

**MODERN FAMILY**

"Thank You"

Written by

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ACT 1

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - MORNING

CLAIRE (O.S.)

I want everyone at the door in one minute.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - HALLWAY - MORNING

CLAIRE is waiting at the front door.

CLAIRE

Mrs Murphy says we have to be at the school by 7am.

ALEX enters.

ALEX

Mom, I don't understand why I'm being punished for something Luke did.

PHIL enters with LUKE.

PHIL

This isn't a punishment sweetie. It's giving back to the community.

ALEX

If you want to give to the community why don't we donate Luke to a laboratory then we can all sleep in.

LUKE

But I don't want to be a scientist.

HALEY enters.

HALEY

Mom, have you seen my jacket.

CLAIRE

We don't have time for this Haley.

HALEY

If I'm going back to elementary school I have to look my best. I left on a fashion high and I have a reputation to keep.

ALEX

That's not the only thing she has a reputation for.

CLAIRE

Alex! Don't spread rumors about your sister. Haley! What reputation?

HALEY

Can we stick to what's important, my jacket?

CLAIRE

Sweetie, no one will see it under the reflective vest anyway.

HALEY

You're going to make me wear a reflective vest? Why are you doing this to me?

PHIL

It's okay, we'll all be in reflective vests as one big glowing orange family.

Haley tears up.

HALEY

Oh my god.

PHIL AND CLAIRE INTERVIEW

CLAIRE

Yesterday we had an embarrassing experience with Luke so today we're trying something a little different from the usual Dunphy routine.

PHIL

We're gonna be kind, helpful and courteous. Right honey?

CLAIRE

Nicely put Phil.

PHIL

Thank you.  
(to camera)  
Manners.

INT. PHIL & CLAIRE'S CAR - MORNING

Phil and Claire ride in front with MANNY and Luke in back.

LUKE

And then the TV turned into a shark but we were in water so it was totally safe.

CLAIRE

Okay honey, that's enough of dream stories.

MANNY

Thank you for the ride this morning.

PHIL

You're welcome little man.

CLAIRE

It was a pleasure Manny.

MANNY

And thanks Luke for sharing your dream.

CLAIRE

What do you say Luke?

LUKE

Give me back my dream?

EXT. SCHOOL FRONT - CONTINUOUS

The school gate is surrounded by traffic cones and a "pull up safely" sign.

A VOLUNTEER VALET dressed in a reflective vest ushers the Dunphy car towards the school gate.

INT. PHIL & CLAIRE'S CAR - MORNING

They come to a complete stop.

PHIL

(robot voice)

You have reached your destination.

Phil gives a wide grin but Claire ignores him. The Valet opens their back door.

MANNY

Good morning. Thank you very much.

Manny exits the car.

CLAIRE

Luke, don't forget to thank the valet.

Luke jumps out ignoring Volunteer Valet and slams car door. Phil and Claire look to the valet in embarrassment and then each other.

PHIL AND CLAIRE INTERVIEW

PHIL

We've had a few problems with Luke and manners lately.

CLAIRE

It's like he doesn't realize these people are... People.

PHIL

And that's where my parenting style comes into play. You see you can tell a kid to have manners and he may thank you for it but he won't truly understand it-

CLAIRE

Wrap it up honey.

PHIL

My point is we have to humanize the valet volunteers-

CLAIRE

So we volunteered.

PHIL

My idea!

INT. PHIL & CLAIRE'S CAR - MORNING

CLAIRE

I feel awful. They're just parent's giving up their time.

PHIL

We need to remind him that they're parents too. How would he feel if people treated us that way?

CLAIRE

Good idea honey. I'll sign us up for tomorrow.

Phil's face drops as he realizes what he's got himself into.

PHIL

Well I thought we could just explain it, I might have a viewing in the morning.

Claire gives him a look.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
 But I can re-schedule. It sounds fun.  
 I'm excited.

EXT. SCHOOL FRONT - CONTINUOUS

They pull away fast splashing a puddle that sprays the Volunteer Valet.

