

MODERN FAMILY

"PhilPhest"

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ACT ONE

EXT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S DUPLEX - BACK YARD - DAY

Jay struggles to push a large football tackling dummy across the lawn. The head of the tackling dummy is wrapped with a picture of Gloria's scowling face.

CAMERON (O.S.)  
Dig deep!

JAY  
I'm digging!

CAMERON (O.S.)  
DEEPER!

Cam, wearing shoulder pads and neatly applied black paint under his eyes, jumps in front of the dummy and blocks its path.

CAMERON (CONT'D)  
No! No! No! You're doing it all wrong.

JAY  
I'm done. We've been going at it for hours.

Cameron walks over to his tackling dummy. There is a picture of Mitchell's face -- with an evil grin, wrapped around the face of the dummy.

CAMERON  
This is how it's done.

Cameron takes a few steps back and sprints full speed and lunges himself at the tackling dummy. On impact, Mitchell's head pops off the dummy right into the air.

INT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S DUPLEX - KITCHEN - DAY

Mitchell, holding Lily, is watching Cameron through the kitchen window in horror.

EXT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S DUPLEX - BACK YARD - DAY

Cameron walks over to Mitchell's head which is lying on the ground and picks it up.

CAMERON

I was taught to always to play  
until you hear the whistle blow.

JAY

Don't you think you are goin just a  
bit overboard here? It's just a  
charity game.

CAMERON

You think *this* is overboard? I'll  
show you overboard!

Cam tosses Mitchell's head up in the air and boots it right  
over his fence into the neighbors back yard.

INT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S DUPLEX - KITCHEN - DAY

Mitchell lets out a high pitched squeal and shields Lily's  
eyes with his hands.

CAMERON AND MITCHELL INTERVIEW

CAMERON

(sweating profusely)

The annual man-boy charity football  
game is tomorrow.

MITCHELL

It's not what it sounds like. It's  
where a bunch of washed-up 40-  
somethings play the local high  
school team to honor legendary  
coach Bruce Manboy -- winner of  
eight consecutive state  
championships.

CAMERON

Nine. But good try honey.

MITCHELL

(rolls eyes)

I've tried to get into football in  
the past, but aside from the butt-  
smacking, I really don't see any  
point.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Doorbell rings. Phil runs at full speed down the stairs. Luke  
trails rights behind.

PHIL  
They're here! They're here!

LUKE  
It's the DINOROIDS!

Claire walks in from the kitchen with Manny who is wearing an apron. Haley and Alex walk in from the living room.

CLAIRE  
I told you to stop letting him  
watch the Sci-Fi channel at night.

PHIL AND LUKE INTERVIEW

PHIL  
The Dinoroids are half-human half-  
dinosaur hybrids that invade Earth  
from the planet Zartax in the year  
3013.

LUKE  
They're frickin' awesome.

Phil and Luke high-five.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Phil opens the door. Delivery Man stands with box in hand. Phil snatches the box from his hands and slams the door in the face of the delivery man.

CLAIRE  
Phil!

Phil ignores Claire and tears open the box.

ALEX  
What is it?

HALEY  
Probably one of his stupid workout  
videos he never uses.

Claire slaps Phil on the rear end making a loud cracking sound.

CLAIRE  
He uses them alright.

Alex and Haley recoil in disgust.

Phil takes out a folded flag out of the box. He unfurls it and shows it to the family. The flag has a outsized picture of a Phil's smiling face. It has seven stars in circle. The bottom reads "PHILPHEST IV"

LUKE

Yes!

PHIL

It's that time of year again.

HALEY

The time of year where I wish I was adopted.

CLAIRE

Who says you weren't?

Haley is silent.

PHIL

C'mon gang! PhilPhest is a Dunphy family tradition.

ALEX

A tradition of misery.

HALEY

The only reason we have to play your stupid games every year is because you stink at football.

PHIL

PhilPhest is much more honorable than some silly little football game. It's about the triumph of the human spirit. It's about challenging yourself to achieve greatness.

CLAIRE

I thought we were done with PhilPhest after Luke sprained his finger last year honey.

