

MODERN FAMILY

"Il Divo"

by
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ACT ONE

INT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S HOUSE - DAY

Mitchell tip-toes toward the front door. He carefully picks up his keys. They JINGLE. He clasps them to his chest, and waits. He's in the clear. He very slowly and quietly opens the door and starts to sneak out.

CAMERON (O.S.)
(from the bedroom)
Mitchell, wait. I think I'll go
with you.

Mitchell panics and runs out the door.

Cameron sticks his head out of Lilly's bedroom and shrugs.

INTERVIEW CAMERON

CAMERON
Mitchell got me tickets to see *Il Divo*, the multinational operatic pop vocal group created by the illustrious Simon Cowell. Their version of "Unbreak My Heart" is stirring.

Cameron SINGS a couple of lines.

CAMERON (CONT'D)
Truth be told, while I love *Il Divo*, I really just need to get Mitchell out of the house and out of the office. We need time together.

INTERVIEW MITCHELL

MITCHELL
I didn't get the tickets.

Mitchell pauses and hangs his head in shame.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, you know, I work. I work fifty-plus hours a week...and what does Cameron do every day? He sings songs about choo-choo trains to a baby dressed as Cher.
(pause)
(MORE)

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

No, I know. It's no excuse. This is going to be worse than the time I replaced all the sugar with low-calorie sweetener...*Il Divo* is Cameron's sugar.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - DAY

The front door opens very slowly, and Phil sneaks in like a teenager after curfew. He closes it quietly and goes up two stairs before Claire catches him.

He immediately turns around and takes his phone out of his pocket and holds it up.

PHIL

Whoops! Forgot my phone. Back to work. Saturday open houses!

He bolts for the door.

CLAIRE

I just talked to you on your cell 10 minutes ago.

PHIL

(as he closes the door)
Good. Okay...right...love you.

The door slams.

INTERVIEW PHIL

PHIL

Business is a little slow. Not a lot of people buying right now. But it's okay. As I always say, 'for every ten no's, you get a yes, and for every ten yes's you get a new boat.' Haha. I'm just kidding. I'm saving for a submarine.

He pauses to stare at the camera.

PHIL

Don't tell Claire. Not about the submarine. Don't tell her business is slow. I don't want her to worry.

(pause)

Also, don't tell her about the submarine.

INTERVIEW CLAIRE

CLAIRE

Phil's business is not going well.
I already know. I don't want him to
know that I know. If he knows I
know, he'll know I didn't tell him
I know, and I know that's probably
worse than just knowing. He doesn't
want me to think he can't provide
for his family. I don't think that
at all.

(pause)

But, just in case, I'm going to
start a little internet business
for myself.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Jay is channel surfing on the couch. Manny and Gloria are
nowhere to be seen.

There is a KNOCK on the door.

JAY

(yelling)

Manny! Manny, get the door.

There is a longer, faster KNOCK on the door.

JAY

Gloria! Can someone get the door.

Now, the knock is a BANGING. Jay slowly climbs off the couch
and walks towards the door.

JAY

Good grief. Come in!

Jay gets to the door and opens it. Mitchell bursts in.

JAY

Mitchell. What are you doing here?

Gloria comes into the room from the kitchen and Manny appears
at the top of the stairs.

GLORIA

Jay, were you yelling? Hello,
Mitchell.

MANNY

Jay, did you need something?

JAY

You know, if the two of you worked for me, you'd be fired.

Mitchell is bouncing with nervousness.

MITCHELL

Can we discuss the inevitable wrongful termination suit later? Dad, I really need your help.

Gloria joins Mitchell and Jay at the door.

MITCHELL

I was supposed to get tickets to a concert for Cameron, and I forgot, and it's tonight. Don't you know people, don't you have a guy who can get things?

GLORIA

Oh, my cousin Diego can get things.

JAY

Gloria. Please. We aren't smuggling cartons of cigarettes to Mitchell in prison.
(to Mitchell)
What concert?

MITCHELL

Il Divo.

From out of no where, Manny is back at the top of stairs.

MANNY

Their rendition of "Unbreak My Heart" moves me.

He starts to SING.

JAY

Oh geez. I'll make a call.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - DAY

Claire is at the desk in the kitchen on her laptop. She is looking at the screen, squinting and pursing her lips.

Luke bops into the kitchen.

CLAIRE

Luke. Oh, Luke, honey. Can you help me?

LUKE

With what?

CLAIRE

I need to do this thing. Here. On the computer. I need to do the internet more.

Claire stands up and points Luke towards the monitor. She holds his shoulders and navigates him into the chair.

LUKE

This?