CLAIRE  
 Oh no, sorry!

PHIL  
 Go, go. Don't make eye contact.

PHIL AND CLAIRE INTERVIEW

PHIL  
 Superdad to the rescue.

Claire looks to camera. She'll let him have that one.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

GLORIA bags empty plastic bottles, glass jars, etc.

GLORIA  
 (calling)  
 Manny, I need your help with the recycling.

JAY passes through with golf kit.

GLORIA (CONT'D)  
 Where are you going?

JAY  
 I'm headed to the golf club.

GLORIA  
 But it's recycling day at Manny's school.

JAY  
 Come on Gloria, school activities like that, they're for suckers.

GLORIA  
 Are you saying you don't want to spend the morning going through people's trash?

JAY

Do they have sarcasm in Columbia? I can never tell if you're serious or not?

GLORIA

No Jay. They do not have sarcasm in Columbia.

JAY

See! That's what I'm talking about.

GLORIA INTERVIEW

GLORIA

When I heard Phil and Claire had volunteered to help out at the school I was so excited I signed us up to their recycling day. I used to help at Manny's school in Columbia all the time. Bake sale, school dance, ride your mule to school Fridays. It was very rewarding.

INT. JAY & GLORIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

GLORIA

Jay, I'm serious. We should be doing our part for Manny's school.

JAY

I finished those beer bottles last night didn't I?

GLORIA

Didn't you take part at Mitchell and Claire's schools?

JAY

Yeah sure, but you know how I got through it? By reminding myself when they're all grown up I could go golfing.

Manny quietly enters.

JAY (CONT'D)

That's the beauty of grandkids you know? No obligation. You have fun, load them up on sugar, then ship them back to their parents for the boring stuff.

Gloria notices Manny was listening, Jay turns around and sees Manny run off.

JAY (CONT'D)

Ah jeez.

INT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S DUPLEX - DINING ROOM - MORNING

MITCHELL straightens out his tie while drinking morning coffee. He enters to see a proud CAMERON sat with a plethora of breakfast foods cooked and spread over the entire dinner table.

MITCHELL

Cam, what's this?

CAMERON

I made breakfast for us.

MITCHELL

This is just for us?

CAMERON

Well you know. Nothing's too good for my man.

MITCHELL

You really went the whole works didn't you? Pancakes, muffins... roast duck?

CAMERON

Eat up. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

MITCHELL

Chips and salsa? What's going on?

CAMERON

I just didn't know what to do for a mid week breakfast. High fiber is for getting the week started, sugary treats are Friday's rewards. I decided what the hell. Happy Wednesday! Now bon appetit.

MITCHELL

We could never eat all this.

(looks to Cameron)

I could never eat all this.

CAMERON

Well make a start, we've got to drop off our recycling with Gloria and your dad.

MITCHELL

Oh I get it.

Mitchell heads towards the Kitchen

CAMERON

Sit!

MITCHELL

I just got to check something in the kitchen.

Cameron gets up to block him.

CAMERON

Breakfast is getting cold.

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

Mitchell peeps his head in and sees the kitchen counter is covered in plastic packaging for every meal.

CAMERON

I know what it looks like.

MITCHELL

What does it look like?

CAMERON

Like a mess but I'm taking it all to be recycled.

MITCHELL

When is the recycling collected?

CAMERON

I don't remember.

MITCHELL

Cam?

CAMERON

Tuesdays.

MITCHELL

And today is?

CAMERON

Happy Wednesday?

MITCHELL

You forgot to save any recycling for Gloria didn't you?

CAMERON

Oh I solved that problem.

MITCHELL

Yeah. I can see that.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOEXT. SCHOOL GATE - DAY

MRS MURPHY, 30, PTA president with a constant superficial grin, marches over and rolls a cart of valet gear to Phil and Claire as Haley, Alex and Luke sulk.

MRS MURPHY

If you could place the cones on the street for safety that would be super.

Phil jumps to action and grabs the cart.

MRS MURPHY (CONT'D)

Remember you must wear the reflective vests at all times and do not go more than three steps to the curb until the cars have come to a complete stop.