PHIL

One step ahead of you ...

Phil goes in his pocket and takes out a certificate and hands it to Claire. Claire examines it.

(CONT'D)

CLAIRE  
What is this?

PHIL  
I took out an extra million on  
Luke's life insurance policy.

Luke pats Phil on the back.

LUKE  
Good thinking dad.

HALEY  
This is totally lame! I promised  
Jason I would be at the game by  
noon tomorrow.

PHIL  
Sorry kiddo, but the stair luge is  
scheduled to start at eleven-thirty  
sharp.

Phil starts to walk down the hallway.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
I expect all you guys to be suited  
up for the Opening Ceremonies  
tonight.

MANNY  
Even me?

PHIL  
Especially you, buddy.

Phil takes a whistle out of his pocket and tosses it to  
Manny. Manny tries to catch it, but it goes right through his  
hands.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
Guard it with your life.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Jay walks in the front door. The door slams.

GLORIA (O.S.)  
I'm in the bedroom.

JAY  
(under his breathe)  
At least she's not shopping.

Jay walks into the bedroom. Gloria is directing two movers on where to put the new chaise lounge.

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

GLORIA

Jay! Look at what I bought.

Jay sees that the new chaise lounge is nearly identical to the old chaise lounge that the movers are taking out of the room. Jay takes Gloria aside.

JAY

What's going on here honey? What was wrong with the old one?

GLORIA

Doesn't this brighten up the room?

Jay looks confused.

JAY

Not anymore then the old one.

GLORIA

Oh please Jay, ju never like anything I buy.

JAY

Whatever you say. I'm going to lie down. My back is killing me.

Jay walks gingerly towards the bed holding his back.

GLORIA

Is it the football?

Jay nods his head.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Ayyy Jay. Why must you play the football tomorrow? You're too old for this silly game.

JAY

Gloria, I'm playing.

Jay whinces in pain as he sits down on the edge of the bed.

GLORIA

You are stubborn like the bull.

JAY  
You mean mule.

GLORIA INTERVIEW

GLORIA  
I know all about the stubborn bull.  
My grandpappi had a bull who would  
never drink the milk he gave it. He  
tried every trick in the book, but  
no drink. Stubborn bull.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - DAY

Jay is sitting on the edge of the bed taking off his shoes.

JAY  
You don't understand ... I'm an old  
fart compared to these kids.

Jay lays down on the bed and Gloria comes over and rubs Jay's  
shoulders.

GLORIA  
Just remember it's the old fart I  
fell in love with.

JAY  
I don't know what happened. I used  
to be young and strong. Now look at  
me.

Gloria grabs Jay's face with two hands.

GLORIA  
Listen to me -- tomorrow you will  
show those boys how the Jay  
Pritchett plays the football.

JAY  
Maybe you're right. I'm too old for  
this. I can't be competing with  
kids who are young enough to be my  
grandchildren.

GLORIA  
No! You will play the football  
tomorrow.

Gloria stands up and pounds both fists on the night table.

GLORIA (CONT'D)  
We play. We win. We kill!

The movers come back into the room holding a table lamp that is nearly identical to the one already on the night table next to Jay and Gloria's bed.

MOVER

Where would you like us to place  
this ma'am?

GLORIA

Right over here.

Gloria picks up the lamp next to the table and hands it over to the movers. The movers put down the new lamp in the exact same place.

Jay stares at Gloria.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

What? It was on sale.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - NIGHT

Manny, dressed in a long white poncho and a white hood walks down the dark hallway holding a lit torch. There is a shadowy figure blocking the doorway to the back yard holding an unlit torch. Manny reaches the his torch out to the shadowy figure. The torch lights and reveals Phil wearing the same exact white poncho and hood as Manny. Silence.

Phil opens the door to the back yard. In a single file line arranged by height order are the Dunphy kids, Claire, Mitchell and Cameron wearing tye-dyed PhilPhest shirts. They all hold unlit torches.

Phil slowly passes each family member, leaning over to light their torches one by one. Cameron leans forward and whispers into Mitchell's ear.

