

MODERN FAMILY – HOT JOKES ON YOU

Written by

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ACT ONEINT. OFFICE - DAY

ALEX sits at her desk and drinks her coffee. The phone rings, she picks it up.

ALEX
Yes?

SECRETARY V.O.
John's here to see you.

ALEX
Thanks Tina, send him in.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

JOHN, 26, tall, dark hair, enters the office.

JOHN
Hi, I'm John.

Alex stands up and reaches her hand out. John takes it and smiles. Alex turns red.

ALEX
Alex Dunphy, nice to meet you.

JOHN
John Green.

Alex and John shake hands.

ALEX
Alright, have a seat right there.

John sits in the seat across from her desk.

ALEX INTERVIEW

ALEX (CONT'D)
I'm looking for an assistant to make my life at the office a little bit easier. I didn't expect a total hunk to come in for an interview.

Alex cringes.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

ALEX

So, I was looking over your resume and it looks decent. What makes you want to be an assistant?

JOHN

I don't know, thought it sounded pretty cool.

ALEX

I see, so you want to be an assistant because it's cool?

JOHN

Exactly.

ALEX

Okay...

JOHN

I'm just kidding, I really want to dabble in designing and building closets.

ALEX

(laughs)

Oh, and you think an assistant is a good place to start?

John nods.

JOHN

I didn't figure the company would want me engineering before I got my degree.

ALEX

No we would not. So what has you interested in closets?

JOHN

Your grandfather actually did my closet when I moved into this area as a kid.

ALEX

Really?

JOHN

It's what got me interested in what he does.

(MORE)

JOHN (CONT'D)

I was so happy with it that I wanted to make other people feel like I did.

ALEX

Oh my God, that's so sweet.

JOHN

Well, it's true.

ALEX

On that note, I'm a very busy woman and a lot of people demand my attention throughout the day. I'm often in and out of the office.

John nods.

ALEX (CONT'D)

As my assistant, your job responsibilities are to help me manage my daily schedule. You'll be organizing meetings and booking transportation. I'll need you to take notes while out in the field and responding to emails.

JOHN

I can handle that.

ALEX

Good deal. So do you have any questions for me?

JOHN

I do actually. How do you function as a boss? How do you see your employees?

ALEX INTERVIEW

Alex sits on the couch, nodding her head.

ALEX

Damn...that's a good one.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

ALEX

I push my employees to give every day the best they can.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

I may come across harsh and demanding, but it's because I know my employees can do it. I value them and think of them as a great asset towards the success of the company.

JOHN

I'm glad to hear that Alex.

ALEX

Thank you, I happen to be one who pushes myself and therefore push for excellent work ethic.

JOHN

I push myself too and would love to work with you.

ALEX

Great! I do have more interviews today, and if you get the job, I'll give you a call.

JOHN

I look forward to it.

John stands up and they shake hands. The touch lingers before they break contact.

John walks out of the office and Alex flops in her chair and presses her hands to her cheeks.

ALEX INTERVIEW

Alex sits on the couch and bites her lip.

ALEX

Oh God, he's hired.

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

LUKE and MANNY sit together at the kitchen bar watching YouTube. YOUTUBER talks about his success of opening a joke shop.

LUKE

Dude, we should start a joke shop.

MANNY

What?

LUKE
This guy did it, why can't we?

MANNY
What would we do with a joke shop?

LUKE
Uh, sell jokes? Duh!

MANNY
We aren't Fred and George Weasley.

LUKE
Who's Fred and George Weasley?

MANNY
The Weasley twins in Harry Potter!

LUKE
Who's Harry Potter?

Manny shakes his head.

MANNY
He's a wizard.

LUKE
There's really wizards?

MANNY
No! It's a book series!

LUKE
Oh, no wonder I don't know it.

MANNY
They made a movie out of it.

LUKE
OH! That Harry Potter!

Manny rolls his eyes.

