

MODERN FAMILY

"Bitter Disposition"

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ACT ONEINT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - MORNINGMITCHELL AND CAMERON INTERVIEW

MITCHELL

We are so excited. The whole family is taking a trip up to Santa Barbara for two days to visit some friends of ours.

CAMERON

Well, they started out as old, college buddies of Phil and Claire's--

MITCHELL

But we've managed to win them over with our fabulous charm and rapier wit.

CAMERON

Albeit snarky at times.
(off Mitchell's look)

But fabulous nonetheless.

MITCHELL

Everyone's just been so busy getting on with their lives, no one has had much time to stop and smell the roses--

CAMERON

I do. I stop and smell the roses everyday.

MITCHELL

You-You know I meant that
metaphorically, right?

CAMERON

Snarky.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - MORNING

JAY INTERVIEW

JAY

Whole family's taking a little
sabbatical for the first week of
summer to Santa Barbara to see some
old friends of Claire and Phil's. The
only one of Claire's friends I ever
liked. Smart, funny, kind-hearted
people.

(leans in)

Especially that Quinn. I mean--

JAY WHISTLES.

JAY (CONT'D)

Not only is she a looker, but--

GLORIA ENTERS. JAY SITS BACK AS SHE TAKES A SEAT BESIDE HIM.

GLORIA

Sorry. I was on the phone with my
sister. What were we talking about?

JAY

Oh, uh, going to see Quinn and Reese
and their kids.

GLORIA

It's going to be great. Their house is so beautiful, and their kids are so sweet. They're such good people.

JAY

That's-That's exactly what I said.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - MORNING

HALEY INTERVIEW

HALEY

Going to Aunt Quinn and Uncle Reese's house is so awesome! They are super loaded! With a killer pool in their backyard. I can't wait to lie in the sun and catch up on my reading. I'm like four *US Weeklys* behind. I feel so out of tune with the world when I don't read the news. I mean, what if Posh and Becks broke up? She's like my idol and he's so hot!
(mouths)

So hot!

CUT TO:

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - MORNING

LUKE INTERVIEW

LUKE

I just want to get there quick. Me and
Uncle Reese have some unfinished
business to attend to.

A SERIOUS SCOWL FORMS ON LUKE'S FACE.

CUT TO:

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - MORNING

ALEX'S INTERVIEW

ALEX BEAMS FROM EAR-TO-EAR.

ALEX

I love Uncle Reese and Aunt Quinn!
They're just so brilliant and funny
and worldly, you know? I think they're
great, and I can't wait to get there.
I am literally counting down the
seconds until we get to Santa Barbara!
See?

BURSTING WITH EXCITEMENT, ALEX COUNTS THE SECONDS ON HER
WATCH. 1 MISSISSIPPI, 2 MISSISSIPPI, 3 MISSISSIPPI...

CUT TO:

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - MORNING

PHIL AND CLAIRE'S INTERVIEW

PHIL

We don't hate Reese and Quinn. We--

CLAIRE

We hate Reese and Quinn.

PHIL

(then)

We hate Reese and Quinn.

CLAIRE

Yeah. A lot.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. DUNPHY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

PHIL AND CLAIRE INTERVIEW

CLAIRE

We went to college with Reese and Quinn, so we've known them a very long time. They're good people, but complete phonies. They go to the symphony, ballet, plays--

PHIL

Museums, art gallery exhibits--

CLAIRE

Read *The Times*, watch C-SPAN, *Frontline*, listen to NPR--

PHIL

Speak fluent Spanish, go on family vacations to Barcelona...

CLAIRE

None of that was going on when we were all in school together! And now, they're these cultured, hip people? I think not!

PHIL

But we are not jealous of them.

CLAIRE

Oh, no. Absolutely not.

INT. DUNPHY'S CAR - EARLY EVENING

HALEY, ALEX, AND LUKE MAKE TO JUMP FROM THE CAR, BUT CLAIRE LOCKS THE DOORS BEFORE THEY CAN GET OUT.

HALEY

Mom, why'd you lock the doors?

CLAIRE

Your father and I just want to chat a little about your Aunt Quinn and Uncle Reese.

PHIL

We don't hate them.

CLAIRE

Thank you, Phil.

PHIL

You're welcome.

CLAIRE

Sarcasm, sweetie.

PHIL

Oh.