CAMERON

This gets stranger every year.

MITCHELL

I can't believe we're missing the  
'Say Yes to the Dress' marathon for  
this.

Manny walks by and shushes them. They wave their hand in apology. Manny follows Phil over to a huge torched shaped like the letter 'P' planted in the middle of the back yard. Cameron leans back over to Mitchell.

CAMERON

And I thought my childhood was  
screwed up.

Phil stops a few feet from the large P-shaped torch and  
pauses.

PHIL

Four score and seven years ago our  
fathers brought forth on this  
continent, a new nation, conceived  
in Liberty, and dedicated to the  
proposition that all men are  
created equal ...

Alex turns to Claire.

ALEX

The Gettysburg Address?

CLAIRE

It's better than the 'I Have A  
Dream' speech from last year.

PHIL

... and that government of the  
people, by the people, for the  
people, shall not perish from the  
earth.

Phil takes his torch and lights the large torch in the  
middle. It shoots up in flame.

PHIL (CONT'D)

(yells triumphantly)  
LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

There is sputtered clapping amongst the crowd.

The doorbell rings.

CLAIRE

(to Phil)  
Who is that?

PHIL

Not sure. Maybe they're dropping  
off the doves I ordered for the  
closing ceremonies.

Claire runs into the house to answer the door.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - NIGHT

Claire opens the door to an African American police officer.

CLAIRE  
Can I help you officer?

POLICE OFFICER  
Sorry to disturb you Ma'am, but we received a report from your neighbors about smoke coming from your backyard.

CLAIRE  
Smoke? I'm sorry, but you must have the wrong house.

Phil walks up behind Claire carrying a lit torch.

PHIL  
What seems to be the problem officer?

Police Officer takes a step inside the house and takes a look around.

POLICE OFFICER  
Do I see something burning out there?

Phil puts his hand on the Police Officer's shoulder.

PHIL  
(points to back door)  
Oh that? That's just my clan out there.

POLICE OFFICER  
Oh, is it?

PHIL  
Yep. We got little Luke, Haley, Alex.

The Police Officer brushes Phil's hand off his shoulder and walks a bit further into the house. Claire pinches Phil on the arm before following the Officer to the back of the house.

CLAIRE  
It's not what it looks like, it's just that ...

Manny walks in from the back yard with a lit torch in his hand wearing the white poncho and hat.

MANNY

(to Phil)

It's getting windy out there. We're gonna need some more gasoline.

PHIL

Just check in the garage buddy. I think we have a couple extra gas cans next to the power saw.

MANNY

Got it.

Manny turns to go, but Claire grabs Manny by neck and stops him.

POLICE OFFICER

I need an explanation now.

Phil steps in and nudges Claire out of the way.

PHIL

I got this honey.

Claire nudges Phil out of the way.

CLAIRE

No you don't.

POLICE OFFICER

I'm losing my patience with both of you.

The door to the back yard slams shut making a loud sound. Mitchell, holding Lily, walks to the front door with Cameron following behind.

MITCHELL

She is not a football, Cam!

CAMERON

I know, I got a little carried away.

MITCHELL

You can't hike our daughter between your legs!

CAMERON

Phil has us waiting out there so long, that I thought I would get in a few snaps before the game tomorrow.

The Police Officer throws his hands in the air.

POLICE OFFICER

It was easier when I was assigned to homicide.

The Police Officer radio crackles. A voice comes on requesting all officers in the area report to a burglary in progress. The Police Officer responds that he is on his way.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)

I got to take this. Please stop doing whatever it is you guys are doing here.

PHIL

Ten-four Officer.

Police officer walks out the door.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Claire is busy unloading groceries from a large, brown bag into the fridge. Phil is sitting at the kitchen table in front of a large easel scheduling PhilPhest events.

Gloria walks into the kitchen wearing a revealing cheerleader outfit -- two sizes too small. Manny is wearing his striped referee shirt and hat.

PHIL

Sweet candy yams!

CLAIRE

Sorry, hun, but they were all sold out at the market. I got a pumpkin pie if you are craving something sweet.