LUKE (CONT'D)
I'm serious, you and I could kill
it if we opened a joke shop.

MANNY
I like jokes, but to sell them?

LUKE
I'll handle all the joke
merchandise, you could handle the
money.

MANNY

The money?

LUKE

Unless you want me to handle the money?

MANNY

You're right, I should be the one to handle the money.

LUKE

We can test all our stuff on my sisters! I've got years of revenge up my sleeve.

MANNY

Where would we open this joke shop?

LUKE

I don't know, somewhere around here. Maybe we can do like the YouTuber and start it in a garage!

MANNY

Would your dad even go for a joke shop in the garage?

LUKE

Yeah! He'd probably want in on it too!

MANNY

I guess if your dad got in on it too, it's something I can consider.

LUKE

So we're going to do it?

MANNY

We should talk to our parents about it, especially your dad if he would want in on it.

LUKE

There's just one problem with that.

MANNY

What is it?

LUKE

My mom would never go for it.

MANNY

Claire will most definitely be
against it.

LUKE

You do want to do this right?
Imagine us being as rich and
successful as that guy on YouTube.

Manny sits in silence and takes a sip of his chocolate milk.

MANNY

Okay, let's do it!

LUKE

Yeah!

Luke and Manny high five each other and go back to watching
videos.

END OF ACT ONE

(CONT'D)

ACT TWO

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

HALEY lays in bed and wakes up when her phone starts ringing. She grabs the phone and answers it.

HALEY

Hello?

INT. OFFICE - DAY

ALEX

Haley, I need some advice. Coffee in thirty?

HALEY V.O.

Alex?

ALEX

Did you just wake up? It's 1:30 in the afternoon!

HALEY V.O.

So?

ALEX

(groans)

You've gotten so lazy since you lost your job!

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

HALEY

And yet it's my advice you're seeking.

ALEX V.O.

Yeah well, I'm desperate.

HALEY

I'll get ready and meet you at the usual spot.

EXT. COFFEE HOUSE - DAY

Alex and Haley sit at a table under a tree.

Haley takes a bite of her coffee cake and sips her coffee.

HALEY

So you interviewed a hot guy this morning?

ALEX

Yeah...

HALEY

So what's the problem?

Alex looks down at her coffee.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Oh my God, you wanna hire him all because he's hot!

ALEX

It's not just that, he's charming and his resume was practically flawless.

HALEY

He sounds too good to be true.

ALEX

He kind of does.

HALEY

That's a bit of a red flag, no one's that perfect. Except for me.

ALEX

Ha. Ha.

HALEY

Did any of your other interviews seem promising?

ALEX

Not really.

HALEY

Because they weren't as pretty?

ALEX

No!

Haley arches her brows.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Yes...

HALEY

So hire him. It's just some lame personal assistant job.

ALEX

I happen to take my job very seriously!

HALEY

You're hiring a personal assistant. Anyone can do that job.

ALEX

I don't want to hire him just because he's hot and charming.

HALEY

What is it that you're scared of then?

ALEX

What if I can't maintain professionalism and I look bad?

Haley laughs.

HALEY

Oh my God Alex, you're overthinking this.

ALEX

See that's what I need to hear! That he's perfectly qualified and I can hire him.

HALEY

If he's qualified, then hire him. God forbid you have a little fun.

ALEX

I happen to think it's unethical to date my employees.

HALEY

I promise you're not the first to fall in love with their employees.

ALEX

That doesn't matter, it's not professional and that's not the image I want for myself.

HALEY

Well then you know what it is you need to do.

ALEX

Hire him?

Haley shrugs.

HALEY

You said it, not me.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

CLAIRE and PHIL stand at the counter and make themselves a cup of coffee.

CLAIRE

Did you schedule Luke's dentist appointment?

PHIL

I thought you were going to do it.

CLAIRE

I asked you to do it.

PHIL

No you didn't, you said, "Phil, we need to schedule Luke's dentist appointment."