CLAIRE

We do not hate them, we just want you guys to really...take a step back and kind of, maybe, try not to idolize them so much. They're just people. Just ordinary human beings like anyone else.

LUKE

Do you hate them because they're rich?

CLAIRE

No. No.

PHIL

We don't hate them.

HALEY

Is it because they have better jobs
than you guys do?

PHIL

Better jobs? Your dad has the best job
in the world. I give people shelter. I
literally put roofs over people's
heads.

LUKE

No, you don't. That's what a carpenter
does.

HALEY

(laughs, then)

Burn.

PHIL

Yeah, that was actually a really good
one, Luke. Mad props.
(to kids)

Is-Is that how you say that? I used it
right, right?

ALEX

Or maybe you hate them because they're cool.

CLAIRE

We do not hate them! They are our friends! We just do not want you guys, and everyone else, fawning all over them like they're the king and queen of France!

ALEX

England.

CLAIRE

Wherever there are kings and queens!

LUKE

Maybe you hate them because they're smarter than you.

PHIL

(chuckles, then)

Major burn.

PHIL'S GRIN DISAPPEARS AT CLAIRE'S ICY STARE.

PHIL (CONT'D)

(low)

Sorry.

INT. REESE AND QUINN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

FRONT DOOR

AN ATTRACTIVE BLACK WOMAN-- QUINN WALKER, 37-- OPENS THE DOOR. A GLASS OF RED WINE IN HER HAND.

THE WHOLE GANG ON THE OTHER SIDE. SHE, ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE, SHRIEKS WITH EXCITEMENT.

QUINN

Get the hell in here! All of you! Get
in! Get in!

EVERYONE ENTERS. THEY EXCHANGE PLEASANTRIES, EVERYONE TALKING AT ONCE, COMPLIMENTING THE HOUSE AND QUINN'S ATTIRE. SHE DISPENSING THE SAME PRAISE.

JAY HUGS HER A LITTLE LONGER THAN HE SHOULD.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Reese! Reese, baby!

A HANDSOME WHITE MAN-- REESE WALKER, 38, QUINN'S HUSBAND-- ENTERS WITH THEIR CHILDREN: SEAN, 16, BAKER, 12, AND DAUGHTER, ISOBEL, 9.

THE SAME PLEASANTRIES AND KUDOS ARE EXCHANGED.

REESE

Wait, wait. Where's Phil and Claire?

CAMERON

They were right behind me...

LUKE

I heard mom tell dad she needs a
minute outside since Aunt Quinn sucks
all the air out of the--

CLAIRE

(enters quickly; fake smile)

Hi!

PHIL FOLLOWS HER INSIDE.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Oh, Luke, you silly, silly kid.

CLAIRE HIP-CHECKS LUKE TO THE SIDE, OUT OF THE WAY.

PHIL

Hey! How you guys doing?

QUINN

We missed you two so much.

QUINN HUGS CLAIRE. CLAIRE APPEARING UNCOMFORTABLE AND AWKWARD.

PHIL REACHES TO SHAKE REESE'S HAND, BUT REESE GRABS HIM FOR A HUG.

REESE

How you doing, big guy?

PHIL

Oh, wow. That is a strong grip you got there. It's like the jaws-of-life in Banana Republic.

REESE

Cardio and weight lifting four times a week.

PHIL

Pilates and some yoga. The downward facing dog is a lot harder than it looks. I kept slipping and hitting my head on the floor. I didn't have a mat at the time.

REESE

(chuckles)

God, I missed your goofy jokes.

JAY

Yeah. *Jokes.*

MITCHELL
(whispers; to Cameron)

Now, that was snark.

CAMERON NODS IN AGREEMENT.

CLAIRE

Oh, my God! Sean, is that you?

SEAN

Live and in living color.

CLAIRE

I saw you just last year and I swear
you and Alex were the same height.
You've grown up so much.

HALEY
(sultry eye on Sean)

I'll say.

ALEX

Down girl. You're drooling on the
Spanish tile.

QUINN

Ah! Why am I not a good hostess?

CLAIRE
(under her breath)

You said it, not me.

QUINN

Everybody put your things upstairs,
Sean and Baker will show you where
you're sleeping, wash up, then come
out back to the veranda.

(MORE)

QUINN (CONT'D)

Reese has got some steaks he's going to put on the grill.

JAY

'Til this day I still tell people the best steak I ever ate was grilled to perfection by Dr. Reese Walker, M.D.

