realized I could finally pull off a Selleck. How could I deny that to my wife?

INT. DUNPHY KITCHEN - MORNING

CLAIRE

Phil, you're not really going out in public like that.

PHIL

Don't even try and pretend you don't love it. You were the world's biggest Hall and Oates fan.

CLAIRE

I, uhm, sure.

PHIL

Oh honey, your kiss is on *my* list.

Phil gives Claire a kiss, and she winces, reacting to the strange feel of the mustache.

PHIL (CONT'D)
(yells out)
Let's go, gang!

Phil bounds out of the kitchen smiling.

CLAIRE INTERVIEW

CLAIRE
Always a Hall fan. Never Oates.

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

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

JAY and MANNY are standing by the front door with backpacks.

JAY
(yelling)
Gloria, you know how crazy Claire gets when we're late.

MANNY
Mrs. Thompson said that you shouldn't call people crazy, it's offensive to the mentally ill.

JAY
That teacher who doesn't wear shoes but manages to have fresh flowers in her hair every day? Yeah, I'll listen to that wack job.

MANNY
I don't understand why we're in such a rush. I hate Coaster World.

JAY
What kid hates Coaster World?

MANNY
Uhm, I don't know, a kid who hates discrimination?

JAY
What?

MANNY
The last time I was there, I was escorted to a segregated part of the park because of my appearance.

JAY
Colombian?

MANNY
No, height challenged. I can only go on half the rides. How is that even possible in America?

JAY

Wait till you start paying taxes.
(yells)
Gloria!

GLORIA walks in, wearing jeans and an oversized white T-shirt. Jay stares disapprovingly.

GLORIA

Grab your horses, I'm ready.
(noticing Jay's stare)
What is it, you don't like my
shirt? It's yours.

JAY

No, you look beautiful, honey. Just
a little covered up for a day at a
theme park. Won't you get hot?

GLORIA

Well, you can thank Claire. She's
always with the comments and the
dirty looks and the uncomfortable
crossing her arms to cover her own
tiny bosoms. It's not my fault I
have the curves. I'm sick of it.

JAY

She does that with everyone.

GLORIA

No, not everyone - just me. And
until she tells me it's OK to dress
how I want to dress, I dress like
her, with the ugly T-shirt.

JAY INTERVIEW

JAY

You gotta hand it to my daughter.
She really knows how to make the
old man happy.

INT. CAMERON AND MITCHELL'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

CAMERON is packing Lily's bag and singing the Coaster World jingle, to the *Star Wars* theme.

CAMERON

Coaster World / the fastest rides
at Coaster World / cool water
slides at Coaster World / a...
world... of... fun.

MITCHELL walks in with LILY.

MITCHELL

Will you please stop singing that?

CAMERON

(still singing)
Not until you're ready for...
Coaster World.

CAMERON AND MITCHELL INTERVIEW

CAMERON

I love Coaster World. In fact I
love all theme parks, carnivals,
fairs, feasts...

MITCHELL

Anything with enough junk food to
make you want to throw up and the
centrifugal force to make your
dreams come true.

INT. CAMERON AND MITCHELL'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

MITCHELL

OK, Lily is all ready to go.

Mitchell presents Lily, who's wearing a ski jacket.

CAMERON

Excuse me, but when did Coaster
World move to Antarctica?

MITCHELL

You know how those old creaky,
rusty metal rides can be. I don't
want her to be jostled around and
get hurt. Physically or
emotionally.

CAMERON

I think she can survive the Tea Cup
ride without the hockey pads.

CAMERON AND MITCHELL INTERVIEW

MITCHELL

I hate rides. When I was 12, Becky Wellington asked me to go with her to the annual town carnival. We were on the Ferris wheel, and some carny accidentally jammed the machine. It was just me and Becky in the night sky for 45 minutes.

(distraught)

It was horrible.

Mitchell hugs Cameron.

