

MODERN FAMILY

"ABRACA-DANGIT"

Written by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

On the couch sits JAY, GLORIA, MITCHELL, CAMERON, CLAIRE, LUKE, ALEX, MANNY, LILY, HALEY, and JOE.

PHIL stands before everyone dressed like a Vegas magician. He holds a straight, black cane.

PHIL

Welcome one and all, to the amazing-

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JAY

Is this going to take long?

PHIL

(to Jay)

Someone's a little eager. Just let the magic unfold as it will.

(then to everyone)

The amaz--

JAY

'Cause there's a game on, you know.

PHIL

(to Jay)

It'll be quick.

(to everyone)

The amaz-

JAY

Let's go, already!

PHIL

Okay, okay. This is called, "The Messenger."

Phil executes some flourishes and spins the cane.

Everyone except Jay looks impressed.

After more flourishes, Phil turns the cane into a handkerchief and then a real pigeon. He bows.

Jay looks like he's trying to work out what happened.

Everyone applauds genuinely.

Jay gets up and leaves the room, shaking his head.

Phil looks like the wind has been taken from his sails.

JAY'S INTERVIEW

JAY

How the hell did he do that?

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

A dozen open jars of sauce are spread out on the counter. Gloria, in a filthy apron, works furiously on a second batch.

Jay enters the kitchen and gets some juice from the fridge.

JAY

Hey, so how do you think he did it?

GLORIA

(she doesn't look up)

Hm?

JAY

Phil. How do you think he did the trick?

GLORIA

I don't know. Maybe you should ask him.

Jay scoffs then notices the sauce.

JAY

What are you doing to my kitchen?

GLORIA

One of my cousins needs Diablo Sauce. I'm making a new recipe. It's twice as hot. Try.

She holds up a spoon that drips with sauce.

Jay pushes it away.

Manny enters the room and sits on a bar stool by the sauce.

JAY

Manny, how do you think Phil did that trick?

MANNY

For the ninth time, I don't know.
Just go ask him.

JAY

Bah, I can't give him the
satisfaction. I'll never hear the
end of it.

Jay puts the juice on the counter.

JAY (CONT'D)

I need to run some errands.

He leaves the house.

Joe slips into the kitchen unnoticed. He climbs onto a bar
stool while Gloria stirs sauce and Manny reads the newspaper.

Joe dips his finger into an open jar and tastes it.

Gloria notices and screams.

GLORIA

Oh nooooo!

MANNY

What?

(he notices Joe)

Oh no! I'll get milk.

Manny runs to the fridge.

Gloria tries to wipe Joe's tongue with a paper towel but Joe
seems fine.

Manny slams a full glass of milk on the counter.

GLORIA

Drink, baby, drink!

MANNY

Drink it, kid!

Joe shrugs, and walks away, un-phased by the sauce.

Manny dips a finger in the sauce and tries it.

His eyes go wide before he grabs the glass of milk and chugs.

GLORIA INTERVIEW

GLORIA

I dropped some of the sauce on my big toe last night and it burned straight through my toenail. Joe seems okay, though.

After a beat...

GLORIA (CONT'D)

What's wrong with my sauce!?

MANNY INTERVIEW

MANNY

Why would she keep that out where just anybody could find it!?

INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - KITCHEN - LATER THAT MORNING

Mitchell sits at the kitchen table with toast a newspaper.

Jay enters the kitchen.

MITCHELL

Oh, hi dad. I didn't hear you come in. Why are you here?

JAY

A father can't come see his son without a reason?

Mitchell looks taken aback.

MITCHELL

No, of course you can. How are things?

JAY

Fine, fine. You?

MITCHELL

Actually, Claire's been stressed lately with work, so Cam and I are planning a little surpri--

JAY

How do you think Phil did his trick?

MITCHELL

Uh...I don't know dad. You could ask him.

Jay gets frustrated.

JAY

You're all the same!

He storms out.

MITCHELL INTERVIEW

MITCHELL

What was that about?

INT. CLAIRE'S OFFICE AT PRITCHETT'S CLOSETS & BLINDS - THE SAME MORNING

Claire moves around frantically, shuffling through piles of paper on her desk.

Cameron comes into her office.

CAMERON

Knock, knock.

Claire spares a quick glance.

CLAIRE

What can I do for you, Cam?

CAMERON

I'm here for our lunch date.

CLAIRE

Look, I really don't have time today. Maybe next month?

CAMERON

Oh, but I already have reservations at--

CLAIRE

Busy, Cam. Very, very busy. Shut the door on your way out.

Cameron looks hurt.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

(with out looking at Cameron)
Piss or get off the pot.

Cameron looks shocked, but leaves quickly.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - GARAGE - NOON

Phil rifles through some boxes labeled: Illusions.

Jay's car pulls into the driveway.

INT. JAY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jay watches Phil as Phil exits the garage and waves. After a beat, Jay sighs, turns off the car, and gets out.

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Phil looks thrilled to see Jay.

PHIL

Hey there, Jay. To what do I owe
this pleasure?

Jay hesitates and avoids eye contact.

JAY

I'm, uh, here to pick something up.

PHIL

What can I do you for? Sugar?
Bread? Neighborly advice?

JAY

How'd you do it?

PHIL

Do what?

JAY

The trick, damn it. How did you do
the thing with the cane?

Phil looks triumphantly at the camera then back at Jay.

PHIL

Look, I'd love to tell you, but the
Magician's Code forbids the
divulging of trade secrets. Even to
family.

Phil puts his hand on Jay's shoulder sympathetically.

Jay shoves Phil's hand off his shoulder.

JAY

Nobody cares about your lousy code.
It's just a stupid trick. Just tell
me how it works.

PHIL

No can do, my friend.

Jay looks snarls and climbs back into his car and speeds out
of the driveway, grinding the corner of the lawn.

Phil waves as Jay's car disappears.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Come back anytime!

PHIL INTERVIEW

Phil has a huge smile on his face.

PHIL

I knew it he loved magic. I knew
it.

He licks his pointer finger and holds it up before drawing an
imaginary hatch mark as if he's keeping score.

END OF ACT ONE