CLAIRE

No, I said, "Phil, you need to schedule Luke's dentist appointment."

PHIL INTERVIEW

Phil shakes head at the camera.

PHIL

I know my wife is always right, but I heard her say we. But because she's right, I guess I'm making the appointment.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

PHIL

I'll get it scheduled.

Luke and Manny walk into the kitchen and slap a binder on the counter.

LUKE
We're opening a joke shop!

Claire spits out her coffee.

CLAIRE
A what?

LUKE
A joke shop! Here's our business plan!

Phil picks up the binder and looks through it.

PHIL
Oh my God Claire, this is brilliant!

Luke grins at Phil.

MANNY
Luke is going to handle the joke merchandise and I'll be handling the finances!

Claire sets her mug down and holds up her hands.

CLAIRE
Wait, wait, everybody wait!

Claire looks at Manny.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
You actually agreed to be part of this?

MANNY
I wasn't for it at first, but then Luke said Phil would be on board.

Phil gasps and looks at Luke and Manny with wide eyes.

PHIL
You guys are inviting me?

LUKE
Heck yeah, Dad!

PHIL
I'm so in!

CLAIRE
No you're not!

PHIL
I'm not...

Luke takes the binder from Phil and opens it in front of Claire.

LUKE
Look Mom, we've thought everything out and done a lot of research.

CLAIRE
Was this research on YouTube?

LUKE
There happens to be a dude who ran a successful joke shop!

Claire groans.

CLAIRE
Oh God...

LUKE
Would you just look over our business plan?

CLAIRE
You're still in high school, Luke. You can't open a joke shop right now. It would flop before you even cut the ribbon.

Luke looks down and frowns.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Honey, you're a...smart, smart boy. I can't allow you to open a joke shop right now.

LUKE
The YouTuber was my age when he opened his joke shop.

CLAIRE
You're not a YouTuber and you're not opening a joke shop.

Claire grabs her mug and exits the kitchen.

Luke sits on a bar stool and sighs.

PHIL
I saw in your binder you planned to
start in the garage.

MANNY
Luke said you'd love it.

PHIL
I do...

INT. OFFICE- DAY

Alex taps her fingers on her desk and looks at the phone. She takes a deep breath, picks up the receiver, and dials a phone number.

ALEX
Hi is this John Green?

JOHN V.O.
Yes, is this Alex Dunphy?

Alex giggles.

ALEX
Yes. I just wanted to call you
today and let you know after much
consideration, I would be happy to
offer you the position of my
personal assistant.

JOHN V.O.
Oh thank you so much! I've been
sweating all weekend! I really want
this job.

ALEX
Well you got it! How soon can you
start?

JOHN V.O.
I can start tomorrow.

ALEX
Nine o' clock sharp! See you then!

INT. CAMERON AND MITCHELL HOUSE - DAY

Cameron and Mitchel are in Lily's room going through her baby things.

CAMERON
Mitchell! Look at this sweet
picture of Lily!

MITCHELL
Awe! This is from the Beyonce and
Jay Z photoshoot you did!

CAMERON
She looked so precious in that wig.

MITCHELL
And you made a stellar Jay Z.

CAMERON
Remember when you wouldn't let me
do Lady Gaga's meat suit?

MITCHELL
You'll never do Lady Gaga's meat
suit.

CAMERON
You just couldn't see my vision.

MITCHELL
But I still love you.

CAMERON
I love you too.

Cameron and Mitchell peck each other on the lips.

MITCHELL
Can't believe how fast they grow
up.

CAMERON
I know, where does the time go?

MITCHELL
It's like we blinked and she was a
pre-teen.

CAMERON
I miss baby Lily.

MITCHELL INTERVIEW

MITCHELL
Lately Cam's been taking me down
memory lane of when Lily was a
baby. I think he might be hinting
at something.

INT. CAMERON AND MITCHELL HOUSE - DAY

MITCHELL

I do too sometimes.