He begins typing and clicking.

CLAIRE

Yeah. Yes! That's perfect.

LUKE

I need your bank account number.

CLAIRE

Okay. Here.

She digs a piece of paper out of a pile and hands it to Luke.

INTERVIEW CLAIRE

CLAIRE

Luke is actually very smart with the computer. I guess it just comes naturally to him. I am very, very impressed.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - AS BEFORE

LUKE

I need your credit card.

Claire takes out her wallet and gives the card to Luke. He takes the card and scratches it under the desk. He releases a piece of gum, puts it in his mouth and hands the card back to Claire.

She just stares at it, then looks at the camera. Luke chomps on the gum.

LUKE
 Awesome. I thought I'd never get
 that back.

INTERVIEW CLAIRE

CLAIRE
 Maybe not 'very, very' impressed.
 I'm a little impressed.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - AS BEFORE

LUKE
 I'm done.

CLAIRE
 That's it? What did you do?

LUKE
 I transferred the money and set up
 your store.

CLAIRE
 What do I do now?

LUKE
 Watch the money roll in.

Claire and Luke high five.

LUKE
 Can I go now?

Luke stands up and Claire absentmindedly waves him away. She slides back in the chair and stares at the computer.

Luke grabs two full two-liters of soda from the fridge, and leaves.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

Gloria and Mitchell are on the couch. Manny is showing them videos of *Il Divo*, live, in-concert.

Mitchell looks miserable. Gloria smiles when Manny looks at her, but rolls her eyes and cringes when he looks away.

MANNY
 I can't believe my generation
 doesn't appreciate music like this.

He pauses to hear one line of a song.

MANNY (CONT'D)
It's just embarrassing.

Jay enters the room.

JAY
I was thinking the same thing, kid.
Ha. Look at those ladies!

Gloria turns around and gives Jay the "shut up" face and shakes her head.

Manny turns off the television and leaves the room, dejected.

MITCHELL
Well?

JAY
Shorty took care of it. The tickets will be at will-call. There are four, so take some of your other boyfriends.

MITCHELL
Other boyfriends? Dad...that's not...never mind. Why don't you and Gloria come with us?

JAY
Oh, no. No way. I'm not going to see a bunch of flami--

GLORIA
Jay! We should go. Cameron and Mitchell are your sons. We are family, and family should do things together, even really, really awful things.

JAY
One, Cameron is not my son--

MITCHELL
(sarcastic)
Of course not.

JAY
Let me finish, would you. And two...no.

MITCHELL
Come on, Dad. I need a buffer
there. Cameron gets a little--

JAY
Gay?

MITCHELL
Emotional.

JAY
Same thing.

GLORIA
Jay, if we stay home, I have many
episodes of my favorite Colombian
show that my cousin Diego sent me--

JAY
We'll pick you up at 7.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LATER

Claire is still sitting at the computer. Haley and Alex come in fighting.

ALEX

That's not even what *osmosis* is, Haley! You can't sleep on a book and have the content soak in.

HALEY

(proud)
Well, it worked. I got a D.

ALEX

Congrats.

CLAIRE

Where's Luke? I need his help.

ALEX

You need Luke's help? Luke? Your son, Luke? The one who just sucked all the water out of the toilet with the vacuum and replaced it with soda?

CLAIRE

What! Why would he do that?

HALEY

I texted him. He's coming.

Luke enters wearing a snorkeling mask.

CLAIRE

Luke, why are you wearing--never mind. I need your help. Where's all the money?

Luke leans in to look at the computer.

LUKE

You didn't set prices. You sold everything for free.

CLAIRE

Oh, but I still have the money I put in the account.

LUKE

No, that paid for the stuff you're supposed to sell.

CLAIRE

That was Haley's college fund!

ALEX

I'm sure that's an oxymoron.

HALEY

What?! How am I going to go to college now?

CLAIRE

Well, there are scholarships.

ALEX

Guess you should start shacking up with more books...or a really rich old man.

Haley opens her mouth to fire back.

CLAIRE

Haley, you're staying with Manny and Lilly tonight.

HALEY

That's not fair. It's Saturday night!

CLAIRE

You're grounded anyway.

ALEX

And you'll need the money to pay for plastic surgery one day. Gotta keep Daddy Warbucks interested--

CLAIRE

Alex! Go read or learn multiplication or something.

ALEX

Do you know how old I am?

CLAIRE

Go!

Alex leaves in a huff. Haley finishes her texting.

HALEY

Fine, I'll do it.

CLAIRE
No boys at Mitchell's house. Be
there by 6:30.

Haley leaves in a huff.