CUT TO:

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

PHIL IS AT THE GRILL IN A GOOFY APRON AND CHEF'S HAT. JAY STANDS BEHIND HIM, WATCHING.

JAY

That middle one's been on there too long.

PHIL

It's Luke's. He likes it well done.

JAY

Put a little more seasoning on that third one. Last time you didn't put enough on and it tasted kind of...generic? Is generic the word...?

PHIL GLANCES AT THE CAMERA, THEN UNCARINGLY SPRINKLES SOME SEASONING ON THE STEAK.

JAY (CONT'D)

Hey, you know, the best steak I ever had was cooked by your friend, Reese. Now, that guy knows his way around a grill.

PHIL SIGHS.

JAY (CONT'D)

Bland! That's it! It was bland.

BACK TO:

INT. REESE AND QUINN'S HOUSE - EARLY EVENING, CONTINUOUS

REESE

Jay, if you want to get in my pants,
do it with a nicely aged scotch, not
flattery.

JAY PULLS A BOTTLE OF SCOTCH FROM HIS BAG.

JAY

What do you think this is?

REESE

I think that's a good time.

QUINN

Oh, no. You two are not going to get
drunk and do what you did last time.

PHIL

What-What-What did you guys do? I was
here. I-I don't remember.

CAMERON

It was after you passed out from
vomiting all over my Italian leather
shoes.

MITCHELL

Snark.

REESE

Smoking a few cigars and singing a little Sinatra off-key is hardly skinny-dipping in the neighbors heated pool in the middle of the night when they're out of town.

QUINN

No. I guess it's not.

REESE AND QUINN EXCHANGE WANTON LOOKS.

GLORIA

Oh, I know that look. Naughty, naughty.

CLAIRE
(clears throat)

Children are present mind you.

QUINN

Um, yes. Claire's right.

REESE

Completely. Everyone upstairs, put all your stuff away, then head outside. Sean, Baker, be good hosts and show our guests to their rooms.

HALEY

Sean. Will you show me to my room?

CLAIRE
(grabs Haley)

I think Isobel can show you? Can't you, honey?

ISOBEL

Sure.

HALEY SIGHS, FOILED BY HER MOTHER ONCE AGAIN. SHE FOLLOWS ISOBEL UP THE STAIRS.

LUKE
(serious; to Reese)

You and I, aren't done yet.

REESE

I know.

LUKE

Good. Good.

LUKE TAKES A COUPLE STEPS. HE TURNS BACK AND GESTURES TO REESE THAT 'HE'S WATCHING HIM' THEN HEADS UPSTAIRS.

REESE

Jay, with me, my office. Bring that
scotch.

REESE PINCHES QUINN'S BUTT, THEN WINKS AT HER AS HE AND JAY HEAD TOWARD THE BACK OF THE HOUSE. SHE SMILES.

JAY

Do it to Gloria all the time.

JAY AND REESE LAUGH.

PHIL AND CLAIRE EXCHANGE GLANCES AND ROLL THEIR EYES.

PHIL AND CLAIRE INTERVIEW

CLAIRE

A butt pinch?! Last year, at
Christmas, Phil and I shared a sweet,
innocent kiss under the mistletoe and
the whole family acted like it was a
scene from *9 1/2 Weeks*.

PHIL

I love Kim
(mispronounces)

Basinger.

CLAIRE
(corrects)

Basinger.

PHIL

You sure?

CLAIRE

Off topic as usual, but yes.

PHIL

Oh... So is it Ralph Finnes or--

CLAIRE
(corrects)

Ralph Finnes, honey.

INT. REESE AND QUINN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

CLAIRE, GLORIA, CAMERON, AND MITCHELL SIP WINE AS QUINN BUSIES ABOUT THE KITCHEN.

GLORIA

I feel so bad not doing anything. Are
you sure you don't need any help,
Quinn?

QUINN

Oh, no, Gloria. You're a guest in my
home. Sit and have another glass of
cabernet.

GLORIA

Okay.

WITHOUT HESITATION, GLORIA POURS HERSELF ANOTHER GLASS OF WINE, EMPTYING THE BOTTLE.

CLAIRE

Oh, Quinn's fine. I'm sure her housekeeper helped her earlier with a lot of the prep.

QUINN

What housekeeper? I've never had a housekeeper, Claire. You know that.

CLAIRE

No? Could've sworn you did.