CAMERON

There, there. Becky can't hurt you now.

EXT. COASTER WORLD ENTRANCE - DAY

Claire leads the Dunphys in a jog to meet up with the rest of the family.

JAY

And I thought we'd be late.

HALEY

Sorry, Grandpa, but my loving family was halfway here before they realized I was still getting ready.

CLAIRE

And we would've been here 20 minutes ago if we'd left you.

Phil walks up to shake Jay's hand.

PHIL

Hey Jay, how's it hanging?

JAY

What the hell is that on your face?

PHIL

It's my new 'stache.

(grinning)

What? You don't approve that your daughter's married to a bad boy?

JAY

Bad boy? You look like you work at a leather bar in a 70s porno.

GLORIA

Jay, stop it - many men from my village wear the mustache. I think he looks very presidential.

Gloria and Phil exchange nods; Claire grimaces. She shakes it off and begins handing out tickets and maps to everyone.

CLAIRE

OK, guys - are we all ready for a day of fun at Coaster world?

GROUP

(mildly enthusiastic)
Yeah. Sure.

MITCHELL

Yes, I have been waiting for this day for weeks.

MITCHELL INTERVIEW

MITCHELL

In miserable anticipation.

EXT. ENTRANCE OF COASTER WORLD - DAY

The group walks in past security. Claire approaches an OLDER GUARD and HEAVY GUARD.

CLAIRE

Hello, officers.

OLDER GUARD

Ma'am.

CLAIRE

We have a number of children in our party, and I know these places can be kind of magnets for weirdos. Would you guys mind keeping a special eye on our kids?

HEAVY GUARD

We keep an eye on everyone Ma'm. You have nothing to worry about.

CLAIRE

I know I'm being crazy, but I'd really appreciate it.

Claire gives the guards a wink and walks away. The Heavy Guard then points to...

ANGLE ON: Phil, who walks past the guards a few paces behind the rest of the family, with a goofy smile on his face.

EXT. ENTRANCE OF COASTER WORLD - DAY

The group stands in around Claire, who is holding her map.

CLAIRE

OK everyone, we're starting with the fastest coaster in the park, the Jump to Hyperspace. Then it's on to the harrowing Screaming Star Fighter before taking a dip into the terrifying Galactic Drop.

HALEY

Mom, can Alex and I just do our own thing until lunch?

Alex looks confused, Haley shrugs and Alex eeks out a smile.

CLAIRE

Honey, today we're supposed to have fun together. As a family.

ALEX

Haley and I are family - and besides, it looks like uncle Cameron has his own plans.

The group looks over at Cameron.

ANGLE ON: Cameron and Lily are sitting next to each other on the Flying Saucer ride as Cameron eats a candy apple.

CLAIRE

Fine, we can split up, but just until lunch. Let's meet at 12:30 at the Battlestar Brunchica.

LUKE

Mom, can I go with you on the Jump to Hyperspace?

CLAIRE

Oh Luke, the force is strong with you. Let's go guys!

MANNY

Uhm, maybe I'll just do some window shopping at the gift shop.

CLAIRE

C'mon, you're not afraid, are you?

MANNY

Just for my dignity.

CLAIRE

You'll be fine and it will be a blast. Right - Gloria?

GLORIA

Sure, we all go, right, Jay?

Gloria turns around, but Jay is gone.

ANGLE ON: Jay, ordering a chili dog.

MITCHELL

I got them. Cam's having too much fun in Cadet Town anyway.

We stay on the group but follow Mitchell in the background as he walks behind a kid throwing a dart at a balloon game. The dart slips from the kid's hand, flies backward and hits Mitchell in the cheek. Unbeknownst to the group, he staggers in pain, clutching his face.

EXT. COASTER WORLD - DAY

Phil, Claire, Gloria, Luke and Manny are walking to the Jump to Hyperspace roller coaster line. Trailing close behind are the two security guards.

