

MODERN FAMILY

"THE NAME OF THE GAME"

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ACT ONE

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

CLAIRE closes a cupboard in the kitchen. PHIL reads the newspaper at the kitchen table.

LUKE stammers into the kitchen engrossed into his Nintendo 3DS. He reaches toward the counter without looking up and grabs a light bulb.

He brings it to his mouth. He opens his mouth.

CLAIRE

Luke!

Claire snatches the light bulb from his hand.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Luke doesn't look up. He MUMBLES an INAUDIBLE RESPONSE.

Claire puts the back of her hand against Luke's forehead. Shakes her head.

Claire looks to Phil, who shrugs. She looks at the camera.

PHIL AND CLAIRE INTERVIEW

Claire and Phil sit on the couch in the Dunphy house living room. Phil smiles at the camera, relaxed. Claire leans forward.

CLAIRE

We both know that Luke is...

Claire looks at Phil. Phil stammers.

PHIL

Not all there.

CLAIRE

He's not our best.

Phil nods.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

But this whole gaming thing. It's --

PHIL

-- Nothing to worry about.

CLAIRE

-- a problem.

Claire looks at Phil.

PHIL

It's just a thing. Give him some time and he'll move on. Like running around with no pants on. He'll grow out of it.

Claire looks at Phil, then to the camera.

CLAIRE

It's a problem.

Phil shrugs. Claire frowns at the camera.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Claire rushes to stand in front of Luke. Luke walks like a zombie right into her. He bounces backward, not fazed, and stumbles around her.

CLAIRE

Okay. That's enough of this.

Claire grabs the console from Luke.

Luke wipes at his eyes, as if coming out of a trance.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

I can think of a list of things you should be doing instead of playing on this. Clean your room, and I'll think about giving this back.

Luke looks at Phil. Phil shrugs. Luke hangs his head. He trudges out of the room.

Claire fumbles with the Nintendo 3DS.

She opens the system. The GAME'S MUSIC PLAYS. She grumbles and pushes a few of the buttons.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

(to herself)

How do you turn this thing off?

Claire pushes a few more buttons.

GAME VOICE (V.O.)

Start!

Claire's eyes go wide. A smile creeps across her face.

CLAIRE

Oh... Oh!

She starts pressing buttons. Her smile grows.
 She checks behind her shoulder. Left. Then right.
 Phil reads his newspaper.
 She smirks.

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

MITCHELL and CAMERON guide LILY to the middle of the room.
 They sit on the floor. Cameron opens a Monopoly Junior box.

CAMERON
 Here we go! Family Game Night!

MITCHELL
 Okay, Lily. Monopoly Junior. The
 goal is to get all the money.

LILY
 Just like real life.

Cameron and Mitchell exchange a look. Cameron sets up the
 game board. He hands Mitchell the money.

MITCHELL
 You roll the dice to go around the
 board. If you land on a property
 that isn't owned, you can buy it --

Cameron looks up from the box.

CAMERON
 -- No. You get the ones you land on
 if it's not taken for free.

Mitchell gives Cameron a look.

MITCHELL
 Not in the official rules.

CAMERON
 Um, this is the kid's version.

Cameron motions towards Lily with his head.

CAMERON INTERVIEW

Cameron sits alone on the couch.

CAMERON
 Mitchell... likes to play by the
 rule book.

(MORE)

CAMERON (CONT'D)

There was one time we tried playing The Game of Life, and Mitchell refused to let me have the Lawyer job because I didn't take the college route. He then spent forty minutes reading the instruction manual verbatim to prove his point.

Cameron shakes his head.

MITCHELL INTERVIEW

Mitchell sits alone on the couch. He reads from the official Monopoly Junior instruction booklet.

MITCHELL

An Amusement without a Ticket
Booth: You must pay the
Banker the amount shown on the
space... Clear as day. Right here.
In print.

Mitchell points at the booklet and raises his eyebrows.

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

Cameron shuffles through his stack of Monopoly Junior money.

CAMERON

There is only one four here.

MITCHELL

And?

CAMERON

We always would play with two
fours. It makes more sense.

Cameron leans towards the bank. Mitchell gently pushes him back.

MITCHELL

Well, Cam. Here, we play games by
the rules. Right, Lily?

CAMERON

Or, we could just play to have fun.

Cameron grabs at the bank. Mitchell gasps.

Lily crosses her arms across her chest. She leaves the room.

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

GLORIA and JAY sit on the sofa. JOE plays with stuffed animals on the floor next to them.

Gloria holds up a flashcard. Written on the card: "Perro".

GLORIA
Go ahead. Guess.

Jay looks from the card to Gloria back to the card.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
Come on, Jay. This is an easy one.

Jay leans forward and opens his mouth. Sits there a moment.

JAY
Parrot?

Gloria laughs.

JAY AND GLORIA INTERVIEW

Jay sits, arms crossed, next to Gloria on their sofa. Gloria snuggles up next to Jay.

GLORIA
Jay has been taking Spanish lessons for a while now. So, I decided to help practice him for it.

Gloria holds up a bundle of flashcards.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
Fast cards!

JAY
Flash.

Gloria glares at Jay.

GLORIA
Fast. That's what I said.

Jay looks at the camera.

JAY
It's not going very well.

Gloria laughs.

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

Jay slumps back into his chair.

GLORIA
Oh, come on, Jay! Try again.

Jay crosses his arms.

JAY
Let's just move on to the next one.

Gloria gets up and moves to sit on the arm of Jay's chair. She kisses the top of his head.

GLORIA
Don't worry, Jay! You will get it.
Just keep trying.

Gloria hands Jay the flashcards. Jay sighs.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Claire sits curled into a blanket on the sofa, playing Luke's Nintendo 3DS.

HALEY sits at the kitchen counter and flips through a magazine. Luke slinks into the living room.

LUKE
Hey, Mom. My room's done. Can I get
my game back now?

Claire MUMBLES an INAUDIBLE RESPONSE.

HALEY
You have literally done nothing
else like all day.

The battery light on the 3DS flashes. Claire stammers.

CLAIRE
What does this mean? Luke!

LUKE
Low battery. It needs to charge.

Claire pops up from the couch.

CLAIRE
To the charger.

Claire stumbles over the couch and races out of the room.

Haley and Luke chase after her.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LUKE'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Claire fumbles through Luke's clean bedroom. She overturns pillows, empties dresser drawers, and clears off his desk.

CLAIRE

Where is it? Where is it? Where!

She drops to her hands and knees and crawls around the dirty room.

Phil walks by and looks into the room. It is a disaster.

Haley and Luke rush to stand in the doorway with Phil. Haley gasps. Luke CHEERS.

LUKE

Now that's what I'm talking about!

Luke rushes into the room. He grabs at the clothes on his floor and throws them into the air.

HALEY

They've gone crazy.

ALEX peeks into the room from behind Phil.

ALEX

What's going on in there?

Phil covers Alex's eyes, then he looks at the camera.

END OF ACT ONE