As Phil places cones in the street a car speeds past narrowly missing his head.

CLAIRE

Alex, keep an eye on your father.

MRS MURPHY

I'll be back with the keys to the storage shed shortly. You guys are super.

Mrs Murphy sharply exits as Phil returns.

CLAIRE

As long as you smile wide enough you can boss people around. Does she think we're idiots?

PHIL

Honey, she says were super. Come on kids, get your vests on.

Claire and Phil zip up their orange reflective vests.

HALEY

Mom, I can't be seen in this.

CLAIRE

Haley, if you don't put that on now, the only clothes I'm going to buy you from now on will be bright orange.

Haley reluctantly puts it on tying the middle in an attempt to look more feminine and returns to texting.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
Where's Luke?

PHIL  
I put him in charge of the cones.

Luke wanders into the street with a cone.

CLAIRE  
Luke honey, come here!  
(to Phil)  
We need him close to us to open doors  
and see what manners are.

The first car pulls up and Phil approaches.

PHIL  
Don't worry. By this morning we will  
instil the same sense of dedication and  
politeness into Luke as we did Haley and  
Alex.

Phil opens the back door but is confused to see no child. He  
notices DYLAN, Haley's boyfriend, in the driver seat.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
Hey Dylan, what's up my man.

Phil gives Dylan an awkward fist bump.

DYLAN  
Um, Haley told me to pick her up.

Haley leaps into Dylan's car as Phil holds the door open.

ALEX  
You have to take me with you.

Alex follows, closing the door behind her. They drive.

CLAIRE  
(shouting)  
This is not acceptable young ladies.  
What kind of example are you setting for  
your brother?

Dylan's car stops and reverses, Claire gives a victorious smile.  
A window unwinds and two reflective vests are thrown at her.

Dylan's car speeds off and Phil turns to Luke.

PHIL  
Looks like you've been promoted buddy.

Mrs Murphy returns as Phil zips Luke into his reflective vest.

MRS MURPHY

Here's the shed keys to return the kit when you're done. I'll just need your signed permission slip for Luke to volunteer and everything will be super.

CLAIRE

Oh, we don't have a slip but I give him permission.

MRS MURPHY

You must sign a permission slip for Luke to help you. Unfortunately for insurance purposes we can't have him unsupervised.

CLAIRE

But we're his parents. It's not like he's un-super-vised.

MRS MURPHY

He needs to be supervised by the school to valet.

CLAIRE

Can we just forget the slip?

MRS MURPHY

I did not become the PTA President by forgetting slips.

CLAIRE

Of course not. How about if both parents give permission? Phil, give permission.

PHIL

Maybe we could sign a new slip?

CLAIRE

That's not the point Phil.

MRS MURPHY

Super idea Phil. I'll see if I can get one to you asap.

CLAIRE

Great because, we kind of have an ulterior motive.

PHIL

My idea!

CLAIRE

We wanted to bring him here to teach him the value of manners and-

MRS MURPHY

Oh you're one of those. I'll try to get a form to you as soon as I've executed my duties as PTA president.

Luke takes off his vest with a smile as Mrs Murphy abandons Phil and Claire.

A car pulls up and honks startling Phil and Claire into action as Luke turns on a handheld gaming device.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S CAR - MORNING

Gloria drives as Jay sits awkwardly. Manny crosses his arms in the backseat.

JAY

How about we play catch this afternoon?

Manny folds his arms tighter.

JAY (CONT'D)

Fishing?

No response.

JAY (CONT'D)

Ah come on Manny. It was out of context. Tell him Gloria.

GLORIA

I don't want anything to do with this. The men in my family have a fiery temper. I will not get burnt.

Jay turns to Manny who seems calm but hurt. No hint of fire.

JAY

I'm not so sure Manny's inherited that trait. I don't see the fire.

GLORIA

That's the worst Jay! Like a gas leak, first there is silence then it fills the house waiting to be ignited, then boom.

JAY

Trust me, gas is a different problem.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE - MORNING

Phil opens a car door to a BLONDE KID.

