

MODERN FAMILY

"Party Pickle"
(partial sample)

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ACT ONE

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - DAY

PHIL (VO)
Wakey-wakey, eggs and bac-y!

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Claire is in bed as Phil enters holding a tray of food, the kids following behind him.

ALEX, HALEY, LUKE
Happy birthday, Mom!

PHIL
The eggs are scrambled just the way
you like 'em, but the bac-y got a
little bit crispy.

Phil sets the breakfast tray on Claire's lap.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Blackened-stye. All the rage in
N'awlins.

CLAIRE
Aw, thank you, guys.

Phil waves his arm like a magician and produces a few ruffled flowers from inside his sleeve.

PHIL
And we have a surprise for you!

PHIL, ALEX, HALEY & LUKE INTERVIEW

PHIL
Originally, I wanted to throw her a
surprise party. Who doesn't love
surprise parties?

HALEY, ALEX, LUKE
Mom.

HALEY
I thought we should give her a spa
day.

ALEX
That's the last thing Mom would want
to do. Lay around all day in a mud
bath?

HALEY

It's good for your skin.

ALEX

If you're a pig.

LUKE

I think it sounds cool.

PHIL

But I was worried that beauty treatments would imply she was a bit of a "fixer-upper." Then Alex had this great idea.

HALEY

(to Alex)

Did you just call me a pig?

ALEX

I said we should just call a maid service and give Mom the day off.

PHIL

But as it turns out, I already have a maid service.

The camera pulls out to reveal that the kids are holding mops, buckets, etc.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

CLAIRE

You're doing all of the cleaning?

PHIL

Think of it as the gift of time. You enjoy your day with Mitchell, while we take care of everything here.

CLAIRE

That's so...

(dawning horror)

Wow.

He takes a flower from the tray.

PHIL

And when you get back for the party, the mess will have...

He waves his hand in front of the flower and drops it on the floor. He waves his empty fingers.

PHIL (CONT'D)
...disappeared.

CLAIRE
Are you sure you're up for this?

PHIL
No worries.

CLAIRE
You said that about the broken step
three years ago, and I'm still
tripping on it.

PHIL
I totally fixed that.

CLAIRE
But there's the laundry, and -
Phil presses his finger to her lips.

PHIL
Shh.

He backs slowly out of the room.

CLAIRE
But -

PHIL
Shh!

He closes the door. Claire sighs and takes a forkful of eggs.
As she bites down, we hear the CRUNCH of an eggshell.