CAMERON

Would you...ever want another baby
in the house?

MITCHELL

I don't know Cam, I mean...Lily was
fun but she was a handful too.

CAMERON

She was a handful, but don't you
miss holding a tiny little baby in
your arms?

MITCHELL

I loved holding Lily.

CAMERON

Don't you ever think about giving
her a sibling though?

MITCHELL

She seems to get by just fine
without one.

CAMERON

Can't or don't want to?

MITCHELL

Both. It's been fun raising Lily
but I don't think I want to do it
all over again. Plus, money's been
tight, we can't even apply right
now.

CAMERON

Would you at least think about it?

MITCHELL

I'm not having this discussion
right now, Cam.

CAMERON

Just think about it?

MITCHELL

I have and the answer is no!

Mitchell exits Lily's room and Cameron sits on her bed, a frown on his face.

Cameron's phone vibrates on the night stand and he answers it.

CAMERON

Hello?

V.O.

Hi is this Cameron?

CAMERON

This is Cameron.

V.O.

Hi Cameron, this is Sarah Evans from the adoption agency, I just wanted to call you with some exciting news that you and Mitchell have been approved for an interview!

CAMERON

Oh my God! This is so great!

SARA V.O.

When would be a good time for you guys to come down?

CAMERON

Can I take a couple of days and talk to Mitchell?

SARA V.O.

Of course! You can call me back on this number.

CAMERON

Thank you so much! You have a great day too!

Cameron hangs up the phone and flops onto his back and cries.

END OF ACT TWO

(CONT'D)

(CONT'D)

(CONT'D)

ACT 3INT. ALEX'S OFFICE - DAY

Alex sits at her computer typing on the keyboard. John enters the office with a coffee in each hand.

ALEX
Thank God, coffee!

Alex holds out her hands in a gimme motion. John laughs and gives her the coffee.

JOHN
Three sugars, two creams, right?

ALEX
You were paying attention!

JOHN
How could I not?

ALEX
You're too sweet.

John winks at her and her face turns red.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Okay, today I've cleared my schedule to train you.

JOHN
I'm looking forward to that.

ALEX
Let's start with the phone. It's simple once you get it, even I couldn't get it for a couple of days.

JOHN
I find that hard to believe.

John flashes a charming smile and Alex tucks her hair behind her ears. Alex stands up.

ALEX
Have a seat.

JOHN
You're the boss.

John smirks, strides up to her chair, and sits in it.

ALEX

A lot of these buttons are faded. I have each one memorized, and I expect you to do the same.

John nods and Alex points to a button.

ALEX (CONT'D)

This button is speakerphone. This one is hold number one, two, and three.

John watches her and places his finger over hers.

JOHN

Speakerphone, hold number one, two, and three.

Alex gulps.

ALEX

See, you get it.

JOHN

Simple enough.

John makes eye contact with Alex.

ALEX INTERVIEW

Alex fans herself at the camera.

ALEX

I know how this looks, but I'm determined to maintain professionalism. He's my assistant and nothing else.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Haley pulls a plate with a burrito on it out of the microwave. Alex enters the kitchen with a grin on her face.

HALEY

What's that goofy grin about?

ALEX

Oh, I was just training John today.

HALEY

For what? Office sex?

ALEX
Excuse me, but I've maintained
professionalism.

HALEY
For what kind of closet?

Haley snickers at her own joke.

ALEX
Shut up Haley! It was all innocent.

HALEY
Oh, I believe you.

ALEX
Thank you.

HALEY
So how did training John go?

ALEX
He sat in my chair and learned the
phones. Amongst other things.

HALEY
It's okay to say you were flirting
and you like him!

ALEX
Ugh fine!

Alex giggles.

ALEX (CONT'D)
We were totally flirting!

Haley squeals with delight.

HALEY
Tell me everything.

ALEX
He touched my hand.

HALEY
He touched your hand?

ALEX
Yes my hand, and he winked at me.