PHIL  
You're late!

Blonde Kid panics.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
Just kidding! You're on time.

Blonde Kid looks upset.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry.  
(to parent)  
I'm sorry.

BLONDE KID'S PARENT shakes her head in disgust. The kid hurries off to school. Phil closes car door and it drives off. Claire approaches.

CLAIRE  
What did you do?

PHIL  
Nothing. The kid's a little sensitive.

Claire waits for a better answer.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
What?

Another car pulls up and Phil opens the door to a BRAIDED GIRL.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
Good morning. Don't forget to tip your chauffeur.

Braided Girl ignores Phil and walks through the gate.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
What's wrong with these kids? This is gold I'm giving them.

CLAIRE  
Other children aren't into your...

PHIL  
Humor?

CLAIRE

Maybe we should concentrate on showing  
Luke some manners from the other kids.  
Watch me.

Claire ushers another car forward and opens the door to a SPORTY  
KID.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Morning sunshine!

Sporty Kid grabs his bag and strolls by as if Claire is  
invisible.

PHIL

Ouch. I think you should try talking to  
them on their level honey.

CLAIRE

Like you do?

PHIL

Exactly.

A car pulls up and Phil runs over to the curb.

CLAIRE

Honey, wait until the car has come to a  
complete stop remember?

PHIL

Those rules are just for the kids  
sweetheart.

The car hits the curb nearly taking Phil out.

PHIL (CONT'D)

What the hell, buddy? This is a  
sidewalk!

The window winds down to reveal Gloria at the wheel.

GLORIA

Sorry Phil.

Phil melts.

PHIL

Oh hi Gloria. It's fine.  
(clueless)  
You can brush up against me anytime.

Phil stares a little longingly.

JAY

Hi Phil.

Phil snaps out of it.

PHIL

Manny's here isn't he?

JAY

Yeah?

PHIL

This is just what we need.

(shouts)

Claire, it's Manny, Manny's here!

CLAIRE

Thank God.

Claire rushes over as Phil opens the car door.

PHIL &amp; CLAIRE

Morning Manny!

Still angry, Manny storms out not looking anyone in the eye. Claire and Phil's faces drop. Defeated, Phil hugs Claire.

CLAIRE

It's okay honey.

PHIL

I want to go home now.

JAY

Bye guys.

Still hugging Phil, Claire kicks Jay's car door closed.

CLAIRE

Bye Dad.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

GLORIA

Look at them. Excited to see Manny, volunteering as a team, bonding. That's how family should be.

JAY

Sure Gloria. That wasn't weird at all.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - MORNING

Volunteering parents and students are surrounded by boxes of recycling plastics, paper etc.

An excited Cameron and sneering Mitchell carry their contribution to the recycling area. Cameron holds LILY whose outfit is made from recycling - bubblewrap shoulderpads etc.

CAMERON

Isn't this wonderful. The community spirit. Everyone working together.

MITCHELL

(sarcastic)

Yeah Cam. It's wonderful.

They find Gloria at a sorting station, Jay edges towards Manny but Manny ignores him.

CAMERON

Hey Gloria are you having fun?

GLORIA

I haven't had this much fun since Manny's Columbian school had the gun amnesty.

MITCHELL

What I wouldn't do for a gun right now.

GLORIA

Ah, look at beautiful Lily in her little outfit.

CAMERON

Well we try. I love this place. The little kids lining up, the wall murals, the activities. It's just beautiful.

JAY

Maybe the little one will be shoveling other people's crap one day huh?

CAMERON

Oh that would be heaven.

GLORIA

There is an apron day this morning.

All are confused by Gloria's accent until she points to an open day poster.

CAMERON

We should go to that Mitchell.

Mitchell gives a condescending laugh.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

What's that supposed to mean?

MITCHELL

You're serious?

CAMERON

Why wouldn't I be?

MITCHELL

Come on, we're not going to send Lily to a school like this?

GLORIA

What's wrong with sending your child here?