CLAIRE

OK guys, I know these lines stink, but shrug it off. We'll be hurtling through space in no time.

LUKE

Hey Dad, what's a leather bar?

PHIL

Uhm, it's like a sundae bar, except instead of delicious desserts you can purchase leather products.

LUKE

Like cowboy boots?

PHIL

Sure.

LUKE

And whips?

PHIL

Not too sure about that one, buddy.
Anywho, the line's moving.

The group walks up to the front. The ride operator, MIKE, a goofy-looking teenager, stands in front of the gate. He lets Luke go through but stops the slightly shorter Manny.

MIKE

Sorry, young space explorer, you're not quite ready to take the ride of your life.

He points to a sign with an alien that reads "You must be this tall to explore the galaxy."

GLORIA

Manny, is no big deal.

MANNY

Thanks a lot. I knew this was a bad idea, but we just *had* to go on this stupid bucket of bolts.

CLAIRE

Manny, I'm so sorry, I had no idea.

MANNY

I could use some alone time.

Manny walks away.

GLORIA

Manny, no.

CLAIRE

What have I done? He's gonna hate me now.

GLORIA

Maybe, but I go talk to him.

PHIL

Gloria, if I may, why don't you and Claire enjoy the ride with Luke and I'll go talk to Manny?

GLORIA

Oh, Phil, so decisive. Must be the mustache.

CLAIRE

Well, you've obviously never seen him order a Cinnabon before.

Gloria, Claire and Luke walk up the ramp to the ride. Phil chases over to Manny.

EXT. COASTERWORLD PICNIC AREA - DAY

Haley and Alex are sitting at a picnic table, sipping sodas.

HALEY

So I told Lisa, if she doesn't stop flirting with Joey, I'm going to put the moves on Jim.

ALEX

Why? Do you like Jim?

HALEY

He's not really my type, he's more of a jock. I'm into skater dudes.

ALEX

So why go after Jim if you don't like him?

HALEY

Because Lisa has had a crush on Jim since the fifth grade, and I'm into Joey. But for some reason, Joey seems more interested in Lisa and Jim's more into me.

ALEX

What's so great about Joey?

HALEY

Have you seen him? He's only the hottest guy in school.

ALEX

Of course, all you care about is appearance and popularity. Doesn't intelligence mean anything?

HALEY

Sure, but brains aren't everything either. Joey is also a nice guy.

(MORE)

HALEY (CONT'D)

He fixed Celeste Stroman's tire
after she hit a fire hydrant.

ALEX

Most of the boys I meet seem nice
until I talk to them. Then they act
like jerks.

HALEY

At first they all act like jerks,
even the nice guys. They either
want to prove how cool they are or
cover up their nerves, so they say
stupid things.

ALEX

Really?

HALEY

I don't know much, but I do know
teenage boys. Believe me, they all
sound mean or dumb, even if they're
neither.

ALEX

For how long?

HALEY

Until you hook up or ignore them.
So, do you like anyone?

ALEX

Well, there is one guy.

Haley lights up in excitement.

HALEY

Who? Tell me, tell me!

ALEX

His name is Mike Schmidt.

HALEY

Is he cute?

ALEX

His face is pretty clear. He's also
one of the smartest kids in school
and Secretary of the Student UN.

HALEY

Sounds, uhm, sexy.

Alex looks off into the distance and then sits up in shock.

ALEX

Oh my god! Oh my god! There he is!

HALEY

Who? Dad?

ALEX

No, Mike! He must work here.

ANGLE ON: Mike, walking toward the picnic area.

ALEX (CONT'D)

He's waving at me! What do I do?

Haley has already begun waving Mike over to them.

HALEY

Remember, just ignore what he says.

Mike walks to the table and sits down.

MIKE

Hey Alex, what are you doing here?

ALEX

Oh, just hanging with my sister,
Haley. What about you?