CAMERON

Come to think of it, I don't ever recall seeing anyone here.

MITCHELL

I can not fathom how you do all this by yourself.

QUINN

Claire does. "A mom's will is a mom's way," right?

CLAIRE INTERVIEW

CLAIRE

I told her that! Me! I did! She used my own quote against me!

SHE TAKES A DEEP, CALMING BREATH.

INT. REESE AND QUINN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

HALEY ENTERS.

QUINN

So, Haley, you thinking about college?
You'll be done next year, right?

HALEY

Yeah. But I don't think I'm going to
go. College doesn't seem like my
thing.

CLAIRE

We'll make it your thing.

GLORIA

Well, college isn't for everybody. I
didn't go to school and I did fine.

HALEY

See? I'll just marry rich like Gloria
and never need an education.

GLORIA

I need more wine.

QUINN

Your mom's right. You should give
school a try. You never know. That's
what I told Sean.

MITCHELL

Sean doesn't want to go to college?

QUINN

Not the one he was accepted to.

CLAIRE

He was already accepted? He's only a sophomore.

QUINN

He skipped two grades, remember?

CLAIRE

How could I forget?

CLAIRE POURS MORE WINE INTO HER GLASS.

MITCHELL

What school did Sean get accepted to?

QUINN

Princeton.

A WRYLY CHUCKLE FROM CLAIRE.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Oh, Haley, I love your lip gloss. What is it?

HALEY

Berry pink blossom.

QUINN

You know what? I got a lipstick that's to die for. It's called Orgasm Red. It'll look great with your eyeshadow.

HALEY

Really?

QUINN

Absolutely. Go try it on. It's in my purse.

HALEY

Okay.

CLAIRE

Wait. I don't think you should be wearing anything that's titled from a experience I pray to God you haven't had yet.

QUINN

It's just here in the house. And come on, Claire, do you remember us in college? That damn lipstick was probably named after us.

HALEY

(interested)

Oh, really?

CLAIRE

She said it was in her purse.

HALEY EXITS.

REESE ENTERS FROM THE VERANDA. HE GRABS A GRILL FORK OUT OF A DRAWER THEN PULLS QUINN CLOSE. HE WHISPERS SOMETHING NAUGHTY IN HER EAR MAKING HER GIGGLE LIKE A SCHOOL GIRL.

CLAIRE DOWNS HER WINE IN ANNOYANCE.

CLAIRE INTERVIEW

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Yeah. Didn't even want to marry him.

But I--

POINTS TO HERSELF.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

--this lady right here, convinced her
he was the best thing that's ever
happened to her. And she didn't even
make me the Maid-of-Honor. Can you
believe that?

CLAIRE SCOFFS AND TAKES A BIG GULP OF HER WINE.

INT. REESE AND QUINN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

REESE NOTICES MITCHELL AND CAMERON QUIETLY FUSSING WITH EACH
OTHER.

REESE

Hey, you two. What's going on here? No
couples' spats.

CAMERON

We're fine. Mitchell was just telling
me he hates the way I dress.

MITCHELL

What? All I said was "you're wearing a
brown belt with black shoes."

CAMERON

Oh, please, Mitchell. In the Land Of
Gay you basically told me I have no
style which is like telling a straight
guy he's terrible at video games.

GLORIA

You two have been so snippy lately.

REESE

Maybe you need some time apart.
Mitchell. Come outside and flirt with
me and see how fast we can make Jay
uncomfortable. Come on. You know you
want to.

MITCHELL BLUSHES.

MITCHELL

Okay.

CAMERON

And what am I? Chopped liver?

REESE

I can flirt with you later.

CAMERON

No, thanks. Not into being a sloppy
second.

REESE

Cam, nothing I do the second time
around is sloppy. Ask Quinn.

MITCHELL AND REESE EXIT OUT BACK. CAMERON TWITTERS A BIT
HAVING BEEN FLIRTED WITH BY HIS HANDSOME FRIEND.

INT. REESE AND QUINN'S HOUSE - BAKER'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ALEX ADMIRES A FRAMED PICTURE OF BAKER SHAKING HANDS WITH
BILL CLINTON.

ALEX

This is so unreal.

BAKER

Felt that way when I met him. It was sort a birthday gift from my dad. We were in Washington so my dad could attend the AAP National Conference & Exhibition when we heard Clinton was giving a speech at his alma mater, Georgetown; so we snuck in to see him speak. Then afterward he was walking through the crowd and stopped to tell me he liked my hat and asked me if Georgetown was in my future.