MITCHELL

Sorry Gloria. I just want Lily to have a better education that I did.

JAY

What's that supposed to mean?

MITCHELL

Sorry Dad. Cameron, can we talk about this elsewhere.

CAMERON

What's the problem with this school? I went to a school like this.

MITCHELL

I want to protect Lily.

CAMERON

Why because she's got two gay dads she can't fit in at a place like this?

MITCHELL

No, because she's dressed like Lady Gaga threw up on her.

Cameron puts his hand over his mouth.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

Sorry, was that too mean?

CAMERON

No. Baby Gaga, that's so adorable.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE - MORNING

Phil and Claire race around opening car doors. A zoned out Luke plays video games on the sidewalk.

PHIL

What you playing there buddy?

LUKE

Valet.

PHIL

What?

LUKE

It's really cool. These cars come by and you have to help people out of their car and stuff.

PHIL

That the difference between that and what me and your Mom are doing?

LUKE

I get to collect coins.

At the other end of the sidewalk Claire opens the door to a REDHEAD KID.

CLAIRE

Hi, how are you?

Redhead Kid walks on.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE - LATER

A blacked out car pulls up, stereo booming.

PHIL

Who's ride is this? Justin Bieber?

A COOL KID in sunglasses walks out.

PHIL (CONT'D)

I like your style slick.

Phil puts his hand out for a high-five but is ignored.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE - LATER

A GEEKY GIRL walks from her car to school gate. Claire keeps blocking her path waiving arms.

CLAIRE

Look at me. I'm here. Acknowledge me!

EXT. SCHOOL GATE - LATER

Phil opens the door to a SPIKY-HAIRED KID.

PHIL

(struggling)

Um... Remember to tip your chauffeur.

CLAIRE

Didn't you say that earlier.

PHIL

No.

A found out Phil looks to camera.

PHIL INTERVIEW

PHIL

I have quite the reputation for originality. Fast Phil they call me. That or the pun-king. Come up with a subject off the cuff and I'm away. Fish! music - Codplay, TV - The Shrimps, movies - When Halibut Sally. Throw something new at me. Too late! Forrest puns. My forest puns are tree-mendous. What can I say, I'm quick with words. I see other dads go for prop comedy but that's just for desperate people.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE - MORNING

Claire closes a car door.

PHIL (O.S.)

Claire!

Reveal: Phil has a traffic cone on his head!

PHIL (CONT'D)

I'm a wizard!

Phil turns and calls the next car towards him waving his hands like it's some sort of sorcery.

Claire is unimpressed.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - MORNING

A frustrated Jay works his way through a bag of recycling. His bag splits open and recycling spills out.

JAY  
Give me a break!

Jay collects his spillage and a BEARDED MAN, 60, gruff with a hippy vibe joins him.

BEARDED MAN  
Let me help you with that.

JAY  
Thanks buddy.

BEARDED MAN  
No trouble man. Just doing my part.

JAY  
You're enjoying yourself aren't you?

BEARDED MAN  
Sure I love these events. Meeting people, helping the community. It's rewarding taking something old and knowing it will become something useful for the next person. Like handing it down man.

Jay sees Claire at the distant school gate while Phil uses a cone as a megaphone and looks over to Manny and Gloria.

JAY  
You know, that's pretty smart.

BEARDED MAN  
Can you help me move these bags?

JAY  
Sure.

Jay and Bearded Man pick up some full recycling bags.

INT. SCHOOL COMPUTER ROOM - MORNING

Cameron and Mitchell follow Mrs Murphy as she guides a group of parents with young children around.

MRS MURPHY

And here is the I.T. Department which includes twelve new top of the line computers...

As Mrs Murphy continues Cameron and Mitchell talk in sotto.

CAMERON

Doesn't that sound impressive.

MITCHELL

This room will be like an abacus when Lily is old enough to come here.

CAMERON

For crying out loud Mitchell.

MITCHELL

It's true. We don't know what advances in education they'll have in the future. She could be home-schooled by a hologram for all we know.

CAMERON

What are you getting worked up about?