MIKE

I hate to say it, but I work here.

ALEX

Really? I mean, that must be fun.

MIKE

Dealing with annoying screaming
kids and their pushy parents?

HALEY

You two seem like you have a lot to
talk about. Alex, I'm going to find
the rest of the group.

Haley gets up and walks away, giving Alex a reassuring look.

MIKE

Congratulations on winning the
Science Fair. Your DNA double helix
exhibit was pretty cool.

ALEX

Thanks, Mike. I really enjoyed your
geological study as well.

MIKE

Yeah. It was pretty cool.

The two share an awkward smile.

EXT. COASTER WORLD - DAY

Phil jogs up to Manny, with the two security guards following.

PHIL

Hey buddy, don't worry about that.

MANNY

It's not fair, it's discrimination.

PHIL

No it's not, they're just looking out for your safety. You can get hurt if you're not tall enough to fit in the seat.

MANNY

Then why not require IQ tests to make sure you're not too dumb to stand up in the middle of the ride?

EXT. JUMP TO HYPERSPACE PLATFORM - DAY

Luke walks precariously on the top of a fence close to the speeding coaster that zips right next to him.

EXT. COASTER WORLD - DAY

MANNY

What if you have a cold and get everyone on the ride sick?

PHIL

I think I know what this is about. You're upset because Luke is a teeny bit taller than you. But you'll get there soon, buddy. C'mon, let me buy you a gift.

MANNY

Well, I can use a new wallet.

PHIL

I know exactly where to get one.

Phil puts his arm around Manny. The security guards, who have been following Phil, approach him.

OLDER GUARD

Hey, Ron Burgundy. What are you doing?

PHIL

Hello officer, I was just explaining to my young friend not to worry about being so small. That soon he'll be so big he won't have to worry about the kid rules.

OLDER GUARD

Is this your son?

PHIL

(unsure)
No, he's my nephew?

MANNY

No, I'm not.

PHIL

Well, technically he's my step-father. Or no, he's my step brother-in-law, I think.

MANNY

He was just going to take me to the leather bar.

HEAVY GUARD

OK, pervo, you're coming with us.

The guards violently grab Phil.

MANNY

Officers, what are you doing?

OLDER GUARD

Don't worry about it, kid, we just want to ask this man a few questions. Is your mother here?

MANNY

Yes, she's right over there.

OLDER GUARD

OK, go over to her immediately.

MANNY

Uhm, OK.

Manny walks off.

PHIL

What are you guys doing, that boy
really is with me!

OLDER GUARD

No more mustache rides for you.

The guards escort Phil away.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. CADET TOWN - DAY

Jay, Cameron, Mitchell and Lily are walking among carnival games. Jay is eating fried dough, while Cameron is working on cotton candy. Mitchell has a band aid on his cheek.

JAY

You know, this ain't half bad. I get to see my granddaughter, and in Cadet Town there's no such thing as cholesterol.

MITCHELL

Dad, you do realize it doesn't work that way.

CAMERON

Don't you ever stop?

Lily starts laughing and points to a basketball game with stuffed Bert and Ernie doll prizes.

JAY

Well, look at that - it's like the two of you in puppet form.

MITCHELL

Good one, Dad, like we've never heard that one before.

JAY

Well, it's not like you guys are exactly like them since, you know, you have your own arrangement.

MITCHELL

What *exactly* do you mean?

JAY

Like you guys, Bert and Ernie are a pair. One's fat and a troublemaker, and the other's thin and a tight ass. But unlike you two lovebirds, they're just a couple of buddies raising hell.

Cameron and Mitchell stare intensely at Jay.

JAY (CONT'D)

What?

Cameron and Mitchell continue to look at Jay, arch their eyebrows and slowly twist their heads.

JAY (CONT'D)

Hey, am I missing something here?

Cameron and Mitchell continue their slow head movement.

JAY (CONT'D)

What? No! They're just two guys who share a cramped city apartment!