ALEX

No way! What did you say?!

BAKER

I said only if he teaches Poli-Sci. That's when he laughed and shook my hand...and then security escorted us from the campus. It was great. Best birthday ever.

ALEX

Last year, my parents took me to the Olive Garden. Luke drank a whole bottle of salad dressing and got sick all over the table.

BAKER

Your family is hilarious.

ALEX

Yeah. That's how I'd describe them.

BAKER

So, you still play the cello like
Sharon Robinson?

ALEX

You think I play like Sharon Robinson?

BAKER

Yeah. You're as good as she is. I'd
love to hear you play Dvorák's Cello
Concerto in B minor, Op. 104.

ALEX

(blushes)

Yeah?

BAKER

Yeah.

ALEX

Well, then maybe I won't quit playing
after all.

BAKER

Cool.

EXT. REESE AND QUINN'S HOUSE - VERANDA - CONTINUOUS

REESE

No, poetry is good, Manny. Have you
read any Byron?

MANNY

You don't think that's too much?

REESE

"She Walks in Beauty" is probably the most romantic poem ever written. No woman would be foolish enough to think the words: "She walks in beauty, like the night/Of cloudless climes and starry skies" is too much.

JAY

Or wasn't written about her personally.

REESE

Jay's right.

MANNY

Oh, this is great. You know any other good poems?

REESE

Wordsworth's "Strange fits of passion I have known" is remarkable.

MITCHELL AND CAMERON COO AT THE MENTIONING OF SAID POEM.

CAMERON

I love that one.

PHIL INTERVIEW

PHIL

Poetry?! The most poetic thing I've ever heard come out of Reese Walker's mouth was when he belched "The Star-Spangled Banner" at Bobby Dunlap's 21st birthday party... Which was pretty cool...but still.

EXT. REESE AND QUINN'S HOUSE - VERANDA - CONTINUOUS

REESE

Keats.

MITCHELL

Keats is great, Manny.

CAMERON

You'll definitely nail her with that one-- Just heard what I said. Came out completely wrong. Going to go check on Lily.

CAMERON ENTERS THE HOUSE.

REESE

Not too familiar with Blake, but check him out.

JAY

You can never go wrong with Shakespeare. His sonnets...powerful stuff.

MITCHELL AND REESE SNICKER.

MITCHELL

Um, dad. Most of Shakespeare's sonnets are about another guy.

JAY

What?!

MANNY

Jeez, Jay. Even I knew that.

JAY

Are you guys serious?

REESE

Manny just let it all just flow out of you naturally. Byron and Keats are just back-up singers. You're the star. Just be yourself with this girl.

JAY

See? What have I been telling you all along?

PHIL WANDERS TO THE GRILL.

JAY (CONT'D)

Phil, get away from the grill.

PHIL SIGHS AND BACKS AWAY FROM THE GRILL. HE MAKES TO POUR HIMSELF A GLASS OF SCOTCH.

JAY (CONT'D)

And don't touch that scotch. We don't want a repeat of last time with all the puking and crying.

REESE

Hey. Let's get you a beer, big guy.

REESE TAKES THE CAP OFF A BOTTLE OF BREW AND HANDS IT TO A SOUR-LOOKING PHIL.

MANNY

Reese. Did you ever cite a poem for a girl?

REESE

No, Manny. Can't say that I have. I'm more of a speaks-from-the-heart kind of guy.

PHIL INTERVIEW

PHIL

We were at a bar throwing darts when Reese spots Quinn across the room and says-- and I quote-- "Hey, check out that hot black chick. Baby got back." I doubt Sir Mix-A-Lot is up there with Blake and Keats and Lord *Brian*. It's *Brian*, right?

EXT. REESE AND QUINN'S HOUSE - VERANDA - CONTINUOUS

MANNY

So you wrote your own wedding vows?

REESE

Yes, sir.

MANNY

My biggest fear. How did you put it
all into words?

MITCHELL

Manny, it was the most endearing thing
I had ever heard.

QUINN
(entering)

What was?

QUINN APPROACHES. CLAIRE, GLORIA, CAMERON, HALEY, AND ALEX
FOLLOW HER OUT.

REESE

Nothing.

MITCHELL

His wedding vows.