CLAIRE
(she turns to Luke)
Luke, what do I do. Can you fix
this?

She pulls Luke's face close to hers. He is still in the mask.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Your dad can never know. Do you
understand? Luke, Luke, do not tell
your father.

LUKE
Ouch! You're hurting me. Yes, I
think I have an idea to fix it.

INTERVIEW CLAIRE

CLAIRE
I'm not the best with computers.
That's really Phil's thing, and
Luke got that gene from him.

INT. DUNPHY GARAGE

Phil has set up a hiding place on the ground beside the car.
He's in a beach lounge chair with a small cooler.

He is using a Twizzler as a stylus for his iPad. His laptop
is open on an upside-down cardboard box next to him.

He knocks over a soda onto the laptop, and panics, knocking
over the box, smashing the laptop.

Then the lounge chair collapses backwards. He just lies there
and eats the Twizzler.

INTERVIEW CLAIRE - AS BEFORE

CLAIRE
I should go check on Luke.

INT. JAY'S CAR - EVENING

Jay, Gloria, Mitchell and Cameron are in the car, dressed up.

CAMERON

I am so excited. Mitchell, what a great idea to bring Jay and Gloria. Everyone should experience *Il Divo*.

GLORIA

Ay, see, Jay, this is will be fun. Spending time with your sons.

CAMERON

(teary eyed)

Oh, Jay, wow, that's so sweet. I knew we'd grown close over the years, but to see me as your son, that's just--

JAY

Slow down. Gloria said it, not me.

They are cruising slowly in a semi-bad area of town. It's dark and somewhat deserted-looking.

CAMERON

Jay, I don't think this is right.

JAY

Exactly, you're not really my son--

CAMERON

No, Jay, THAT isn't right.

He points to a building with a pink neon light over the door.

JAY

Shorty told me exactly where to pick up the tickets.

GLORIA

This is my old neighborhood.

MITCHELL

Dad, are you sure this the right place?

JAY

Of course it is. This is where Shorty told me to go.

CAMERON
 Of course Shorty is an Il Divo fan!
 At least someone will understand
 the power and pure unadulterated
 haunting passion--

Jay groans.

MITCHELL
 Cameron, not now.

They park the car.

EXT. CLUB BOX OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Jay, Gloria, Mitchell and Cameron stand in the doorway of what looks like a seedy nightclub.

Mitchell talks to the Latino man at the ticket window.

MITCHELL
 We have four tickets for the
 show...

He turns to Jay.

JAY
 It's under 'Bear'.

MITCHELL
 (back to the ticket man)
 Four tickets for...Bear.

Mitchell looks back at Jay.

JAY
 It's an old nickname.

TICKET MAN
 (winking)
 I love bears.

He hands the tickets to Mitchell. Mitchell looks at them.

MITCHELL
 Oh, no.

CAMERON
 What? What oh no?

MITCHELL
 Dad, these are for something called
 'El Diva'.

TICKET MAN

Si, El Diva.

CAMERON

Mitchell.

MITCHELL

I am so sorry. I didn't get the tickets when I said I would, and that's how Shorty got involved. I guess he misheard what Dad said. Oh, god, Cameron, I'm so, so sorry. Let's just go.

Cameron snatches a ticket from Mitchell.

CAMERON

There is no way you're getting out of this that easy. We came for the show, and the show must go on.

He dramatically storms inside the club.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE

Phil comes in the front door.

PHIL

Honey, I'm home. Busy, busy day.

Claire runs from the kitchen to greet him.

CLAIRE

Phil. Hi. You look tired, let's go upstairs and rest.

She tries to drag him to the stairs.

PHIL

Actually, my laptop broke today. Very strange. I don't know what happened. But I have a couple of things to do online, so I'm just gonna go grab yours.

She grabs his arm as he steps towards the kitchen. She sort of swings him around.

CLAIRE

No. Luke's doing homework. We can't disturb him. You know how rare that is.

PHIL

Oh, okay. I guess I can do it later. I'll just go say hi--

CLAIRE

No! Don't interrupt him. He gets distracted so easily. Actually, I need your help.

PHIL

Really?

CLAIRE

Yes, we need to go to the store.

PHIL

What for?

CLAIRE

Um, a new computer, of course. Top of the line. Let's go.

She shuffles him out the door. She looks back toward the kitchen as she leaves.

CLAIRE

(a yelling whisper)

Luke! Luke!

Luke peeks around the kitchen doorway. Claire gives a thumbs-up to Luke with a questioning look on her face.

He smiles and gives her a thumbs-up back. Then he puts on his snorkeling mask, and goes back to work.