Cameron and Mitchell continue their slow head movement.

JAY (CONT'D)

Great, first Rock Hudson and now this.

At the game, the GAME OPERATOR hands Cameron a baseball. He heaves it at three stacked bottles, knocking down all three.

MITCHELL

Great job, Cam.

GAME OPERATOR

So what will it be, a Bert or an Ernie?

MITCHELL

They're not a pair?

GAME OPERATOR

Not in this game.

Cameron and Mitchell look at each other and then look down at Lily, who proceeds to throw up on Mitchell's feet.

EXT. COASTER WORLD CADET TOWN - DAY

Jay, Cameron, Mitchell and Lily are walking. While Mitchell sobs, Cameron holds his head high as Lily plays with her Ernie doll.

EXT. COASTER WORLD AQUA PLANET WATER FLUME - DAY

Claire, Luke and Gloria approach the entrance of Aqua Planet.

CLAIRE

Where the heck are Phil and Manny?

GLORIA

Phil is probably getting Manny a milk shake or a new outfit. Whenever Manny gets upset, he wants one or the other.

LUKE

Hey Aunt Gloria, are you coming on the water ride with us?

GLORIA

I don't think so Luke - I didn't bring the bathing suit.

CLAIRE

(scoffing)

Gloria, it's a glorified log flume. I don't think you're going to get that wet on this one.

GLORIA

Well, OK, if you say so.

LUKE

Too bad Dad's missing this.

INT. COASTER WORLD SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

From security camera footage we see, in grainy black and white, Phil sitting in a sparse office in front of a table, with the two security guards in his face. There's no audio, but he's clearly pleading with them and in tears.

EXT. COASTER WORLD AQUA PLANET WATER FLUME - DAY

Claire, Gloria and Luke exit the ride, soaking wet. Gloria's white T-shirt is drenched, exposing a hot-pink bra underneath.

LUKE

Awesome! Can we go on again?

CLAIRE

Maybe later, if we wear a poncho.

Claire notices Gloria's bra and drops her jaw. Gloria doesn't seem to realize how it looks.

GLORIA

That's your idea of mild? I soaked!

CLAIRE
I'm so sorry, I had no idea.

CLAIRE INTERVIEW

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Even in a ratty old oversized T-shirt, she makes me look like a 10-year-old boy.

EXT. COASTER WORLD AQUA PLANET WATER FLUME - DAY

Luke stares at Gloria's chest, dumbfounded, as she pins up her dripping-wet hair. Claire forcibly turns Luke around.

CLAIRE
(to Luke)
Hey honey, I'm going to take Aunt Gloria to find some towels.

GLORIA
No - for me, is so hot, this is very refreshing.

A group of teen boys passes by and stares at Gloria.

TEEN 1
Hot stuff.

GLORIA
Jes, it is.

A woman with her son gasps upon seeing Gloria and shields his eyes. Claire looks mortified.

CLAIRE
This day could not be going any worse.

EXT. COASTER WORLD BATTLESTAR BRUNCHICA - DAY

Cameron, Mitchell and Jay are on the lunch line. Cameron's holding Lily, who's playing with her Ernie doll and laughing.

JAY
Wow, she really loves that thing.

MITCHELL
She sure does, more than anything else in the world.

JAY

Will you stop? She's just a kid. Kids don't know why they like things. You had more fun playing with my old mink Russian hat than anything I ever bought you.

MITCHELL

When every gift was boxing equipment or tools, it wasn't hard.

JAY

My point is, this place shouldn't be about you. It's about her.

Lily drops the doll. Mitchell accidentally steps on it, picks it up and tries to hand it to her, but she starts to scream and cry. Cameron shakes his head in disapproval.

CAMERON

Oh Mitchell, really? Fur?

MITCHELL

It was soft and cozy and never made me feel bad. And that's more than I can say about the two of you. I feel like an alien!