GLORIA

Oh, what were they?

CLAIRE

Yeah, Reese. What were they?

REESE

Uh, I don't think anyone wants to--

PHIL

Of course we do, big guy. You're a
speaks-from-the-heart kind of guy,
remember? Reach down in there and yank
out those beautiful words of love.

REESE LOOKS A BIT NERVOUS.

CLAIRE

I mean, they are your wedding vows.

You do remember your vows, don't you?

ALL EYES ON REESE AND QUINN. PHIL AND CLAIRE EXCHANGE SMUG SMILES.

REESE

Um...

PHIL

You know what, budster, it's okay. You don't have to--

REESE

Most people hate not knowing where they are, or where they're going. Groping around in the pitch black, looking for light isn't a favorite pastime of mine either. It's lonely. And quiet. And terrifying. All you want to do is get back to where it is you were and hope you never end up in the dark again. But being lost isn't so bad, if it's you that finds me. And it's you that takes me home.

CAMERON LET'S OUT A LOUD CRY. WATERY EYES ALL AROUND REESE AND QUINN.

PHIL AND CLAIRE INTERVIEW

PHIL

Walkers', 10. Dunphy's, zilch.

EXT. REESE AND QUINN'S HOUSE - VERANDA - CONTINUOUS

GLORIA

Oh, Jay. Are you crying?

JAY

No. I just got a little something in
my eye.

PHIL AIMLESSLY RETURNS TO THE GRILL.

JAY (CONT'D)

Phil.

PHIL DROPS THE GRILL FORK AND WALKS AWAY FROM THE GRILL.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEEXT. REESE AND QUINN'S HOUSE - VERANDA - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

TABLE

EVERYONE IS GATHERED AROUND THE BEAUTIFUL BACKYARD SETTING, EATING, TALKING, AND LAUGHING. ALMOST EVERYONE... PHIL AND CLAIRE OCCUPY ONE END OF THE TABLE SHARING SCOWLS IN REESE AND QUINN'S DIRECTION.

ALEX

ALEX

I just finished reading it, and I loved it.

QUINN

Is it not the most amazing book you've ever read?

ALEX

It is. I've been digesting every southern-gothic novel and play I can get my hands on since.

REESE

You know who you might like? Toni Morrison. Brilliant.

ALEX

I'm three novels deep in her. What else you got?

QUINN

(impressed)

Excuse us, Miss Thang.

REESE

Well, if we're going southern-gothic,
how about some Faulkner?

ALEX

"As I Lay Dying." Read it.

QUINN

Carson McCullers.

ALEX

"The Member of the Wedding" and *"The
Heart Is A Lonely Hunter."* Read both.
Twice.

REESE

Okay. Flannery O'Connor.

ALEX

"A Good Man Is Hard to Find." Didn't
really care for the title story
though.

QUINN

I got one: Cormac McCarthy's *"The
Orchard Keeper."*

ALEX

Only because I couldn't find it
anywhere! Not even on Amazon.

BAKER

It's a great book.

REESE

We have two copies actually.

ALEX

No way!

HALEY

Wipe the drool off your face. You're dorking everywhere.

PHIL AND CLAIRE INTERVIEW

CLAIRE

The thing, or person, I worry the most becoming so...*distracted* by Reese and Quinn is Alex. I just worry that she may...

PHIL

Wish they were her real parents?

A SAD LOOK ON CLAIRE'S FACE AT PHIL'S HARSH TRUTH SAID ALOUD.

INT. REESE AND QUINN'S HOUSE - VERANDA - CONTINUOUS

QUINN

You know, Reese, we don't *really* need two copies of the same book...

ALEX

Are you serious?

REESE

Baker.

BAKER

Come on. I'll take you to the library.

CLAIRE

Um, no. No, no, no. I think Cormac
McCarthy is a little to dark for a 13
year old.

ISOBEL

It's not that bad Aunt Claire. I've
read it. No nightmares.

THE TABLE CHUCKLES.

JAY

It's just a book, Claire.

PHIL

And you know what, Jay, *Mein Kampf* was
just a book, too.

SEAN

Are you comparing Adolf Hilter to
Cormac McCarthy, Uncle Phil?

ALL EYES ON PHIL FOR AN EXPLANATION. AWKWARD...

PHIL

N-N-No.

CLAIRE

Honey, if you want to read McCarthy,
read *All the Pretty Horses*.