PHIL

Who needs pumpkin pie when you have arroz con coco over here.

GLORIA

Oh, Phil.

Claire turns around.

CLAIRE

Oh, my.

MANNY

I'm on the South Beach diet, but one piece of pie won't kill me.

Gloria pinches Manny on the cheek.

GLORIA

You look handsome just the way you are.

MANNY

You might think I'm handsome, but at this rate I'll be shopping at the 'Big and Tall' store by the time I'm fifteen.

GLORIA

Your papi was only five foot six-inches. You don't have to worry about growing tall.

Gloria walks in between Phil and Claire.

GLORIA (CONT'D)  
So, what ju you think of my outfit  
for the football bowl?

Phil walks behind Claire and puts both hands on Claire's  
shoulders.

PHIL  
It works for me.

Claire glares at Phil.

CLAIRE  
Don't you think it's a little ...  
ummm ...

PHIL  
Busty?

CLAIRE  
What I think he is trying to say  
is that your outfit might be a  
little revealing for a high school  
football game.

Phil, behind Claire, shakes his head in disagreement. Claire  
catches him.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
Really, Phil?

GLORIA  
Ju are being ridiculous. I think  
its a beautiful way to show Jay  
that I support him.

PHIL  
(to Claire)  
Let's not deprive her of that.

CLAIRE  
It's just that I think we need to  
be good role models for the girls,  
and that outfit might be sending  
the wrong message.

Haley walks into the kitchen wearing a cheerleading outfit  
that is even more revealing than Gloria's.

HALEY  
Look what I found in your closet  
Mom! Can I keep this?

CLAIRE

Absolutely not. You look like a street walker.

HALEY

I saw you wearing it to the Anderson's Halloween party last year.

Phil pinches Claire's rear end.

PHIL

Oh, that was a pretty wild night, wasn't it?

CLAIRE

Not now Phil.

Gloria glares at Claire.

GLORIA

Who walks the street at night now, ay?

PHIL

Ladies, ladies, there is no need for this. Cheerleading is about trust and communication.

CLAIRE

Are you serious? Cheerleading is just a superficial excuse for a sport created by simple-minded, popular girls who's sense of self worth is wrapped up in hair ribbons and caked-on makeup.

HALEY

And Dad.

Phil circles around to Haley.

PHIL

I used to be pretty popular in my day you know. Your mom is just upset because she could never make the squad.

#### PHIL INTERVIEW

PHIL (CONT'D)

In college I perfected a stunt called the 'Double Cobra' where I'd throw two girls in air at one time.

(MORE)

PHIL (CONT'D)

Some said it was the greatest move they had ever seen ... of course, that was until my partner Sandy McManus shattered twelve vertebrae and 'Cheerleading Weekly' named the Double Cobra the most dangerous stunt of the century.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

CLAIRE

I could have been on the team if I wanted to.

GLORIA

I think you would have made a great cheer person.

Phil puts his arm around Claire.

PHIL

This is great! I would love to show you guys a thing or two.

Claire takes Phil's arm off his shoulder.

CLAIRE

No thanks. I don't want to end up in a wheelchair like Sandy McManus.

PHIL

That's a low blow. She tucked instead of rolled.

CLAIRE

Yep, and now she's rolling everywhere.

Gloria picks up her purse off the table and prepares to leave.

GLORIA

I'll come pick Manny up after the game.

Gloria kisses Manny on the cheek.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Have fun my little zebra.

Gloria walks out. Phil chases after her as she approaches the door and grabs her arm and pulls her in very close.

PHIL  
Remember, hands on hips, smile on  
lips. Make me proud kiddo.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Luke sits on a large rubber garbage pale lid on the top step of the stairs. He wears a helmet and elbow pads.

Phil, Manny and the rest of the Dunphy children are at the bottom of the stairs. Manny holds a clipboard and a whistle.

PHIL  
(through megaphone)  
I would like to announce our final competitor, Luke Dunphy, last year's silver medal winner in the stair luge.