Mitchell runs away, past a guy dressed in an alien costume.

CAMERON

(to alien)

He's just having a rough day.

EXT. COASTER WORLD - DAY

Alex and Mike are walking amongst carnival games.

ALEX

So, do you have any idea what colleges you'll be applying to?

MIKE

I've already received interest from Princeton and MIT for applied science scholarships, so I doubt they'll need me to actually apply.

ALEX

Wow, that's great. I always wanted to go to an Ivy League school like Harvard or Yale, but...

MIKE
They're too far?

ALEX
Sort of.

MIKE
Typical.

Alex, taken aback, abruptly stops.

ALEX
What does that mean?

MIKE
Girls can be so afraid of leaving
the nest. I'm man enough not to be
afraid of being away from my mommy.

ALEX
(fuming)
I guess.

Mike points behind Alex.

MIKE
Hey - see that kid? He tried to get
onto my coaster, but to mess with
him I said he was too short and he
ran off crying.

ANGLE ON: Manny, walking in the distance, looking at the sky.

ALEX
Why would you do that?

MIKE
You gotta do something to make this
job worthwhile. What a loser.

ALEX
I can't do this anymore!

Alex turns in a huff when Manny suddenly walks up to her.

MANNY
Hey Alex, where is everyone?

ALEX
I, uhm, don't know.

MANNY
I understand, another melancholy
day at the un-amusement park.

Mike butts in on Alex and Manny's conversation.

MIKE

Hey, how are you enjoying Coaster World kid?

MANNY

You!

MIKE

Shouldn't you be in Cadet Town, little guy?

MANNY

You think you're so special because you can judge people?

MIKE

Actually, yes. C'mon Alex, let's leave this pint-size loser.

ALEX

This loser is my uncle - and I'll have you know he's more of a man than you'll ever be.

MIKE

Jeez, you two deserve each other. I gotta get back to work anyway.

Mike turns and starts walking away.

MANNY

Hey! Coaster jerk! If you think you're so big, let's see you ring the bell.

Manny steps up to a High Striker game (strongman game) and picks up a mallet.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. COASTER WORLD AQUA PLANET WATER FLUME - DAY

Gloria and Luke are sitting on a bench. Claire is standing nearby talking on her cell phone.

LUKE

And then this gross baby alien comes shooting out of his stomach, and the baby alien's mother starts hunting down the whole crew.

GLORIA

Well, that make sense. If someone hunts my Manny, I kill them first.

CLAIRE

What? No, don't call the police, we'll be right there.

Claire runs over to Gloria and Manny.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Can you two please come with me?

INT. COASTER WORLD SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

Claire, Gloria and Luke arrive at the security office. The Older Guard is sitting at a desk.

CLAIRE

Hello, I'm here for Phil Dunphy. Is he all right?

OLDER GUARD

He's fine. I guess his story checks out. Sorry, but he fit the profile.

CLAIRE

What profile?

OLDER GUARD

C'mon, a giddy loner with a mustache in an amusement park touching a strange kid? I mean, you're the one who...

The Older Guard gets a look at Gloria's shirt. Claire jumps in front of Gloria.

CLAIRE

I wanted you to watch my kids, not go mustache-profiling people. My husband is an upstanding citizen who was consoling this woman's son, who's also my step brother-in-law... I think. It doesn't matter.

The defeated guard picks up the phone.

OLDER GUARD

Bring him out.

The women, Luke and Older Guard share an awkward silence.

Heavy Guard opens the door, and Phil walks in, disheveled, with a distant look on his face.

CLAIRE

Oh honey, are you OK?

PHIL

I'm fine, just a simple misunder...

Phil bursts out sobbing and hugs Claire.

PHIL (CONT'D)

They asked me bad things!

EXT. COASTER WORLD STRONGMAN GAME - DAY

Manny, Alex and Mike are at the strongman machine with a small group of onlookers surrounding them.