HALEY

Ooh, you might have a 1950's romance! Tell me when he wants to split a soda.

ALEX

Whatever, I thought today was fun and I can't wait until I see him tomorrow!

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - DAY

JAY AND GLORIA INTERVIEW

JAY

Manny and Luke told us they want to open a joke shop. Personally, I don't see either of them sticking to it.

GLORIA

Because you don't have faith in anyone!

JAY

Gloria, they're teenage boys, they don't even know what girl they like.

GLORIA

I think they can do it if they put their minds to it!

JAY

Yeah, IF they put their minds to it.

Gloria sighs, stands up, and exits the den.

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

Gloria stands at the counter chopping some veggies. Manny enters the kitchen with his laptop.

GLORIA

What you got going on mi amor?

MANNY

I've written up the financial plan for mine and Luke's joke shop.

GLORIA
How does it look baby?

MANNY
To be honest, I don't know if I
want to go through with it.

GLORIA
But Manny, you can't give up now!

MANNY
Actually Mom, this is the perfect
time to give up. This is a lot of
money just to start.

GLORIA
We can workout a...how you
call...buisness and borrowing?

MANNY
A business loan?

GLORIA
Yeah that! Every business needs
one.

MANNY
I just don't want to be in debt
before I've even graduated high
school.

GLORIA
I won't let that happen to you.

Gloria walks up and pecks Manny on top of his head.

MANNY
Thanks Mom, but I just don't have a
good feeling about this.

GLORIA
Well then you're gonna have to talk
to Luke.

MANNY
I know.

GLORIA
I still don't want you to give up,
but I understand.

MANNY
Thanks, Mom.

INT. CAMERON AND MITCHELL HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Cameron sits at the table buttering toast. Mitchell comes in and pours himself a cup of coffee.

MITCHELL

I'm sorry about yesterday, Cam.

CAMERON

I get it, having another baby will be a huge responsibility.

MITCHELL

I just think we're getting older and less patient.

CAMERON

That's exactly why I want another baby. I want one last adventure.

MITCHELL

Listen, I checked our savings account and some money has been withdrawn.

CAMERON

I was going to tell you, but you got so upset yesterday.

MITCHELL

Oh my God, did you already apply to adopt another baby?!

CAMERON

Yeah, like a month ago! I didn't expect them to get back so soon!

Mitchell groans.

MITCHELL

Dammit Cam! This is why I checked the savings after our conversation. I knew you would do something behind my back!

CAMERON

Look, it was just a thousand dollars for the application. That didn't even put a dent in our savings.

MITCHELL

I would have appreciated it if you talked to me first.

CAMERON
You're right, I'm sorry. I'm sorry
I want a precious little bundle of
joy in the house again!

Cameron grabs his toast and exits the kitchen.

MITCHELL
Cam...

INT. ALEX'S OFFICE - DAY

Alex and John sit at her desk and go through her schedule.

ALEX
So it looks like my week is all
planned out.

JOHN
We even managed to squeeze in your
doctor's appointment.

ALEX
That's always so hard to work in.

JOHN
Not for me.

John winks.

ALEX
Listen John, working with you is
fun and exciting, but I wanted to
talk to you about something.

JOHN
Sure.

ALEX
My biggest priority at work is
maintaining professionalism. And I
feel like we've been doing a lot of
flirting.

JOHN
Oh...I never meant to.

ALEX
It's not that I'm opposed to
flirting, it's just we need to come
to an understanding.

Alex tucks her hair behind her ears and sits down across from him.

ALEX (CONT'D)
I feel like there's chemistry
between us, but our jobs have to
come first and foremost.

JOHN
But of course. I think there's
chemistry between us too Alex.

Alex's eyes light up.

ALEX
Really?

JOHN
I mean, when I was interviewing for
this job, I didn't think my boss
would be so...hot.

Alex stands up, leans over, grabs his shirt, and kisses him.
John returns the kiss.