MITCHELL

What's the point in bringing a one year old to an open day for elementary school?

CAMERON

Please, it's not like we've got the youngest.

Cameron tilts his head towards a PREGNANT WOMAN. She sees them both smiling at her and pulls her FOUR-YEAR-OLD SON, hidden by the crowd, closer to her.

Mitchell rolls his eyes as Cameron gives an awkward wave.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEEXT. SCHOOL GATE - MORNING

Phil opens a car door to a PALE KID.

PHIL

Morning there buddy. Beautiful day isn't it.

Pale Kid looks straight past him and gets out the car.

PHIL (CONT'D)

I said it's a beautiful day isn't it. Flowers blooming, everything has a glow to it.

Pale Kid continues to ignore Phil.

PHIL (CONT'D)

What's wrong with you you little jerk?

Pale Kid grabs a blind stick and guides himself to the school gate. He deliberately hits Phil's ankle on the way.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Ouch! Don't... Don't forget to tip your... Nevermind.

LUKE

Can I go line up for class now?

CLAIRE

Ah-uh, not until you see how to behave.

LUKE

When's that going to be?

CLAIRE

This next car.

A car pulls up and the back door opens. Claire kicks it closed and opens the front passenger door to speak to a BUSY MOM, mid-forties and rushed.

BUSY MOM

What are you doing?

CLAIRE

Hi, I've been valeting with my husband all morning.

Phil gives an awkward wave.

PHIL

Hi there.

CLAIRE

We're trying to show our son how to be polite and courteous by witnessing other children being thankful to people helping in the school community!

BUSY MOM

Are you for real?

CLAIRE

I'm dead serious.

Phil gives an awkward nod as he folds his arms.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

If you could please prompt your child to say thank you when exiting the vehicle it would mean a lot to us.

BUSY MOM

I see. You think you deserve thanks?

CLAIRE

Yes.

BUSY MOM

You want to feel appreciated?

CLAIRE

Sure.

BUSY MOM

I hear that. I know how you feel.

CLAIRE

Great.

BUSY MOM

Now move aside and let my child out. I've been an air hostess for twenty years and do you think I get thanked? No. I'm lucky if I get looked at and you want me to pity you? Step away from the vehicle woman!

A concerned Phil pulls Claire away.

PHIL

Claire. Do what she says. We don't want to cross the spawn of a demon.

A CUTE LOOKING KID gets out the car and skips to school. The car drives off.

LUKE

Can I go now?

PHIL

Sorry buddy, until the bell goes you're ours.

SFX: School bell.

Luke runs off without saying a thing.

CLAIRE

Goodbye!

Luke doesn't turn back.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

I thought we could teach Luke manners by showing him how polite the other kids are but instead I learnt he's as rude as everyone else.

Phil kisses Claire on her forehead.

PHIL

We learned an important lesson here today honey.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - MORNING

Mrs Murphy continues to show families around. A wall is filled with family portraits painted by school children.

MRS MURPHY

And that concludes our tour. Any questions?

An eager Cameron raises his hand.

CAMERON

What's the waiting list like.

Mitchell covers his face in embarrassment.

MRS MURPHY

You should be fine. It's less than five years.

The group laughs.

MITCHELL  
(sotto to Cameron)  
More like five minutes.

Cameron pulls Mitchell aside.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)  
Ouch, Cam. You're hurting me.

The pair move far enough away to talk privately.

CAMERON  
I've had it Mitchell. Just what is your problem?

MITCHELL  
I just thought we've got some money. We've been saving. I want the very best for our daughter.

CAMERON  
I want the best for Lily too but money isn't necessarily going to get us that. This place has a sense of togetherness that money can't buy. Look at the children's paintings. I want us up there don't you?

MITCHELL  
It's pretty cute.

CAMERON  
We can save now but we don't know where we'll be in ten years. We might want to spend our money on private education or we might want to spend it on adopting ten more kids!

MITCHELL  
You're right. I'm sorry.

The pair kiss and hug.