QUINN

It's a good book, but not his best
work, Claire.

CLAIRE

But it is the tamest of his novels.

That I do know.

ALEX

I already read it.

REESE

You know, I think we're getting a
little too heated about a book.

Claire, Phil, you guys are right, you
are Alex's parents--

PHIL

Glad you can acknowledge that, Reese.

REESE

I'm just saying you're right. It's not
up to us what Alex can or can not
read.

ALEX

That is ridiculous! It's just a book!
You're banning me from a piece of
literature and suppressing my right to
explore written art.

CAMERON

Now that's a little Hitler-ish.

CLAIRE

Alex, honey--

LUKE APPROACHES THE TABLE WITH A SERIOUS LOOK ON HIS FACE. AN
ELABORATE WATER GUN IS STRAPPED AROUND HIS BODY. ANOTHER IN
HIS HANDS.

HE SLAMS THE ONE IN HIS HANDS ONTO THE TABLE!

LUKE

It's time.

CLAIRE

Luke, it is not an appropriate moment
for whatever this is.

REESE

Your mother's right, Luke.

LUKE

You scared?

LUKE AND REESE MAKE INTENSE EYE CONTACT.

REESE

(leans in)

Never.

LUKE "COCKS" HIS WATER GUN.

LUKE

Then let's dance.

LUKE EXITS.

REESE STANDS.

QUINN

Go easy on him.

REESE

No. That's not what he wants. And he'd
only keep coming back if I did.

WITH ALL SERIOUSNESS, REESE PICKS UP THE GUN AND PUMPS IT. HE
EXITS.

SEAN

This is going to be so good.

EVERYONE RUSHES TO SEE LUKE AND REESE BATTLE IT OUT.

ALEX
(sotto; to Baker)

Quick. Take me to the library.

ALEX AND BAKER EXIT TO THE LIBRARY.

PHIL AND CLAIRE SIT IN DISBELIEF. WEREN'T THEY IN A HEATED ARGUMENT JUST A MOMENT AGO?

EXT. REESE AND QUINN'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

EVERYONE MAKES IT OUTSIDE. PHIL AND CLAIRE FINALLY EXIT THE HOUSE.

LUKE AND REESE STAND WITH THEIR BACKS TO ONE ANOTHER, GUNS HELD TIGHTLY. A DUEL.

REESE

Izzie. Would you please?

ISOBEL

Earl of Los Angeles, Lucas Dunphy, you
have challenged His Grace, Reese
Walker, the Duke of Santa Barbara, to
a duel. Have you not, my Lord?

LUKE

Yes, Lady Isobel. I have.

ISOBEL

Your Grace, do accept your kinsman's
challenge?

REESE

With great regret for his ultimate
demise.

ISOBEL

Very well. I shall count to three.
When I do, please take 10 steps
forward. The first to draw and fire
upon his enemy has won the duel. Have
we understood the rules of engagement,
my lords?

LUKE

Yes.

REESE

Yes.

ISOBEL

God be with you, my lords. 1,2,3.

LUKE AND REESE EACH TAKE 10 STEPS AWAY FROM ONE ANOTHER...

THEY TURN, DRAW, AND FIRE AT PHIL AND CLAIRE! PHIL AND CLAIRE
SQUIRM AND SHRIEK AT THE COLD WATER SHOOTING AT THEM!

FIRING CEASES. OUT OF WATER. LUKE AND REESE HI-FIVE.

A BEAT.

PHIL AND CLAIRE CAN'T HELP BUT TO LAUGH AS THEY STAND BEFORE
THEIR ENTIRE FAMILY AND FRIENDS, SOAKING WET.

EVERYONE JOINS IN LAUGHING. APPLAUSE FOR THEM BEING ABLE TO
TAKE A PRACTICAL JOKE LIGHTLY. PHIL AND CLAIRE TAKE A BOW.

INT. REESE AND QUINN'S HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - CONTINUOUS

PHIL AND CLAIRE CHANGE INTO DRY CLOTHES.

PHIL

"Earl of Los Angeles, Lucas Dunphy." I
like the sound of that.

CLAIRE

It was pretty funny.

PHIL

Yeah. It was. Especially when you were screaming like a frightened, little girl.

CLAIRE

That was you, Phil.

PHIL

The water was really cold.

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK.

QUINN (O.S.)

We decent?

CLAIRE

Never.