ALEX INTERVIEW

Alex sits on the couch with a big smile on her face.

ALEX
I think this is going to work out
just fine.

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

PHIL
You know we could sell some of this
stuff and save enough money to open
your shop!

LUKE
That's a great idea, Dad! I have a
ton of things in here I can sell!

PHIL
Luke, we talked about this, you're
not selling Alex's math books.

LUKE
But they're such a waste of space!

PHIL
You know how your mother wants you
to study her notes.

LUKE AND PHIL INTERVIEW

LUKE
Having Dad on board with the joke
shop is awesome!

PHIL
A joke shop is so much fun! I
always wanted to own one!

LUKE
Dad, I'll be owning it.

PHIL
I've always wanted to own one!

LUKE
Dad...

PHIL
We agreed you'd let me call myself
the owner as long as I don't tell
Mom!

LUKE
You're the owner.

Phil and Luke smile at the camera.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Luke pouts and Manny enters the garage.

MANNY
Hey Phil, hey Luke.

PHIL
Hi Manny!

Luke nods to Manny.

LUKE
How is the startup looking? What
are we looking at?

PHIL
It can't be that much, a joke shop
these days has to be...

Phil looks at the laptop screen and screams.

LUKE

What?!

Luke looks at the numbers and screams.

MANNY

The joke shop sounded like a good idea, but really, I think we should just stick to joking amongst ourselves.

Luke sighs and nods.

LUKE

Maybe you're right, I probably would've gotten bored the first day.

PHIL

Guys, we may not be able to own a joke shop, but there is person we can pull a joke on...

The guys flash an evil grin at one another.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - GARAGE - NIGHT

Phil, Luke, and Manny all laugh as we hear Claire screaming from the kitchen.

INT. CAMERON AND MITCHELL HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mitchell stands at the stove and stirs a tomato sauce.

MITCHELL INTERVIEW

MITCHELL

I haven't been fair to Cam about him wanting to adopt another baby. I'm hoping a romantic dinner with the just the two of us can start it over and talk it through.

INT. CAMERON AND MITCHELL HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Cameron enters the kitchen and gasps.

CAMERON

Mitchell! Spaghetti and meatballs!
Red wine! It looks amazing!

MITCHELL

I thought you and I could sit down
and talk about a baby rationally.

CAMERON

I'd like that.

They set the table and sit down.

MITCHELL

First of all, I'm sorry about how
unfair I've been.

CAMERON

Apology accepted.

MITCHELL

Look Cam, if I'm being honest, I'm
scared to have another baby.

CAMERON

But Mitchell, I'll be with you.

MITCHELL

I know it's just...sometimes I feel
like I've screwed up with Lily and
I don't want to do that to another
child.

CAMERON

Well Mitchell, everyone messes up.
You've met Luke right?

MITCHELL

Fair point. It's just...I was
scared getting Lily. We hadn't told
my family and...

CAMERON

But this time is different. It
doesn't have to be a secret. Lily
turned out amazing, we can do the
same for another.

MITCHELL

You really want to do it all again?

CAMERON

I do.

Mitchell sighs.

MITCHELL
Okay, let's look into it.

CAMERON
I love you!

MITCHELL
I love you too.

INT. ALEX'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Alex enters the office. There is some giggling behind the reception desk.

Alex walks up to investigate. There's John and Tina flirting and making out.

ALEX
What the hell is this?

John and Tina stand up.

JOHN
Alex...um...

ALEX
What are you doing?

JOHN
We were...

Alex holds up a hand.

ALEX
I don't want to know. Both of you
are fired. You have thirty minutes
to gather your things and be out.

INT. ALEX'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Haley enters the office and gives a bottle of beer to Alex.

ALEX
Thanks...

HALEY
I'm sorry about John.

ALEX
It's okay, lesson learned. Don't
hire someone because they're cute.

HALEY

I can be your assistant.

ALEX

I'll drink to that.

They clink their bottles and drink.

END OF ACT 3