Reveal: the tour heard and watched everything. They applaud as an embarrassed Cameron and Mitchell give awkward smiles.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - MORNING

Jay walks up to Manny who sorts recycling.

JAY

I'm sorry for what I said earlier Manny.  
Is there some school event we can do  
together to make up for it? Just you and  
me.

MANNY

There is a bake-sale coming up.

JAY

Maybe it's best if we leave that one to  
your mom.

MANNY

Flower arrangement class?

JAY

Mitchell or Cameron might be able to  
help with that.

Jay looks over to an exhausted and miserable Claire and Phil.

JAY (CONT'D)

(resisting)

We could valet together?

MANNY

Nah, the valet job is for suckers.

Manny laughs and Jay joins him.

JAY

Sure is kid.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE - MORNING

Phil and Claire pack up cones and signs etc. Mrs Murphy returns.

MRS MURPHY

Here's your permission slip for Luke.

CLAIRE

He's gone to class.

MRS MURPHY

It's for next time.

PHIL

Next time?

MRS MURPHY

When's your availability?

A hesitant Phil and Claire look at each other.

CLAIRE  
Well I guess we could-

PHIL  
Think about it.

CLAIRE  
Right. I mean if there was some kind of  
motivation. A sense of appreciation-

PHIL  
Or not. We'd still only be thinking  
about it.

CLAIRE  
Sure. But we'd think about it a lot  
harder if we felt-

MRS MURPHY  
Oh, I forgot something.

MRS MURPHY leaves through the gate.

CLAIRE  
She needs to thank us. No supers. I want  
a thank you.

PHIL  
What? No honey let's get out of here.

CLAIRE  
Phil, someone has to thank us. It's  
gonna be her. I can feel it.

PHIL  
No. She's really not. She's gonna sign  
us up to more of this hell. We have to  
go before she gets back. Neither of us  
are any good at saying no.

CLAIRE  
Let's get in the car.

JAY INTERVIEW

JAY  
School isn't just math, science and  
English. It's where children and  
parent's learn about being part of a  
community.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE - MORNING

Phil and Claire are in their car. MRS MURPHY returns.

INT. PHIL & CLAIRE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

PHIL

Go go go. Don't make eye contact.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE - MORNING

Claire speeds off in a hurry leaving a confused Mrs Murphy.

JAY (V.O.)

You can't turn your back on that sort of thing.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

Mitchell and Cameron admire a wall of school paintings while holding Lily.

JAY (V.O.)

You can't deny it's impact.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Jay passes an old can to Manny who smiles at him.

JAY (V.O.)

It's a life lesson you keep learning-

Gloria hugs them both.

JAY (V.O.)

And just when you think you're done with it, it teaches you something new.

GLORIA

What is that man doing?

Reveal: the Bearded Man pushes the recycling in a shopping cart towards the school gate. On second glance it is obvious he is a homeless man.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Hey! What are you doing?

Gloria chases the Bearded Man.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Someone stop the homeless! He's stealing our recycling!

Jay looks on as Gloria gains on the Bearded Man.

END OF ACT THREE

TAGINT. DUNPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

An exhausted Phil and Claire are slouched on the couch. Luke enters.

CLAIRE

Hi sweetie. Did you learn anything in class today?

LUKE

I learned that cookie's make you popular.

CLAIRE

What?

LUKE

Mrs Murphy said you left before she could give you cookies.

PHIL

(disappointed)  
Cookies?

LUKE

Yeah, the valets get a dozen cookies as a thank you but she said you left in a hurry and asked me to give them to you.

PHIL

Did you hear that honey? We got thank you cookies from the school.

CLAIRE

Don't get your hopes up.  
(to Luke)  
Where are the cookies?

LUKE

Well, they gave them to me in class and everyone saw.

CLAIRE

So you shared them with the class?

PHIL

That's nice. Nice to share, be a part of a group.

LUKE

No they bet I couldn't eat them all but  
I did. I'm the most popular boy in  
class.

Luke exits.

CLAIRE

Promise me we'll never try to teach our  
kids another thing again.

PHIL

Popular's good right?

END OF SHOW