The group applauds.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
The standings thus far find Alex Dunphy in the lead with a blazing time of 3.1 seconds. Haley straggles far behind with a modest time of 7.7 seconds.

Claire walks toward the front door carrying a gym bag.

CLAIRE  
I can't watch this.

PHIL  
But honey, Luke is going for the world record.

CLAIRE  
I have a couple errands to run, I'll be back a little later.

PHIL  
That's OK. I set up a video camera so you will be able to catch the highlights when you get back.

CLAIRE INTERVIEW

Does it sit well with me that my youngest child is preparing to plunge full speed down thirty-feet of stairs? Absolutely not. But, marriage is full of compromises and all marriages have a PhilPhest, don't they? Besides, I would never let them do something that was *actually* dangerous.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Claire walks out the front door.

MANNY

Is the timer ready?

PHIL

Timer is ready. Go on green!

Phil presses a button on the standing stoplight next to him turns from red to yellow to green. Each turn is met with a beeping sound. On green, Luke launches himself down the stairs on the lid. When he reaches the bottom he flies off the lid, head first.

ALEX

Luke! Luke! Oh my gosh, say something.

Silence. Phil leans over.

PHIL

Hey, you okay buddy?

Luke leans gives the thumbs up.

LUKE

Did I break the record?

Phil lifts up Luke's arm.

PHIL

(screams)

AND THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL A CHAMPION FOLKS!

Luke gets to his feet and stumbles.

PHIL (CONT'D)

You need to go to the hospital?

LUKE

No, I'm ok.

PHIL

THE CHAMP-EEEE-OOONNNNNNN!

LUKE

So I broke the record?

Phil pats Luke on the back.

PHIL  
Sorry, but we had to disqualify you  
for falling off mid-luge.

LUKE  
Aww man!

PHIL  
But, don't worry you are definitely  
the crowd favorite.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Cam is warming up on the sidelines doing high leg kicks.  
Mitchell watches next to him.

CAMERON  
Can you grab my water bottle.

Mitchell picks up the water bottle next to him and hands it  
to Cam.

MITCHLL  
Please try not to embarrass us this  
year?

CAMERON  
When I have ever embarrassed this  
family?

TOUCHDOWN DANCE SEQUENCE - MONTAGE

Cameron intercepts football and as runs toward the opponent's  
end zone, he does the Michael Jackson "Moonwalk" across the  
goal line. He culminates the dance with a crotch grab and a  
loud scream. The ref throws a penalty flag.

Cameron runs the ball in the end zone and stops cold as he  
crosses the goal line. In dramatic fashion he tosses the ball  
over his shoulder and starts a series of hand poses straight  
from Madonna's "Vogue". The ref throws a penalty flag.

Cameron catches football in end zone and pauses for a moment.  
He rips off his tear-away pants to reveal shiny gold  
parachute pants. He proceeds to do the "MC Hammer" dance  
across the goal line. The ref throws a penalty flag.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

JAY (O.S.)  
CAM! Get out here!

Cam turns to Mitchell and gives him a high-five.

CAMERON

Toodles.

Cam runs out to the circle of middle-aged men on the football field and breaks in to the center of the huddle.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

Alright guys, let's go for a Hail Mary. I'll go deep ...

JAY

Calm down Doug Flutie. It's the first play of the game.

Cameron steps outside the huddle and points across to the high school football players standing a few feet away.

CAMERON

Let's go for the jugular damnit! These wimps only won two games last season.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYER 1

What'd you say, butterball?

Cameron turns around and makes a throat-slashing gesture to the High School Football Player.

KARL

Why don't we start with a halfback sweep to the right. Cam, why don't you block Virgil's man?

CAMERON

Are you calling me fat?

KARL

No, it's just that you are the best blocker out here.

CAMERON

Sure, let the fat man block. I get it.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYER 2

Hurry up!

CAMERON

Shut up punks!

The huddle breaks. Jay takes the snap and pitches it out to Virgil. Cameron totally whiffs on his blocking assignment and Virgil gets mauled by three High Schoolers.

KARL

(to Cam)

What the hell was that all about?