She shakes her head in confusion and closes the front door.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. NIGHTCLUB - BAR

Cameron is already at the bar when the others join him.

MITCHELL

Cameron, really, I'm so sorry. It's just hard to remember things like this when I work so much--

CAMERON

I work too. And my job doesn't ever end. It's twenty-four hours a day.

MITCHELL

I guess I never thought of it that way. I promise I'll make it up to you. We'll see *Il Divo* somehow.

CAMERON

Oh, Mitchell, I just wanted to do something fun with you, and if that means it's El Diva, then that's fine with me. At least you're here.

Mitchell looks around.

MITCHELL

Speaking of here, this is a drag club.

CAMERON

Yes it is. Let's not tell Jay.

A very masculine man with a slight beard wearing a wig and dress walks by.

MITCHELL

I somehow think he'll figure it out.

Mitchell and Cameron watch the man/woman walk away, and then they leave the bar to find a table.

Jay and Gloria stand waiting for drinks.

JAY

We can still sneak out.

GLORIA

No Jay, we are here to spend time with your sons.

JAY

Cameron is Mitchell's boyfriend.
Why are you so insistent that I
call him my son?

GLORIA

Because he is like your son. We are
family. Isn't Manny your son?

JAY

Of course, but--

GLORIA

Then so is Cameron, and so is Phil.

JAY

Okay, whoa, I have to draw the line
somewhere.

They get their drinks and leave the bar.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - TABLE - CONTINUOUS

JAY

This is a strange crowd.

They look around. There are drag queens -- very good ones --
and lots of obviously gay men, and even one group of women
celebrating a bachelorette party.

JAY

I bet you two feel right at home.

MITCHELL

Yes, dad, our living room is
constantly filled with Cher, Bette,
Barbara--

Jay makes a know-it-all face.

CAMERON

Well...

JAY

Do you even know what Cameron does
all day while you're working?

MITCHELL

He's working too. Raising our
daughter.

Mitchell takes Cameron's hand as a peace offering.

JAY

Bah! That's not work.

GLORIA

I stay home for Manny.

JAY

That's different. You're his mother.

MITCHELL

Cameron is Lilly's mother!

Cameron yanks back his hand.

CAMERON

No, I'm her father.

MITCHELL

I mean, you're like her mother.

CAMERON

No, I'm like her father. Her stay-at-home father.

GLORIA

Do you think it's easy to stay home and take care of a house, and a child, and cook, and clean?

JAY

No, that's why we pay someone to do most of that. You don't have to work. I have my own company. I don't expect you to contribute--

GLORIA

I don't contribute?! I won't be contributing tonight. Come on, Cameron, let's go to the bar.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LATE NIGHT

Luke is still at the computer. Alex is looking over Luke's shoulder. Claire enters the kitchen.

CLAIRE

How's it going?

LUKE

Good. Where's dad?

CLAIRE

I took him to buy a new laptop to keep him busy. He's walking up and down the street seeing how far the wireless will work.

ALEX

Whose college fund did you use for that?

CLAIRE

Very funny. You and Luke don't have college funds.

ALEX

What?!

CLAIRE

You'll get a scholarship, honey.

ALEX

Well what about Luke? There's no chance of that for him.

LUKE

Yeah, well I just made Mom like a thousand dollars.

CLAIRE

Luke, that's amazing.

ALEX

That should cover at least a little tuition at clown college.

LUKE

There's a clown college?!

CLAIRE

You're not going to clown college.

Claire looks at the screen.

CLAIRE

Luke! That's not one thousand. That's ten thousand. Oh my god, maybe you will go to college.

She hugs him, relieved.

ALEX

Hopefully not for accounting.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - BAR - CONTINUOUS

CAMERON
I can't believe him.

GLORIA
I know. I contribute.

The bartender stops by. Gloria points at her empty glass.

CAMERON
I meant Mitchell.

GLORIA
Oh yeah, him too.

CAMERON
I had a job before I was Lilly's
father. Her *father*!

GLORIA
I know. I had many jobs when Manny
was little and it was just us. I
worked harder than Jay ever had to
with *his own company*. I can find a
job.

The bartender sets down drinks.

BARTENDER
Honey, you could work here anytime.

GLORIA
See. I can get a job! I'm going to
the ladies' room.

Gloria leaves.

BARTENDER
Seriously, would he want to do a
show here?

CAMERON
He?...Oh. OH!

INT. NIGHTCLUB - TABLE - CONTINUOUS

JAY
What did I say?

MITCHELL
Dad, seriously, you don't think
Gloria contributes?

JAY

Of course she does. Just not money.

Mitchell picks up his drink.