QUINN

(entering)

Well, in that case...

SHE HANDS THEM BOTH AN EXTRA TOWEL.

QUINN (CONT'D)

That whole duel thing was pretty funny. I had no clue Reese and Luke were going to do that.

CLAIRE

Neither did we.

REESE ENTERS.

REESE

You guys cool?

PHIL

Super cool, Reese.

REESE

All right. So, uh, finish getting dressed and let's try this whole dinner thing again.

PHIL

Sounds like a plan.

REESE AND QUINN TURN TO EXIT--

CLAIRE

We don't hate you.

CLAIRE CLOSES THE DOOR.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

It's just that... Quinn, when I met you you were three sheets to the wind and dancing atop a bar. You made out with a cab driver in exchange for a free ride home when you accidentally flushed your money down the toilet at that trendy nightclub with the gold dragon hanging from the ceiling.

(MORE)

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

And Reese, you won a trophy in a rib-eating contest and with every ounce of seriousness said, "My life's goal has now been reached. I can die a happy man now."

PHIL

Oh, man. I so remember that day. It was epic.

CLAIRE

My point is I know Phil and I come here and get a little hostile with you two, but that's because we knew you guys when you weren't...this. When you were crazy and wild and without purpose or direction. And now its all Princeton, and Flannery O'Connor and Lord Byron--

PHIL

("corrects")

Brian.

CLAIRE SHAKES HER HEAD.

PHIL (CONT'D)

(under his breath)

Dammit.

CLAIRE

It all doesn't feel...legitimate.

QUINN

Claire, of course it doesn't. You're only remembering the dumb parts of us. True, those were a lot of parts, but we were twenty. Everyone's an idiot when they're twenty. We were losers. You were losers.

REESE

But then you guys got married, and started putting it all together. You settled down and got your act together. That's one of the reasons I proposed to this lady right here.

QUINN

Oh, God. Remember I tried to bail on him at the wedding and you talked me out of it?

REESE

You tried to ditch me at the alter?

QUINN

I did. But Claire told me how we bring out the best in each other and that one day you were going to be a very successful, and very sexy doctor.

PHIL

Sexy?

CLAIRE

Just trying to get her down the aisle,
Phil.

QUINN

We cleaned up our act because you two
cleaned up your act. You inspired us
to want more. And be a little better.
So, the dumb/idiot parts had to stop,
and we got serious. About everything.

CLAIRE

We inspire you?

QUINN

Uh, well, more like a jumping-off
point. A springboard.

REESE

To a better, you know...higher
plateau. Us, just without all the
drinking and craziness.
Plus, I had already been spouting
Byron to chicks in bars for years.
That's how I got this one to take her
dress off on our first date.

QUINN

And I was reading Faulkner in middle
school.

PHIL

You guys, we're sorry. We sort of let the little, green-eyed monster get out-of-control.

QUINN

It's all right. We've been there with you guys, too.

REESE

Except on one thing.

REESE PICKS QUINN UP AND FLINGS HER OVER HIS SHOULDER CAVEMAN-STYLE.

REESE (CONT'D)

All this talk about the old Quinn is starting to get to me. Finish dinner without us. Man the grill, Phil?

PHIL

You got it, big guy.

REESE EXITS WITH QUINN GIGGLING OVER HIS SHOULDER.

CLAIRE

Well, I feel like the world's biggest idiot.

PHIL

Me, too. I can't believe we got so jealous of them we thought they were total posers. Reese was pre-med when I met him.

CLAIRE

Quinn had a double-major in Political Science and Journalism. I remember her and Mitchell talking for hours about lobbyists and congress and corporate welfare. Whatever that is. They're good people aren't they? Cool people. Cool friends.

PHIL

Yeah. We have cool friends.

CLAIRE

Yeah. That makes us cool by association.

PHIL

Absolutely. Except for me. I'm already the King of Cool.

CLAIRE

Yup. You...and Steve McQueen.

PHIL

Come on. Let's finish our grilled-to-perfection steaks.

PHIL WRAPS AN ARM AROUND CLAIRE. ALEX BARGES IN.

ALEX

I want to stay with Uncle Reese and Aunt Quinn for the summer.

PHIL

We hate them again, don't we?

MODERN FAMILY

"Bitter Disposition"

5/11/11

48.

CLAIRE

Oh, yeah.

END OF ACT THREE

END OF SHOW