CAMERON

Looks like the fat guy forgot how to block.

Gloria, in her revealing cheerleader outfit, runs from the parking lot onto the field. The guys on both teams turn to stare.

GLORIA

Jay! Jay! Jay!

Jay runs over to Gloria, concerned.

JAY

What is it? What's wrong.

GLORIA

You forgot to bring the sandwich I packed for you.

Gloria hands Jay a brown sandwich bag.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

It's tuna fish, your favorite.

Jay's buddies all laugh. Jay gives the bag back to Gloria.

JAY

You have impeccable timing.

GLORIA

Ju not hungry?

JAY

Can't you see I'm in the middle of a game here.

GLORIA

Okay, okay. I'll leave it right over here, just in case.

Gloria trots back to sideline.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYER 2  
(to teammate)  
I got to find out what high school  
she goes to.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYER 3  
I think she goes to Monroe. They  
got the hottest chicks over there.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEEXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Phil and Manny stand behind an automatic tennis ball machine with the nozzle facing the front door of the house. The front yard is scattered with large garbage can, boxes and clothing trunks.

MANNY  
(into Megaphone)  
GLADIATOR READY!?!?

Phil gives a thumbs up.

MANNY (CONT'D)  
CONTENDER READY!?!?

Silence. Manny takes out an air horn and lets out one long blast.

The door cracks open and Haley steps out in a neon yellow spandex body suit and a hockey helmet covering her face.

PHIL  
Say halo to my lil' friend.

Phil turns the nozzle towards Haley and fires tennis balls in her direction. Haley screams and dives forward behind the first garbage can. Haley picks up a counter-weapon and fires it towards Phil. It badly misses.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
Come out, come out wherever you  
are!

Haley stands up from behind the garbage can and is immediately dropped by a vicious tennis ball to the helmet. Manny and Phil give a flying chest bump.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
(to Manny)  
Great work Cyclone.

MANNY  
Thanks Raptor.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - HALLWAY

Alex and Luke pace in the hallway. Luke in a bright white spandex body suit and Alex in a bright green spandex body suit.

ALEX

I can do this.

LUKE

Beat Cyclone and Raptor? No chance.

ALEX

It's simple. If you measure the velocity of the ball against the distance between each obstacle, I figured out that I have a seventy-eight percent chance of not getting hit if I time it just right.

LUKE

Talk is cheap.

Luke opens the door and pushes her out into the line of fire.

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

A tennis ball whizzes by Alex's head and makes a loud BANG against the front door.

MANNY

(to Phil)

Victim number two.

Alex makes a mad dash past the first obstacle and crouches behind a large trunk. She peaks her head out and a few balls go whizzing by. She army crawls forward towards the Gladiators.

PHIL

Hurry Cyclone, she's advancing.

Manny feverishly loads tennis balls into the machine.

MANNY

The machine is jammed! It won't take any more balls.

Alex takes off in full sprint behind the last remaining obstacle separating her and the gladiators. She picks up a sling shot off the ground and takes aim at Phil.

ALEX  
Any last words?

Phil grabs Manny and tries to use him as a human shield.

PHIL  
Go ahead, make my day.

Alex looks back and winks at Luke. She pulls back a tennis ball in the sling shot and fires it directly at Phil. It hits him square in the face. He goes down.

ALEX  
Dad?

Alex runs over to Phil. Phil lets out a few high pitched squeals.

PHIL  
Raptor ... down.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD BLEACHERS - DAY

Claire walks into the bleachers carry a gym bag. Mitchell waves. She grabs a seat next to him.

CLAIRE  
Wow. I didn't expect the game to be this close.

MITCHELL  
I know! I can't tell if they are playing well or this year's high school team is the worst in school history.

Down on the sideline Gloria is jumping up and down screaming like a lunatic. The entire high school team is staring at her.

CLAIRE  
Maybe it's Gloria.

Mitchell points towards Gloria's chest.

MITCHELL  
They are certainly a distraction.

Jay, Cameron and the offense are lined up at mid-field. Jay takes the snap and drops back. Cameron is open down the field. Jay throws a perfect spiral and Cameron catches the ball in the end zone.