MITCHELL

I guess it's tough for us working men--

He takes a sip.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

Oh my god, I cut my lip on that glass. Oh, ouch.

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a little compact with a mirror. He opens it and inspects his face like a woman putting on makeup.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

I think I'm okay. What was I saying?

JAY

You were talking about being a man.

Mitchell closes the compact and puts it in his pocket.

MITCHELL

(re: mirror)

You never know when it will come in handy.

JAY

Right.

Gloria and Cameron return to the table and sit down. Cameron ignores Mitchell.

Gloria verbally pokes Jay like a kid would poke a sleeping bear.

GLORIA

I think I will get a job.

JAY

Gloria, that's ridiculous.

GLORIA

You don't think I can?

Before anyone can respond, the lights go down, and a huge spotlight shines on the stage.

EMCEE (O.S.)
 Ladies and sort-of ladies, welcome
 to tonight's fabulous extravaganza.
 Hold on to your hats, tuck
 your...well, let's just say be
 ready...because here they are, the
 multinational operatic pop vocal
 group...

Mitchell smiles at Cameron. Cameron looks away.

EMCEE (O.S.)
 El Diva!!

The curtain opens and four drag queens dressed as exaggerated
 versions of four different nationalities appear on the stage.

They begin to sing.

A drag queen waitress stops by the table and leans in to Jay.

DRAGQUEEN WAITRESS
 (re: Gloria)
 He's fabulous. You're a lucky man.
 Can I get you two a drink?

Jay looks at Gloria with an expression of knowing.

JAY
 Oh, please do.

INT. JAY'S CAR - LATE, LATE NIGHT

MITCHELL
 Well, that was actually kind of
 entertaining.

CAMERON
 I guess.

JAY
 I have to admit, those guys could
 really sing like women.

GLORIA
 They were lip-synching.

CAMERON
 (snide)
 I guess Mitchell's not the only
 Pritchett who confuses men and
 women.

MITCHELL
Cameron, I know you're not a wo--

CAMERON
You called me Lilly's mother!

Cameron starts to cry.

CAMERON (CONT'D)
I...am...not...a...woman. I'm a
man. I'm. Her. Father.

MITCHELL
Oh, Cam, I'm sorry, it was an
accident. Of course you're a man.
We're both men.

JAY
Debatable.

GLORIA
(to Jay)
Oh, you and your judging. You think
I can't get a job. You forget,
before I met you, I had jobs. And I
could have a job at the club.

JAY
Why do you think that?

GLORIA
The bartender said so.

CAMERON
It's true, Jay, I was there.

JAY
Oh, yeah? That's because they
thought you were a man in drag.

CAMERON
That's true too, Gloria.

JAY
I know you can get a job, and if we
needed you to, you'd do it. But I
don't want you to. I like giving
you a life of leisure.

GLORIA
You insult me, Jay! I contribute to
our family.

JAY

Of course you do. I couldn't do anything without you.

CAMERON

(to Mitchell)

What about you?

MITCHELL

Oh, god, of course. I think you're an amazing dad. How could I work if you didn't take care of our home.

Mitchell's speech continues as a voice over.

INT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S HOUSE

MITCHELL (V.O.)

I think what we all have to understand is that in a family, each person contributes what they can, what they're best at.

Manny performs, dressed partially in Gloria's clothing, for Haley while she holds Lilly and laughs.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE

MITCHELL (V.O.)

But it doesn't mean they aren't capable of contributing in other ways too.

Luke is at the computer. Claire is behind him watching in awe.

INT. DUNPHY GARAGE

MITCHELL (V.O.)

Because sometimes, we all need a little help and support.

Phil walks into the garage carrying his new laptop open while looking at the screen. He heads towards his little hiding place.

PHIL

Oh my god. An offer.

He looks backwards over his shoulder and wants to tell someone.

PHIL (CONT'D)
I got an offer on the Majestic
Circle house.

No one is around. He looks back at the laptop and does a
little happy hop.

PHIL (CONT'D)
It's going to be ok--

He trips over his old broken laptop.

The new laptop catapults from his hands and smashes on the
ground.

INT. JAY'S CAR - AS BEFORE

MITCHELL
I think you just have to find what
works.

GLORIA
Aw, Jay, I do love my life of
leisure.

CAMERON
I love taking care of Lilly.

Gloria hugs Jay while he's driving. Cameron and Mitchell hold
hands.

A moment passes.

GLORIA
Do I look like a man dressed like a
woman?!
(she grabs her chest)
What man has these?!

CAMERON
Actually, that Bette Midler had
some pretty huge--

JAY
You're not helping.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE