

"Birds and Bees" - Modern Family spec script (act I), by Henrique Breia Szolnoky.

Full script available upon request. rderoteiro.com/en

[COLD OPEN] INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

CLAIRE puts final slices of bread over a dozen sandwiches. There are two big plastic containers with more food. It is a busy day for her, like she is feeding a small army.

She looks disheveled, not her most attractive self. There is a small blotch of mayonnaise on her face.

LUKE (12 years-old) and ALEX (14) walk in. Luke immediately takes one of the sandwiches, but Claire slaps his hand away.

CLAIRE

Today's leftovers day. Help yourself to the fridge, buddy.

As Luke drags his feet to the fridge, HALEY (16) walks in.

HALEY

(RE: sandwiches)

Oh yeah, you have that nerd thing today. Wait, what about lunch?

ALEX

(with a sigh)

Leftovers day.

HALEY

Great. Nice way to treat your kids, Mrs. Dunphy.

CLAIRE

Said leftovers came from meals. Guess who made them?

(then)

Or you could make something. You know, actually cook, for a change?

ALEX

Remember last time you said that?

CLAIRE

(tenses up)

I rather not.

HALEY

The firemen were cute, though. Hey, we should cook!

Claire sees Luke poking the microwave's door with his finger.

CLAIRE
Just press the numbers on the
panel, sweetie. Kinda like a phone.

PHIL walks in, wearing what he thinks is a construction
worker uniform - but it looks like a Village People costume.

PHIL
Ready for some banging?

CLAIRE
Phil...

PHIL
What? I just want to get in the
mood of *da house*... building.

Luke laughs at "*da house*". They high-five each other.

PHIL (CONT'D)
(RE: sandwiches)
By the way, did you make veggie
ones for Sandy?
(to himself, laughs)
Sandies for Sandy.

CLAIRE
(annoyed)
Yes, Phil, I did.

CLAIRE INTERVIEW

CLAIRE
It's not like I'm jealous of Sandy.
Pffft. I don't even know the woman!
But when Phil talks about her...
(considers this)
You know in *Aliens*, when Sigourney
Weaver is face to face with the
alien queen? That's how I feel.
(beat)
My blood turns to acid and I want
to mangle them both with the little
mouth inside my mouth.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The sandwiches are ready. Claire closes the lid on both
plastic containers.

PHIL
 So long, mini-Dunphies! Behave
 while we're in da house building.

Phil leaves as Claire struggles to carry the containers.

CLAIRE
 (to Phil, sarcastic)
 I don't need help, honey, thanks!
 (to the kids)
 Manny is going to be here soon. No
 armageddon while we're gone, ok?

As Claire is about to leave, she sees Luke up on the counter,
 his face pressed against the microwave pad.

LUKE
 (as if it was a phone)
 Hello?

CLAIRE
 (tone: "for crying out
 loud")
 Alex, you're in charge.

HALEY
 Hey! I'm the oldest. I think I
 deserve more credit.

ALEX
 Cards?

HALEY
 Maybe. But seriously. I can be in
 charge, mom.

Claire and the girls are startled by a small explosion coming
 from the microwave - Luke has just burst an EGG in it.

LUKE
 Awesome!

Luke thinks for a second and has a BRILLIANT idea! But--

CLAIRE
 No more exploding things, Luke.

Busted! Luke deflates. Claire points at Alex and Haley, as in
 "you two are in charge", and leaves.

OPENING TITLE

INT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LIVING ROOM - DAY

CAMERON is on the couch with LILY (4 years-old), trying to show her how to use chopsticks to eat a cookie.

CAMERON

Now pay attention, Lily. You hold them like this--

(does it wrong)

--and take the cookie like this--

(drops the cookie)

--and then you--

(fumbles the chopsticks,
drops them)

See? It's easy.

Lily takes one chopstick and tries to draw on paper.

LILY

Daddy, my pencil is broken.

MITCHELL walks in, on the phone, trying to contain his excitement. Cameron mouths "what? what?" anxiously.

MITCHELL

(on the phone)

Yes, we understand. Don't worry,
we'll be there as soon as possible,
with all the documents. Thank you
very, VERY much.

Mitchell hangs up and opens his mouth wide.

CAMERON

It's happening?

MITCHELL

It's happening.

They are both overjoyed and overwhelmed at the same time.

CAMERON

Oh, Mitchell!

Cameron and Mitchell hug each other lovingly.

Lily stands on the couch and goes to them. They open their arms to embrace her.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

Yes, sweetie, you're getting a baby
brother!

A tender moment. As they separate, Lily won't let Cameron go.

MITCHELL

But we have to hurry. We have to catch the plane today.

(to Lily)

Sweetie, what are you doing?

Lily has her ear pressed against Cameron's stomach.

LILY

Is the baby in there?

CAMERON AND MITCHELL INTERVIEW

CAMERON

(devastated, indignant)

I-- She-- it's just--

Cameron stands up and leaves - it is too much for him.

MITCHELL

Yeah. Maybe it's the two daddies thing, but Lily started... *wondering* sooner than we expected. And if you think it's difficult to explain the whole birds and bees shenanigans, try explaining it when there's no birds and two bees.

CAMERON (O.S.)

Butterflies.

MITCHELL

What?

Down the corridor, teary-eyed Cameron comes back into view.

CAMERON

Just saying, Mitchell. You know I prefer "butterflies" over "bees". Just saying.

Mitchell rolls his eyes as Cameron goes back to obscurity.

INT. MITCHELL & CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mitchell delicately pulls Lily from Cameron's stomach.

MITCHELL

(tries not to laugh)

Come, sweetie.

LILY
But it moved!

Mitchell stares at Cameron, a bit disgusted.

CAMERON
Stop judging me.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

MANNY (13) is with Luke in the already messy kitchen.

MANNY
I really don't think that's how you
make fish fingers.

Luke turns around covered in ketchup, flour, egg shells, you name it. Plus, he has a sardine wrapped around each finger.

LUKE
Relax.

Enters Haley with a laptop.

MANNY
Good morning, Haley! May I
compliment your--

HALEY
Yeah, yeah.
(to Luke)
But it's so nice to see you making
friends! By the way, I've made a
song playlist just for you. Am I a
good surrogate parent or what?

Haley sets the laptop on top of the mess and presses play. A
<LAME POP SONG> plays.

HALEY (CONT'D)
And if you wanna grab some ice-
cream later--

Alex storms in and shuts the laptop.

ALEX
Actually, I think Luke and I need
to have a very serious talk.
(to Luke)
Luke, have you considered your
options for the future?

She stacks a bunch of college catalogs on top of the laptop.

HALEY AND ALEX INTERVIEW

HALEY

Mom and dad- mostly mom- actually, just mom always makes such drama about "being in charge". Is being a parent really that hard? There are seven million people on Earth--

ALEX

Billion. Seven billion.

HALEY

Whatever. The point is, these people all have parents. And they're all happy! So I decided to relax. Today, I'm the cool mom.

ALEX

On which planet do you live? We are facing worldwide collapse and there won't be much room in the spaceship. Luke needs to be ready. He needs to be trained.

HALEY

Says the girl in a training bra.

Alex gasps and covers her chest, embarrassed.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

Claire and Phil arrive. Claire still has the mayonnaise blotch on her face and carries the plastic containers.

PHIL'S COLLEAGUE waves at him.

PHIL'S COLLEAGUE

Good to see you, pal! Good deeds for people in needs, am I right?

PHIL

Yeah! Time for some Phil-lantropy!

They both laugh together as Claire rolls her eyes. Her phone rings. She fumbles with the containers until she answers it.

CLAIRE

Hello?

MITCHELL (O.S.)
(over phone)
Hey, Claire, listen, sorry for
springing this up on you, but could
you watch Lily--

CLAIRE
Well, I'm at that charity thing--

MITCHELL (O.S.)
--for a couple of days?

Claire stops on her tracks and puts the containers down.

CLAIRE
Oh my God. Mitch, is it happening?

INT. STORE - AT THE SAME TIME

Mitch is on the phone, standing in a long line, carrying a basket with travel-sized products. Cameron joins him, holding hands with Lily and bringing another product to the basket.

MITCHELL
(overjoyed)
It's happening.

CAMERON
(to Lily)
Yay!

Cameron feels a little pain in his abdomen and touches it.

CLAIRE (O.S.)
(shouts over phone)
Oh, my God! Oh, my God!

MITCHELL
(to Claire)
Shhh! Don't make a fuss, we don't
want to jinx it.

CAMERON
(thinks Mitch means him)
I'm not making a fuss. You know how
my abs act up when I'm nervous.

MITCHELL
(mouths to Cameron)
Abs?

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - AT THE SAME TIME

MITCHELL (O.S.)
(to Claire, over phone)
Listen, don't tell dad yet, ok?

Claire and Phil see GLORIA and JAY approach with a DELIVERY GUY pushing a cart with a beer keg on it.

CLAIRE
Okay, I won't. Just drop her off at my place, if it's not on fire.

MITCHELL (O.S.)
What?

CLAIRE
Nevermind. The kids can watch her until I'm back. I'm so happy for you!

MITCHELL (O.S.)
Shhhh!

CLAIRE
(whispers)
Stop shushing my happiness.

Claire hangs up as she and Phil meet Jay and Gloria. They all ad lib greetings.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
(RE: beer keg)
So, you brought beer to unexperienced people handling dangerous equipment. How could that go wrong?

PHIL
(innocent)
I hope you don't mean me, I have a lot of experience in handling my equipment.

JAY
(to Claire)
Relax. How do you think half of America was built?

GLORIA
Don't say drunk immigrants.

Jay deflates - that was exactly what he was going to say.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
(RE: mayonnaise blotch)
Claire, you have something on
your...

Gloria points at her cheek. Claire wipes her face clean.

CLAIRE
(wipes hand on Phil's
shirt)
Phil! I had that on my face the
whole time and you didn't tell me?

PHIL
Sorry, honey, I didn't see it.

CLAIRE
How could you not see it?

PHIL
I was just... distracted by all of
your... non-condimented beauty.
Look, there's Sandy!

Phil takes the veggie sandwiches and rushes off. Claire
mimics the *Alien* inner jaw towards him.

END OF ACT I