Mitchell and Claire jump up and embrace.

CLAIRE  
That's your man!

In the middle of the end zone, Cameron does the "Teach Me How to Dougie" dance. The ref throws a penalty flag.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
What's he doing?

MITCHELL  
It's the "Dougie". He promised he would never do it in public.

Cameron, in full gyration, points at Mitchell.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)  
Please make it stop.

Cameron runs toward the bleachers giving the "Miss America" wave to the crowd. Caught in the moment, Cameron does not see the a high school player step in front of him with his leg out. Cameron falls. He rolls on the ground holding his ankle.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)  
(turns to Claire)  
And best supporting actress in the drama category goes to ...

Cameron writhes in agony.

CAMERON  
I can't feel my legs!

JAY  
Get up. Nobody's buyin' it.

Mitchell and Claire walk over to where Cameron lies. Mitchell bends down and grabs Cameron's hand to pull him up. Cameron waives him off.

MITCHELL  
(to Cameron)  
This is just like the time you made me take you to the emergency room after Ms. Fielder's cockapoo bit your hand.

CAMERON  
IT WAS A VICIOUS HOUND!

Mitchell yanks Cameron up; Cam lets out an ear-piercing yelp and topples right back down.

CLAIRE

I think he's really hurt.

Three of Cameron's teammates walk over and pick up Cameron to take him off the field.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYER 1

Looks like you guys don't got enough players to finish up.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYER 3

Guess that makes you the losers for the fourth straight year in a row.

All the High School Football Players gather around and chuckle and give each other a high five. The old men look dejected as they walk off the field. Jay stops everyone.

JAY

C'mon guys. We're only down three points with a minute left. Let's win it for Cam!

VIRGIL

Nah man, it's over -- plus if we ain't outta here by two they're gonna charge us for parking.

Jay is dejected. The players continue to walk toward the sideline.

On the sideline, Mitchell is holding an ice-pack to Cameron's leg.

MITCHELL

I've already called Dr. Strauss. He can see you at ten tomorrow morning.

CAMERON

Stop ...

MITCHELL

If ten-thirty is better, then we can do ten-thirty.

CAMERON

Stop talking and get your butt out there.

MITCHELL

And do what?

CAMERON  
Win the game.

Mitchell laughs uncomfortably.

MITCHELL  
I'm not playing.

Cameron grabs Mitchell's hand and waves it for him.

CAMERON  
(yells aloud)  
MITCH WILL PLAY!

Everyone stops. Mitchell is frozen.

JAY  
(yells back)  
We prefer Claire.

The guys laugh. Cameron pulls Mitchell close.

CAMERON  
Here's your chance to show your dad  
what kind of man you are.

Mitchell pauses. After a moment he runs out on the field slapping each teammate on the butt as he goes by.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN

The Dunphy kids, Manny and Phil are standing around the kitchen. Phil is holding an ice pack over his bruised eye.

PHIL  
I'm sorry guys. We are all too old  
for this. I promise this is the  
last year of stupid PhilPhest.

Haley walks up and gives Phil a fake punch to the kidney.

HALEY  
But I was just starting to get  
warmed up.

LUKE  
Me too. I want a chance to defend  
the gold in the blindfolded ring  
toss.

PHIL  
Nah ... how bout I take you all for  
some ice cream?

MANNY

The day is still young. I'll whip us up a quick lunch of grilled salmon with a side of wild rice and we can get back out there.

Haley starts chanting: Phil-Phest ... Phil-Phest ... Phil-Phest. The other kids join.

A huge smile crosses Phil's face. He paces for a moment.

PHIL

Everybody grab your blindfolds.  
PhilPhest two-thousand twelve ...  
BACK ON!

Phil takes out a gold medal out of his pocket and puts it around Haley's neck.

PHIL (CONT'D)

In a complete stunner ... the 'Spirit of PhilPhest' award goes to Haley Dunphy.

The kids clap.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Whip up that salmon Manny ... we're gonna need our Omega threes.

The phone rings. Alex picks it up.

ALEX

(into phone)  
Oh my gosh. Is he ok?

The family gathers.

After a moment of listening, Alex hangs up.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Uncle Cam hurt his ankle in the game. Mom needs the van to take him home.

Phil grabs his keys.

PHIL

Looks like PhilPhest is on hold.

Manny takes out his whistle and blows it.

MANNY  
Everybody to the car!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The Dunphy's and Manny walk from the parking lot to the field.

CLAIRE (O.S.)  
C'mon guys let's win! First and ten, let's do it again!

GLORIA (O.S.)  
And again!

Claire is in her cheerleading outfit next to Gloria.

ALEX  
Is that mom?

HALEY  
O-M-G! This is sooo embarrassing.

Phil nudges Manny.

PHIL  
Yea, embarrassingly awesome.

MANNY  
Inappropriate.

HALEY  
Their skirts barely cover their you-know-whats.

LUKE  
No. What?

HALEY  
Oh Luke, soon enough you'll know what's what.

On the football field, the men are in a huddle.

JAY  
We got time for one last play. Gary Neal, and Virgil block. Bill and Mike go deep to the end zone. I'm gonna chuck it.

MITCHELL  
Where do you want me to go?

JAY  
Just, ugh, keep out of the way of  
everything.

The players clap and break the huddle. On the sideline, Claire and Gloria are jostling for position on the sideline, each wanting to be front and center.

GLORIA	CLAIRE
OUCHHHH!!! Ju kicked me!	GET OFF ME!!! You're in my way!

The High School Football players line up, but are clearly distracted by the women on the sideline.

Jay takes the snap and drops back. He surveys the field and sees all his men covered. He then sees Mitchell streak past his man who is gawking at the cheerleaders.

MITCHELL  
I'm open! I'm open!

Jay looks at him and shakes him off looking for another option.

CAMERON (O.S.)  
Throw it!!!

Jay has no option but to launch the ball to Mitchell. The ball seems like it's in the air for hours. Mitchell squints his eyes afraid of the incoming pass. He dives. The ball miraculously lands in his outstretched arms in the end zone. TOUCHDOWN. The men go wild.

Once he collects himself, Mitchell takes off his shirt and starts doing the 'worm' across the end zone.

Cameron turns to Spectator next to him.

CAMERON (CONT'D)  
Seriously? The worm? I apologize.  
Complete lack of preparation.

Claire and Gloria jump up and down in embrace. Phil and the kids come in from the bleachers and join in the embrace.

Jay walks over to the shirtless Mitchell as he catches his breath.

JAY  
I'm proud of ya kid.

MITCHELL

Thanks. I'm just shocked I caught it.

JAY

Catch or not, I'm proud of you for getting out there.

Jay goes in to give his son a hug, but Mitchell pushes him back.

MITCHELL

Not in front of the guys dad.

Jay and Mitchell share a laugh and put their arms around each other and walk back to their family who has gathered on the sideline.

END OF ACT THREE

TAGEXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - BACK YARD - NIGHT

The entire family sits in a semi-circle out in the back yard. Phil is in front of them with a big box covered in cloth under his right arm.

PHIL

(speaking to family)

Although it is a time-honored tradition to release doves to signify the completion of PhilPhest, due to newly enacted city ordinance 614.91, I'm prohibited from releasing a live bird without a license.

GLORIA

So what's in the box?

PHIL

In lieu of doves, this year we will release fireflies.

Claire gets up and rubs his back.

CLAIRE

I think that was a great idea -- it will be beautiful.

Phil rips the cloth off the top of the box.

PHIL

... but since it's not firefly season, I had to get crickets from the reptile store downtown.

HALEY

Crickets? Gross.

Phil opens the box and out flies thousands of crickets.

It is dead silent and all you can hear is the screeching of hundreds of crickets.

PHIL

Ahhh ... can you hear that? The sweet chorus of nature.

Chirps are deafening.

CLAIRE

When I wake up there better not be  
one cricket in our yard.

PHIL

I know a twenty-four hour  
exterminator.

END OF SHOW