ALEX

Manny, you don't have to prove anything to this jerk.

MANNY

The more I think about it, the more this impulsive challenge doesn't seem like the smartest idea. But I can't back down now.

ALEX

Why not?

MANNY

Because a real man doesn't shy away from a duel. Especially when he offers the challenge.

ALEX

He's twice your size. How are you going to do it?

MANNY

It's not the size of the dog in the fight but the fight in the dog.

(beat)

Pray?

Jay, Cameron and Mitchell arrive with Lily.

JAY

What's going on here?

ALEX

Manny challenged this jerk Mike to a strongman-off.

JAY

That sounds about right.

MANNY

I had to do something - my honor has taken too many hits today.

MITCHELL

Join the club.

JAY

Well, if you're going to go in, you need a battle plan.

Jay takes Manny aside and whispers advice. Haley shows up on the arm of a handsome park worker, TIM.

HALEY

What's going on?

ALEX

Let's just say you were right that there's more to a guy than his SAT scores.

HALEY

Of course I'm right. Except for the skater dude thing. Take Tim here. He rows crew for USC and has a straight-A average.

ALEX

Wow! What are you studying?

TIM

Medical... No, medicine? No,
medical.

Alex looks skeptical but doesn't say anything. Mike approaches the group.

MIKE

So are we going to do this?

Cameron emerges from the group and addresses the crowd.

CAMERON

OK folks, gather 'round for an old-
fashioned Caryl Competition.

The crowd hollers. Cameron, seeing this, becomes more theatrical.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

That's right, an ultimate test of
strength and will between two brave
young men. Who shall win? Who shall
die?

Manny grabs Mitchell's arm.

MITCHELL

No one's dying, he's on a roll.

CAMERON

Each boy gets up to three swings of
the mighty hammer. The first one to
ring the bell shall win!

Manny grabs Jay.

MANNY

Are you sure this is going to work?

JAY

This isn't my first rodeo, kid.
Just remember what I told you.

MANNY

This isn't a rodeo!

Manny grabs the mallet and, struggling with its weight, whacks it down. The ball travels about halfway up the vertical beam. Mike then picks up the mallet and swings. His ball goes about three-quarters up. Jay pulls Manny aside.

JAY

Grab it higher, with one hand by the neck at the top of the mallet. It'll give you leverage so you can swing it faster.

MANNY

OK Jay, but I still don't know what rodeos have to do with it.

Claire, Luke, Phil and Gloria arrive. Luke's holding a large fountain drink and sucking on it with a straw.

GLORIA

What is happening here?

JAY

Your son is about to show some punk teenager he can't be messed with.

GLORIA

He mess with my Manny? I kill him!

JAY

No need for that... yet.

PHIL

(yelling)

No violence against children.

Everyone gives Phil an awkward look. Manny walks back up to the game. This time he holds the mallet up high with one hand, lifts it slowly and brings it down. The ball shoots up and rings the bell. The crowd cheers.

GLORIA

Oh Manny, you did it, you win!

MANNY

Not yet. Mike has another chance, and if he hits the bell, we keep going. It's a war of attrition.

CLAIRE

Nice, Dad. Was this your idea?

JAY

No, but I can't say I don't approve. A little revenge competition is healthy for a kid, win or lose.

GLORIA

What you mean lose? I thought you were the coach!

JAY

I'm not Jack LaLanne. Besides, now it's the other kid's turn. How can I stop him?

Mike picks up the mallet and begins to swing. As he reaches the apex, Claire grabs the drink from Luke's hand and splashes it on Gloria's shirt. Mike sees this as he's bringing the mallet down and loses his balance, falling over and meekly hitting the mark. The crowd cheers.

ALEX

I guess you're not such a man.

Mike hangs his head and walks away, dejected.

PHIL

Great job. See? Size doesn't matter.

MANNY

Thanks, Phil. Sorry I let the police take you away.

