

MODERN FAMILY

"Nature's Calling"

Written by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

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

Cam walks into the kitchen, opens pantry and grabs box of cereal. Walks over to cabinet to get a bowl, turns around and watches Lilly in the back yard setting up a small tent for her dolls.

Mitchell then walks into the kitchen and sits at the counter while sipping coffee as he reads the paper. Cam stares at Mitchell, then nudges him to look out the window at their little Lilly.

CAMERON

Just look at her, she's setting up camp. That's me she takes after.

MITCHELL

You mean when you were younger?

CAMERON

Oh stop it, I've always had a one on one approach to the great outdoors.

Mitchell snickers and looks down at his paper and takes another sip of his coffee. Cameron looks at Mitchell and at Lilly, then walks out onto the back porch to Lilly.

MITCHELL AND CAMERON INTERVIEW - LIVING ROOM - DAY

In an interview, Mitchell and Cameron discuss parenting Lilly.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

You can snicker all you want, you gotta admit I'm still pretty rugged and full of nature's--

MITCHELL

(laughing)

--Yea... you're full of something alright.

CAMERON

Just you wait, I'll show you I still have my outdoor survival wits by taking Lilly camping.

MITCHELL

C'mon.. You don't have to do this,
just take her to Disneyland and let
her see Adventure land and all the
other magical places Disney offers.

CAMERON

Please tell me you didn't just say
that... a place where the only
thing that's real is the money
leaving your pocket. NO, NO, I'm
gonna show her how to camp, build a
tent, the whole nine yards, if its
the last thing I do.

Mitchell looks at a now sitting tall and proud Cameron
smiling.

EXT. MITCHELL'S AND CAMERONS DUPLEX - BACK PORCH - DAY

Cameron walks outside and sits near Lilly as she plays with
her dolls in the tent she made.

CAMERON

Hey there sweetie. Whatcha doin?

LILLY

Playing with my dolls, they're just
taking a little camping trip.

CAMERON

Oh really, you know.. How would you
like to take them on a real camping
trip? We'll make a huge tent and
build a fire and even make hot
chocolate while telling stories at
night.

Lilly looks up at Cameron and back down at her dolls.

LILLY

Hmmm.. Okay, sounds kinda fun. But
what about Disney?

CAMERON

Disney? No, No, sweetheart. This
will be way better than that over-
rated theme-park, where everythings
fake. We're going to the great
outdoors and really see nature up
close in its prime.

(MORE)

CAMERON (CONT'D)
It'll be fun, I'll show you
everything I learned as a kid
growing up near the country.

LILLY
(hesitantly)
Okay, but if it doesn't work out,
can we at least try Disney?

Cameron smiles and nods at Lilly and looks up at a Mitchell
looking from inside the house.

EXT. MITCHELL'S AND CAMERONS DUPLEX - BACK PORCH - LATER

Mitchell walks out and sits near Lilly. Lilly is playing with
dolls but in a different setting.

MITCHELL
Hey there LiL, so I hear we're
going on a little camping trip
huh..

LILLY
Do we have too?

MITCHELL
Don't worry. I'm going to do
everything in my power to not go.

Lilly smiles and goes back to playing with her dolls.
Mitchell smiles and rubs his chin as he sits back in the lawn
chair.

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

Cameron comes in with big box and sets it on coffee table.
Mitchell looks at it and at Cameron as he sits in his chair.

MITCHELL
What do we got here huh?

CAMERON
As you can see, its all my gear I
used to have as a kid when I lived
closer to nature.

Cameron pulls out several maps, a compass, a swiss army knife
and fire started kit.

MITCHELL

Come on, enough with this charade.
We both know that the great
outdoors and you are best kept
separate.

Cameron shakes his head at Mitchell as he unfolds a map and looks down at it.

CAMERON

I dunno why your fighting me... if
I'm not mistaken, you're the one
that liked the rugged me way back
when...

MITCHELL

Yes, but times have changed and
we're in the city now and enjoy the
luxuries such as A.C. and this
magical thing called appliances
powered by electricity.

MITCHELL AND CAMERON INTERVIEW - STUDY - DAY

Mitchell and Cameron argue about Mitchell's camping skills.

CAMERON

Is it because you hate me, you
don't want to go on this camping
trip, or is it the fact that you
are threatened by my superior
parenting skills?

MITCHELL

You do realize we're on the same
team dontcha? Look, you can do
whatever you want, all I'm saying
is before you go through with this,
you better make sure you have all
the right documents first.

CAMERON

What documents?

MITCHELL

Oh, you don't know? Well, there is
this thing called a camping permit
and then there's the fishing
license if you plan on doing that
too..

CAMERON

You think this is going to stop me
but its not. This trip is still
happening.

Mitchell just stares at a smiling Cameron.

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

Gloria pulls a dish out of the oven as Manny comes walking in
towards the table and sits.

GLORIA

Hey there sweetie. You want
something to eat?

MANNY

No thank you, I got this project
for school I'm stressing over.

GLORIA

What is it hun?

MANNY

I have to research different
bonding experiences within males
and females.

GLORIA

(Puzzled)

Why don't you ask Jay, I know he
has been itching to do some bonding
with you.

MANNY

Eh.. I dunno mom..

Jay walks into the kitchen, goes to fridge and grabs a beer
and walks over to table to sit. He sips and looks at Gloria
and Manny talking.

GLORIA

Hey honey, how was your day?

JAY

So, so, same crap, different day
you kno...

GLORIA

Manny here was talking about his
project for school.

(MORE)

GLORIA (CONT'D)
Something about looking at
different bonding experiences.
That's interesting, right hun?

Jay sips on his beer and shrugs.

JAY
Sounds like you got your work cut
out for ya--

Gloria grabs and squeezes Jays leg under the table.

JAY (CONT'D)
Ouch! what is wrong with you woman?

GLORIA
Nothing, I was just saying how you
would love to help him with his
project and get some valuable
bonding experience just the two of
you too.

JAY AND GLORIA INTERVIEW - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jay and Gloria in interview discuss Jay being more apart of
Manny's life.

JAY
So you finally did it haven't you?
Your wish to get Manny and I closer
is finally coming true.

GLORIA
I don't know what your talking
about. But is it so much to ask as
the father figure living in the
house, that you two bond more so
Manny has a good male role model?

JAY
Um... yeah it is... Besides, he's a
smart kid, with all those wits,
he's gonna do pretty well for
himself. A lot better than I turned
out.

GLORIA
Honey, if you do this, I won't ask
you do this ever again. So please,
what do you say? Please.

JAY
(Pausing)
Oh, alright... you sure know how to
work me don't you...

Gloria just smiles and leans over onto Jay.

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

Jay knocks on door, walks in. Manny is sitting at his desk at
the computer.

JAY
Hey there, so your mom mentioned
how it'll be good for us to do this
project together. Whatcha have in
mind?

MANNY
Look, you don't have to do this if
you don't want to. I'll just say
you helped and it'll all be good.

JAY
Are you kidding, I absolutely want
to help. Why back in my day, I was
pretty awesome at school projects.
Why one time, I built a whole
volcano, almost burnt the school
down... but that's a different
story.

MANNY
(smiling)
Okay, well any thoughts on bonding
experiences we can critique and
record?

JAY
(pausing)
Why don't we head to the park and
we'll throw the ball around and see
what happens?

Manny shrugs and nods. Jay smiles and gets up and exits room.

END OF ACT ONE