PHIL

Oh, it's fine.

Phil hugs Manny but looks up to see the guards staring at him. He breaks off and shakes Manny's hand.

MANNY

I can't believe I did it. And what luck that Mike fell on that swing.

JAY

C'mon everyone, burgers on me!

Mitchell grabs Cameron.

MITCHELL

Hey, I'm sorry I've been a little pissy today.

CAMERON

How can I be mad at my Bert? C'mon, I'll ketchup your burger.

MITCHELL

That sounds oddly dirty. But first,
I want to do something. Manny
inspired me.

Mitchell and Cameron hand Lily to Jay and walk off. The family departs for the lunch area, when Claire stops Gloria.

CLAIRE

Gloria, I don't know what to say.

GLORIA

What do you mean?

CLAIRE

I'm sorry I splashed a carbonated
soft drink on your shirt. I only
did it to help Manny win.

GLORIA

Of course, is a wet white T-shirt.

CLAIRE

So you knew you were flashing the
whole theme park all day?

GLORIA

What flashing? Half of the women
are wearing the bikini tops. Even
when I cover up, you judge me.

Claire looks around as women walk past in bikini tops.

CLAIRE

I don't mean to judge, it's just
that I tried so hard for this day
to work out and failed at every
turn.

GLORIA

You no failed, you helped my Manny.
He's never forgetting this day for
the rest of his life, and is all
thanks to you.

Gloria gives Claire a hug.

CLAIRE

Wow, now I feel really stupid. You
know, you're a tough woman to
compete with.

GLORIA

Oh Claire, we're no competing.

Gloria looks over to the strongman game. Claire nods.

EXT. BATTLESTAR BRUNCHICA FOOD COURT - DAY

Jay, Phil, Luke, Alex, Haley, Manny and Lily are laughing. Alex and Manny act out the strongman-off.

JAY INTERVIEW

JAY

We've all been treated like crap at some point in our lives, usually by people who don't even know us.

EXT. BUSHES ADJACENT BATTLESTAR BRUNCHICA - DAY

The two security guards are hiding behind the bushes and spying on Phil.

JAY (V.O.)

But when you've got your family behind you, it doesn't matter what other people think.

EXT. BERT AND ERNIE BALL GAME - DAY

Mitchell throws repeatedly at the bottles and, after numerous attempts, knocks them down, getting a Bert. Mitchell and Cameron jump up, excited, and hug each other.

JAY (V.O.)

Because at the end of the day, the people who love you are the ones who know you best.

EXT. STRONGMAN GAME - DAY

Claire and Gloria awkwardly struggle to pick up the mallet and meekly bring it down on the mark. They're both laughing at how ridiculous they look.

JAY (V.O.)

And they're the only ones you should give a crap about in the first place.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

FADE IN:

EXT. COASTER WORLD FERRIS WHEEL - DAY

Mitchell and Cameron are riding on the Ferris wheel.

CAMERON

I'm so proud of you, honey - this is a big wheel, and you're being very valiant.

Mitchell looks sickly and petrified.

MITCHELL

I'm actually doing it!

CAMERON

OK, it's an accomplishment but not exactly Kilimanjaro. Oh, look - there's Haley, all the way down there. Hey Haley!

MITCHELL

I don't think she can hear us from this high up. Who's she talking to?

CAMERON

That's Tim. He works here and goes to USC.

MITCHELL

It also looks like he's operating the ride. Should he really be so distracted.... Oh, no!

CAMERON

Wow, she's really not shy about kissing in public, is she?

MITCHELL

While he's making out with our niece, who's controlling the ride?

CAMERON

Don't worry, these things practically run themselves.

There's a loud BANG, and the ride stops abruptly. Mitchell looks at Cameron, distraught.

MITCHELL

Oh, no. Not again!

CAMERON

There, there. Becky can't hurt you
now.

FADE OUT